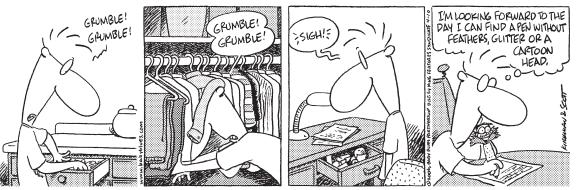


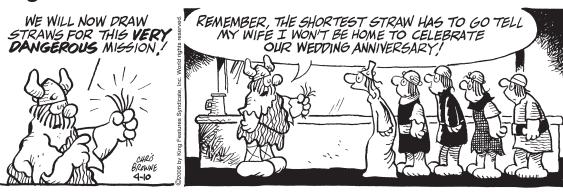
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



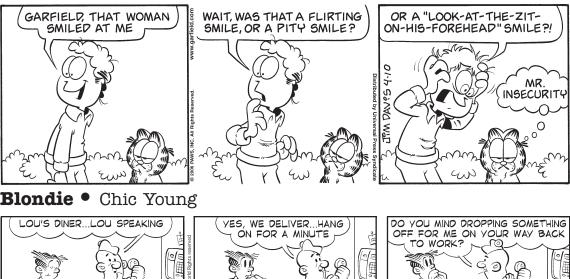
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



Lawyer's lies cause couple to trip on road to marriage

DEAR ABBY: My darling and I were married six weeks ago. His lawyer told him that his divorce from his first wife was final, and he was just waiting for the papers to come back, so we went ahead and got married.

Now it turns out the lawyer did not even submit the papers to the judge until a couple of days ago!

What do I do?

Who do I talk to?

We want to be remarried as soon as possible. Does the marriage need to be voided through the courthouse, or can we just redo the ceremony? I have no clue even where to begin.

I cannot ask his lawyer because the last time we did, he said he would "take care of it."

I no longer trust him. I think he is just telling us what he thinks we want to hear.

- MARRIED? IN ARKAN-SAS

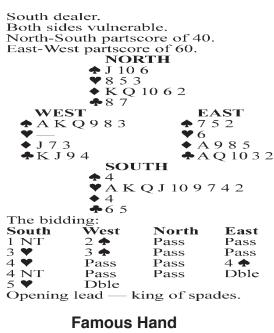
DEAR MARRIED?: You are right not to trust him. Your "husband's" lawyer could be guilty of malpractice.

He has turned the man vou 'married" from a law-abiding citizen into a bigamist.

The place to begin is your state bar association. Contact it and request a referral to an attorney who's on the up-and-up. I'm sure the association will be glad to provide one — and to know that one profession. Please don't wait; do it now.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 17 years. Over the past 13 of porting three "children" could Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge



Abigail Dear Abby

them, my husband, "Sam," has had 15 different jobs, and he's currently unemployed again.

Every time we almost dig our way out of debt, he picks a fight with management.

year. I have no more nest egg left. Our credit score is a shambles.

Sam's biggest concern has always been his golf game.

We have a 15-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. They are hurt and embarrassed by our financial condition. I have a good job, but I have a heart condition that could disable me at any time.

Why on earth would a 41-yearold man not care about his family enough to make a living for them? Should I leave Sam to prove a point? Every time I try to leave, he threatens suicide.

> - RUNNING IN CIRCLES IN ARIZONA

RUNNING DEAR IN CIRCLES: Since I don't know your husband, I can't offer an explanation regarding why he of its members is a disgrace to the started his golfing holiday instead known as Jeanne Phillips, and was of continuing to work - right at founded by her mother, Pauline the time your children started arriving. Should you leave him? I think so, because the stress of sup-

explain the reason for your heart condition. As to his threats of suicide, they are classic examples of Van Buren emotional blackmail. I'm sure if you go - if only for a while you'll be amazed at the strength of his survival instinct once he's off the gravy train.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman in my 20s and would like to know a good way to decline a man's request for my telephone number at a party or social situation. I'm not crazy about saying that I don't give In 2004, Sam had four jobs in one out my number, because the truth is. if I was interested in the guy, I would give it to him. Too often I end up giving my number and then feeling guilty when screening my calls and not returning his.

> Please don't tell me I should "give the guy a chance" — some of these men are 20-plus years older than I am.

- SCREENING MY CALLS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SCREENING: It's not hard to refuse to give out your phone number. When someone says, "May I have it?" all you have to say is, "Why don't you give me yours?" Then you can follow up - or not. It's a tried-and-true technique men have practiced for years.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also Phillips.

Write Dear Abby at www.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los

Family Circus • Bil Keane

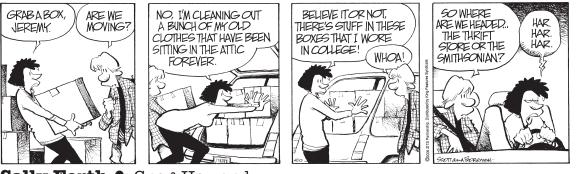




Beetle Bailev • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott







Sally Forth • Greg Howard





This deal from a rubber bridge game was re ported by the distinguished French writer Jose Le Dentu. With everybody vulnerable and on score, South started with a whimsical notrump bid.

The bidding proceeded at a merry pace until it died at five hearts doubled. West was apparently taken in by all the pyrotechnics, as evidenced by his double of five hearts. East-West could have made six spades.

West led the spade king and continued with the queen. Declarer saw he was faced with a twotrick defeat, since he had a spade, a diamond and two clubs to lose. But he also saw there was no harm in trying to steal the hand, so he discarded his diamond on the queen of spades. West, failing to appreciate the significance of this play, led another spade, and the fat was now in the fire.

Declarer ruffed with the nine of hearts. led the seven of trumps to the eight and played the king of diamonds, covered by East with the ace. South ruffed high and led the four of hearts to dummy's five. He then discarded a club on the queen of diamonds and trumped a diamond high again. felling West's jack and establishing dummy's 10-6. The heart deuce to dummy's three then allowed South to discard his remaining club loser on the diamond ten, and the contract was made.

We hold no brief for West's failure to shift to a club at trick three. He should have known what was going on and discontinued spades. Obviously, declarer had to have a singleton diamond, because it would have made no sense for him to discard a diamond if he held two, three or more diamonds. But a full measure of praise is bestowed on South, who gave West a chance to go wrong and reaped the maximum reward for his effort.

Cryptoquip

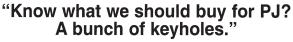
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DWXKEPC "ZDDO UDOEPUDN!" Saturday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE GEOMETRY AFICIONADOS MIGHT GET A THRILL OUT OF SEEING A TOTAL ELLIPSE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals S



Crossword

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