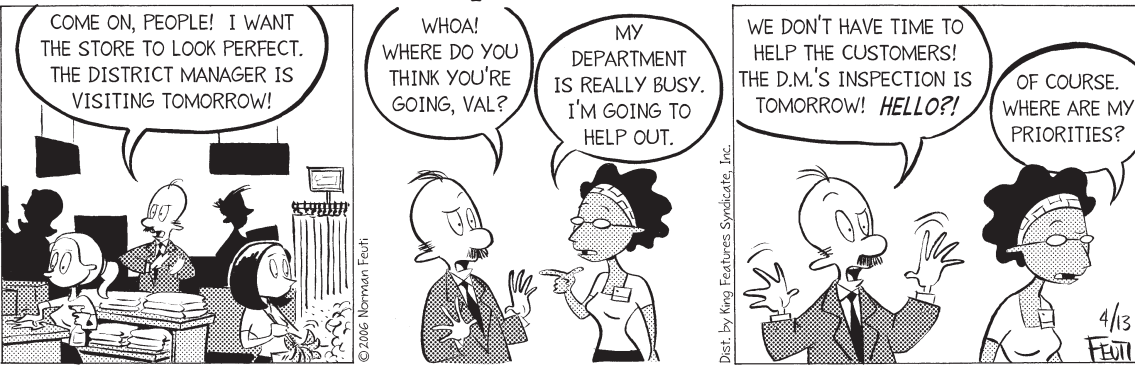
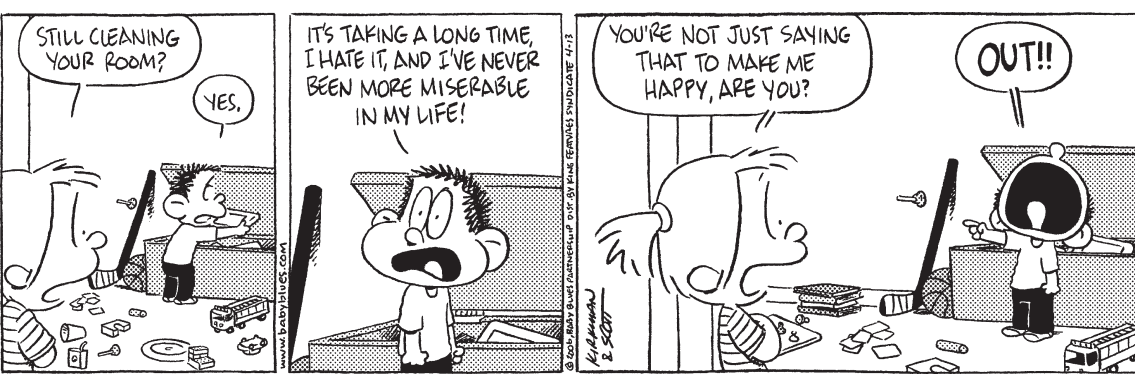


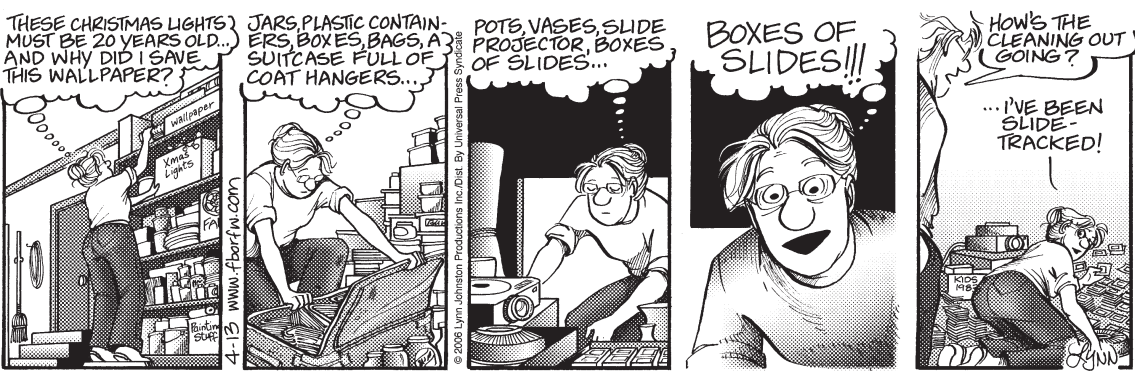
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



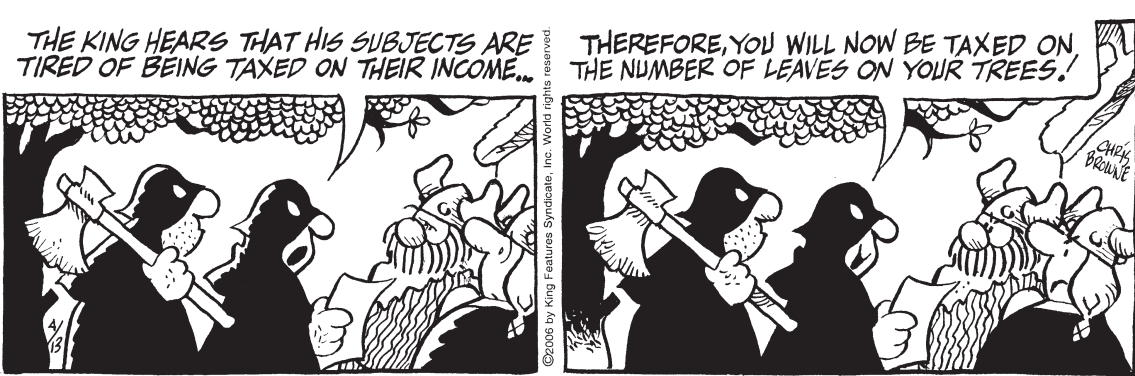
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



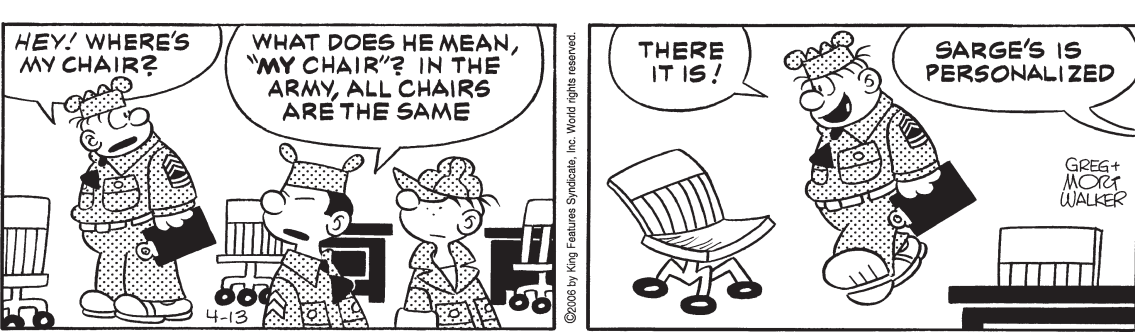
Garfield • Jim Davis



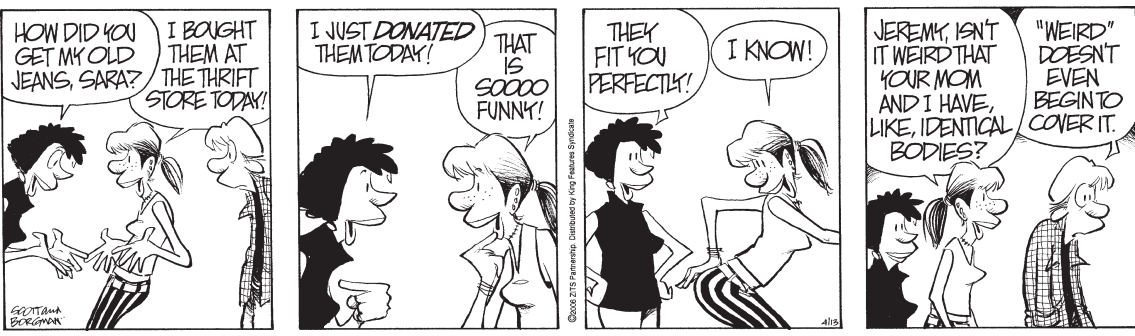
Blondie • Chic Young



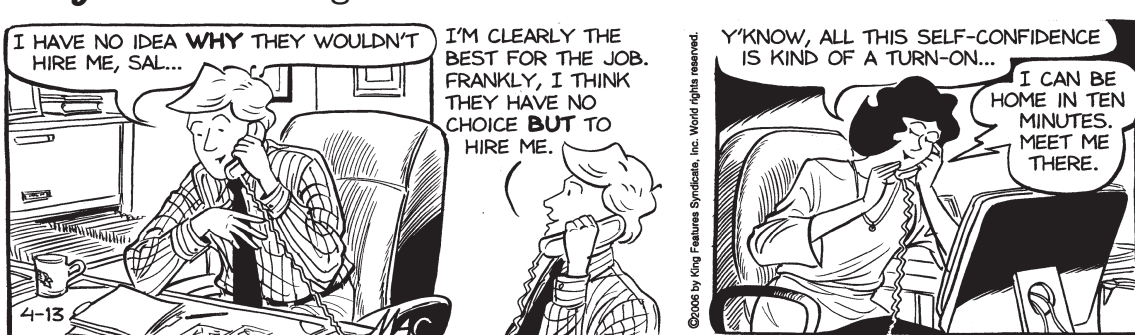
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Opposites losing their connection

DEAR ABBY: "Andrew" and I have been dating for about five years. We met just out of high school, when we were both young and still finding ourselves. But I have noticed that over the years, as we have grown and established our identities, we have become complete opposites.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

First, our religious beliefs: Andrew and I were both raised Catholic. He hasn't practiced in years. When we met, I was going through a stage where I wasn't really practicing my religion either. But as I continued through college, I realized I needed religion back in my life and began going to church. I am now active in the church, and my religious and spiritual beliefs are important to me. Andrew, on the other hand, has no desire to go back and even says he has become an atheist.

Then there's our families: Andrew's family is very free-spirited. Not only are they opinionated and outspoken, they curse and talk about everything and anything. In contrast, my family is very reserved, well-mannered and gentle. We even pray before meals. Needless to say, our families do not mesh well.

I like chocolate; Andrew likes vanilla. I like merry-go-rounds; he likes roller-coasters. I like winter; he likes summer. I'm a worrier; he's carefree. I'm early; he's late. You name it — we're opposites. It may have made for an exciting relationship when we were younger, but now that we're talking marriage and children, I don't see how this will work. Our core values are too different. I really do care for Andrew, and we have fun together, but is there any hope for the future?

— POLAR OPPOSITES, CHADDS FORD, PA.

DEAR POLAR OPPOSITES: Not with the negative mind-set you have displayed in your letter. Not once did you indicate that you are willing to fight for a future with this man. Unless you can figure out what you still have in common, I see little hope for a future with Andrew. The last thing either of you needs is to march down the aisle to the strains of "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off."

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wit's end with my husband, and I don't know what to do. It seems like lately he is finding fault with my kids over stupid stuff — especially my soon-to-be 13-year-old son.

Mind you, my husband is not abusive — but lately, every time my son forgets to do something, he threatens that he is going to kill him, yells that he's no longer my son's father until he straightens up, and on one occasion, he slammed my son into a wall.

I'm scared to death. I don't want my kids hurt (I have a 9-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter as well), and I love my husband dearly, but I can't take this much longer. He has never acted this way before.

— TRYING TO UNDERSTAND IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TRYING TO UNDERSTAND: Your husband may be depressed, using drugs, stressed out at work or mentally ill. I don't blame you for being seriously concerned, because whatever the cause, he is losing control. You say he "isn't abusive," and yet the incidents you have described concerning your 13-year-old are examples of verbal and physical abuse.

The best advice I can offer you is to get your husband to a doctor for a thorough examination — and a referral to a psychotherapist for evaluation. Because his change in behavior is recent, he could be in trouble.

DEAR ABBY: I recently had to tell another patient, this time a husband and father, that the irregular-shaped mole on his shoulder was melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Unfortunately, dermatologists see

cases like this every day.

Despite outward appearances of being healthy, this man was a prime candidate for skin cancer. Unlike many of my patients, he had spent the better part of his youth swimming and playing baseball in the sun with his skin unprotected.

Regardless of age or skin type, everyone is at risk for developing skin cancer. Last year alone, there were 105,750 new cases of melanoma diagnosed in the United States. To avoid becoming part of that statistic, your readers need to be "sun smart" when they have fun in the sun. They need to do such things as generously apply sunscreen, wear protective clothing, seek shade, get vitamin D safely through a healthy diet or dietary supplement — and AVOID TANNING BEDS.

As a dermatologist, I can attest that practicing sun safety and getting screened for skin cancer are the best ways to ensure lifelong healthy skin. Please help me spread the word, Abby.

— STEPHEN P. STONE, M.D., AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

DEAR DR. STONE: I'm pleased to help, and thank you for your compassion and desire to protect my readers.

Folks, in addition to heeding Dr. Stone's suggestions, you can also take advantage of the American Academy of Dermatology's free skin cancer screening programs. Throughout the year, dermatologists provide free screenings to help educate the public about the importance of early detection of skin cancer. (The good news is, most skin cancers average a 95 percent cure rate if they are caught early.) To locate free screenings in your area, log onto www.aad.org or call toll-free: (888) 462-3376.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 4 2
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ J 10 9 5 3

WEST
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ K Q J 10 7
 ♦ 10 7 3
 ♣ A Q 8

EAST
 ♠ Q 9 6 3
 ♥ 9 8 5 4 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10 5
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A K Q J 9 6
 ♣ 7 2

The bidding:
 West North East South
 1♥ Pass 2♥ 5♦
 3♥ 4♣ 4♥ 5♦

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Look Before You Leap

Entry problems are a critical factor in the play of many hands. To be in the right place at the right time may be the key to the outcome, and a declarer who ignores this is bound to come a cropper more often than he should.

Take this case where declarer might easily go wrong — and in fact did. He got to five diamonds as shown, and West led a heart.

Declarer won, drew trumps, played a spade to the king and continued with a spade to the jack. The finesse succeeded, but declarer went down one. He could not repeat the spade finesse for lack of a further entry to dummy, and he eventually lost two clubs and a spade.

South would have made the contract had he played a low spade from dummy at trick two and finessed. After drawing trumps, he could then have crossed to the king of spades to repeat the finesse, and thus would not have lost a spade trick.

The hand highlights the importance of planning the play. South's only problem from the start is to avoid a spade loser, and this should dominate his thinking from the moment dummy appears. How best to accomplish this goal is something that must be solved at once and cannot be postponed until after trumps are drawn.

Percentage-wise, it is clearly best to assume that East has the queen of spades. To play West for the queen and finesse through him will be successful only if the spades are divided 3-3. This is too much to hope for. Once the decision is made to play East for the queen, it is clear that a first-round finesse should be taken at trick two to guard against the possibility that East has four or more spades.

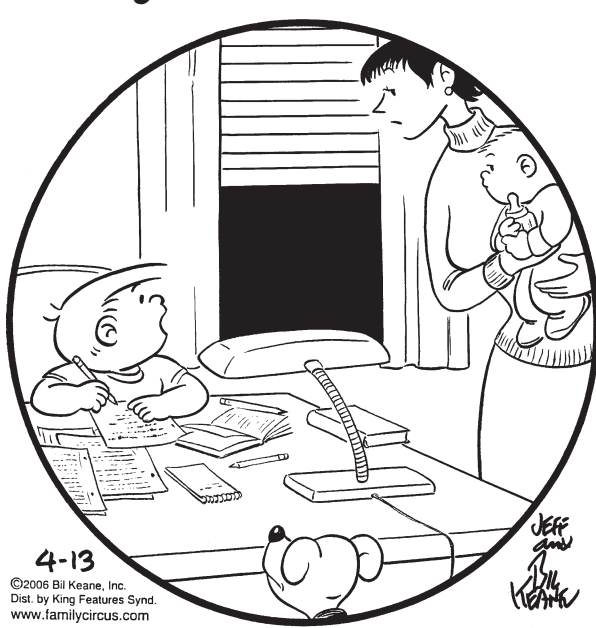
Cryptoquip

L W Y Z Z N W D T H Q C L O D .
 W S T K P D T X S P E X Y G C N K
 G L K A W F N Y X A A D C L H L S D X Q

Z K N O L A D N F X W D K O L E D .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A DOCTOR TOLD A NURSE WHAT VACCINATIONS TO GIVE, I GUESS HE WAS CALLING THE SHOTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Some kids' moms type their book reports into the computer and print them out for them."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 H.H. Munro pseudonym
 5 Cudgel
 8 Quartet
 12 Chinese gang
 13 Spring-time abbr.
 14 Subterfuge
 15 In due time
 16 Vast expanse
 17 Particular
 18 Start the computer again
 20 College student
 22 Dining-room piece
 26 Layered rock
 29 Ump
 30 Reaction to pyrotechnics
 31 Corduroy rib
 32 Flop
 33 Motley

DOWN

1 Luminary
 2 Top-rated
 3 Handle
 4 Mean
 5 Sew loosely
 6 Gorilla
 8 Poultry purchase
 9 Alfresco with
 11 Sleep phenom-enon, for short
 19 Raw problem
 21 Vacationing
 23 Island near Venezuela
 24 Strictly entre — "say ..."
 25 "Say ..."
 26 Clear the decks?
 27 Kojak's lack
 28 Symbolic story
 32 Memorized group
 35 Schuss
 36 Witness
 38 Obeyed reveille
 39 Tire pattern
 42 Ticklish Muppet
 43 Winglike
 44 Crow's-nest cry
 45 "Mayday!"
 46 Chapeau
 48 Mrs. McKinley

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	Y	P	I	P							
E	U	R	O	P	E	R	O	T				
A	D	I	E	U	A	R	E	N	A	S		
P	A	T	E	N	T	P	E	N	D	I	N	G
E	M	S	G	R	A	Z	E	L	O	U		
L	E	I	S	H	O	R	N					
C	A	I	R	O	F	L	I	R	T			
E	H	U	D	A	L	U	M					
S	E	N	K	A	R	E	N	S	H	A		
P	A	T	E	N	T	L	E	A	T	H	E	R
P	I	L	A	T	E	T	E					
E	L	V	I	S	I	D	E	A				
S	E	C										
C	Y	R										

Yesterday's answer 4-13

