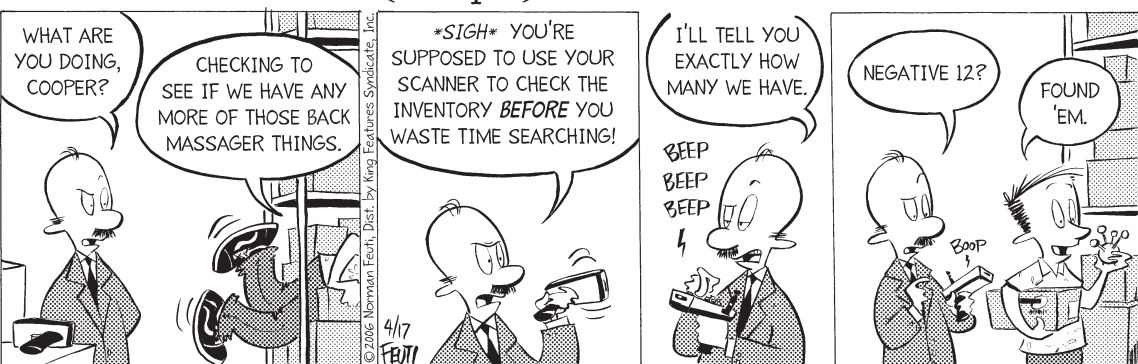
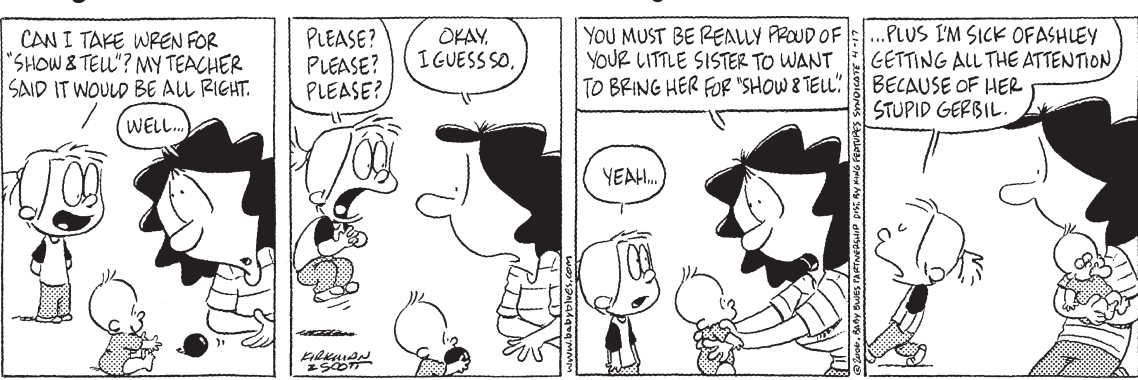


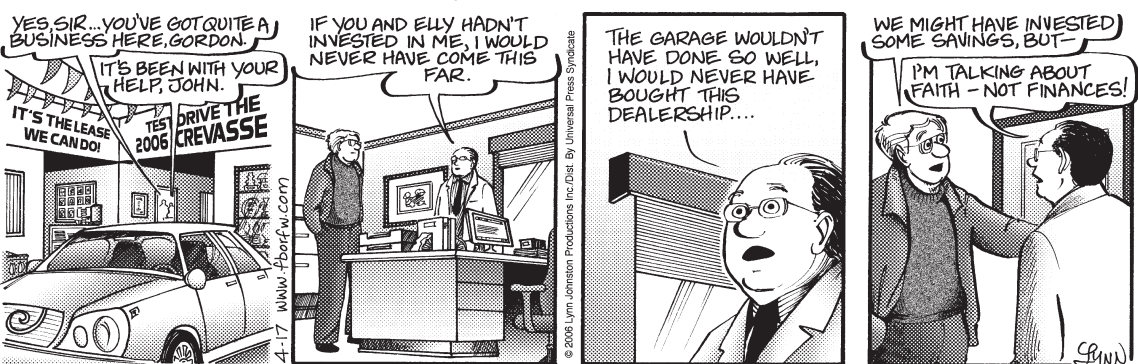
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



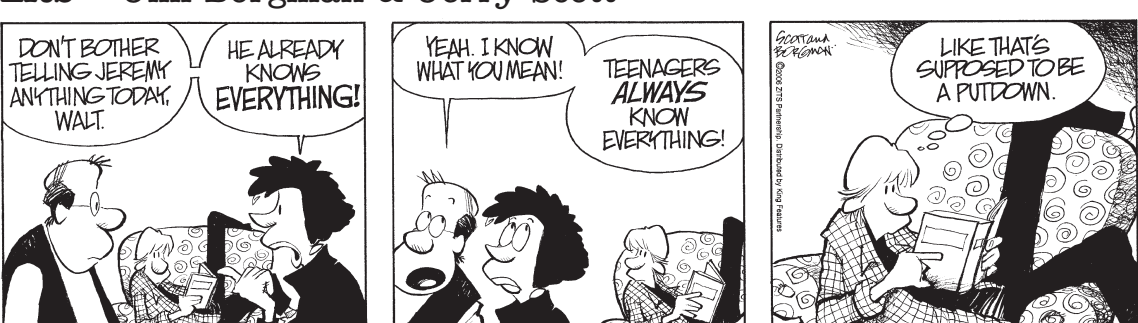
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Family's cruelty toward pets casts doubt on couple's future

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Jamie," and I have been together almost four years. Everything was fine until we hit a major roadblock.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

I was raised to love animals. Jamie's parents are the polar opposite. I have always kept my cool when I heard stories about his father abusing animals. I asked Jamie to talk to his parents and let them know how I feel. He never did.

Just before Christmas we were over there for a visit, and his mother told a horrible story about his dad killing a pet rabbit. I couldn't control myself any longer; I burst into tears and yelled, "Your father is a horrible man!"

We left that night, and I told Jamie I could never go back. He needed to make a choice: a wife who could be a part of his family — or me. He chose me — at least that's what I thought.

Jamie recently asked me if I had calmed down and could put this in the past. I don't think I can. How can we have a life together if I don't want to be a part of his family?

— APPALLED IN LIVONIA, MICH.

DEAR APPALLED: The answer is you can't, because you and Jamie have very different values. His father's behavior is sadistic, and his mother appears to feel that killing a pet is normal. Your fiancé might like to think that all this can be smoothed over, but what happened at Christmas was your glimpse at the future.

My advice is to end it now, before you wind up joining a clan whose sensitivities and values are so different from your own.

DEAR ABBY: I am grieving the death of my beloved mother. She was in her late 80s, and her friends who are still living were loyal in attending the visitation or the funeral, or sending a card.

However, my friends were absent and unresponsive, and it has left me feeling puzzled and deserted. I have always sent cards and responded to their family losses. Where were they in my time of need? Are they still my friends or not?

I must add that during the last year I went through a nasty divorce, and my former wife and her parents conducted a smear campaign against me.

However, at the funeral, my former in-laws were in attendance. What do you think of this?

— DESERTED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DESERTED: It's possible that your former in-laws showed up simply to pay their respects to someone they had known — and presumably gotten along with — for a long time.

As to the friends upon whom you counted for support, and who were absent in your time of need, you are asking the wrong person. You should ask them why they ignored your mother's death, and if they consider themselves still to be your friends.

It's not a rude question. You're entitled to an answer, and hearing the truth might be empowering.

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago I had a mastectomy. Whenever I tell people this, invariably the first question they ask is, "Which side?" Initially I was caught off guard and, without knowing what else to do, I'd tell them the answer. Then they would stare at my chest!

I don't know what possesses people to behave that way. It's absolutely none of their business and it's very offensive. I'd love it if you would pass the word along. Thank you!

— SURVIVOR IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SURVIVOR: Consider it passed. Readers, if someone tells you she (or he) has had a mastectomy, remember that personal questions can be an invasion of privacy, and keep your glance no lower than the jawline.

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

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 7 2
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ 7
♣ Q J 10 7

WEST
♠ J 3
♥ A 10 9 8 2
♦ 9 3
♣ A 6 5 2

EAST
♠ A 6 5
♥ 6 3
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ K 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 8 4
♥ J 4
♦ A K Q J 6 4
♣ 9

The bidding:
East Pass 1 ♠
South Pass 4 ♠
West Pass
North 2 ♠

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

The 1992 World Women's Olympiad Team Championship, held at Salsomaggiore, Italy, was won by Austria, which defeated a favored British squad by 48 IMPs in the 96-deal final. It was Austria's first-ever Olympiad women's title. A total of 34 teams participated in the event.

Today's deal from the final produced no swing, but featured good defensive play by both teams. The bidding shown occurred at the table where Barbara Lindinger and Maria Erhart were North-South for Austria. Erhart's opening spade bid was consistent with the pair's canape style, in which a shorter suit is often bid before a longer suit.

Pat Davies, the British West, unwittingly led South's strongest suit, but this ironically put the defense in excellent position to defeat the contract. Erhart won the opening diamond lead and immediately played a heart toward dummy, planning next to lead a spade toward her hand.

Davies rose with the heart ace, and the audience watching on Vu-Graph was informed by the panel of expert commentators that if West cashed the club ace and then led a second diamond, the contract could be defeated. East could put up the spade ace on the first trump lead from dummy and return a third diamond, promoting West's jack of spades as the setting trick.

After taking the heart ace, however, Davies returned a second diamond without first cashing the top club, which proved equally effective. Erhart won, overtook the heart jack with the king and tried to discard her club on the heart queen.

When East ruffed low, South could do no better than overruff and lead the spade king to East's ace. East's diamond return then enabled West to score the spade jack and club ace for down one.

At the other table, the Austrian defenders also scored their three aces and the spade jack to defeat four spades, so the result was a standoff.

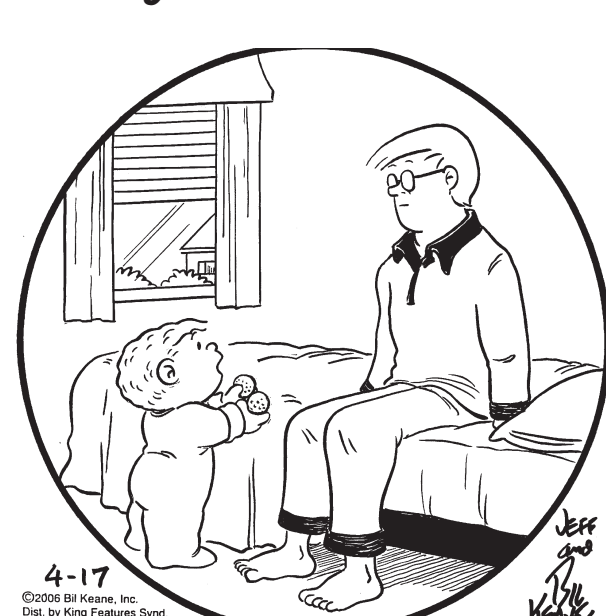
Cryptoquip

W I T Q T B F W K F S W M X J
K M X F H U W Q O X K H T S T F A B K,
W O L X K K U X C A L S J

J B T C T S A F A I K F T W B K.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: ONCE YOU ADD HERBS AND SPICES TO THE STEW, WILL YOU BE ENTERING THE POST-SEASON PERIOD?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Crossword

ACROSS

1 Andy's old radio pal
5 Expert
8 Bulletin-board item
12 Prosaic
14 Chills and fever
15 Able to read and write
16 Metropolis
17 The Cratchit tyke
18 Telethon array
20 Center of activity
23 Thailand, once
24 Hexagonal state
25 Run
28 Press for payment
29 Wall component
30 Chicken-link
32 Repeat
34 Laurel or Musial

DOWN

1 Puncturing tool
19 "Listen!"
20 Wrestling venue
21 Needle case
22 Is unable to
23 Malice
25 Pomsman
26 "Bye!"
27 Verve
29 Soft cheese
31 Pismire
33 "The Wizard of Menlo Park"
34 Mountain range
36 Mirth
37 Sir's counterpart
38 News
39 Old Italian coin
40 Eight (Pref.)
43 Deluge
44 Melody
45 Highlander's hat
46 Tarzan portrayer

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	W	O	L	B	A	L	E	J	E	D
K	I	W	I	R	U	I	N	A	V	E
I	S	N	T	A	R	T	S	D	E	S
N	E	S	T	N	A	M	M	A	R	K
O	R	I	E	N	T	S	T	I	L	T
B	A	N	J	O	A	D	I	E	U	
I	G	N	O	R	E	S	I	M	P	L
N	O	O	N	B	R	A	R	A	J	A
O	R	B	R	O	A	R	I	B	E	X
U	Z	I	U	S	S	R	A	L	E	E
N	O	T	E	S	P	Y	N	E	R	D

Saturday's answer 4-17

