

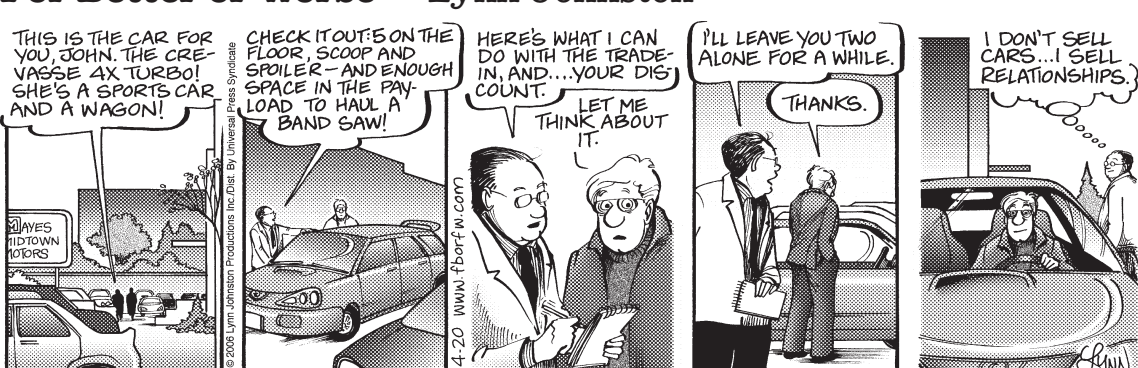
**Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



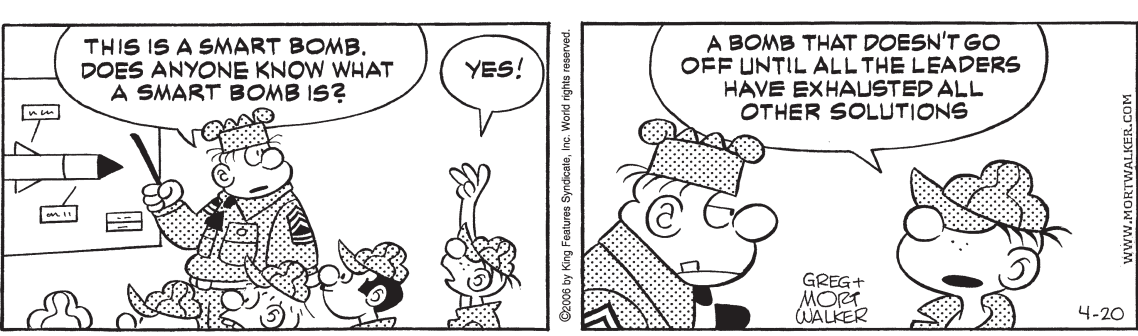
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



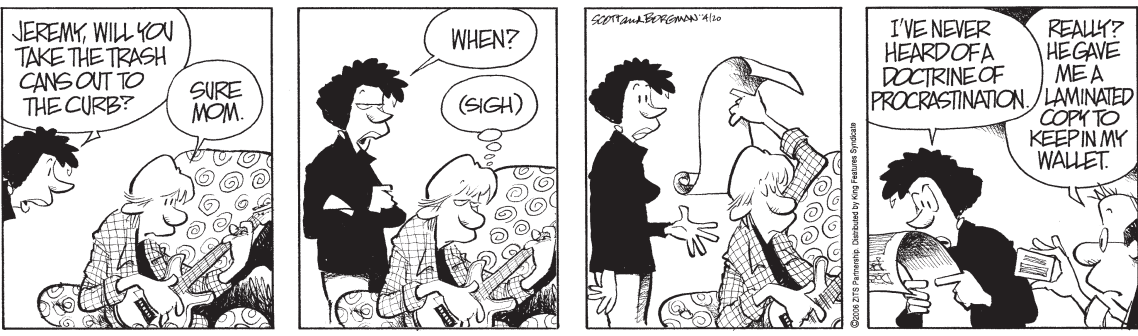
**Blondie • Chic Young**



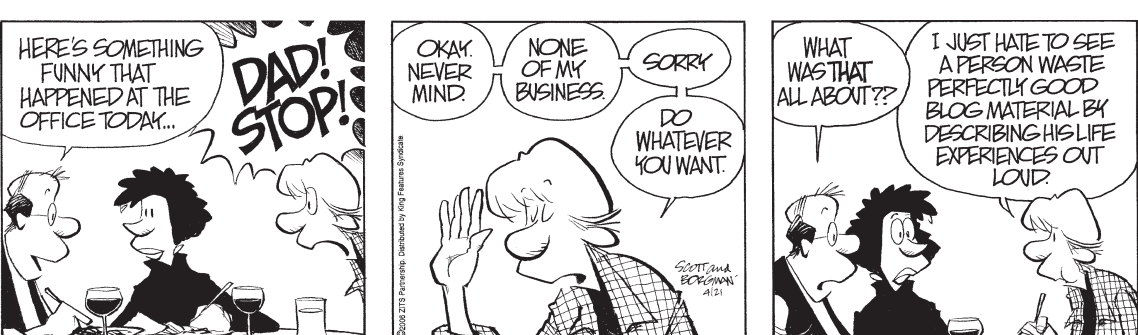
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



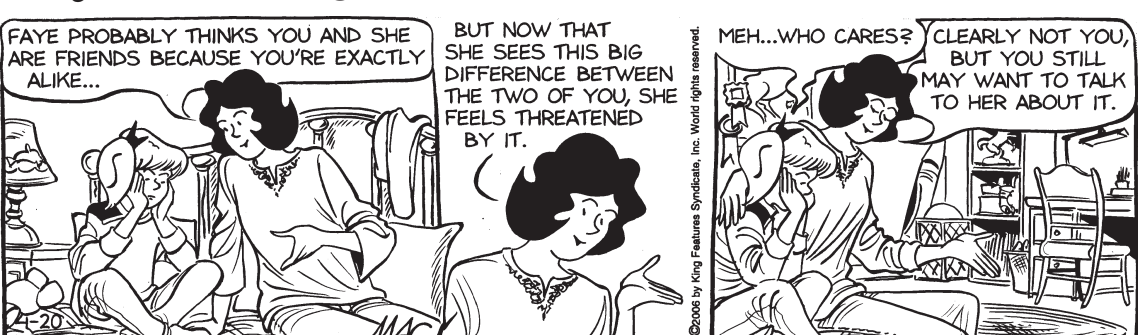
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



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**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Dad springs a new mom on daughter**

DEAR ABBY: "Crushed in California" whined about her new stepdaughter's "rude, tacky, inappropriate and cruel" reaction after Stepmom and Dad dumped notice on his 24-year-old daughter — in a public place, no less — that they had eloped.

Abby, the ADULTS were the rude, insensitive, inappropriate, self-centered and inconsiderate parties in this matter — not the daughter. They are the ones who should be seeking to mend fences.

When I decided to remarry, we invited my daughters (all in their 20s) over for a private dinner at home where we made the announcement, invited the girls to participate in the planning and answered questions. And yes, the question about a pre-nup was raised. So what! My daughters wanted assurance that I had thought things through.

They wanted to know how the marriage would change our family's dynamics, home arrangements, college plans, etc. They were surprised. They got emotional. But they clearly cared about me and my happiness. Their questions weren't out of line; they were the same questions I got from close friends.

It seems to me that these self-centered "adults" cared diddly-squat about what Dad's daughter felt or worried about: Keep the young woman in the dark. Don't let her contribute toward planning the event. Don't let her attend this milestone. Then dump the news on her in a public place to keep her emotional response contained. That ought to show her how important she is in her dad's new life!

Get over it, Stepmom. You married a man with a daughter. She needs to be part of your life right now. You and Dad blew it by shutting her out. Maybe in time the daughter will forgive you.

— A DAD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Abigail Van Buren**

• Dear Abby

ily. It's sad that more families aren't like your own.

What bothered me about the letter from "Crushed in California" was that the first words out of the daughter's mouth had to do with money. I believe that people who earn and save money should be able to spend it as they wish. I also believe that it is unwise to count other people's money as your own. If the father wants his daughter to have any of his assets, then he should have a will that says so. (It's called estate planning.) If he already has a will leaving his property to his daughter, now that he is married he will need a new one, because here in California, his wife would have a claim on half his estate in the event of his death.

Read on for other readers' comments:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have a stepdaughter who "freaked out" when her father and I married. Her father and I were shocked at her reaction. We offered her the option of family counseling, but she refused to go. My husband and I decided to go by ourselves. It worked miracles!

Once his daughter came to grips with the fact that we were going to stay together, and she would always still have her father, things gradually got better. Now, a few years later, we're a close and loving family. It seems she was afraid she would no longer be No. 1 to Daddy, but she is — she's just No. 1 Daughter. I am No. 1 Wife. There is plenty of love to go around for the both of us.

DEAR ABBY: If you look beyond the daughter's initial reaction, I think

you'll see someone who was scared to death of losing her father. Eloping was probably interpreted as the first step to abandonment. Bottom line: She was scared. Instead of pulling away from her and resenting her, they should embrace her and reassure her that she'll always be part of their lives.

— ANOTHER DADDY'S GIRL IN PORTLAND

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Quinn," and I have been married for two years. We're college sweethearts who re-found each other. Our marriage is solid and romantic. We were both married before — to the worst life has to offer — so we truly appreciate each other.

Quinn is extremely good-looking, and I'm no slouch, either. We have been told many times what a striking couple we are.

Quinn came into this marriage with grown children. He has five daughters, three of whom make a point of saying, each time we see them, how "Mrs. Smith really has the hots for Dad," or "Miss Johnson wants Dad so bad she can't get over him," or "We ran into our old high school teacher, and she only wanted to talk about Dad and how hot he was." Another daughter tells us how all her friends (21 to 23) want to date him! This has become redundant and tiring, and I don't believe any of it is true. I think they say it only to make me uncomfortable and, frankly, I feel it's rude.

— THE NEW WIFE

DEAR NEW WIFE: Do it with humor. If Quinn was my husband, I'd smile, put my arms around him and say, "Let 'em eat their hearts out, girls, 'cause he's mine, all mine!" Then I'd add, "And by the way, we're thinking of starting a family." Since they can dish it out, let's see how well the "girls" can take it.

Editor's note: Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

**Bridge**

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 9 4  
 ♥ K 8 7 2  
 ♦ Q 6  
 ♣ A Q J 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ 6 5  
 ♥ J 3  
 ♦ K 7 5 4 2  
 ♣ K 9 8 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ Q 10 9 6 4  
 ♦ A 10 9  
 ♣ 6 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K J 10 8 7 2  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ J 8 3  
 ♣ 7

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
 4 ♠ Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead — six of spades.

Sylvia Strikes Again

Sylvia was never shy in the bid ding. When she had a good hand, she would bid it to the hilt — and then some. She had no use for partscores, Sylvia's theory being that bidding games won rubbers, and it was impossible to dissuade her from this view.

This philosophy naturally got her into considerable hot water, though it did on occasion produce a fine result. Thus, when Sylvia held the South hand at the club one day, she opened two spades. It was a far cry from a forcing two-bid, but Sylvia wanted to make sure of getting to game.

North couldn't stop short of six, considering that he had an opening bid facing a strong two-bid, so he leapt to slam. Had West led a diamond, the slam would have foundered, but West led a trump.

It did not take Sylvia long to play the hand. She reasoned that it wouldn't do much good to take a club finesse through West, because even if it worked, she would still lose two diamond tricks.

Accordingly, she won the trump lead in her hand, played a club to the ace and returned the queen. When East followed low, Sylvia discarded, but, being Sylvia, she discarded a heart instead of a diamond!

West took the king and had no doubt about which suit to return. He assumed from Sylvia's heart discard that this was the weak spot in her hand, and therefore shifted to the jack of hearts.

Sylvia won the heart with the ace, crossed to dummy with a trump, discarded her J-8-3 of diamonds on the J-10 of clubs and king of hearts, and so added another chapter to the saga of her distinguished career.

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 South West North East  
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**Cryptoquip**

MKGGDQX UKJQ PQDEO IFGX.  
 ITXC DHKADBQ CUKC CUQS  
 KEQ QBMFTEKAQO CF  
 OEDJQ MTXCFHQEX KPXS!  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GAS STATION WORKER WERE GIVEN ONLY FIVE CENTS, YOU MIGHT CALL THAT A PUMPERNICKEL.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



"How much would it cost to see a sunset if God decided to charge for it?"

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Corpulent  
 4 Punch  
 8 Domesticate  
 12 Lemieux milieu  
 13 Loyal  
 14 Of a historic period  
 15 Rosemary Clooney's theme song  
 17 Apprehend  
 18 Neither mate  
 19 Having a defense  
 21 Willful violence  
 24 Lair  
 25 Conditions  
 26 Tin Man's need  
 28 Playful water critter  
 32 Jog  
 34 Society newcomer  
 36 — precedent  
 37 Strengthened  
 39 Rotation duration

**DOWN**

1 Suit  
 2 Expert  
 3 "Enoch Arden" writer  
 4 Mono do  
 5 Bob of CBS  
 6 Religious sect  
 7 Regulated the pitch  
 8 Lease signatories  
 9 Bedouin  
 10 "You've Got —"  
 11 Model Macpherson  
 16 Homer's expletive

**20** Keanu's "Matrix" role  
**21** Catcher's aid  
**22** Frizzy do  
**23** Central  
**27** Stated  
**29** Persistence  
**30** Common Latin abbr.  
**31** Alger's "before"  
**33** Statures against firings  
**35** Dracula, sometimes  
**38** "Zip-a-Dee—Dah"  
**40** Mountain airs?  
**43** Half an ice-cream flavor  
**45** Craggy peak  
**46** Rent  
**47** Maleficence  
**48** Bottle part  
**49** Appear  
**53** Siesta  
**54** Retainer  
**55** Type units

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

PSI BLIP OBOE  
 EON AONE FOAL  
 ADD CUNE IFORM  
 KAYAK PAD  
 PLAT RONI MARCO  
 IOU FLAIR YABE  
 NORM INFORMAL  
 SNAIL IFSO  
 SEA TWIST  
 PERFORMER ROY  
 ETUI MENU ORR  
 PANT STEM NEO

Yesterday's answer 4-20

