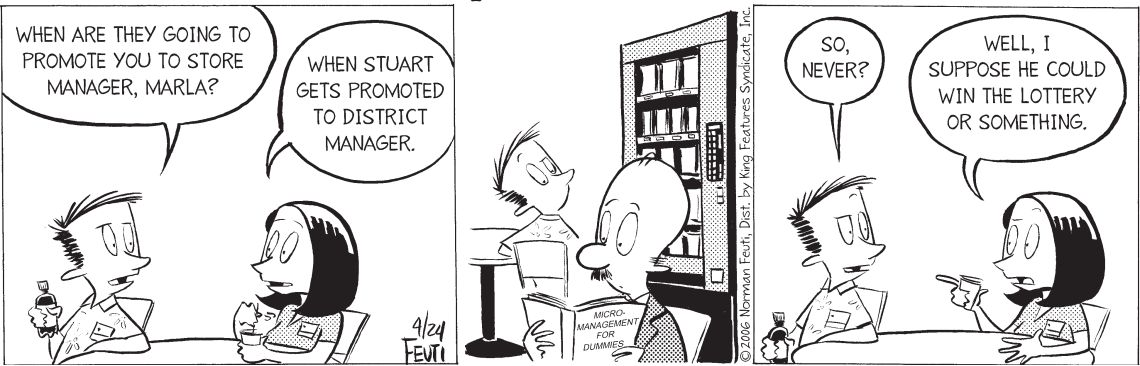
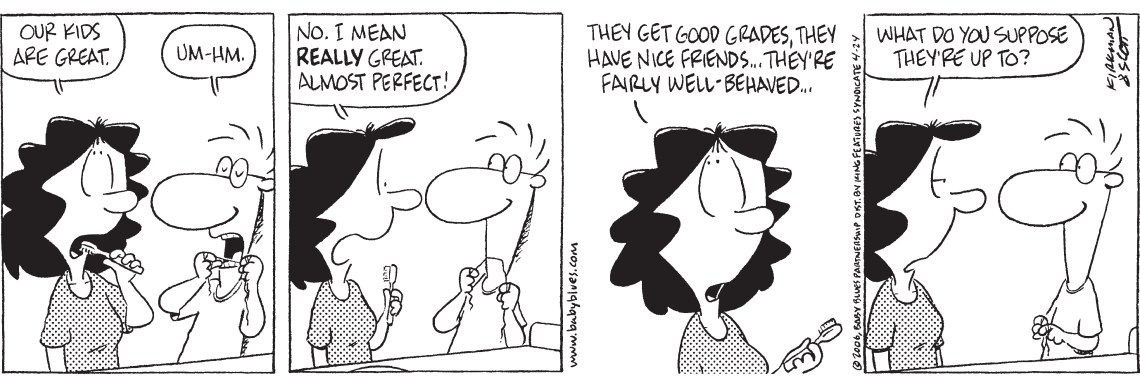


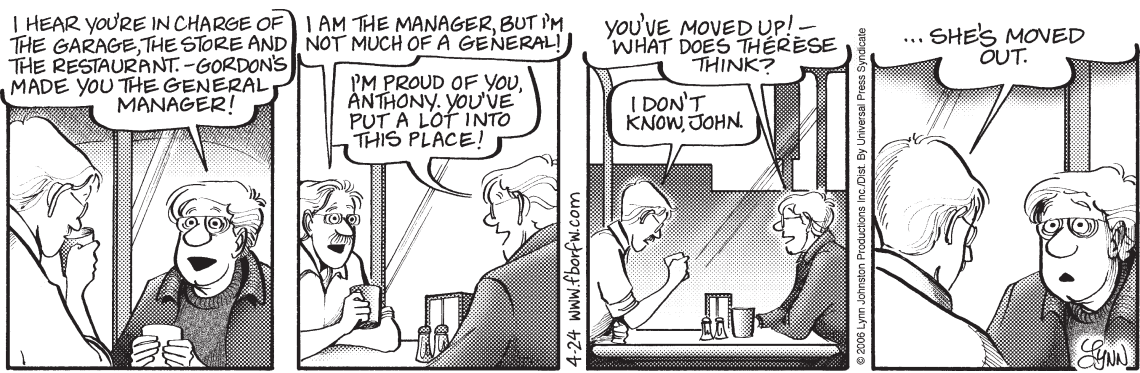
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



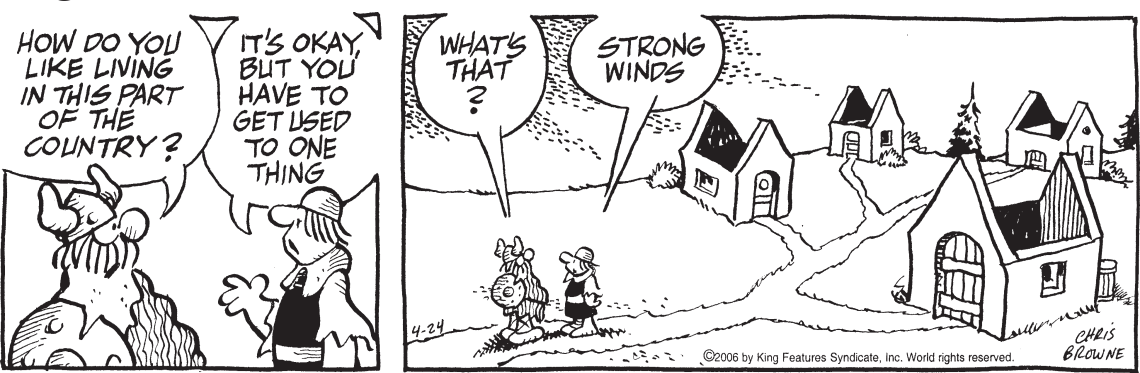
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



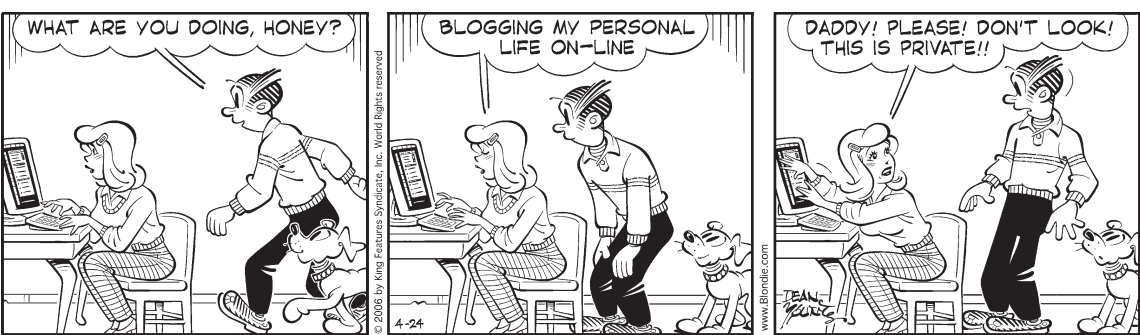
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



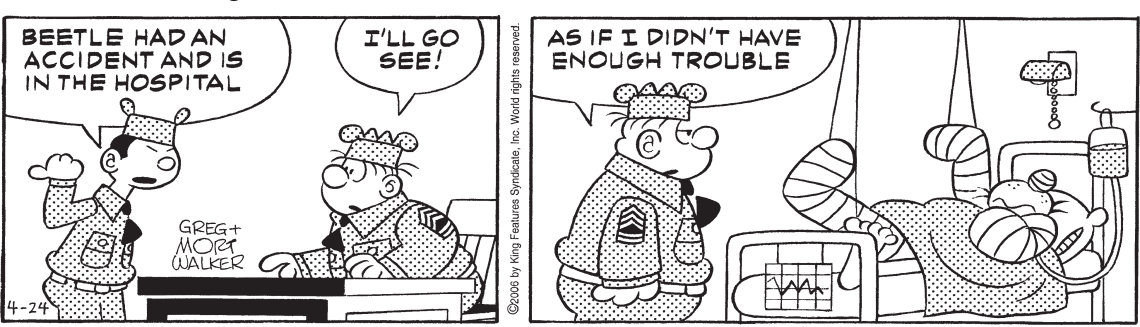
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



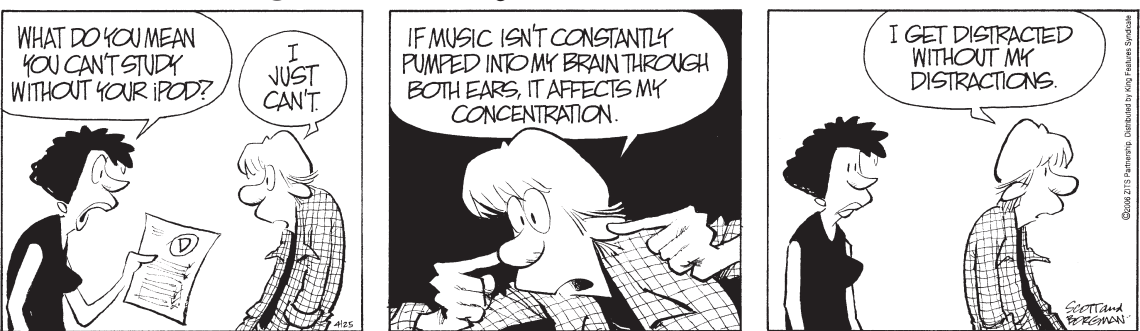
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Office worker won't shake hands

DEAR ABBY: I have worked in the construction trade for many years. It's common practice to shake someone's hand when you are introduced, or when you see that person again.

Now, after years of working in the field, I'm working in the office, taking care of business for the men.

Abby, when they come into the office or I see them gathered outside, they insist on shaking hands. The problem I have with this is I catch more colds than I have ever had in my life.

Also, some of these guys have some of today's diseases such as herpes, AIDS, hepatitis C, and some other things I have never heard of. I wash my hands many times a day. I use sanitary wipes many times a day. You get the picture.

Is there some polite way of excusing oneself from shaking hands without offending the other person? Any suggestions will be appreciated to help me with this problem.

— CONCERNED IN THE WEST

DEAR CONCERNED: Rather than risk offending clients or co-workers, you should discuss this subject with your doctor. The common cold can be prevented by not touching your eyes, nose or mouth after contact with someone — or some object — that has been contaminated by someone with a cold. (The other diseases you mentioned are spread through intimate contact, and this does NOT include hand-shaking.)

DEAR ABBY: I am planning my October wedding and enjoying



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

playing the role of bride-to-be. My in-laws are awesome, and I'm glad I'm marrying into a wonderful family.

I chose my ivory wedding gown shortly after I was engaged last fall, and I couldn't be more pleased.

Recently, however, my fiancé's mother was shopping for her dress and selected an ivory-colored gown.

Not only am I upset, I feel insulted. My fiancé thinks I'm making a big deal out of nothing, but don't you agree that the bride should be the only person to wear a gown in her color?

Am I blowing this out of proportion?

Should I tell her how I feel? The tags are still on her dress, and I think I'm entitled to be the only woman wearing ivory that day. Please advise me.

— GLORIA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GLORIA: By all means speak up, and when you do, point out to the lady that if she wears the ivory-colored gown it will look like a double wedding.

If she's as "awesome" as you say, she'll recognize that it could cause embarrassment and select a gown in another color that coordinates with yours.

DEAR ABBY: The responses

from your readers discussing whether to tell Alzheimer's patients about the death of a loved one reminded me about what happened with my mother.

Mom, who is in the middle stages of Alzheimer's, once told me, in great confidence, that she thought my father (who had died 10 years before) was having an affair because his shoes were not in the closet.

Also, some "other woman's clothes" were in there. (We had added a few new items to Mom's wardrobe, and she didn't recognize them.)

I very hesitantly began to remind my mother how sick Dad had been, how many times we'd had to take him to the hospital, and finally worked around to saying that he had died 10 years ago.

My mother's response: "Well, THAT'S a relief!"

— RICHARD IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR RICHARD: I can see her logic.

She's not the only woman who would rather her husband were dead than cheating.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 4 3
♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ J 9 7 6 2
♣ —

WEST
♠ 8 6 2
♥ A 5 4
♦ A 10 5
♣ A 5 4 2

EAST
♠ A 10 9 7 5
♥ 6
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ 8 7 6

SOUTH
♠ Q
♥ Q Q J 8 3
♦ Q Q
♣ K Q J 10 9 3

The bidding:

	East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	7 ♥	Dble		

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the match between France and Brazil at the 1971 world team championship. It's hard to believe that two very fine players — Jean-Louis Stoppa and Roger Trezel of France — could voluntarily bid a grand slam missing all four aces, but they did.

Certainly the first three bids were all reasonable. The trouble started when North, at his second turn, raised to three hearts instead of two.

It's hard to blame South for investigating a slam by using Blackwood. From his viewpoint, a small slam was certain if his partner had three aces, and a grand slam could be made if, perchance, partner had all four aces.

North responded five clubs, which in standard Blackwood shows zero or four aces. South could not believe that his partner had no aces, considering his three-heart bid, so he leaped straightaway to seven hearts.

This development was doubled by an astonished West, who realized it was possible that either or both of his minor-suit aces might not score tricks, but could not imagine how the ace of trumps would get away. East was naturally pleased as well, since he had an ace his partner knew nothing about. South eventually went down three — 500 points.

This contrasted greatly with the outcome at the other table where the Brazilian North-South pair managed to stop in four hearts, scoring 420 points, after the following sequence:

	East	South	West	North
Pass	1 H	Pass	2 H	
Pass	4 H			

Cryptoquip

TXQPF X POQ'Y TFFC YD

AXQG CZ YUFTOWJWT

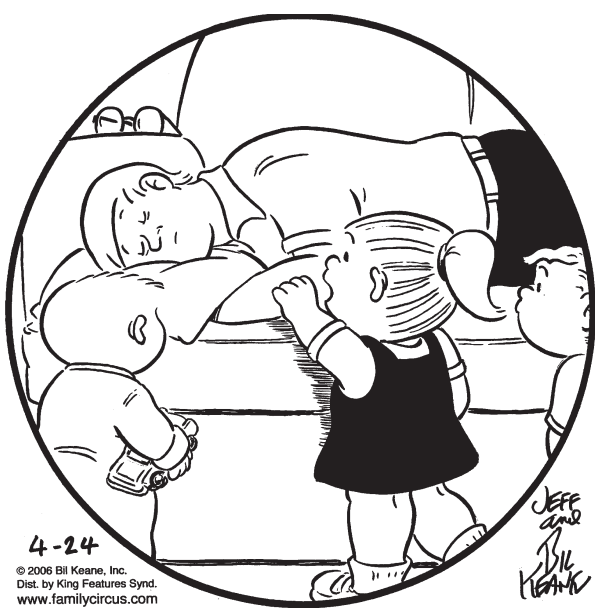
OQZNUFJF, X'C JFORRZ

OY O RDTT ADJ NDJGT.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: YOU OUGHT TO KEEP YOUR MULCHING MATERIAL OUT OF THE COLD AND RAIN, FOR PEAT'S SAKE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Daddy? Besides church and libraries, where else do we hafta be quiet? Daddy?"

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Method

4 Grammarian's concern

9 "Evita" role

12 Id counterpart

13 Man of La Mancha

14 Bran source

15 Six-pointer

17 Coffee-house vessel

18 Pod dweller

19 C.S. Lewis story land

21 Capital of Tasmania

24 Peevishness

25 Spring-time abbr.

26 Stitch

28 Alphabetical list

31 Golf props

33 Newsman

35 Bush opponent

36 Resell at a high profit

38 Obtained

40 Triumph

41 Caffeine-rich nut

43 Austrian metropolis

45 Make cherished

47 Stopover

48 Menagerie

49 WWE show

54 Tier

55 "America's Next Top —"

56 Privy

57 Political writer

58 Got up

59 Morning moisture

DOWN

1 Drench

2 Past

3 Thee

4 Theater personnel

5 Tranquilized

6 Year, to 13-Across

7 Beauty-pageant garb

8 Verdi opera

9 Launch lead-in

10 Mata —

11 Sicilian spouter

16 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

20 49-Across setting

21 Millinery

22 Oil org.

23 Analysis

27 Move to and fro

29 "— Brockovich"

30 TV's "Warrior Princess"

32 Black-thorn

34 Green-horns

37 Blood-bank supply

39 Sound of a small bell

42 Joust gear

44 Conclusion

45 Poet Pound

46 Middy

50 Fuss

51 Antiquated

52 Reason to say "alas"

53 At present

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	P	A	H	E	R	B	T	E	C	H						
L	I	P	A	L	O	E	A	S	H	Y						
I	T	S	M	O	A	N	R	A	I	D						
T	H	E	A	P	P	R	E	N	T	I	C	E				
G	E	E	L	A	S											
S	A	B	E	R		G	U	M		A	I	M				
T	H	U	D		F	O	X		T	I	R	E				
Y	A	M		B	E	D		S	H	R	E	W				
				S	A	M		S	E	A						
				M	A	L	T	H	A	S	T	E	W	A	R	T
				O	L	E	O		L	O	A	M		J	A	Y
				S	T	A	N		E	A	R	L		A	S	P
				S	O	M	E		S	P	R	I		R	H	O

Saturday's answer 4-24

