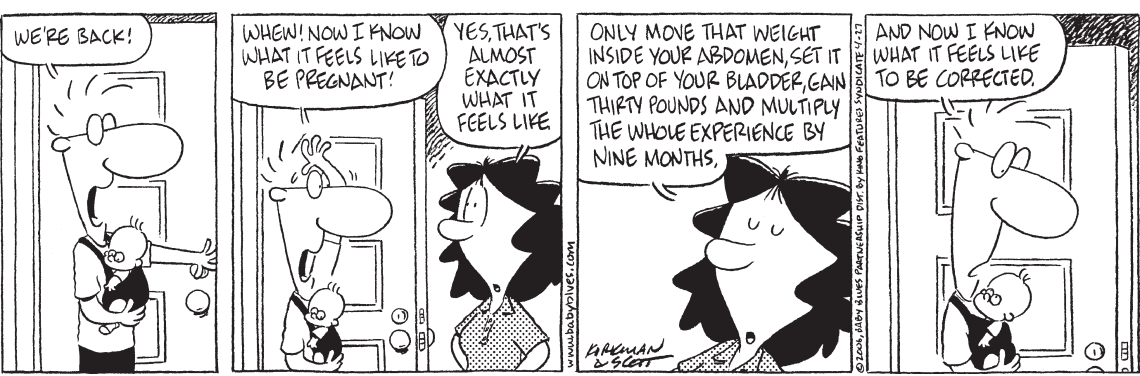


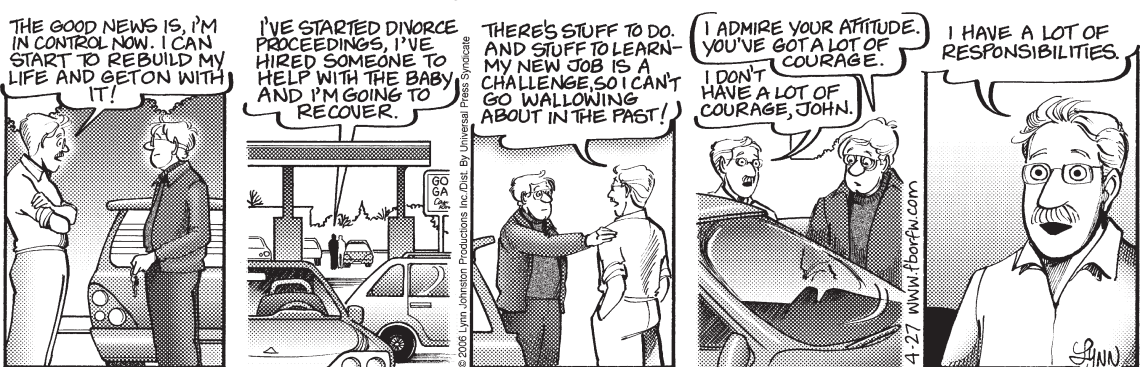
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



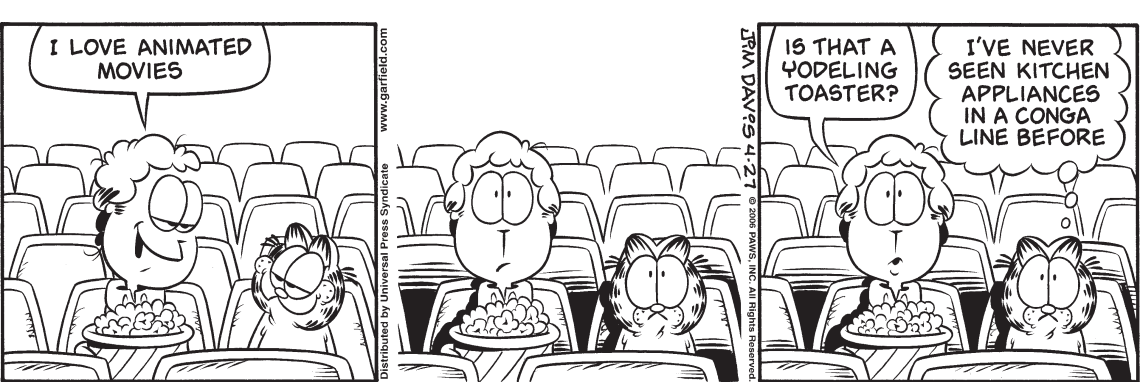
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



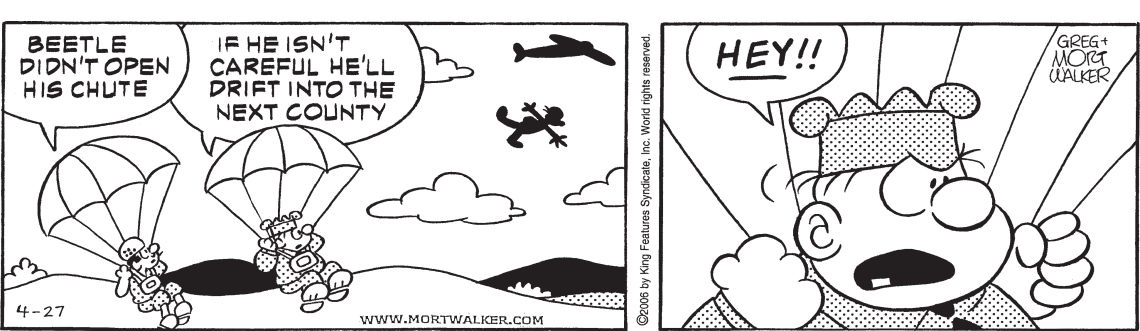
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



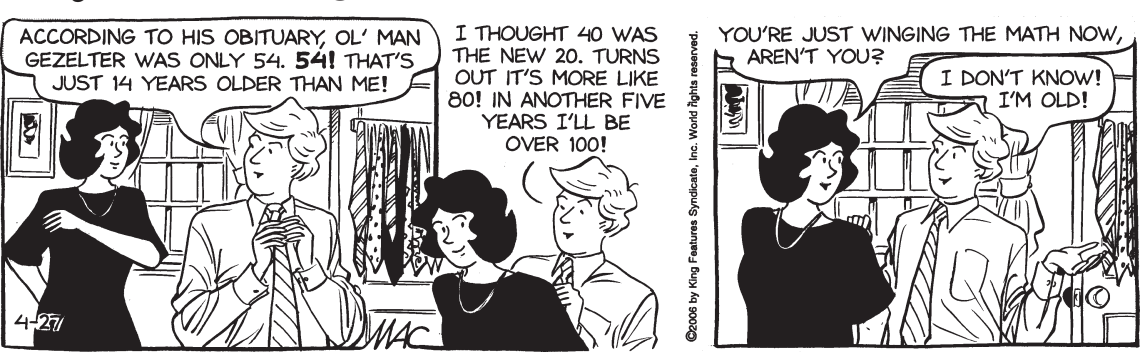
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Readers respond to woman stalked

DEAR ABBY: I want to respond to the letter from "Being Watched in Birmingham," whose ex-husband is stalking her. She wrote she was afraid that calling the police would just make it worse. I had the same problem.

My ex was a retired policeman and long-haul truck driver. I was afraid the police from our town would ignore me because of the "code of blue," and my kids and I would be on our own. But the police helped us out and protected us.

I had to get a restraining order to keep him from the house. He had told one of my daughters that he was going to drive through our house with his tractor-trailer and hurt me. When my daughter told the judge what he had said, it helped me to get my restraining order. It was hard; we were upset and more terrified than anyone will ever know. But our lives are now peaceful.

"Being Watched" needs to stand up for herself and her child. She CAN get help. She also needs to get herself into counseling. (I went to domestic abuse counseling.) She must reach out now, before it's too late.

I made sure all four of us got counseling. She doesn't have to miss out on life because he could be watching. Please, Abby, tell her to look forward and not back — if not for herself, then for her daughter. That girl should not have to live out her mother's fears. They could affect the rest of her life.

— HAPPY AT LAST
DEAR HAPPY AT LAST: Thank you for sharing your personal experience and how you dealt with your ex-husband's stalking and intimidation. I also heard from a former member of law enforcement. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have some advice for "Being Watched." I investigated stalking cases when I was a detective for the local police depart-



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

ment. I also studied the behaviors of these offenders. "Being Watched" should not answer his calls no matter how many times he calls or threatens. If she does, she's giving him what he wants: a response. Even a negative response is what these people need and crave.

She should screen her calls and use an answering machine. She should also obtain an injunction prohibiting harassment from the court. (They are called different names by other jurisdictions.) It can be served on him by an officer of the court.

She should keep detailed documentation of what he is doing — calls, following her, damage. Dates and times are very important to building a criminal case. Also, keep any cards, letters, notes, gifts, etc., that he leaves, and turn them in to the police. They will need them as evidence.

The daughter should be instructed to be aware of her surroundings and report any unusual activities to her mother or the police if it's an emergency. The school should be notified about what is happening, especially if a court order is obtained to keep him away from her.

By no means should the writer make herself a prisoner in her own home. If she does, he's succeeding in getting what he wants — control over her. She should be aware of her surroundings, install good locks on her house, garage her vehicle if possible, and take security precautions at home or at work. Her ex is committing crimes and will stop only if she takes the first step to end his controlling, manipulative behavior. It may be scary for her, but a good

support system of family, friends, police and a psychotherapist can help her through this terrifying time. The man needs to be stopped — now!

— FORMER POLICE DETECTIVE IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: After almost 30 years of marriage, my husband "Grant," took a long-distance trucking job.

This leaves me alone on many Sundays and evenings, and I'm having a terrible time adjusting to it. I feel sad lots of times, like I'm living the life of a widow. Being a widow is terrible, but living like one while your husband is still alive seems worse.

I attend any social event that gives me contact with people while Grant is away. Sundays are difficult because I am limited to visiting older women who are widows. My children are grown and live hundreds of miles away, and I don't want to impose on my married friends who have their husbands to do things with.

Absence is supposed to make the heart grow fonder, but it makes me feel distant and bitter.

Do other wives of airplane pilots, traveling salesmen, truckers, etc., feel the same way I do? How can I change my attitude?

— TRUCKER WIDOW
DEAR WIDOW: The surest way to change your attitude is to start celebrating your independence instead of cursing it. You have too much time on your hands. Buy a pet, adopt a hobby, start taking classes while your husband is away, and fill those lonely hours of separation. You can be as happy as you make up your mind to be — or as miserable. It's a question of mind over matter.

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

Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 6 5	♦ 10 9 3 2	♠ 10 9 3 2	♦ K
♥ J 9 8 4 3 2	♥ A 8	♥ J 10 7 6 4	♥ A K 6
♦ A 8	♣ J 7 3	♦ K Q 9 3	♣ 9
♣ J 7 3			

WEST
♠ J
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ 5 2
♣ Q 10 8 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 8 7 4
♥ A 7
♦ K Q 9 3
♣ 9

The bidding:
South 1 ♣
West Pass
North 1 NT
East Pass

Opening lead — five of clubs.

Better Safe Than Sorry

At the beginning of play, it is not sufficient for declarer to adopt an approach merely because it seems likely to succeed. Rather, he should seek the line of play that offers the maximum chance of success.

Consider this deal from a pairs tournament. At most tables, the final contract was four spades, but about half the declarers finished down one after failing to find the approach that offered the greatest chance of yielding 10 tricks.

A club was the usual opening lead, South ruffing East's ace on the second round. At the tables where the contract failed, declarer next cashed the A-K of diamonds and then tried to ruff his low diamond in dummy. West ruffed with the jack, and since South still had to lose a heart and a trump trick, the result was down one.

While these declarers were admittedly unlucky to find the diamonds divided 5-2 and the trumps 4-1, and even more unlucky that the player with the doubleton diamond held a singleton high trump, the fact remains that they did not give themselves the best chance to make their contract.

Since there was always the possibility — however remote — that one opponent might have been dealt fewer than three diamonds plus a singleton 9, 10 or J of trumps, it would have been more prudent for declarer to draw one round of trumps before tackling the diamonds. This would have made it impossible, assuming no worse than a 4-1 trump break, to lose a trick to a diamond ruff and also a subsequent trump trick.

Those declarers who made four spades saw that it could cost them nothing to cash a high trump at trick three, so they took this simple extra precaution. The others paid the full price for their omission.

Cryptoquip

RGF ZTXQ BSDVN B EGJUDR

FYD UNVHTGH SBSW UYGGE

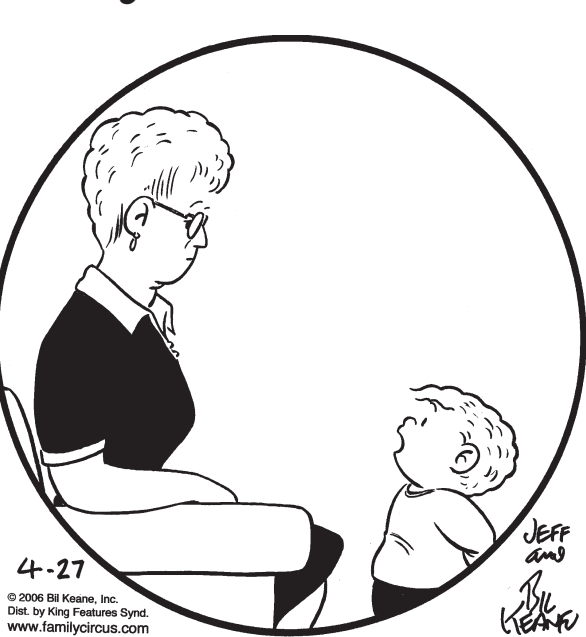
ZDJ QBRW WGBJU;

"UATGRAG DZ NYG XBQSU."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LAWLESS HAY FARMER WERE NABBED AND PUT IN PRISON, HE MIGHT TRY TO GET OUT ON BALE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals B

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS
1 Ringer
5 "Survivor" network
8 Con job
12 Met melody
13 Weeding tool
14 — En-lai
15 Ukrainian capital
16 It started as
17 McNally's partner
18 USNA graduate
20 Gave for a while
22 Turf
23 Grain bristle
24 Leave a lasting impression
27 Unfortunate
32 "Yay!"
33 Biblical verb suffix

DOWN
34 Illuminated position
35 Undefined position
38 Catch sight of
39 Promptly
40 Affirmative action?
42 Drawing tool?
45 Turn around
49 Oklahoma city
50 E.T.'s craft
52 Suitor
53 Color quality
54 Chignon
55 Escapade
56 MIT grad, perhaps

57 Response (Abbr.)
58 Otherwise
1 Use the oven
2 Green land
3 Commits perjury
4 Luxurious land
5 "Friends" role
6 Halloween shout
7 Hawk
8 Write carelessly
9 Remote possibilities?
10 Top-notch
11 Newsman Roger

19 "Monopoly" corner
21 Erstwhile acorn
24 Work unit
25 Pitch
26 In a state of flux
28 Multi-purpose truck
29 French songs
30 Try the tea
31 Pigpen
36 There
37 Idolater's emotion
38 OK to eat
41 "That hurts!"
42 Dole (out)
43 Unsigned (Abbr.)

44 Brass instrument
46 Scallopini meat
47 Dumbo's "wings"
48 Actor Perry
51 Enjoyment

Yesterday's answer 4-27

