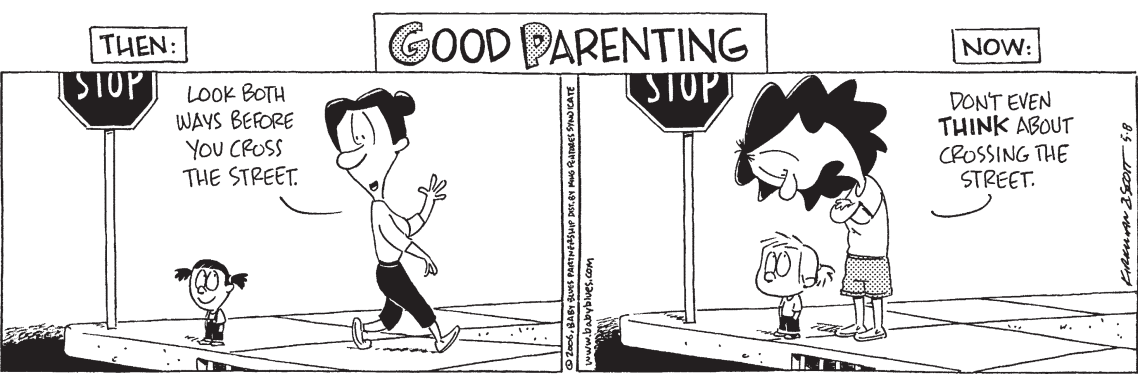


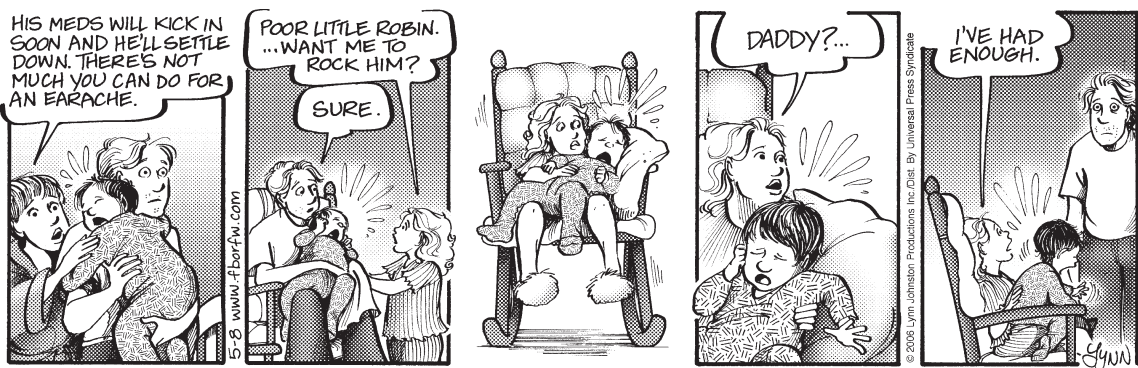
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



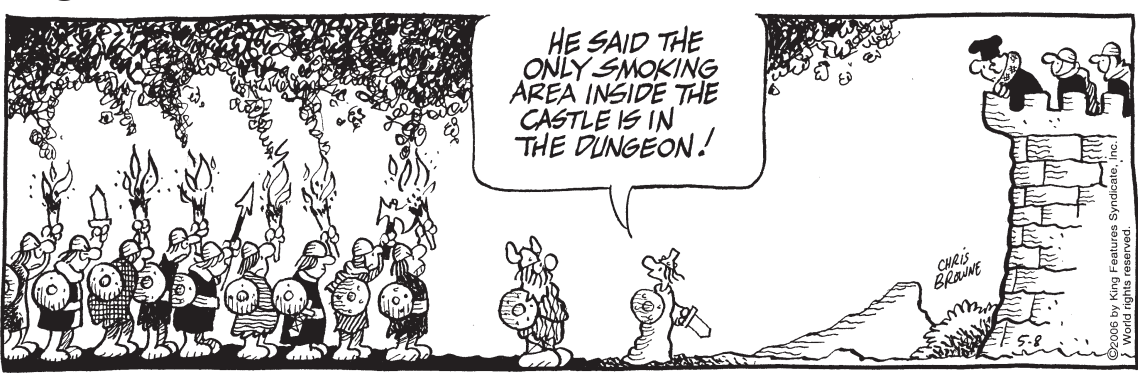
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



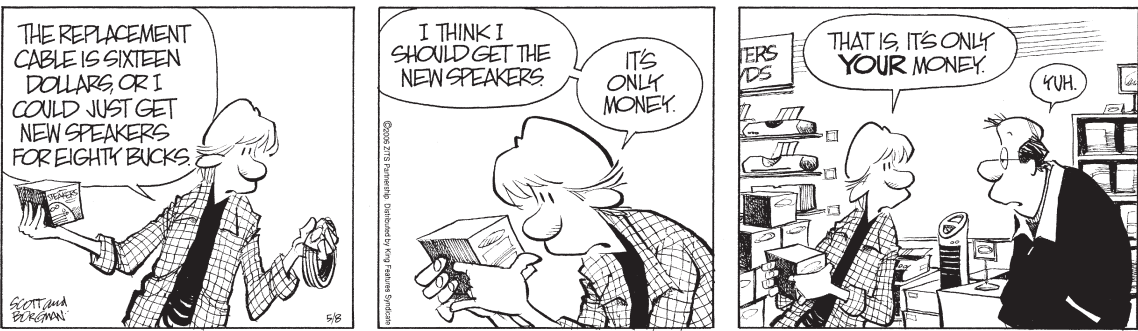
Blondie • Chic Young



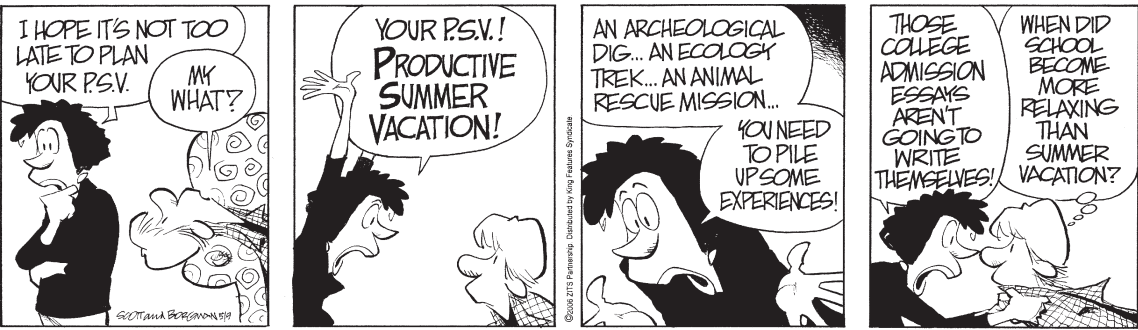
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



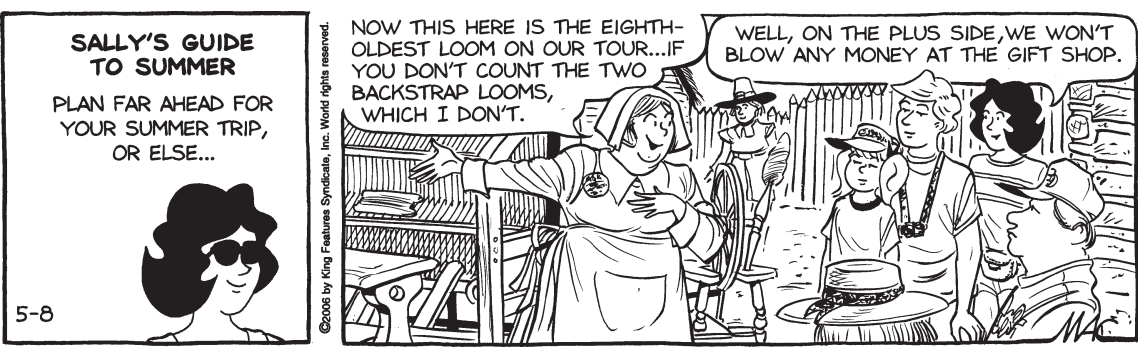
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



People abroad need to stay polite

DEAR ABBY: Summer will be here soon, a time when many Americans travel abroad. I live in Europe, and Americans seem to think that most of us do not understand English here.

Last summer, I overheard a young lady in a restaurant telling her friends about a portion of her anatomy that I shall not mention in a family newspaper. The entire restaurant went silent while she continued on as if no one else had any idea of what she was talking about. Believe me, everyone knew!

Please remind your readers that if a topic is not appropriate to discuss in public in the United States, then it's not appropriate to discuss in public abroad, either.

— EDITH W. IN SWEDEN

DEAR EDITH: I'm pleased to oblige. You are correct that Americans — many of whom are not fluent in a foreign language — tend to forget that people from other countries are often bilingual or trilingual.

Many years ago, I spent a summer studying in Italy and had a similar experience. Trapeze dresses (A-line, loose-fitting) were in style that season, and I was walking down the street wearing one of them when an American family (husband, wife, and a boy about 11) approached strolling in the opposite direction. As we passed, the boy said loudly to his mother, "Look, Mom! That lady's wearing a nightgown."

I thought they were going to go through the pavement when I turned around and said, "Thanks, kid!"

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mother, newly relocated to a small town, new job and new boyfriend. I have been dating "Kyle" for six



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

months and keep running into the same issue repeatedly.

While Kyle is very successful in business — he's never been married or had children — when we are out and the check arrives, if another friend who may be with us or I don't pick up the entire tab, he pays for his portion only. Only a few times has he actually paid for both of us, but never for the rest of the group. Some of our male friends have been embarrassed by this and have taken the check themselves. Instead of stepping up to the plate and insisting on paying for at least some of the dinners, Kyle nonchalantly will ask something to the effect of, "Do I need to put anything in?"

Abby, I'm usually very accepting of people and try not to make too much of things like this, but lately, my friends have been commenting about it and telling me I can do better than Kyle. What do you think?

— EMBARRASSED

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I think your friends may be right. You could be contemplating a future with a skinflint. The next time Kyle asks that question, you should say, "I'll say! It's your turn to pick up the check!"

DEAR ABBY: I am 13, and all of my friends are talking about their first kisses. I can't join in because I have never been kissed, and I'm afraid that when I do, it will be horrible. Do you have any advice? I

read somewhere that you are supposed to write the alphabet with your tongue. Please help me.

— WORRIED WOMAN

DEAR WORRIED WOMAN: What you read was wrong. Girls who are being kissed for the first time just close their eyes and purse their lips. (You can work your way up to writing the alphabet when you are older. Much older.)

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday my husband and oldest son went to pick up my youngest son from my parents' home. During the 15 minutes they were there, my parents told them nine times that they had something for our children, and they would be over another day to help assemble it. Also, my mother repeated eight times to our oldest son to make sure he didn't allow his brother to have a small object. None of us have hearing problems, and my oldest son is very smart and responsible when it comes to knowing what his little brother can and cannot have.

My parents are in their early 60s. Both of them are healthy. The thing is, they repeat themselves over and over again all the time. What makes a person do this? We have tried telling them that they have already told us a dozen times. Whenever we try, they either "don't get it" or they get upset and pout. Does anyone else have to deal with this?

— PETE AND REPEAT IN OHIO

DEAR PETE AND REPEAT: Absolutely. However, they are usually families whose relative is suffering from some form of dementia or has had small strokes. I don't know how long this problem has been going on, but your parents' doctor should be alerted that there may be a potential problem.

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

North: ♠ Q 7 3, ♥ K 9 8 6 4 3, ♦ K Q 10 7 2, ♣ Q 10 7 2

West: ♠ 10 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 2, ♦ A 10 5, ♣ 9 6 3

East: ♠ A 8 4 3, ♥ J 6 5 4, ♦ 7 2, ♣ 8 5 4

South: ♠ K Q J 9 7 2, ♥ A K, ♦ Q J, ♣ A K J

The bidding: South 2♣, West Pass, North 2♦, East Pass; South 2♥, West Pass, North 3♦, East Pass; South 3NT, West Pass, North 4NT, East Pass; South 6NT, West Pass, North 4NT, East Pass.

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Famous Hand

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

One of the most remarkable deals this writer has ever been personally involved in is this one from the Reisinger Knockout Teams at the 1994 Eastern States Regional.

North-South reached six no-trump, a contract that offered great promise, save for the fact that the opponents held two aces. West led a heart, taken by the ace, and declarer, without betraying the slightest concern, returned the jack of diamonds.

West ducked the jack, and ducked again when declarer continued with the queen. West was, naturally, trying to prevent the establishment of dummy's diamonds, to which there were limited entries.

West succeeded in winning this battle, but lost the war. Having secured two diamond tricks, South turned his attention to the spade suit, leading the king. East won with the ace and could do no better than return a heart to declarer's king. South shrugged and cashed the Q-J of spades. When West's ten fell, declarer sheepishly claimed the rest of the tricks to make his slam.

It is difficult to blame West for the outcome, since he had no way of knowing that his partner held the ace of spades. Indeed, even if West had taken the ace of diamonds, it is hardly likely that he would have returned a spade into the teeth of South's spade suit. And if he did not find the spade shift, declarer would have collected five diamonds, four clubs and three hearts to bring in the slam.

Even so, the fact remains that South bid and made six notrump missing two aces, a feat that left the defenders in a state of high agitation, and declarer in a state of embarrassed euphoria.

Cryptoquip

BLKHL ZBG FNIU STQ  
Z I J K H S D D I U Q Q P  
L S P F K P F K P J Q G J D Q U  
L G N U Q U ? H N T Z S P W T G W.  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE FELLOWS WORKING AT THE SNEAKER FACTORY COULD HARDLY SURVIVE ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals H

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“How did people surf the Internet before they invented computers?”

Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Retain, 5 — de deux, 8 “Consumr it all!”, 12 Lotion additive, 13 Pussy-cat’s partner, 14 Reed instrument, 15 Sylvester’s impediment, 16 Nice, 18 Carrying, 20 Half the laundry?, 21 Shopper’s aid, 23 Pismire, 24 Abundance, 28 Takes off, 31 Crafty one, 32 Debonair, 34 “— Little Teapot”, 35 Caesar co-star, 37 Guitar pick.

DOWN: 39 Work with, 41 “And pretty maids all in —”, 42 ApPOINT, 45 Weakness of a sort, 49 Fund-drive goings-on, 51 Aerobatic maneuver, 52 Unaltered, 53 “Golly!”, 54 November responsibility, 55 Rams fans?, 56 Fellows, 57 Greek vowels, 17 “Eureka!”, 19 Slangy refusals, 22 Refrain fragment, 24 Cpl.’s subordinate, 25 Privy, 26 “I beg your pardon”, 27 Means, 29 Ostrich-like bird, 30 America’s Uncle, 33 Green-span’s field: Abbr., 36 Remarks to the audience, 38 Midnight or noon, 40 Early bird?, 42 Basilica section, 43 Cabbage salad, 44 Approaching, 46 Academic, 47 Teeny bit, 48 Scopes trial reference, 50 Born.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 5-8

