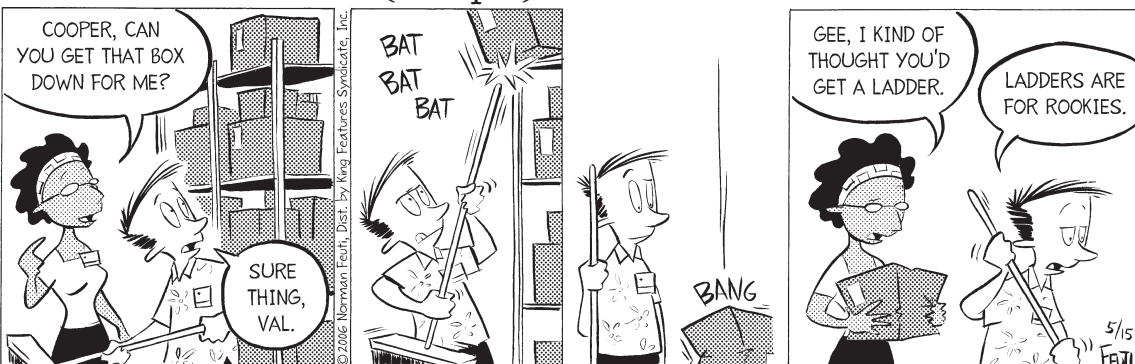
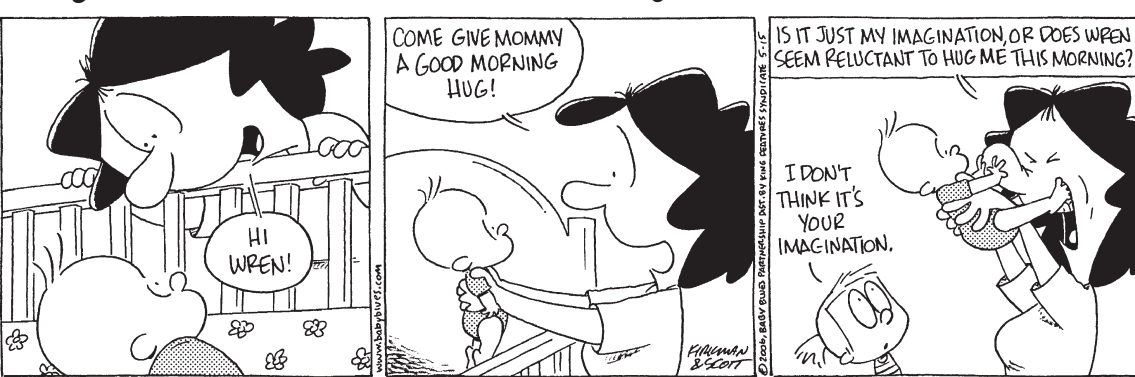


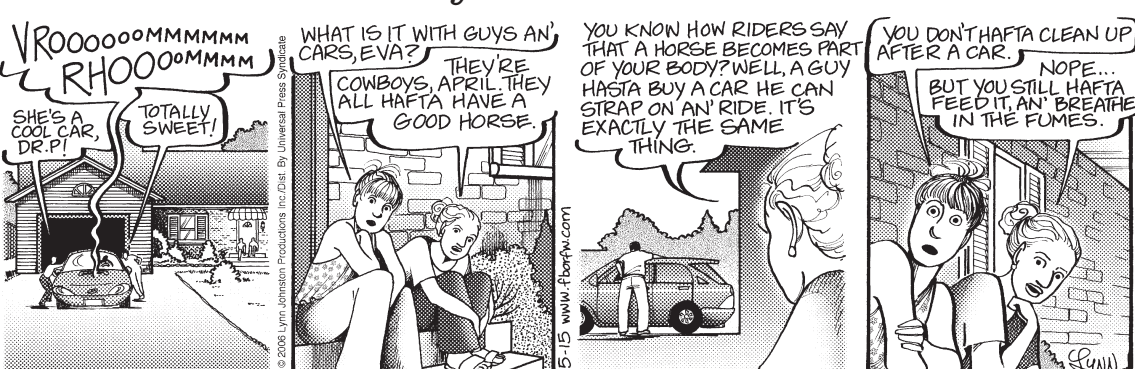
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



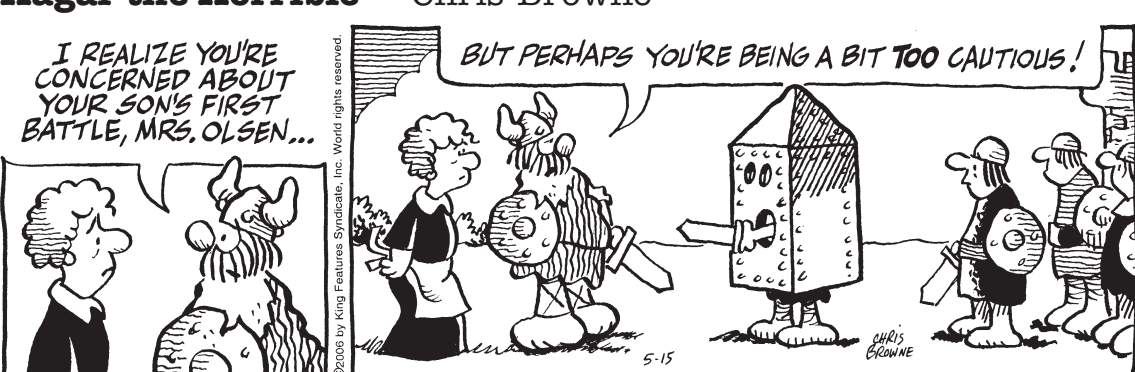
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



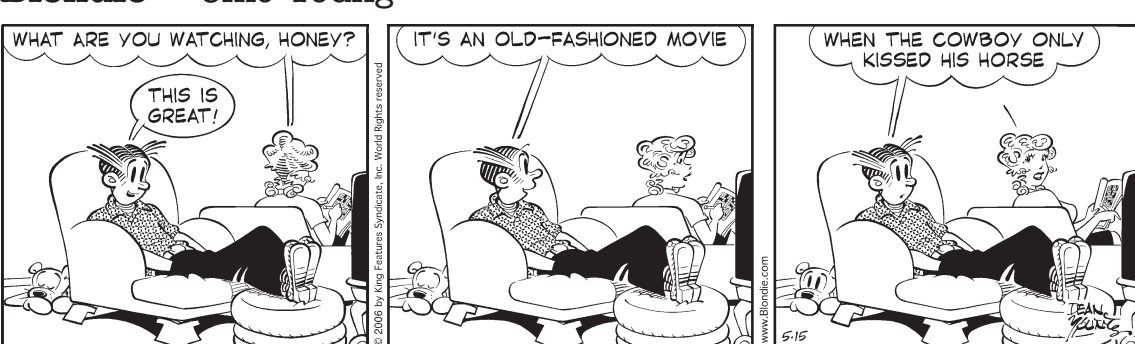
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



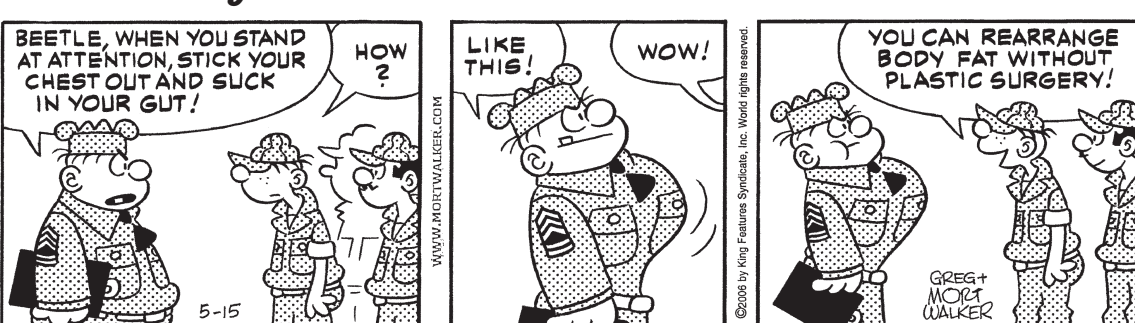
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Man frets about depressed friend

DEAR ABBY: I am happily married with a great wife. I also have a platonic female friend, "Tina," I have known for many years and who suffers from depression. She and I have been getting together for the last few months over tea, and I usually let her air what's on her mind in an effort to alleviate her depression.



Abigail Van Buren
Dear Abby

We also go for walks occasionally and sometimes hold hands. I feel guilty doing this, but there is absolutely no threat at all of us ever becoming intimate. I worry that if I don't befriend Tina she might commit suicide, which would make me feel terrible. I also worry about being seen in her company by one of my wife's friends and the whole thing becoming a big misunderstanding. I value Tina's friendship, but also do not want to jeopardize my marriage. What should I do?

— BEWILDERED IN RENO
DEAR BEWILDERED: First of all, recognize your limitations. If you sincerely believe Tina is so depressed that if you stop holding hands with her during your walks she might end her life, then please urge her to get professional help. She should be better served if she was "airing what's on her mind" with a therapist who can counsel her and possibly give her medical treatment for her illness — because that's what depression is, an illness.

It's all right to stand by your friend in her time of need, but if your alarm bells are going off and you're getting "nervous about being seen," then you are, perhaps, seeing her too often and getting closer than you should, both physically and emotionally. Please think about it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 10 years to a man who just

doesn't take work seriously. It seems he'd rather that I work than he. He has been on workers' comp twice and just got off again after three years. He works when he wants, just enough to get by — pretty much burdening me with the bills. I have an opportunity to board where I work this year. It is quite a ways away, and the season lasts six months. My husband threatens to kick me out if I do. To be honest, I think he just wants me here to pay the bills. Oh, and he abuses me, too, so I feel leaving would be good for me all the way around. Please tell me what you think.

— GLAD FOR A WAY OUT
DEAR GLAD: Your husband isn't going to "throw you out" — you should be so lucky! Take the job and, while you're apart, file for divorce. Ten years of abuse is enough.

DEAR READERS: Sunday, May 21, 2006, marks the beginning of Remembrance Week, leading up to the observance of the National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress to occur at 3 p.m. (local time) on Memorial Day. This year, the public is invited to a historical tribute, "A Time of Remembrance," which will take place at noon on the 21st on the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. It will honor our fallen from the conflicts in Af-

ghanistan and Iraq and their families. We want them to know that their fellow Americans care about their great loss and the sacrifice of their loved ones.

A wise man once said: "Like a breath to the human body, remembrance makes the spirit live." The greatest gift we can give to our fallen and the loved ones who survive them is the gift of remembrance

DEAR ABBY: I need to know how to handle my mixed-up marriage. My husband is a preacher, and our marriage is falling apart. He cares more for another woman than he does for me. Every time we talk to each other, he always brings her into the conversation. It happens even when he's preaching. All I ever hear is that she helped him with his children when his other wives left him! I understand that, but that was in the past. All I ever asked of him was to be there for me. Our sex life is terrible. He no longer has anything to do with me. How can I make him understand?

— HURTING
DEAR HURTING: The time has come to stop reacting emotionally and think rationally. Just how many wives has your husband had? And why did they leave him? Could it be that they were treated the same way he is treating you?

Many wives make their husbands "understand" when communication breaks down through marriage counseling, and that's what I recommend for you. I don't know whether your husband still carries a torch for his former child-care provider or if he's actively involved with someone else. But you need more help than anyone can give you in a letter.

Bridge

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 5
♥ A Q 9 7
♦ A Q 7 2
♣ A 4

WEST
♠ K 10 8 7
♥ 10 4
♦ J 6 5 3
♣ Q 5 3

EAST
♠ A Q J 3 2
♥ 8
♦ 4
♣ J 10 9 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ K J 6 5 3 2
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ K 7

The bidding:
East Pass South 1♥ West Pass North 2♦
2♠ Pass Pass 4♠
Pass Pass 4♠
Opening lead — seven of spades.

Bidding is a form of science, but, as in many scientific endeavors, it is impossible to attain perfection. The theoretical must give way to the practical in numerous hands, and some bids are only general-direction shots with which the marksman hopes to hit the target.

This deal shows how difficult it is to bid perfectly. It occurred in a match between France and Italy in the European championships of 1958. South was Pierre Jais of France, partnered with Roger Trezel. West was Walter Avarelli, playing with Giorgio Belladonna.

Trezel found himself in an awkward position after East had bid two spades and South showed a minimum by passing. Afraid of two spade losers, Trezel gave up on a possible slam and jumped to four hearts.

But when Avarelli belatedly bid four spades, the bid boomeranged. Trezel was able to infer that Jais was short in spades, and backed his judgment by leaping to six hearts.

The Italian pair could have sacrificed at six spades (down three), but the slam had been bid so shakily that they thought there was a chance to beat it. Jais guessed how to play the diamonds and scored 980 points, losing only a spade trick.

At the other table, Pietro Forquet of Italy became declarer at six hearts with the North hand. But disaster struck in a strange way. The French East led the ace of spades and shifted to the jack of clubs. At this point, Forquet claimed the balance, not realizing it was possible to lose a diamond trick if the suit broke badly.

The opponents naturally contested the claim. The tournament director was called and gave the only ruling possible under the Laws. Forquet was prohibited from taking a diamond finesse against the jack and went down one in the slam, giving the French a gain of 1,030 points on the deal. C'est la guerre.

Cryptoquip

X A P M D Z R Y G L Y P R K R Y A
L D X G J K V D S D Z N L D R K
M V U D L Y K Y E X R K , K V P K
E X J V K L D S D X G J U Y Z N.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: POP TUNE ABOUT A PASSENGER CABIN THAT'S FAR TOO BRIGHTLY LIT: "BLINDED BY THE FLIGHT."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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"Which one is its mommy?"

Crossword

ACROSS
1 State with certainty
5 Lion's hand
8 Area surrounded by buildings
12 Educated folks
14 Pakistan's language
15 Brain membrane
16 On in years
17 Expert
18 Exit
20 April 1 offering
23 Just one of those things?
24 McNally partner
25 Public squares
28 "Guinness Book" suffix
29 Eagle's home
30 Watch chain

DOWN
31 1/100th of an Egyptian pound
34 Family-biz abbr.
35 Competed money
36 Swedish ship spread
40 Ultra-modern
41 Soprano's solo
42 Vintage Billy Joel hit
47 Membership
48 Plead for Island
49 "Gilligan's Island" cast member
50 Aye canceler
51 Dorothy's destination
52 Barrie hero
53 Greek vowel
54 Return to custody
55 Scalp
56 Noshed
57 Terrier type
58 Silicon dioxide
59 Incite
60 Summer drinks
11 Clothing (Sl.)
13 Poolroom prop
19 Stare
20 Opposite of "post-"
21 Gate
22 Con
23 Weary
25 Barrie hero
26 Kind of hairdo
27 Any minute now
29 Largest of the seven
31 Merit badge org.
33 Fly
34 Pin
36 Gambling game
37 Simoleons
38 Vicinity
39 Test tube
40 Almost black
43 Muckraker
44 Name in China's history
45 \$ dispenser
46 Born

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-15

