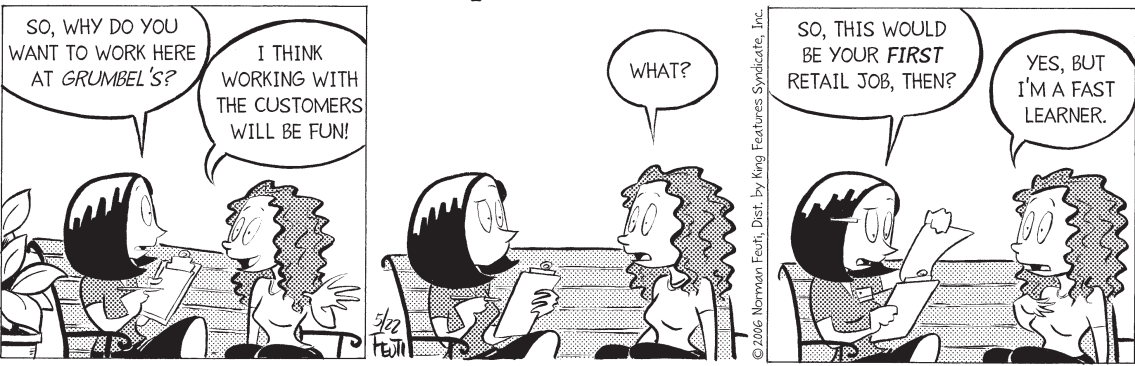


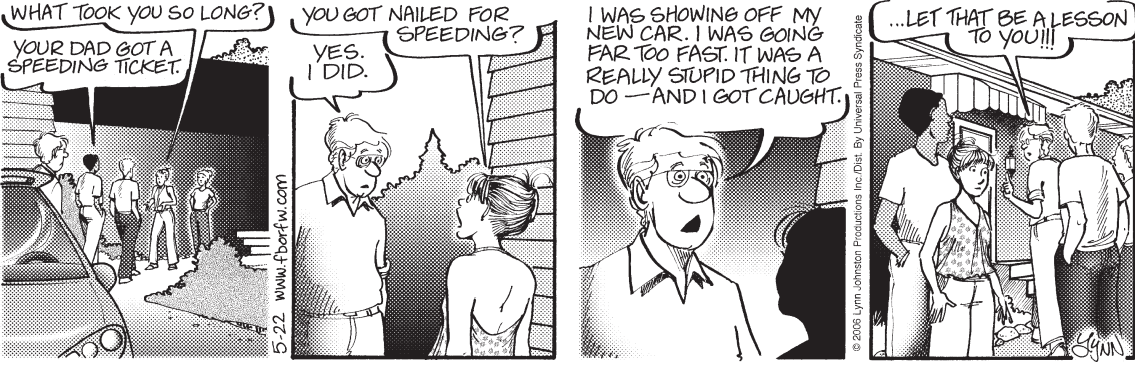
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



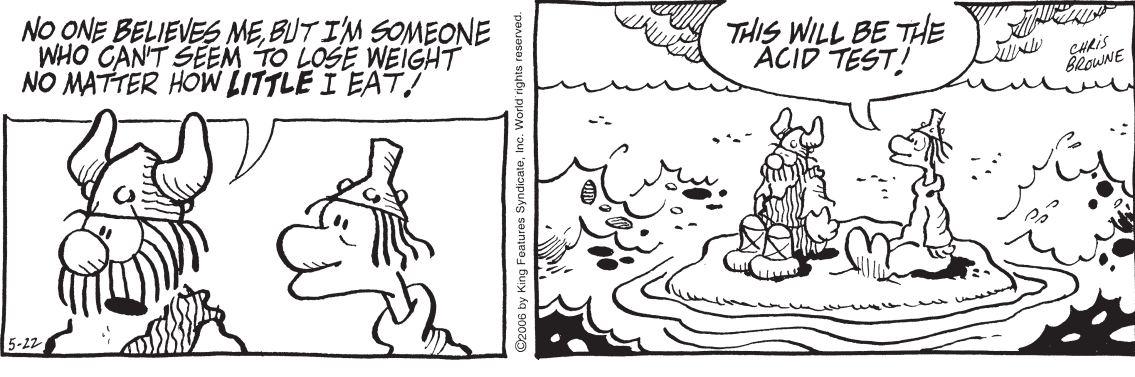
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



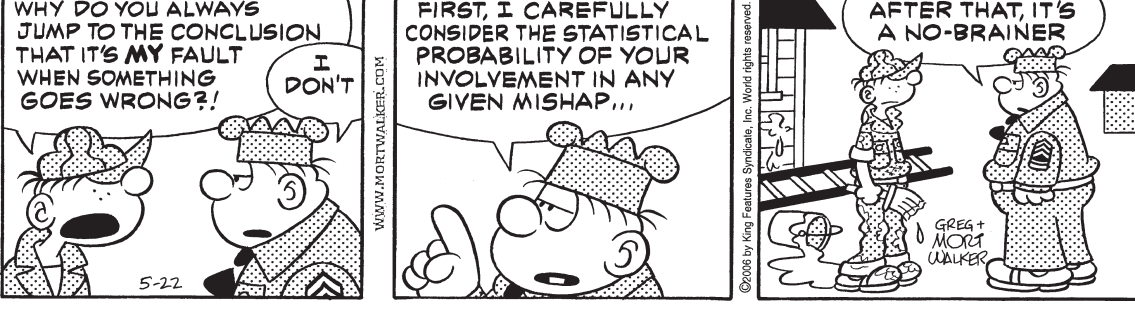
Garfield • Jim Davis



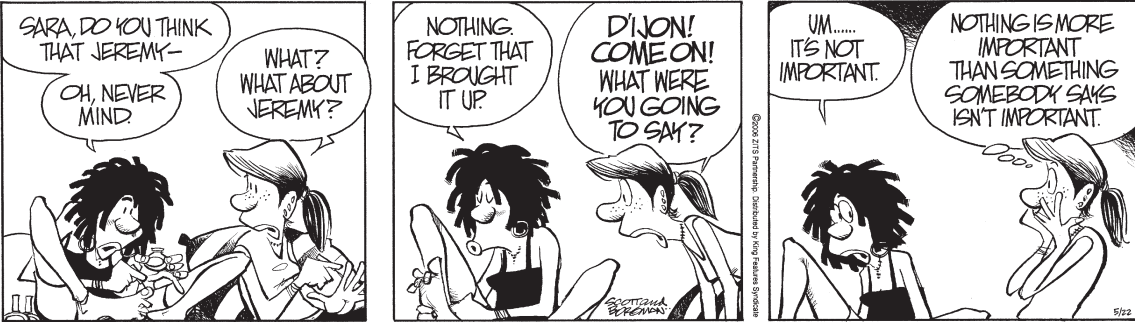
Blondie • Chic Young



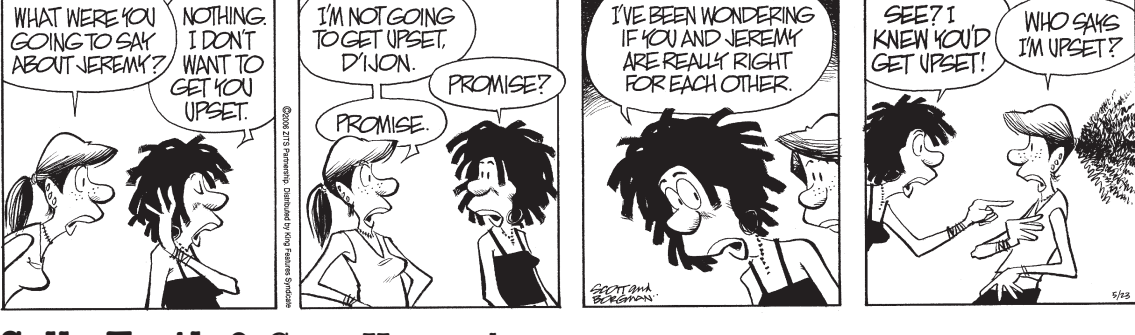
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Parents pinch children's college fund

DEAR ABBY: I am the godparent of three children from different families.

In the past, I have given each child money designated for his or her college fund, along with appropriate event gifts.

Within the last year, the parents of all three godchildren have disclosed to me that they (the parents) used the children's college funds for "family" use n- such as a down payment on a home, a family vacation or home renovation.

I am hurt and bewildered that my friends could do such a thing and destroy their child's college savings. All three of the children are young, and the parents each said something about "replacing" those funds "someday."

Now I no longer feel comfortable giving them money, since I do not wish to fund the next family vacation or new car.

How do I address this tactfully with my friends, especially since my no longer contributing to the college funds will be noticed? Please help.

— ELIZABETH IN MOBILE, ALA.

DEAR ELIZABETH: You say you are hurt and bewildered? I'd be furious that the money I had given for a college fund had been pilfered by parents too immature to understand the blessing of compound interest.

Please don't penalize your godchildren for the bad behavior of their parents. Talk to your banker or financial adviser about establishing your own college funds for them — funds that can not be touched until they are needed for the purpose for which they are intended. There may even be a tax break for you. And if the parents have the bad taste to bring up the subject, tell them the money will



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of a mother-in-law who asks that an afghan made by her friend be given back? It was given to my daughter and her husband as a wedding gift three years ago. They just got divorced. Isn't this a bit tacky?

— JUST WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: When a marriage ends, it is not unusual for the splitting spouses to divide the wedding gifts according to whose "side" they came from. Was it tacky of the former mother-in-law to ask?

I don't think so, if the request was made politely. However, once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient — and possession is nine points of the law.

DEAR ABBY: During the year, I host several birthday and holiday dinners in my home. When I have three generations, should I ask the eldest to give the blessing?

If my son and his wife are present, which one should I ask? When I have friends in, should I ask them to do the honors?

I don't want to embarrass anyone, but I don't want anyone to feel left out, either. I have always felt awkward about this subject and never know what is appropriate.

— GREAT-GRANDMOTHER IN KENTUCKY

DEAR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER: The solution to your problem is to ask your guests which one of them would like to give the blessing, or offer it yourself.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

be there, but for now, it's safely out of the way of "temptation."

DEAR ABBY: I am 15. My younger brother, "Mikey," is 7. I enjoy watching a television show that is rated PG-13. My parents didn't mind my watching it until a few weeks ago.

Over the last couple of weeks, Mikey has been coming into my room while I'm watching the show. When I ask him to leave, he throws a fit. He then goes into his room and watches it, thinking no one will find out.

Mikey has been imitating some of the violence on the show, and my parents are blaming me for showing it to him.

Now they are threatening to take away my privilege of watching the show. What can I do to convince them that I am not exposing him to the violence?

— DAVID IN LIVERPOOL, N.Y.

DEAR DAVID: You should not be punished for your parents' failure to supervise your brother. If you haven't already done so, tell your parents exactly what you have told me. And while you're at it, suggest that they either activate the parental controls on the television set in your brother's room, or remove it entirely so that he can watch only in the den or family room where his viewing can be monitored.

Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ A J 8 5 3
 ♥ Q 5 3
 ♦ 10 9
 ♣ 7 5 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 7 6 4
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K 7 6 5 2
 ♣ Q 6

SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ A J 10 9 8
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ K J 10 9 8 2

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
 3♦ Pass 5♥ Pass
 6♦ Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Famous Hand

For good technique, it's hard to beat this hand played many years ago by Philadelphia star Sidney Silodor. He got to six hearts, and West led the diamond ten. It seemed highly likely that East had the king, so the main problem was how to escape a trump loser.

Silodor solved the problem in magnificent style. He took the ten of diamonds with the ace, played a heart to the ace, returned the heart jack and finessed. When the jack held, he cashed the king, ran six club tricks, discarding dummy's J-4-3 of diamonds, and thus finished with all 13 tricks.

What's so extraordinary about all this, you ask? Certainly others have at times elected to finesse with nine trumps missing the queen, even though the finesse is slightly against the odds. Well, there's one little filip we haven't mentioned yet. On the ace of diamonds Silodor had dropped his queen!

Silodor had no idea at the start where the queen of trumps was located, but his play was beautifully designed to make the contract regardless of whether East or West had the queen!

Let's suppose, after dropping the queen of diamonds on the first trick and playing the trumps as he did, that East had shown up with the doubleton queen of trumps. What do you think East would have returned?

East almost surely would not have played the king of diamonds. He would have thought his partner's diamond lead was from the 10-9-8 and that declarer's queen was a singleton. East would therefore have returned a spade to his partner's hoped-for ace — unless he himself had the ace, in which case he would probably have tried to cash it.

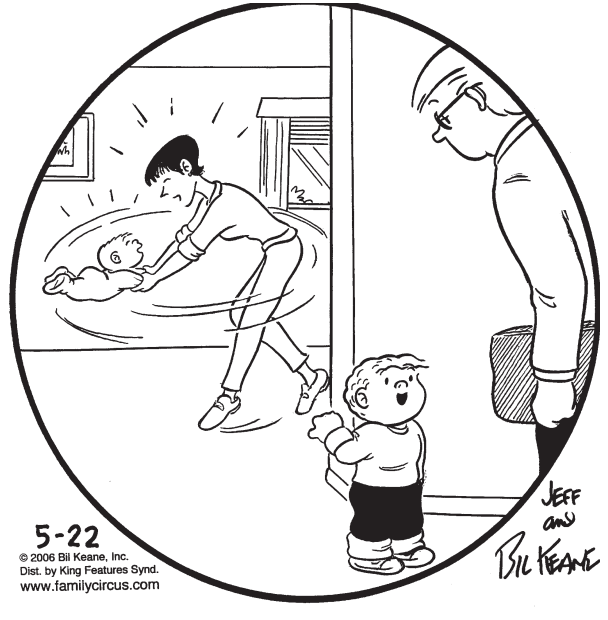
Had Silodor decided to finesse the opening diamond lead, he might or might not have guessed the actual trump situation, but the way he played the hand materially improved his chances of making the slam.

Cryptoquip

LG P SHUYPLI PJKPYLS
 XPXXPW LT OHUF GKWW
 CG LYTHWG, SCKWV FCK

VHXX LY XPIPYHH OPILYF?
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: DID THE DRILL FEEL THAT SOMETHING WAS MISSING FROM ITS LIFE? WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE BIT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals F

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Experimenters' place
 4 Air pollutants
 9 Uncle Sam's home (Abbr.)
 12 Geological period
 13 Turning point?
 14 Discouraging word?
 15 Unreal
 17 Pair
 18 Stanley Cup venue
 19 Preserve, in a way
 21 Mary-Kate, to Ashley
 24 Thailand, once
 25 And the rest (Abbr.)
 26 Block-buster rental
 28 Poets' Muse

DOWN

2 Branch
 3 Sheepish sound
 4 Added zest
 5 Roman goddess of wisdom
 6 Eggs
 7 Matadors' wounds
 8 Stand in the way of
 9 Intact
 10 "Heart and —"
 11 Teensy bit
 16 "Skedad-dle!"
 20 Exposed
 21 Global septet
 22 Desire
 23 Gridiron interplay
 27 Poorly lit
 29 London gallery
 30 Bloodhound's clue
 32 Okla-homa city
 34 Set free
 37 Ducks
 39 Piercing weapon
 42 Smug look
 44 Pooch
 45 Arp's genre
 46 Monad
 50 Miss Piggy's pronoun
 51 Charged particle
 52 Sphere
 53 Moment

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-22

