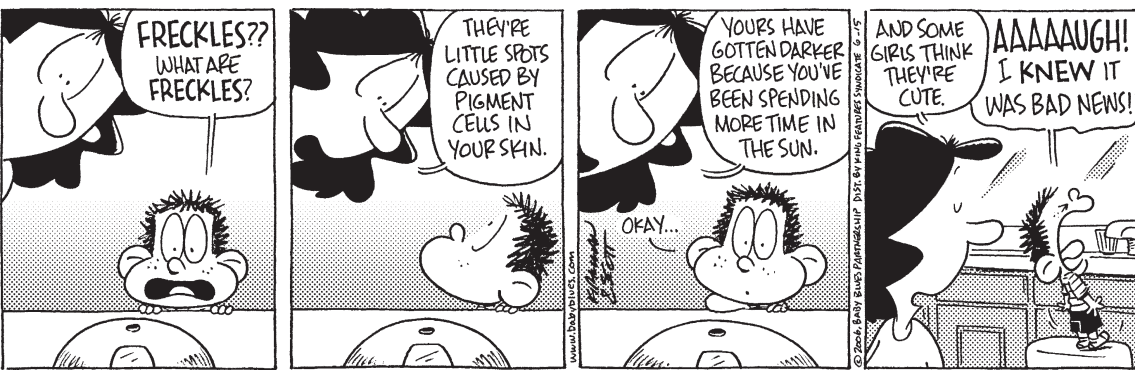


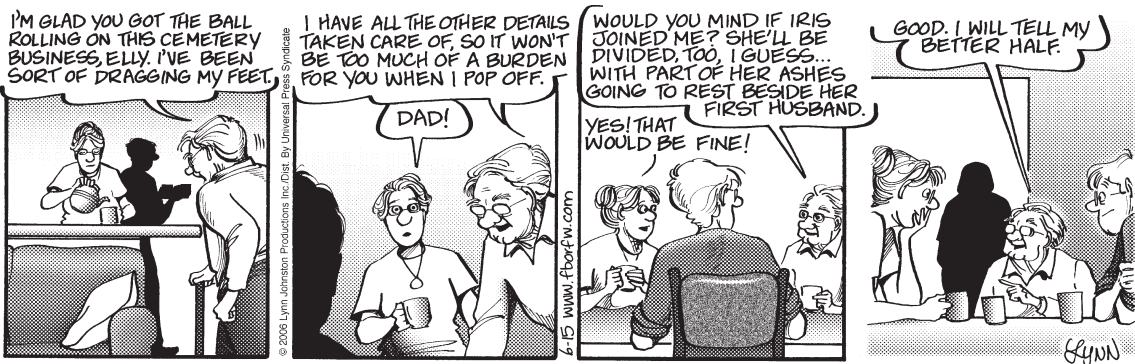
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



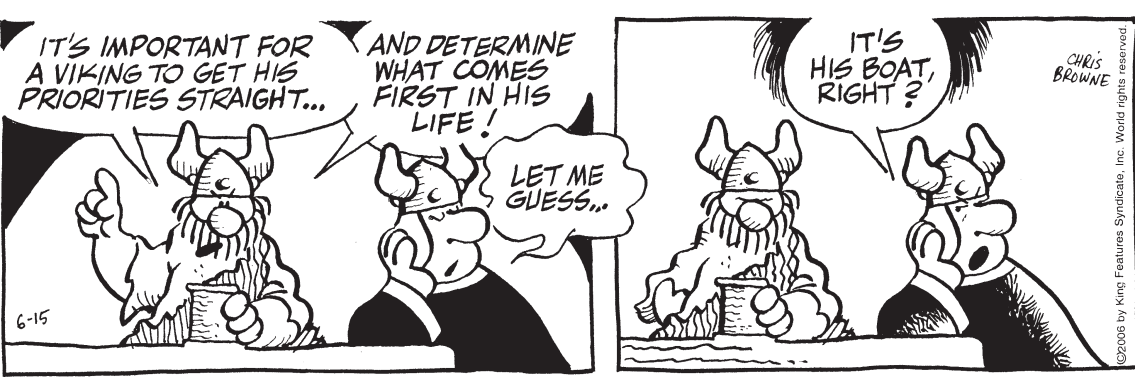
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



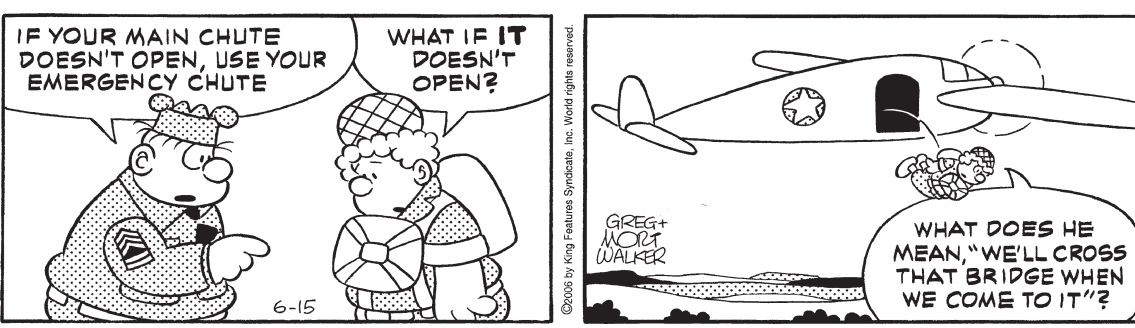
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



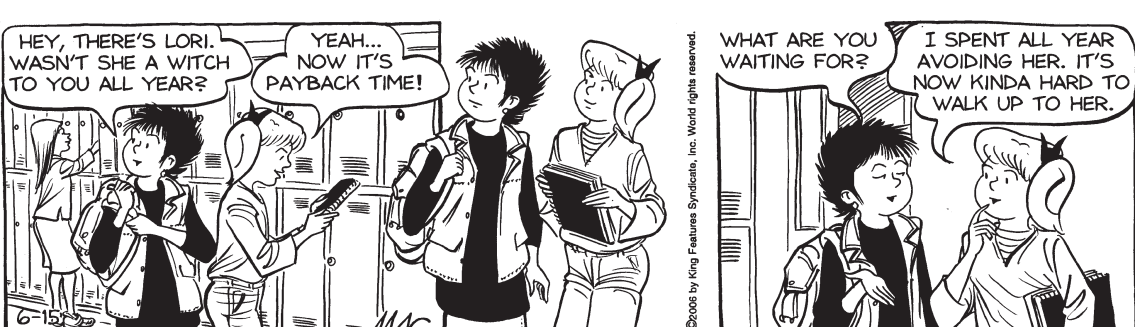
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Foreign insults fall on familiar ears

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Edith in Sweden," regarding the American woman who was talking loudly in a restaurant there, thinking no one could understand what she was saying.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

You commented that Americans need to understand that many people in other countries can understand English. I have had the opposite experience.

Foreigners need to understand that sometimes Americans can understand them, too.

My daughter was assigned to NATO security, and while I was visiting her in Italy, the two of us went shopping in a town near Naples. The owner of a pottery shop was talking to a friend as we browsed. My daughter translated the conversation for me, in a whisper. "She's saying she can't stand the Americans and the Brits, and wishes they would leave." The woman then approached us, all smiles, and asked if she could show us something. My blue-eyed, red-haired daughter replied in fluent Italian. "Thank you, but there's nothing in this shop that we could possibly be interested in," and we left.

— AMERICAN MOM

DEAR AMERICAN MOM: I don't blame you for leaving — I couldn't have gotten out of there fast enough, either. The reactions from readers about that letter are amusing and fascinating. Putting a foot in one's mouth appears to be a universal trait. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My son, an 18-year-old college football player of Italian/Irish heritage, was sitting in an airport in Austin, Texas, during a layover. A family from Japan was sitting next to him, complaining about their flight and their food, and finally, that someone nearby smelled bad. My son turned to them and, in perfect Japanese, said, "Yes, something does smell funny." He

said they looked at him in shock, got up and literally ran away. He said the same thing your writer did: People shouldn't automatically assume others don't speak their language, even those visiting our country.

— DORIS

DEAR ABBY: That letter reminded me of an incident in Munich. We were invited to dinner at a nice restaurant by a German friend. Our host, as is customary there, brought along his miniature poodle. As we passed one table, an American woman said loudly to her companions, "I wonder why the Germans always bring their pets to a restaurant?" I leaned over and said, "Probably because they have better manners than some of the people." She was speechless.

— RALPH

DEAR ABBY: My mother is from Germany, and I speak German. I vacationed there with my husband, two children, my mother and my in-laws. On the way home, my father-in-law and I went to the flight desk to check in. The woman behind the counter told us our plane had left two hours before! Then, in German, she said to her co-workers that we were stupid Americans, and she'd make us stay another night and take a flight the next day. I replied in German that we were not stupid, and we'd take a flight that day. Her jaw dropped, and her boss came over and ran with us to the next flight.

— CAROL

DEAR ABBY: Our local paper ran the letter about foreign languages from a woman in Sweden, and your reply, which alluded to "bi-

" and "trilingual" people. If people speak many languages, they are multi-lingual. Three, of course, is trilingual. Two is bilingual. But what would you call a person who speaks only one language? American!

— DAVE

DEAR DAVE: Not necessarily!

DEAR ABBY: I have a suggestion for "Wondering in Cleveland," whose Aunt Irene goes prowling through drawers during family gatherings. Rather than excluding her from future family get-togethers, how about leaving notes in all the drawers that say something like, "Hello, Aunt Irene. We hope that all our drawers pass your inspection!"

That ought to embarrass her enough to get her to cut it out without having to actually confront her.

— DAUGHTER OF ANOTHER SNOOP IN KENTUCKY

DEAR DAUGHTER: That's a cute idea — another reader suggested stuffing the medicine chests with marbles. But several people wrote to point out that the woman could have a problem far more serious than bad manners.

DEAR ABBY: You said Aunt Irene was just nosy and should not be invited back if her behavior continued. I suspect that the poor lady may suffer from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Her behavior seems too over-the-top to just be that of a nosy person, and it fits someone who has OCD. If that's the case, what Aunt Irene needs is professional help.

— ANOTHER VIEW

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.

Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
East 3♣ South 4♠ West Pass North 6♠

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Crime and Punishment

The man on the couch was very agitated and distraught. "Doc, you've simply got to help me," he said. "I just don't understand why these things always happen to me."

The man showed the psychiatrist the diagram. "Look at this," he cried, frantically wringing his hands. "I end up in six spades after East opens three clubs, and West leads a heart. I win, cash the ace of trumps, and then, since I have two club losers, I try a diamond finesse. East wins with the queen and returns the king of clubs. Later on I lose a club trick and go down one."

"When it's all over, my partner starts hollering at me and says that since East's pre-empt marked him with all the missing clubs, I could have made the slam by cashing my second heart, crossing to dummy with a spade and leading a low club toward my jack. East wins with the queen, but has to return a diamond or a club, either of which hands me the contract."

"Not only that, but both opponents now chime in, saying that after stripping the hearts and spades I also can play the A-K-J of diamonds, ruffing East's queen. Then a spade to dummy and a low club return again cooks East's goose."

The man looked up. "It's always so obvious after it's over," he said sadly. "Anything you can do to help me, Doc?"

"I must confess I can't remember seeing a hand so badly mangled," said the psychiatrist, "but the solution is really quite simple. You must train yourself to review all the pertinent facts and then formulate a plan before starting to play. Never act impulsively. Careful reasoning and cautious self-restraint are the by-words."

"Gee, thanks, Doc, maybe that'll do it. You don't know how much these mistakes have been costing me," said the man.

"Wait till you see my bill," replied the psychiatrist. Tomorrow: Test your play. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

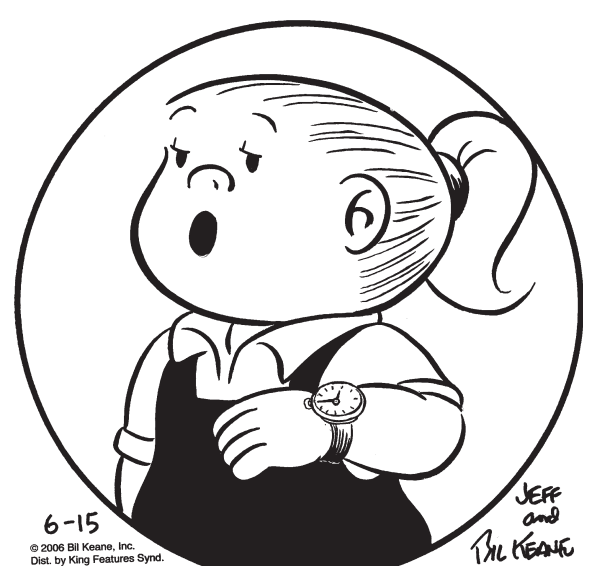
Cryptoquip

Y B M PODSKOFMD LOZO
SG LOT M PKOQBQK FU.
VGVVYDU, Y PMSWOZ WO
LGQKT FMZZN FOZZN FMZN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE NEW FLICK THAT FEATURED A COURT JESTER CLAD IN ARMOR WAS NAMED "FOOL METAL JACKET."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, remember to ask me what time it is at four o'clock."

Crossword

ACROSS	42 Sermon subject	DOWN	20 Siesta
1 Pendulum's place	44 August Wilson play	1 Favorite	21 Cruise the Web
4 Arizona city	46 Diana's counterpart	2 A Gershwin brother	22 Birthright barterer
8 Shawl	50 Compete	3 Wrestling duos	23 Made a trench
12 Mound stat	51 Marge's son	4 "Death of a Salesman" playwright	27 Fiddler's need
13 PC picture	52 Heidelberg hello	5 Environmentally friendly	29 Sale item?
14 Crosby's longtime pal	56 Neighborhood	6 Karaoke offering	30 Unaltered
15 Pesky follower	57 Get wind of	7 Sweetheart	31 "As — going to St. Ives"
17 Otherwise	58 Docs' org.	8 Sharp-ened	33 Spanish pre-euro money
18 Up to	59 Fairway gizmos	9 Portrayal	35 Clod
19 Polite	60 Jog	10 Basilica section	38 Poorly lit
21 Appeared to be	61 P.E. venue	11 Rid of rind	40 Change back
24 Long crosser		16 Intention	43 Dracula's shift
25 N.A. nation			45 Diarist Anais
26 Massage			46 Blind as —
28 Coke rival			47 Exceptional
32 Freeway egress			48 Genealogy chart
34 Sticky stuff			49 Litigant
36 Sketch			53 "The — of Pooh"
37 Welded together			54 Irving or Grant
39 Series of skirmishes			55 Whale group
41 "Little Teapot"			

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-15