

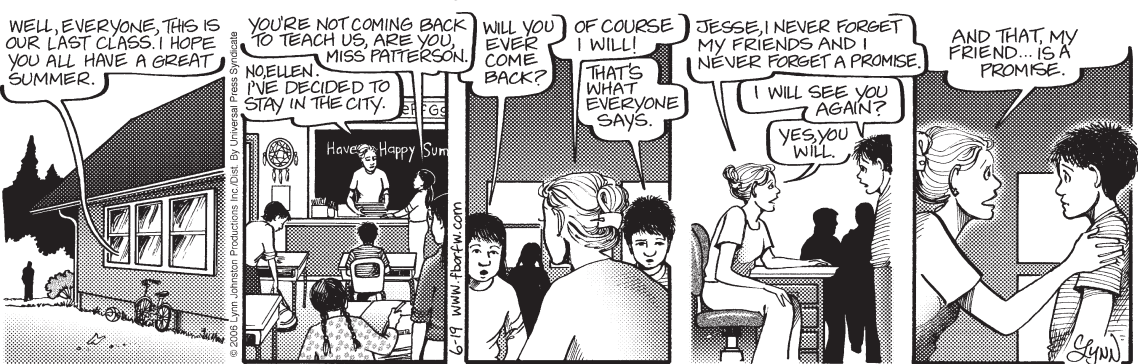
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



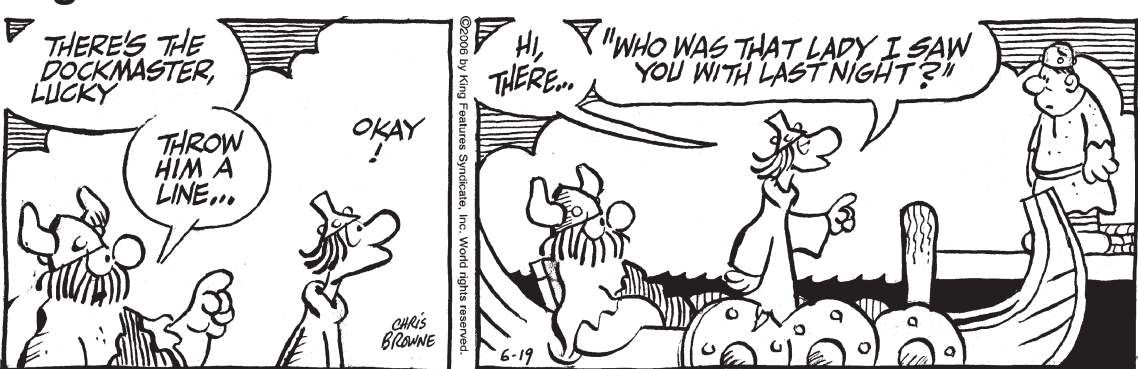
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



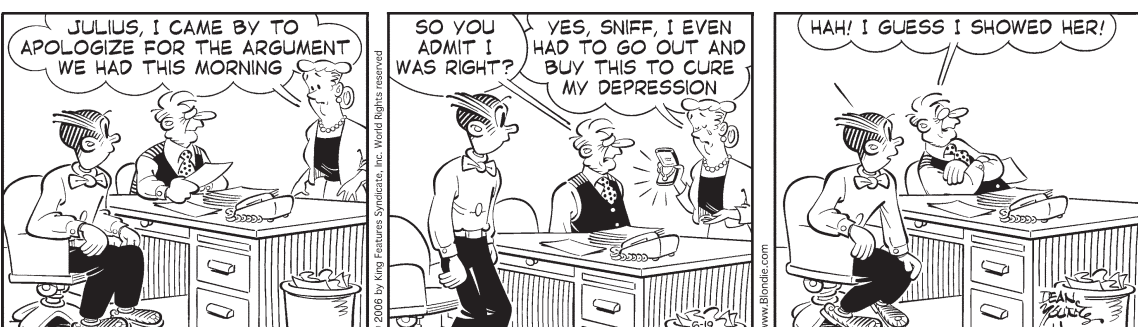
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



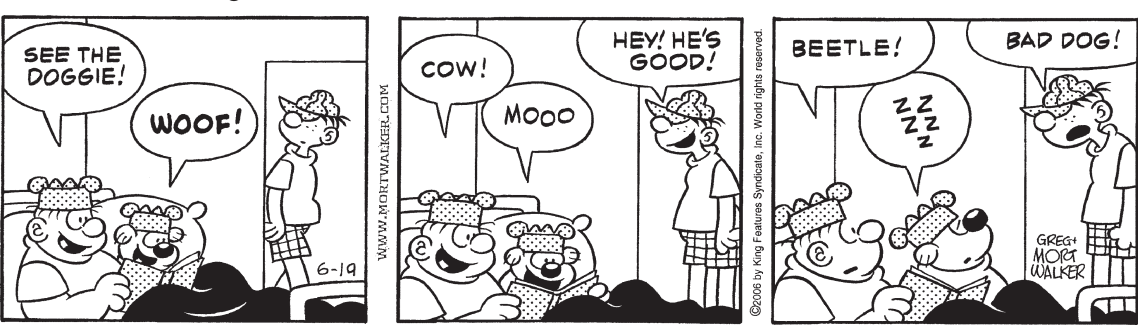
Garfield • Jim Davis



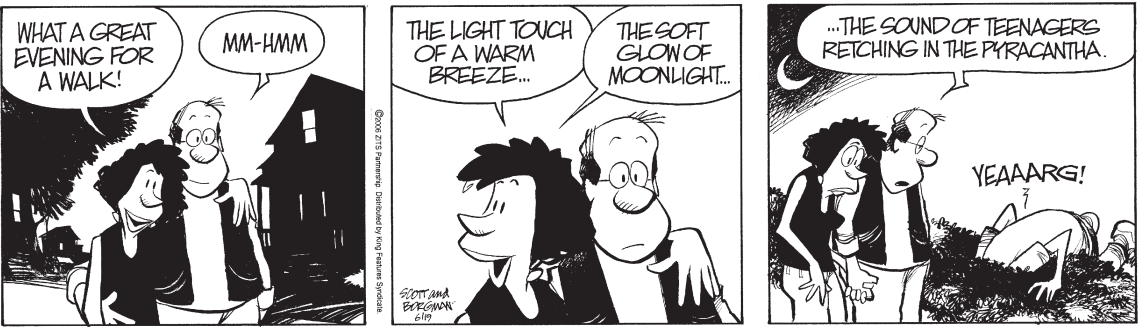
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Lost son losing support from family

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "John" for 18 years. We have two children. Four years ago, he found out that he has a son a year and a half older than our oldest. My children welcomed "Ricky" and so did I. Now the problem:



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

John wants us to treat Ricky like family, but Ricky doesn't have to treat us like family. We never hear from this child; only my husband talks to him. When Ricky visits, John waits on him hand and foot and acts like the perfect father. He pretends he doesn't hear Ricky make rude comments about me and my children. Ricky can tell John that one of my children — or I — said something to upset him, and it is automatically our fault, no questions asked. If Ricky wants money, I am not consulted. I am told we are sending it — regardless of the amount. I understand John may feel guilty for not being in Ricky's life all those years, but that's not our fault. I think that if Ricky doesn't accept us, then we should be left out of it. But when he comes here, John wants us all to be present. Why should we be there for the rude comments? If I say anything about it, John says I don't love his child. I no longer say anything when he visits, afraid of being yelled at for not being "fair" to Ricky. I can't get John to see that my children and I want to be part of both their lives, but without walking on eggshells. Help!

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old female who is frustrated with people asking me about my love life. I am successful at work, own my own car and home, and have a great social circle. When I'm talking with both males and females during introductions, one thing always comes up. "You're too pretty to be single! I'm sure you can hook a man."

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DEAR TRYING: You have already been far more tolerant than many spouses would have been. When John accused you of not "loving" his child, you should have responded: "You have made it very hard for any of us to love him because you tolerate his rudeness to me and our children. And further, I don't like the person you

tended as a compliment.) And when they comment about your ability to "hook" a man, tell them that's exactly what you plan to do when you meet the right one, but so far you haven't met him. Then change the subject by asking the questioners about themselves.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Craig," and I have agreed to let you settle an argument. We have been married for seven years. Craig was married to his previous wife, "Charlotte," for 12 years. Since their divorce, Charlotte is invited to — and attends — all of his family's functions and holiday gatherings, as my husband, but I am not.

Craig has told his parents that Charlotte's presence makes him uncomfortable, but they said she will "always be their daughter" and they can invite whomever they choose.

I don't think Craig should attend these gatherings with his ex-wife, but he accuses me of being selfish because if he doesn't go, he will miss out on his family's events. He says if I don't want him there with her, then I should "crash" the events and show up uninvited and unwelcomed. Who is right?

— SNUBBED IN PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR SNUBBED: It would be interesting to know more about how your husband's first marriage ended, because that may be what has influenced your in-laws' decision not to accept you into the family. However, as it stands, you are already experiencing enough problems without crashing his parents' gatherings, and I strongly advise against it. Your husband is selfish to ignore your feelings and go without you, but hey — that's the doll you married.

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Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ K 8 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ A Q 8
♣ K 8 7 6
WEST
♦ A J 5 3
♥ A J 8 4
♦ 9 4
♣ A J 4
EAST
♦ Q 10 9 7 6 4
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ Q 10
SOUTH
♦ Q 9
♥ K J 10 7 5 3 2
♦ 9 5 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
3 ♦ Dble 3 NT 4 ♠
5 ♦ Pass Pass 4 NT Pass
Opening lead — ace of spades.

Famous Hand

If you look at all four hands, it seems impossible to make five diamonds. Declarer apparently must lose two club tricks, as well as a heart, and go down one. But when the deal was played in the match between Taiwan and Austria at the 1972 World Bridge Olympiad, Patrick Huang of Taiwan made the contract.

It is true he was assisted by the opening lead of the ace of spades, which was induced by East's four-spade bid. However, this lead by itself did not present Huang with the contract; he still had to play his cards correctly. After ruffing the spade ace, Huang drew two rounds of trumps, ending in his hand, and then led the nine of hearts, putting West on the horns of a dilemma. Had West followed low, declarer would have won the heart with the king, discarded his queen of hearts on the king of spades, and later lost two club tricks to bring the contract home.

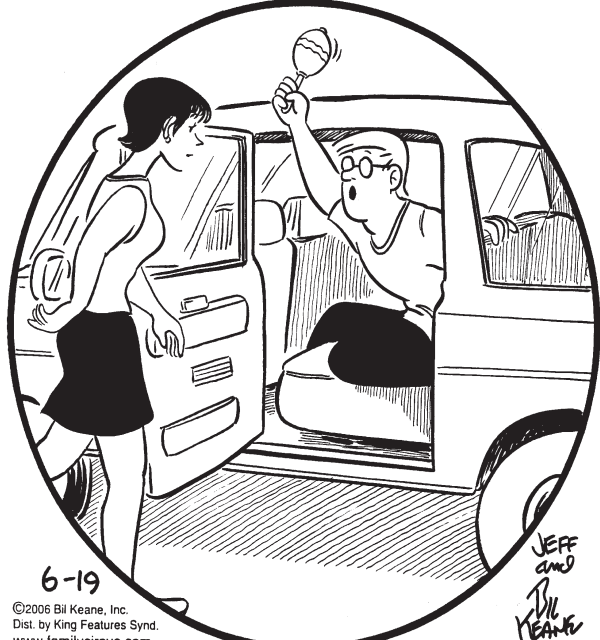
In practice, however, West took the nine of hearts with the ace and returned a heart to South's queen. With dummy's king of spades and king of hearts now available to furnish two club discards, Huang eventually lost only one club trick after leading a club toward dummy's king. Making five diamonds doubled was worth 550 points. The contract would have failed had West led a trump, a heart or a club originally. However, the actual ace-of-spades lead gave declarer an advantage in the play from which the defenders could not escape, and Huang made the most of it. Tomorrow: South does it with finesse. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Cryptoquip

RN Z IBDQOLK XBEXLZSLY
GRQ RYLEOROF TROG Z
NLZGLK DBZ, TBMSY FBM

XZSS GRI QXZKN-NZXL?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: REALITY SHOW ABOUT SOMEBODY WHO SITS AROUND DOING NOTHING ALL DAY: "AMERICAN IDLE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals Y

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

40 — out a living a kick
41 Door handle
43 Made amends
45 Slander
47 Old man
48 Old Glory's home (Abbr.)
49 Disintegration
54 Fool
55 Run off to wed
56 Chart format
57 Realtor's offering
58 Landlord's fees

DOWN

1 Exemplar of patience
2 Blunder
3 Shirt shape
4 Short sock
5 Continuous
6 Resident (Suffix)
7 Center of activity
8 Igloo denizen
9 Neither profit nor lose
10 Peruse

11 Taj Mahal city
16 Have a bug
20 Manage of somehow
21 Whippet's wagger
22 Assistant
23 It may be continental
27 Remuneration
29 Sneaker brand
30 Coaster
32 "— Karenina"
34 Further
37 Gloomy
39 Puts on the line
42 "Mr. Television"
44 Peculiar
45 Two-way
46 Old gasoline name
50 Very long time
51 Choose
52 Victory
53 Butterfly catcher

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 6-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
15			16						17		
			18				19		20		
21	22	23					24				
25			26		27		28		29	30	
31		32	33		34		35				
36			37		38		39		40		
45	46						47				
48			49		50				51	52	53
54			55						56		
57			58						59		