

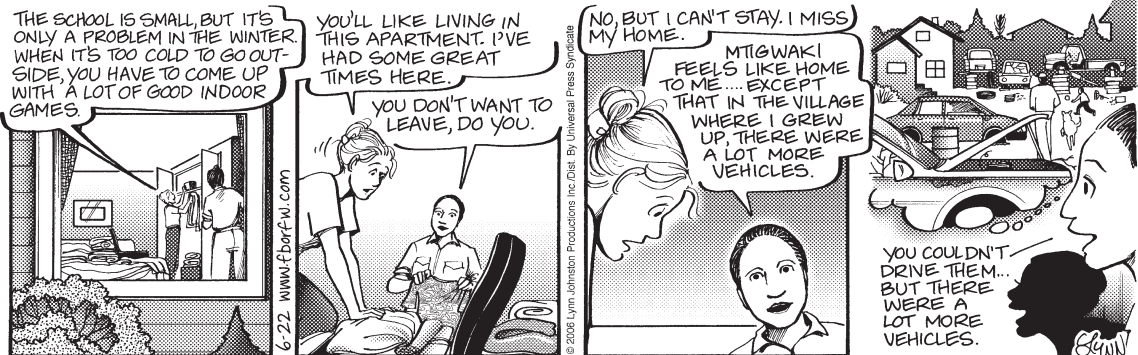
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



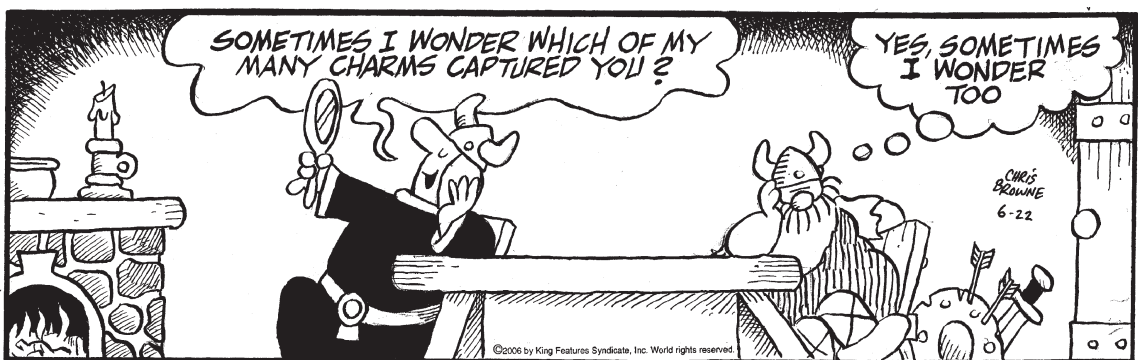
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



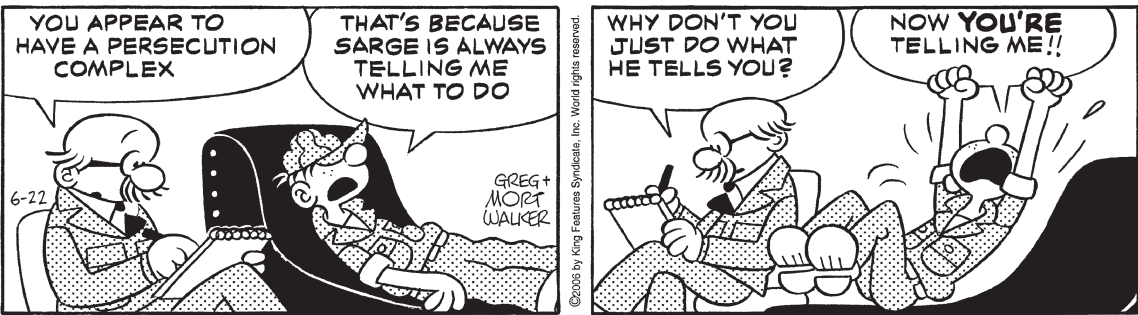
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Stories sometimes bear repeating

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Pete and Repeat in Ohio" whose in-laws constantly repeat themselves. My mother-in-law does the same thing. She's 61 and has done it for at least 10 years. I do not believe it's a sign of early dementia, but it drives me crazy.

I think the reason is she cannot stand silence. If there is a pause in the conversation, she is compelled to fill it with endless drivel about herself or family that's been told 100 times before.

Because she doesn't seem to notice or care if the person she is with is an active listener, I have finally learned to turn a deaf ear, say "uh-huh" at the appropriate times and focus on her better qualities, as my husband and father-in-law have done for years.

— NO LONGER LISTENING IN COLORADO
DEAR NO LONGER: That letter brought some thought-provoking feedback. Not everyone agreed with me that the woman's problem could be early dementia. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have another thought. Perhaps the in-laws were trying to elicit an acknowledgment of what they were saying, so they kept saying it, thinking it wasn't sinking in. I find myself doing the same thing when it appears my daughter isn't listening or hasn't reacted to something I have said — particularly if it's something important to me.

— ANNIE IN ORTONVILLE, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: I'm only in my 30s, and I sometimes have the habit of repeating myself. I do it when I feel the person I am speaking to is blowing me off, patronizing me, misunderstanding me or not acknowledging me.

"Pete and Repeat" should try the following before sending the older



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

folks to a doctor or deciding they have dementia: When Mom and Pop repeat themselves, look them straight in the eye, and gently and sincerely acknowledge the message. Example: Say, "Mom, thank you for telling us about the surprise! You always plan such great gifts, we can't wait to see what it is." They should teach their children to do the same.

"Pete and Repeat" may think they are acknowledging their parents by telling them they already heard them eight times, but my guess is the parents are looking for a more positive form of affirmation.

— LAURIE IN LARAMIE, WYO.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's mother was a wonderful mother-in-law, but she also told the same stories over and over.

Finally, I started charging my husband a dollar for every time I had to listen to a story I already knew. This way I was more than polite to his mother — I was enthusiastic when she repeated herself, and I silently counted up my winnings. Maybe "Pete and Repeat" could promise their kids a quarter for every time the grandparents repeat themselves. I promise you, everybody's attitude will change for the better.

— MISSING MY M-I-L IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Pete and Repeat" was right on. My mother-in-law started repeating herself more than 15 years ago, at the young age of 61. Her children wrote it off as "old age," but her daughters-in-law saw it as an early sign of de-

mentia. Unfortunately, we were right.

I hope "Pete and Repeat" won't put off encouraging her parents to visit their doctor. Medications can slow the onset of Alzheimer's disease. The sooner they know what's going on, the better they all can prepare for the future.

— LISA IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school. A short time ago, a freshman at my school was killed.

He was walking home from a friend's house, and on his way he was hit by a drunk driver. (He was in a crosswalk.)

Abby, he was 6-foot-7 and on the football team. We called him the "gentle giant." It was a huge loss, and many people at school have been suffering this past week. His family is doing the best they can to cope with this.

Our school has sold 250 shirts made in his honor and is donating the money to his family. He is missed and was loved by so many people.

Everyone at school wants to help make sure that no one has to go through this kind of tragedy again. What other ways can my school get involved with helping to support not drinking and driving?

— GRIEVING IN SAN JOSE

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your classmate. His death should be a reminder to those left behind just how fragile and precious life can be. An effective way to memorialize him would be to see that every student in the school who takes a driving course from now on signs a contract promising not only to not mix drinking and driving, but also not to get into a car that is being driven by a person who is "under the influence."

Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South 1 ♠ Pass
West 3 ♣ Pass
North 2 ♠ Pass
East 3 ♣ Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The Art of Artifice

There are times for a defender when it is absolutely mandatory to falsecard.

The chief purpose of this tactic is to create an impression in declarer's mind that the cards are divided differently than they actually are. Though the falsecard might not always succeed, it is far better in the long run than the alternative, which leaves declarer no choice but to find the winning line of play.

Consider this deal where the defenders started by taking three heart tricks, East winning the third with the queen. East then exited with a club to dummy's queen.

Declarer had to take the rest of the tricks to make his contract. With the K-10-7-5-3 of trumps missing, South knew his prospects were not very good.

However, although he didn't know it yet, he was about to encounter great success when he led a low trump from dummy toward his A-Q. And had East followed suit with the ten, which seems normal, declarer would have closed home after finessing the queen.

But East threw a monkey wrench into the works by playing the king on the first spade!

South won with the ace and, on the natural assumption that East had started with the singleton king, returned a low trump, finessed dummy's nine and went down one.

It is hard to fault South for failing to guess the actual trump position, since most declarers probably would have fallen into the same trap.

But observe that South could not have gone wrong if East had woodenly followed to the first trump lead with the ten.

East's play thus qualifies as a mandatory falsecard, since it could do no harm and might do some good. It is surely better to have some chance than to have no chance at all.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
(c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Cryptoquip

6-22 CRYPTOQUIP

YZJX MZJ NJXFWQX YGEIJH

QXMP G XJQFZRPAZPPH

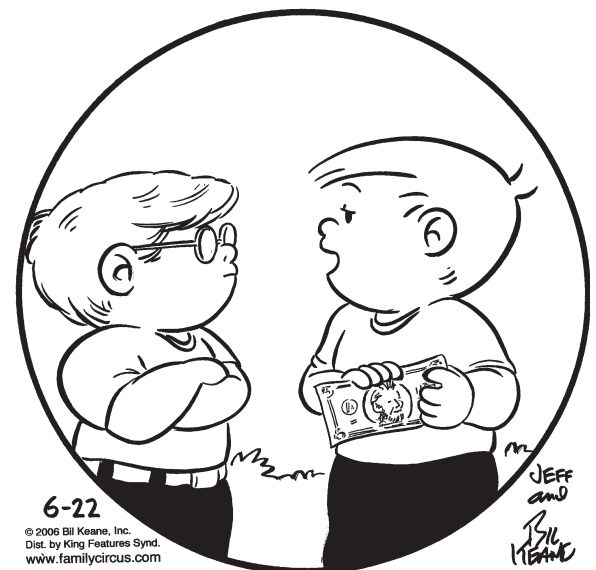
NWR, MZJ RGAMJXHJA

GOIJH "OP YGHHEJ QM RJ?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT THE STRING MUSICIANS ARE ALSO MARATHONERS, PEOPLE CALL THEM RUNNERS ON BASS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I couldn't live on my allowance, but luckily I'm one of my grandmother's favorite charities."

Crossword

ACROSS	38 Radiate	58 Not so much	19 Other-wise
1 Actress Nazimova	39 CSI evidence		21 Storm center
5 Pouch	40 "Cock-a-doodle—!"	DOWN	24 Illuminated
8 Pronto, on a memo	42 Trap-setter's cry	1 Winged	25 Blond shade
12 Waikiki winding	45 Disconnected	2 Garage request	26 Mountain mahogany
13 Gloater's cry	49 Colorful fish	3 Praise to the skies	28 Sandra or Ruby
14 Tree trunk	50 IRS employee	4 Pen holder?	29 Moolah
15 Touch	52 Festive event	5 Diamond game	30 "The Matrix" role
16 Enthusiast	53 Track	6 "Eureka!"	31 AAA job
17 Faraway fleet?	54 More, to Manuel	7 Unfavorable votes	36 Parts of the foot
18 "Smokin'"	55 Egg	8 One indulging to excess	37 — -di-dah
20 Sonnet section	56 Benevolent	9 Non-aggressive pitch	38 101-digit number
22 Sphere	57 Ordinal suffix	10 Lotion additive	41 "I see"
23 Magic 8-Ball answer		11 Nuisance	42 Bush rival
24 "Wizard of Oz" cast member			43 October stone
27 Follower			44 Pinnacle
32 "Life — cabaret"			46 Macadamize
33 Meadow			47 Asset
34 Zodiac sign			48 Thanks-giving veggies
35 Michael Jackson album			51 Memorized

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-22

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 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58