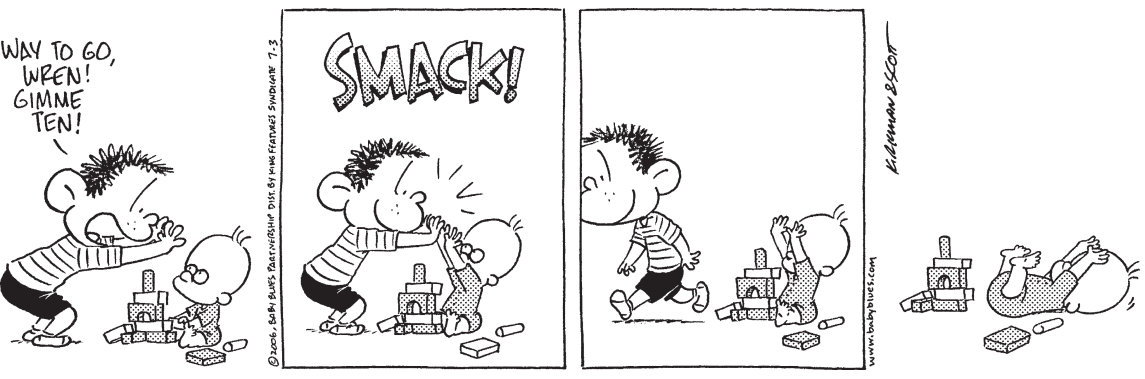
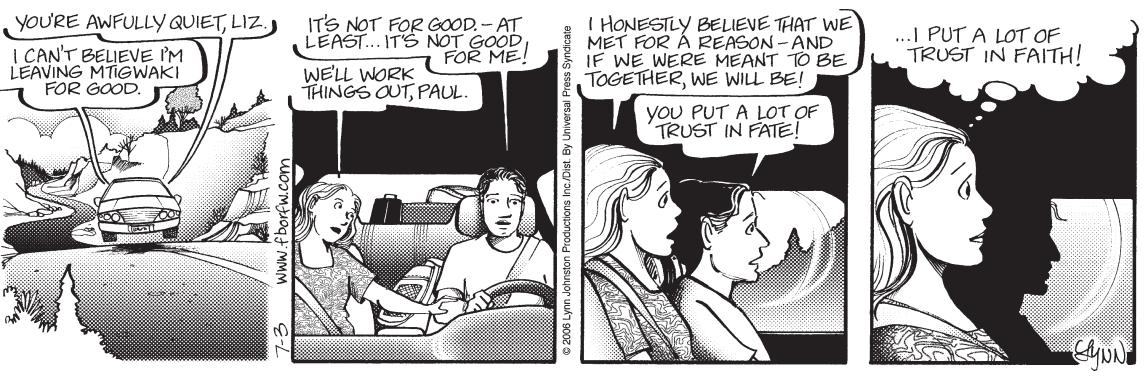
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)

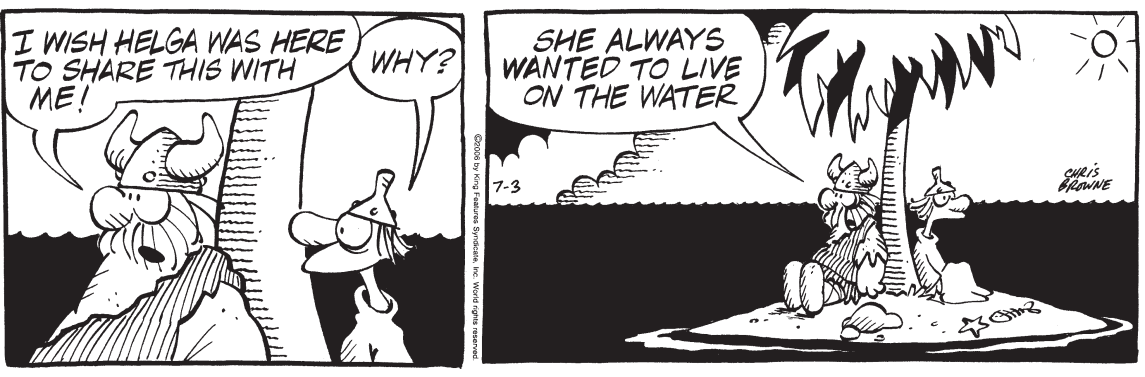
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

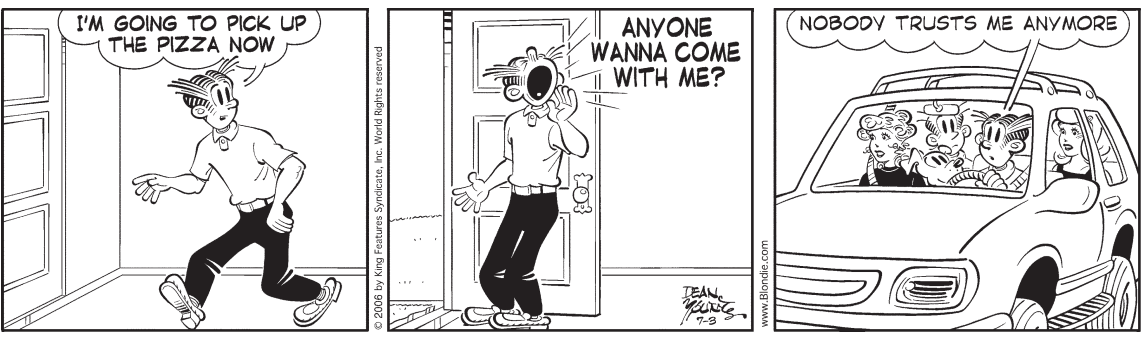


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis

Blondie • Chic Young

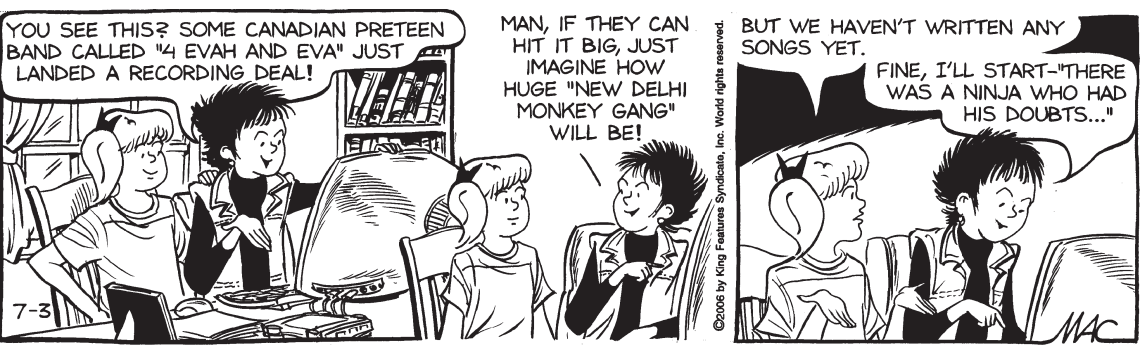


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Stay-at-home moms have hefty salaries

Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I need your help with something. My 16-year-old grandson seems to think that all his mother does is stay at home. He conveniently "forgets" that she is a housekeeper, gardener, cook, teacher, nurse, driver and mediator. Could you please print a breakdown of what a stay-at-home wife should be paid? I would love to have a list so I can pass the "bill" on to him.

— VIVIAN IN COLONIAL BEACH, VA.

DEAR VIVIAN: According to the Census Bureau figures for 2004 — which are the most recent — there are 36.7 million mothers of minor children in the United States. About one-third of them, 10.8 million, are stay-at-home moms.

According to an article penned by Al Neuharth, the founder of USA Today, in its May 11, 2006, edition, "Salary.com compensation experts estimate that stay-at-home moms work an average of 91.6 hours a week." That's more than double the number of hours the average office worker puts in. He went on to say, "That should be worth $134,121 annually."

He quoted the compensation analysts as figuring the lowest-paying parts of a mother's job are "housekeeper, laundry machine operator and janitor. Higher-paying categories include computer operator, facilities manager, psychologist and CEO." With a 91.6-hour work week, 52 weeks a year, it works out to be $28.16 an hour.

It should go without saying that a mother's love is priceless, so tell that grandson of yours that $28.16 an hour is a real bargain.

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday, a friend stayed over at my house. When it was time for her to leave, I went to put something in her bag and found a ton of MY stuff in there!

She made up a lame excuse that "someone else" must have put it in her bag. I knew she was lying, and I told her whoever put it there had better speak up and I wouldn't be mad if they confessed — but she still denied it.

How do I confront her and still keep our friendship?

— CONFUSED IN GREAT FALLS, MONT.

DEAR CONFUSED: You have already "confronted" her, and it only led to more lies. Now it's time to recognize that the girl you thought was your friend is a person who may have some severe emotional problems. Under the circumstances, it's time to re-evaluate your relationship, because I'm not sure you should consider her a friend any longer.

P.S. And always keep a watchful eye on your "stuff" when she's in the vicinity!

DEAR ABBY: The granddaughter of a close friend of mine canceled her wedding plans, for justifiable reasons. No invitations had been sent, so there were no wedding gifts to return, as I know is proper.

About nine months ago, my friend had an elegant engagement celebration for her granddaughter and the then-fiance, and although it was just supposed to be a great party for all of us who love this girl and her grandmother, everyone gave gifts, either monetary ones or items from a bridal registry.

The guy made off with all the money and the gifts. There is no legal way the girl can get them, and yet her grandmother and, I guess, the girl herself feel that everything from that engagement celebration should be returned to us. So they are trying to do it themselves.

I, for one, told them to forget it, because there was a party and there was an engagement, but some of our mutual friends said that they should, in one way or another, repay those who gave. Is it necessary to return gifts, or is it just adding another financial burden to an already strapped girl — as well as a lot more grief in trying to come up with replacements for things long gone?

— NO NAME, PLEASE

DEAR NO NAME: The "rule of thumb" is that gifts that have not been opened and/or used should be returned. However, because the gifts were, in essence, stolen from your friend's granddaughter, she is not obligated to replace them or the money.

This is a time for understanding on the part of your mutual "friends," not petty grousing. Rather than subjecting herself to this kind of stress, the granddaughter should thank her higher power that she didn't marry that scoundrel. (She dodged a real bullet!) Her time would be better spent getting over this trauma, rather than paying off the people who attended the party.

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

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 5
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 9 7 3
♣ J 4 3

WEST
♠ J 10 7 2
♥ K Q 6
♦ J 8 2
♣ A K 8

EAST
♠ 6 4 3
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 10
♣ Q 10 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A 9
♥ J 8 7 4
♦ K Q 6 5 4
♣ 9 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
Pass	Dble		

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Famous Hand

The scene was the 1979 World Team Championship in Rio de Janeiro, and the contestants in the final round — as had happened so many times before — were Italy and the United States. The U.S. won the match by a very slender margin (253 International Match Points to 248), and this is one of the deals that contributed to the American victory. The Italian South (Giorgio Belladonna, playing with Vito Pittala) wound up at four diamonds doubled as shown. West (Billy Eisenberg, playing with Edwin Kantar) led the king of clubs and shifted to the K-Q and another heart. East took the ace and returned a club to partner's ace, and Belladonna ruffed the next club lead.

Declarer now led the spade nine to the queen and played a low trump from dummy. Kantar went up with the ace and returned a fourth round of clubs, thereby creating a trump trick for Eisenberg to put the contract down four — 700 points (800 in today's scoring).

This should have resulted in only a small loss for Italy — Kantar would have scored 600 or 630 points at three notrump — but the Italian East-West pair at the second table made only a partscore when the bidding went:

South	West	North	East	
	Pass		1 [S]	Pass 1NT
Dble		Pass	2 [C]	Dble
2 [D]	Pass	Pass	2 [S]	

West's opening one-spade bid with such a terribly weak suit — shocking by American standards — was an integral part of the Italian bidding system. On this occasion, though, it caused them to miss a good three-notrump contract.

West finished with eight tricks to score 110 points, but Italy suffered a net loss of 590 points on the deal. This cost them 11 IMPs, which was more than the margin by which the U.S. won the championship.

Cryptoquip

ZW SINUPI JYPY UJUPEYE WSP WUPL-KRYLYE WZTLI SBTX, LZFRK SBY NUKYFSPX VY VYIK KPUNKSP?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CERTAIN ISSUE IS HOTLY CONTESTED, I PRESUME THAT WOULD CREATE A TOPICAL STORM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

Family Circus • Bil Keane

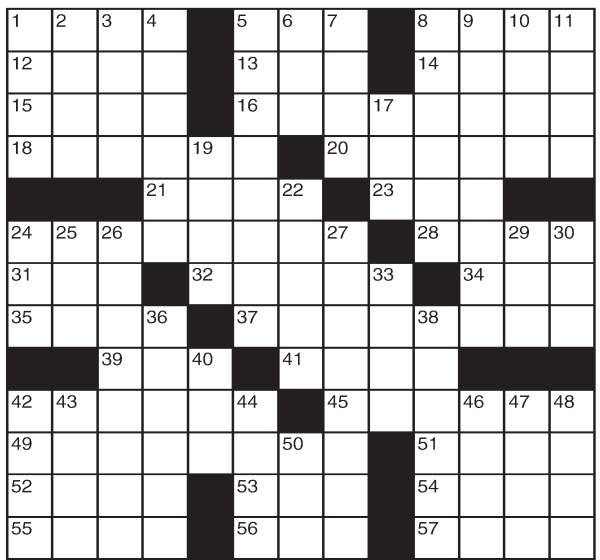
"He's a Dodger, so why didn't he dodge?"

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Sailors, slangily
5 Computer acronym
8 African nation
12 Touch
13 Altar affirmative
14 Patriot Nathan
15 Missile shelter
16 Music room apparatus
18 JFK's "109," e.g.
20 Young cow
21 U.S.-owned Pacific island
23 Language suffix
24 In — (not there)
28 Satan's specialty
31 Homer's interjection
32 Liberty's handful
34 Historic time
35 Detail, for short
37 Necessary
39 Roulette bet
41 Air from a pair
42 Evening affair
45 Proof of who you say you are
49 Swanson's fare
51 Lone Ranger's "Giddy-ap!"
52 Favorable votes
53 "— Got a Secret"
54 Paradise
55 Sea eagle
56 Old man
57 Back talk

DOWN
1 React in horror
2 Last write-up
3 Future tulip
4 Subordinate team member
5 Despot
6 Peculiar
7 Former frosh
8 Patio furniture, maybe
9 Pollinosis
10 Sheltered
11 Author Earl — Biggers
17 "Do the Right Thing" director
19 Family member
22 Covered in muck
24 Billboards
25 Jazz style
26 "Desperate Housewives" cast member
27 Got
29 Anger
30 Young man
33 Colored
36 Shade of 39-Across
38 Yearnings
40 Lair
42 Eyelid woe
43 Finished
44 Oklahoma city
46 Verdi opera
47 Deli loaves
48 Dresses in
50 Zsa Zsa's sister

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-3