

**Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



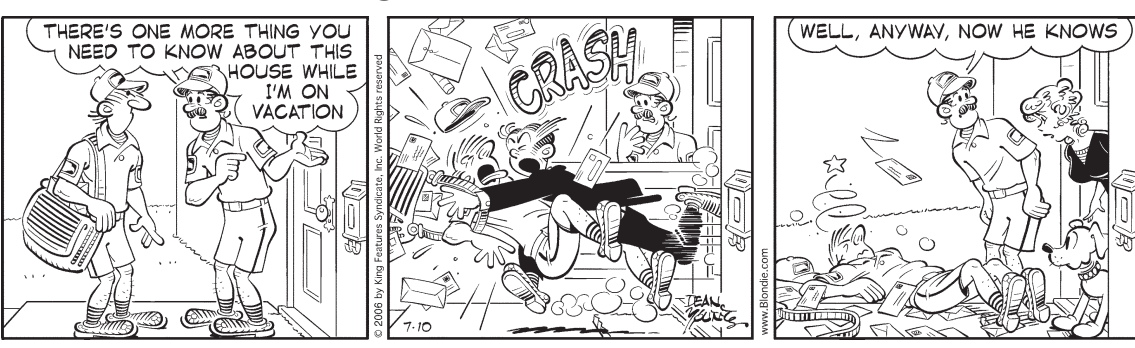
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



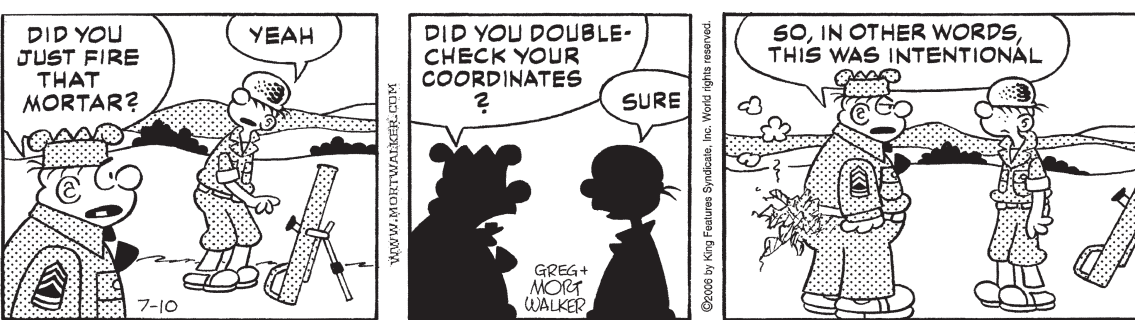
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



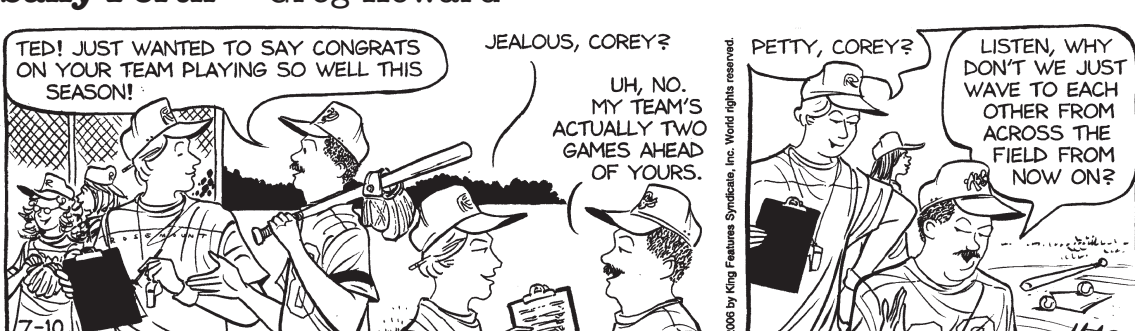
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**High school hunk no longer a dreamboat**

DEAR ABBY: When I was 16 I fell in love with the handsomest man I had ever seen. I'll call him "Todd." Apparently everyone else thought so, too. Todd loved the women and they loved him, and our relationship ended.



**Abigail Van Buren**

**Dear Abby**

After many years we were reunited. We have been together for three years now.

Todd has changed a lot since high school. His personality is every woman's dream now.

He is thoughtful, considerate, and tells me he loves me every day. He has apologized repeatedly for his past.

The problem is, he's no longer as attractive as he used to be. Over the years he has neglected his body, teeth, skin and hair. He is a diesel mechanic, and his hands and fingernails are embedded with grease. We no longer look like we belong together, and I'm embarrassed to introduce him to friends. (They chuckle under their breath when they see him.)

My friends and I like to go to fancy places, and even when Todd is dressed up, he doesn't look right. Forgive me if this seems shallow. I have kept my youthful looks. I still wear a size 8, and no one can believe I have three grandchildren.

How do I deal with this? I love Todd. I love being with him and talking to him. But I can't seem to overcome these feelings.

— CONFUSED IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR CONFUSED:** Alcoholics Anonymous has something called the "Serenity Prayer." Commit it to memory, and use it as the need arises, because it can be a helpful tool for living:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can,

AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE." (Italics are mine.)

If you really love Todd, it is within your power to "encourage" him to exercise and eat healthfully, to see a dentist and a barber regularly, and groom himself more carefully. If you love Todd, you will tell your friends that you do — and if you still feel they look down on this thoughtful, considerate and affectionate man, you will cultivate friends who are more accepting.

DEAR ABBY: "Rita" and I first became close in junior high. We are both in our mid-20s and currently live about two hours apart. We spent many hours together as teens. However, her demanding nature did always grate on me.

One year, when we were living on opposite coasts, I sent Rita an expensive birthday gift and card, but forgot to call her until the next day. Instead of thanking me, she pouted and accused me of "not valuing our friendship."

A few months ago, Rita sent me an angry e-mail because I had made plans with my boyfriend for two nights during her week-long stay in my town. (She was here for the wedding of a couple I do not know.)

I wrote her back, explaining that I love her, but I am now a busy woman and don't have time for her childish behavior. I told her she ex-

pects a degree of attention that I cannot give her. We haven't spoken since.

Recently Rita e-mailed me and invited me to lunch. I have not responded.

I simply have no desire to see her, as I have not enjoyed our relationship for years. Do I owe Rita anything besides wishing her the best? Should I see her?

— FEELING GUILTY IN PALO ALTO

**DEAR FEELING GUILTY:** Because you have no desire to see her, politely refuse the invitation. Friendship is supposed to be mutual, and you are in no way obligated to continue this one. Sometimes people simply grow apart, and this appears to be the case with you and Rita.

DEAR ABBY: My brother is ticked off at me because I sing songs all the time. I sing a few lines, and he yells, "Stop!" Each time I make a little noise, he also demands that I stop. It seems like everything I do he tries to stop me from doing.

My parents try hard to get him to stop yelling at me, but he won't. I'm getting really frustrated. How can I solve this problem? (I'm 7.)

— FRUSTRATED IN BERKELEY

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** Ignore him. The more your brother yells, the louder you sing. And when your parents get tired of the sound of his yelling, they'll figure out a way to put a stop to it. Parents always do.

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**

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 10 9 2  
♥ J 9 7 5 3  
♦ 7 5  
♣ 2

**WEST**  
♠ J 7 5 4  
♥ 6  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ A K 10 9 5

**EAST**  
♠ K 8 6  
♥ K Q  
♦ Q 6 4 3 2  
♣ Q J 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ 3  
♥ A 10 8 4 2  
♦ K J 9  
♣ 8 6 4 3

The bidding:  
West 1♦ North 2♦ East 2♥ South 4♥

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

Italy won its first Bermuda Bowl since 1975 in the 2005 World Championship held in Estoril, Portugal, last fall. The Italians — Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes and Fulvio Fantoni — captured the title by defeating their perennial rivals, the United States, by 18 IMPs in the 128-board final. A total of 22 teams began the event and went through a lengthy round robin (21 20-board matches) that reduced the field to eight teams prior to beginning head-to-head knockout matches.

In the final, the Americans — Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman — were ahead at the half by 31 IMPs, but lost the lead over the next 48 boards to trail by 9 going into the last 16 boards. In this deal from the final set, the Italians exercised excellent judgment at both tables to gain 12 IMPs.

At the first table, Versace and Lauria quickly reached four hearts as shown with only 15 high-card points in the combined hands. Versace's two-diamond bid indicated both majors, and East's heart bid, in effect bidding one of North's suits, showed values and implied club support. After South's four-heart bid, Meckstroth, East, showed fine judgment of his own by not doubling this contract despite holding 13 high-card points opposite his partner's opening bid.

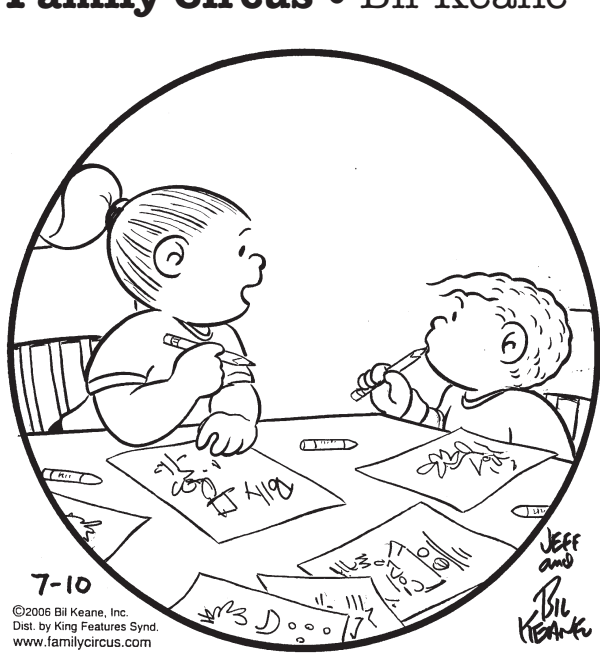
Rodwell began by cashing the ace of clubs and ace of diamonds, after which declarer could not lose more than a heart trick to score 620 points. Even if Rodwell had not cashed the diamond ace at trick two, declarer was virtually certain to guess the winning play in diamonds — finessing the jack — when the time came later in the play.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair was never in the bidding, and Nunes-Fantoni stopped on a dime in three clubs despite holding 25 points in the combined hands. Three clubs made exactly, giving the Italians another 110 points to add to their 620 at the first table.

**Cryptoquip**

DUQRW U IUDLNERWG IH  
SQNH DJWEI UXSQ JZW  
SJZWX GEH, U DWI JS  
AW EAUJ GW-LXWDDWG.  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A BIBLICAL PROPHET ORDERED SOME LAMINATED PLASTIC, IS THAT FORMICA FOR MICAH?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals M

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Skeletal component to mention (Abbr.)

5 Prize-fighter

8 Comical Caroline

12 Some skillets

14 Right on the map?

15 They're often in the basement

16 "Arrivederci"

17 Do some math

18 Make into confetti

20 Big

23 Discard

24 One of HOMES

25 Coffee-house staffer

28 Label

29 Command

30 Cleopatra's slayer

32 Latino neighborhoods

34 Dog bane

35 Stuff too numerous to mention

36 Singer's rendition

37 African antelope

40 Intention

41 Modern-day coin

42 Grill

47 As well

48 E strange

49 Damon or Dillon

50 Afternoon social

51 "Star —"

3 Postal Creed word together

4 Lock

5 Settled up

6 Samovar

7 Move-ments

8 Sum-marizes

9 Barber-shop sweep-ings

10 Birthright barterer

11 On

13 Test the waters

19 Ottoman leader

20 Say it's OK

21 Spirited steed

22 Latvia's capital

23 Cuts grooves into a pedestal

25 Insult

26 Bath powder

27 "... of troubles"

29 "— take arms against (27-Down)"

31 Crony

33 Start the computer up again

34 Incite

36 Aura

37 Paper quantity

38 Shake in the grass?

39 Formerly

40 1998 Andrea Bocelli album

43 Stout cousin

44 Jam ingredient

45 Multi-purpose truck

46 "A mouse!"

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

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

Saturday's answer 7-10

