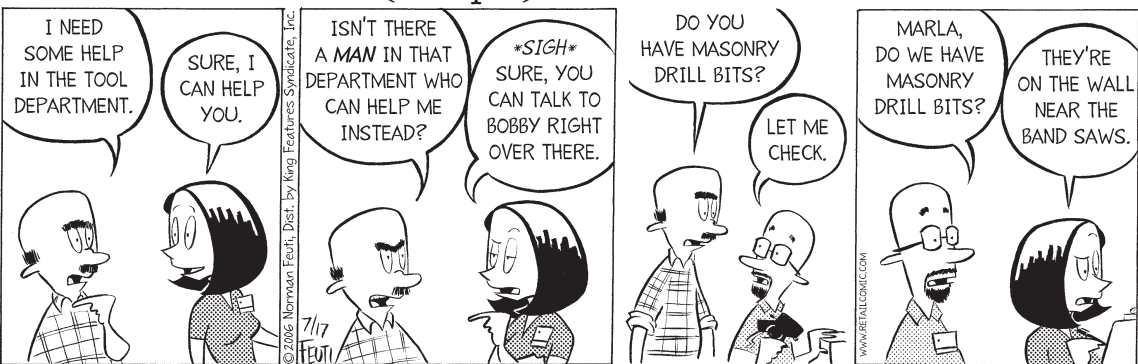
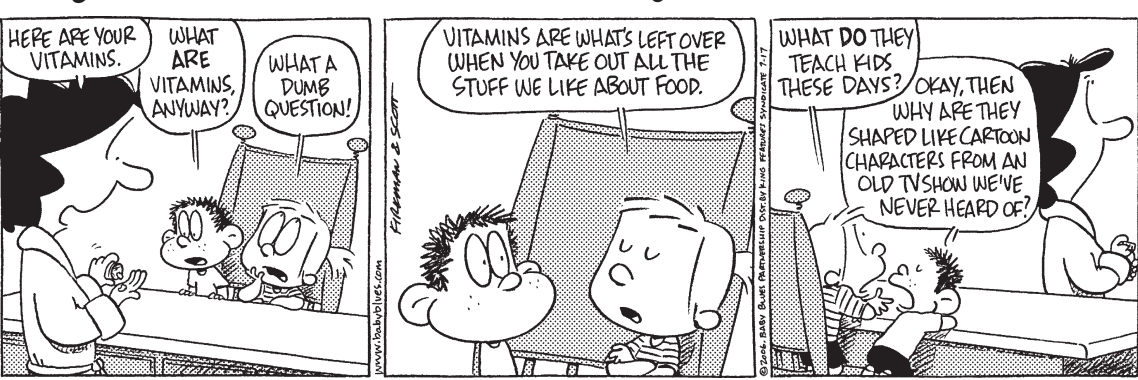


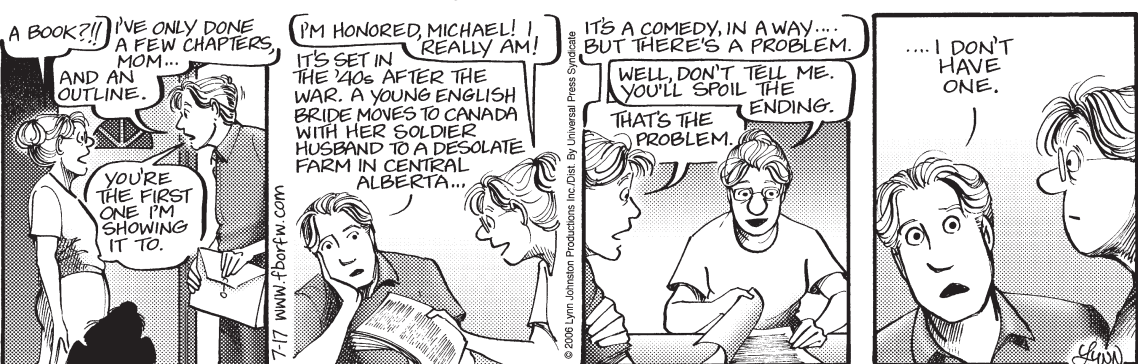
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



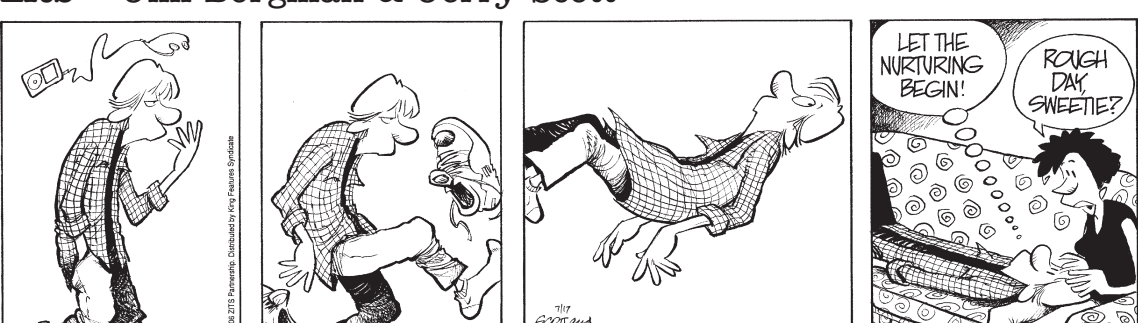
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Anesthesia is not a truth serum

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter regarding the husband who, while coming out of anesthesia, "confessed" to cheating on his wife.

You were dead on when you said, "People babble all sorts of nonsense when coming out of anesthesia." Some of it may be true, but most of the time it is not! I know from experience.

When I had knee surgery, I later learned that while I was in recovery I told the nurse I hoped Meredith wouldn't see me, as I looked horrible. When asked who Meredith was, I said she was my wife. Abby, I was 14 years old at the time!

I hope that the wife in that letter realizes that maybe her husband's confession was just the result of being in a completely different world. And hopefully, the husband's alleged mistress is only as real as my supposed "wife" was.

DEAR GREGORY B.: Thank you for sharing your experience. Believe it or not, I got a rash of mail from people telling me I should not have printed that letter because it would deter people from having necessary medical procedures that require an anesthetic! What the hospital worker had actually done was share an old wives' tale. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: If it were true that "people coming out of anesthesia are completely incapable of lying," the police would be giving this as a test instead of polygraphs, neither of which are admissible in court as reliable indicators to convict someone. Other evidence is needed.

DEAR ABBY: My husband had a colonoscopy, and when I met him in the recovery room he was still



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

such appalling comments. Especially in this age of overburdened health care workers and crowded hospitals, it is imperative that the public know with whom they are speaking, questioning, or taking instructions from in a medical setting!

"under the influence." When I asked him how it went in there, he responded, "Well, we had Earth, Wind and Fire in there, and we were dancing all over the place." I replied, "I find that hard to believe, honey," and he said, "I won the dance contest!"

I would advise that wife not to believe what others say while coming out of anesthesia.

DEAR ABBY: Since I have been giving anesthesia for more than 30 years, I feel somewhat qualified to comment on the nurse's statement that "It's impossible to lie under anesthesia." There are many classes of drugs given during anesthesia, and most of them only make you talkative and amnesic. I don't know of a single one that is guaranteed to produce the truth. I hope the woman who might be getting a divorce due to her husband's response reads this.

DEAR ABBY: It is my experience that much of the public refer to anyone wearing scrubs as a nurse. In fact, many other employees in health care wear scrubs, including lab techs, nursing aides and assistants, orderlies, housekeepers and unit secretaries. Assuming you are interacting with a nurse when, in fact, you aren't in a health care setting can lead to consequences ranging from annoying to downright dangerous.

There was no excuse for any employee in health care to have made

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old woman who has been married for four months to an amazing man. We have a wonderful marriage and are looking forward to growing old together. However, I have a slight problem:

I have a baby blanket I have had since I was a baby and have slept with it since before I could walk. When I turned 16, I told myself I'd get rid of it. Sixteen turned to 18, 18 turned into getting rid of it when I graduated from college, which turned into getting rid of it when I married.

I am now married and have no intention of getting rid of it. I guess I've held onto it because it's familiar. (We moved far from home after our wedding.) My husband says he doesn't mind, and I'm sure he's not lying, but it's a little embarrassing. I can't fall asleep without it. I even watch TV with it in my lap or read with it behind my head.

Do you think it's ridiculous for me to have a baby blanket at 24 with a new, wonderful husband, or should I just keep it and not worry?

DEAR K.T.: Your "problem" may be unusual, but it's not unheard of. Your "blanky" is familiar and soothing, and since your husband doesn't mind, I see no reason why you should be concerned about keeping it. Enjoy!

Editor's note: Drite Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ Q J 10 6
 ♦ A Q 10 4
 ♣ A J 6 5

WEST
 ♠ K Q 9 6 4
 ♥ 8 3 2
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ K Q 7

EAST
 ♠ J 8 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 7 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 10 7 5
 ♥ A K 9 7 5 4
 ♦ K 6 5
 ♣ 4

The bidding:
 East South West North
 Pass 2♥ Pass 2 NT
 Pass 3♥ Pass 4 NT
 Pass 5♥ Pass 5 NT
 Pass 6♣ Pass 7♥

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Famous Hand

Nowadays, virtually all tournament players — and most non-tournament players — prefer opening weak two-bids to strong twos, believing the weak two gives them more flexibility in the bidding both offensively and defensively. Today's deal, which was played in the 1982 Spingold team-of-four championship, certainly provides a strong case for the weak-two advocates.

At one table, Billy Cohen and Mark Molson held the North-South hands. They had agreed to play weak two-bids, so Molson opened two hearts, indicating a strong suit but less than the normal complement of high cards for an opening one-heart bid. Naturally, Cohen started thinking not only in terms of game, but possibly slam.

His two-notrump bid was artificial, asking South to further describe his hand. Three diamonds showed a maximum weak two-bid with an honor card in diamonds.

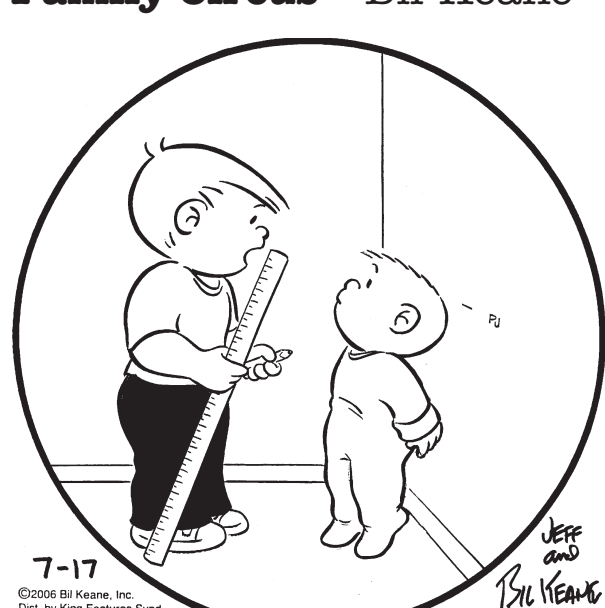
Four notrump by North was a special form of Blackwood, and the response of five hearts guaranteed two key cards (which in the actual case North knew to be the A-K of hearts).

Five notrump was a grand-slam try asking South whether he had any further values to reveal. Six clubs by South disclosed his singleton club which, on top of the A-K of hearts and king of diamonds previously identified, made it easy to bid the grand slam. There was nothing to the play, and North-South scored 2,210 points.

Note that the grand slam was undertaken with only 28 high-card points, considerably less than the usual requirement, but fully justified given North's knowledge of South's hand. At the second table, the North-South pair stopped at six hearts after a far less illuminating sequence of bids.

Tomorrow: The rabbit-in-the-hat trick. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Forget it, P.J. Standing on your tiptoes doesn't count as growing taller."

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Inquire
 4 Nylon trade-marked by DuPont
 9 Wire measure
 12 Mamie's hubby
 13 Beneath
 14 Frozen
 15 Lake Wobegon locale
 17 Neither mate
 18 — Dhabi
 19 Father, Son and Holy Ghost
 21 Melancholy
 24 Sweet potatoes
 25 Clay, today
 26 Ron of baseball
 28 Mexican entrees
 31 Mid-morning
 33 — Moines
 35 Speechless
 36 Must, colloquially

DOWN
 16 Apprehend
 20 Mosque VIP
 21 Vocalized
 22 Hodge-podge
 23 Lamb adornment
 27 "Verily"
 29 Ear-related
 30 Calendar abbr.
 32 Greek vowels
 34 Tidied (up)
 37 A Musketeer
 39 Bernadette or Brock
 42 Hogs
 44 Predicament
 45 Long story
 46 Verve
 50 Away from SSW
 51 Frightened squeal
 52 Exist
 53 Playground game

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-17

Cryptoquip

S Z H V O S E S I S N M H A F V E
 N O O J Q A G E V G V Y A E L S M C,
 S C J A G G W V J Y S C L E G N W

S E ' G F V G G - F A Z A F A M I A Q.
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSE THE INVISIBLE MAN HAD SOME CHILDREN. WHAT WOULD HE HAVE BECOME, A TRANSPARENT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S

