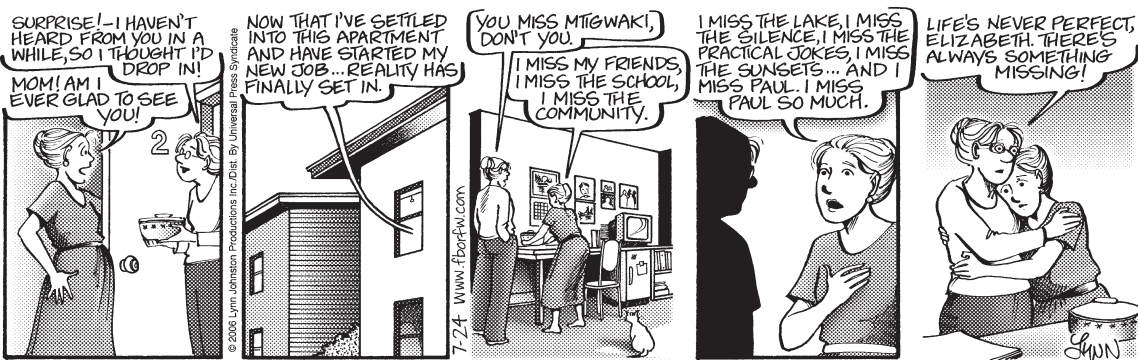


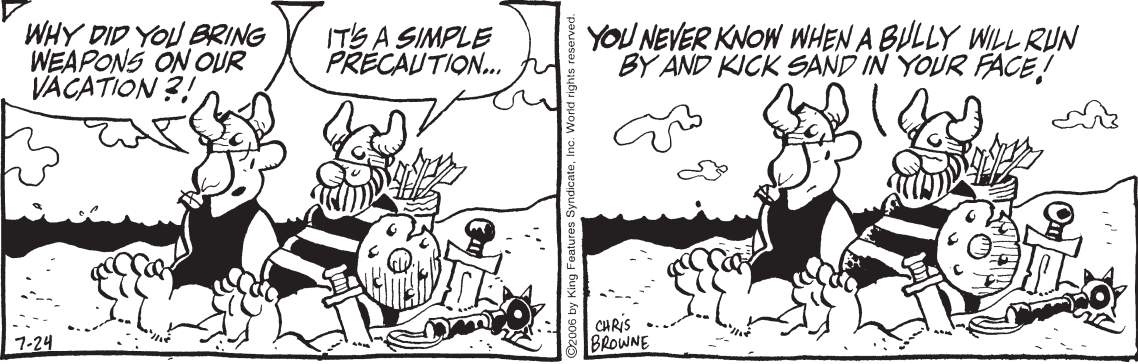
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



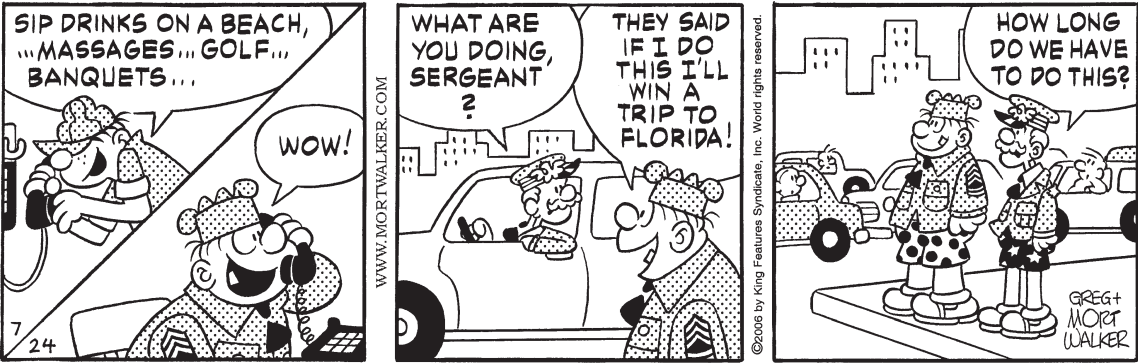
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



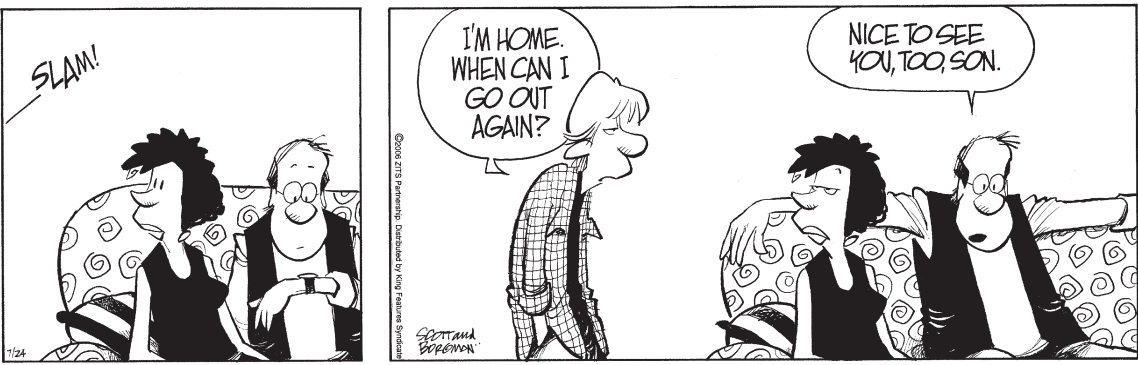
Blondie • Chic Young



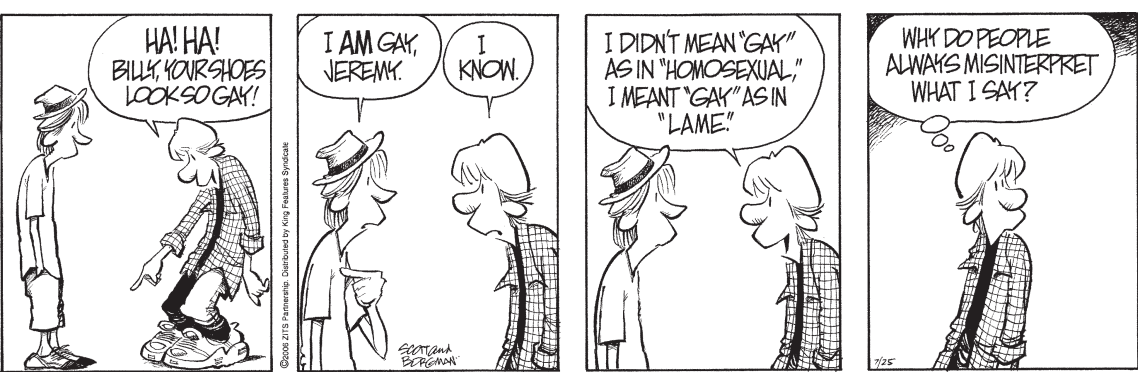
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



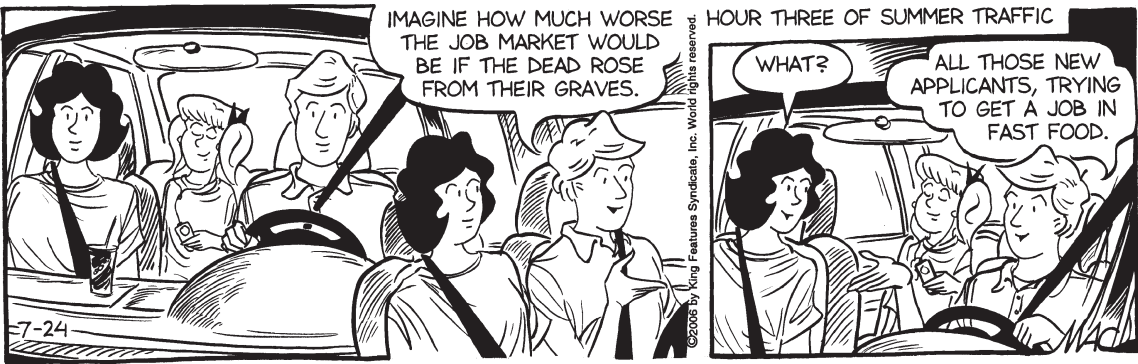
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

LS BNR ZLTU DNXXUDOLPF

SCZAU XRVNXA CPE

VBOJA, ENUA OJCO VCTU

BNR C SLDOLNP XLFJOUX?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD SAY A GROUP OF BIGWIGS FOR A PROMINENT ATLANTA UNIVERSITY IS AN EMORY BOARD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Y

Mom can't explain child's bullying

DEAR ABBY: I was recently informed by the parent of a close friend of my 8-year-old daughter, "Emma," that Emma had been "beating up" her daughter. When we confronted Emma about it, she admitted it but could not explain why. Emma has also been verbally abusive to the girl, putting her down or stopping her in mid-sentence to constantly "correct" her.

Abby, Emma's a straight-A student, loved by all of her other friends, their parents, her teachers, our pastor, etc.

She's involved in theater, sings, dances, ice skates competitively, cheerleads, races motocross and plays piano. She is very well-behaved at home, and we have no trouble with her. I just don't understand what's going on. When I ask her, she doesn't have an explanation, but truly feels bad for hurting her friend.

The girls are no longer allowed to be friends.

This is damaging for us parents because we were all very close and did a lot together. We camped, fished, hung out, etc. Help! What do I do?

— CLUELESS IN ESCONDIDO

DEAR CLUELESS: Children sometimes pick on other children they perceive as weaker. Some do it out of anger; others do it simply because they "can." Your daughter may have done it because she is overscheduled, and her friend was the only



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

thing in her life she could control. I'm not sure it is realistic of you to expect your 8-year-old to completely understand why she has acted out against someone who is supposed to be a friend in this way. But I'll bet a child psychologist could provide some insight — and also help you teach your daughter that there are more appropriate and effective ways of dealing with her emotions than victimizing someone who can't fight back.

DEAR ABBY: My mother has had a "best friend" for many years. "Joan" has had many problems in her life that Mom has seen her through. Joan has helped my mother through some rough times, too, particularly through the death of my father 10 years ago.

Joan can sometimes be very difficult to be around because she constantly seeks attention and tends to become rather dramatic. She seems to take pleasure in the idea she has it worse than anyone else.

A few weeks ago, Joan, who is a massage therapist, was giving a massage to my best friend, "Becky." Becky later informed me that during the 45-minute

massage, Joan bad-mouthed my mother and disclosed some personal problems that Mom has confided to Joan.

Should I tell my mom about this? It would crush her if I do; my mom has been through some big changes and isn't exactly emotionally stable at the moment. But I can't let Joan go around bad-mouthing my mom, her supposed "friend."

Should I tell my mother that Joan is leaking personal information about her to other people? Or should I confront Joan?

— OUTRAGED IN SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

DEAR OUTRAGED: Do not fight this battle for your mother. She needs to be told that she's pouring out her heart into a leaky vessel. However, because she is "not exactly stable," you will have to find a way to do it in a manner that won't roil the waters.

The first thing to do is to cool your outrage so you don't cause your mother to overreact. Then find a way to do it with humor. "You know, Mom, we both know that Joan isn't the sharpest tool in the shed ..." Once your mother stops providing Joan with information, she'll have nothing to talk about.

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

North dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q J
♥ J 10 6
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ A K 5 3

WEST

♠ K 9 8 5 3
♥ 5 3 2
♦ A 2
♣ J 8 6

SOUTH

♠ A 7 6
♥ A 9 8 7 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 9 4

The bidding:

North 1 NT East Pass South 3 ♥ West Pass

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand

It isn't easy to see how South can make four hearts after West starts out by leading the ace and another diamond. Declarer apparently must lose a spade, a heart, a diamond and a diamond ruff and go down one against best defense.

But Albert Dormer, British expert who has probably written more about bridge in all its facets than just about anyone else, managed to make the contract after reaching four hearts on the bidding shown.

Moreover, he found the way to make 10 tricks in a rather simple fashion.

He led the heart jack from dummy at trick three and, when East covered with the queen, won the trick with the ace. However, instead of continuing with a trump, which seemed the natural thing to do, he first cashed the A-K of clubs and ruffed a club.

Dormer then led a trump to East's king, and the remarkable effect of this sequence of plays was that East was on lead in a helpless position.

If he returned a spade, declarer would finesse, losing to the king, but South's only losers in that case would be a spade, a heart and a diamond.

If East returned a diamond at trick eight instead of a spade, the outcome would be the same.

After ruffing, West would find himself on lead, also in a no-win position. He would have no choice but to return a spade, and Dormer would then lose only a diamond, a heart and a diamond ruff.

By playing three rounds of clubs before leading the second round of trumps, declarer had left West with no safe exit card if he got the diamond ruff he was looking for.

At the same time, Dormer demonstrated that extra touch of class he has so often written about.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS 1 Moment 4 Tummy muscles 7 Rainbow liqueur 13 Gossett or Gehrig 14 PBS science series 15 Herr's wife 16 Grier or Dawber 17 Golfer's action, with "off" 18 Heart line 20 Mexican entree 22 Peculiar 24 Burger enhancer 28 Actor Brimley 32 Aspect of development 33 Defeat decisively 34 "Of course" 36 "Born Free" lioness 37 Pruritic

39 Spits in the food 41 Hire 43 Altar affirmative 44 Channel marker 46 Water-logged 50 Autumn 53 Also 55 Clinton opponent 56 Stead 57 Blunder 58 Skirt feature 59 Desire 60 Society newbie 61 Mueller's org.

2 Continental coin abbr. 3 Autocrat 4 Jungfrau, for one 5 Gravy container 6 Staghorn, e.g. 7 Sondheim musical 8 Caviar base 9 "— Got Sixpence" 10 Blue 12 From who-knows-where 19 Fuss 21 Upper limit 23 Desiccate 25 Garage-cleaning event

26 Cold War 27 Proverbial look-alikes 28 Court paper 29 Greek vowel 30 Fortune 31 — Plaines 35 Tackle moguls 38 Ad-dressee 40 Sullivan and McMahon 42 Famous 45 Bygone times 47 Twain called it "a good walk spoiled" 48 Smooth-talking 49 Bigfoot's kin 50 Winter ailment 51 Melody 52 "Amazing Race" episode 54 Scepter topper

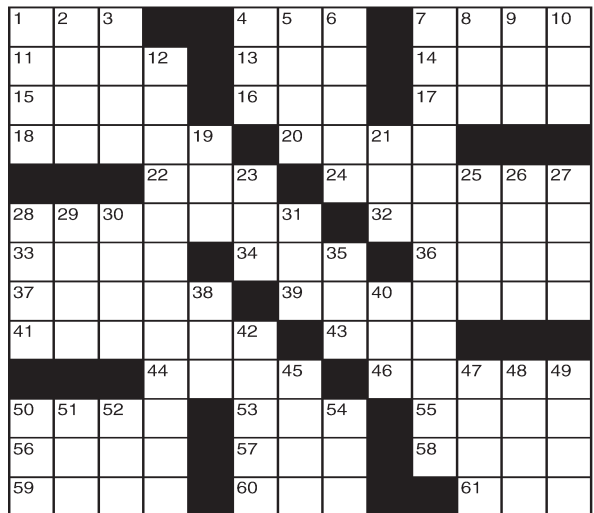
DOWN 1 Couch

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

P I P P I N U S E R E D S T R E A T L A C L A Y A W A Y E N I D A W A S P P E P P E R S L E E V E M E R I T

Saturday's answer 7-24



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