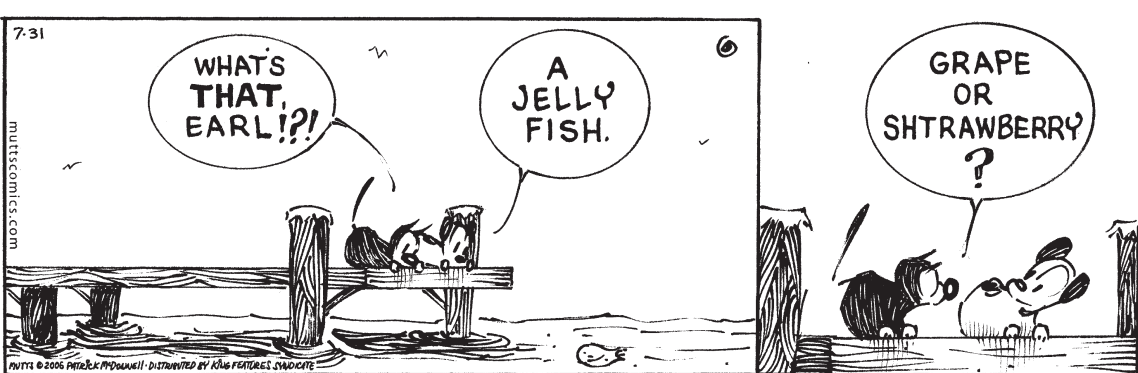


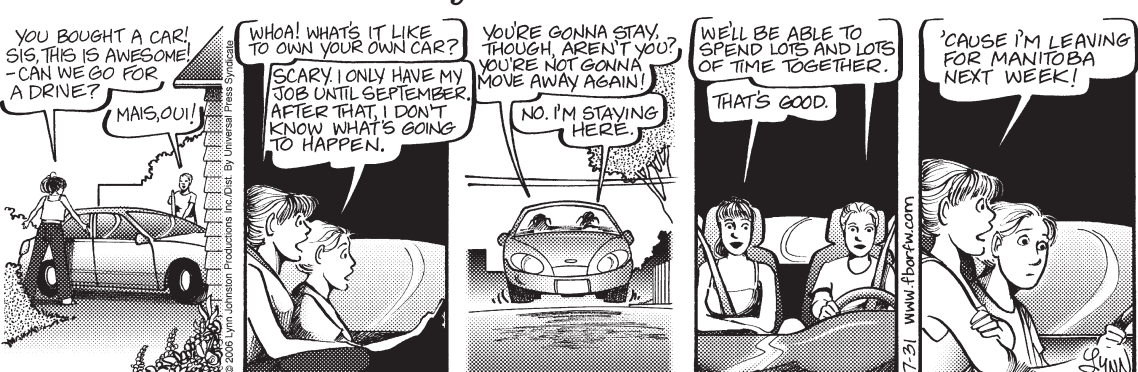
Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



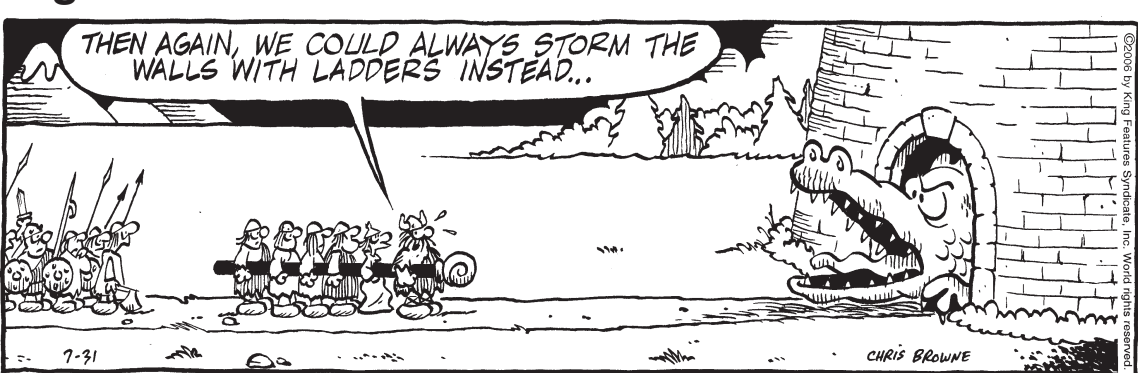
Mutts • Patrick McDonnell



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



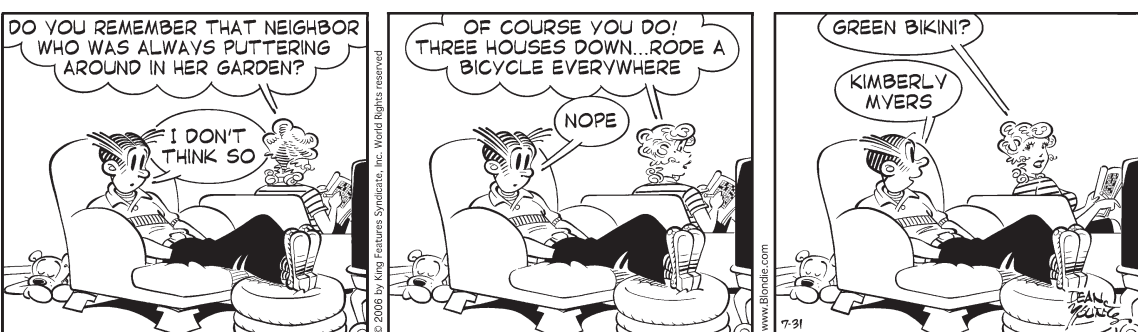
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



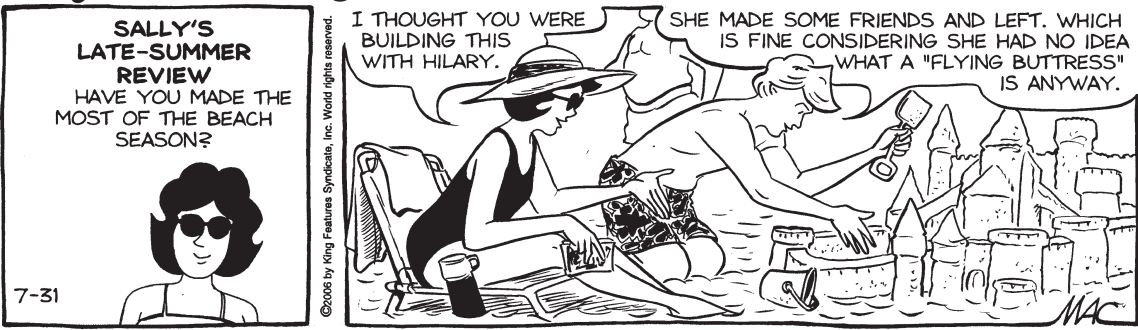
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Mom seeks help to end history of violence

DEAR ABBY: Last week I hit my husband. My daughter saw me do it. My parents were violent when they were drunk, and I swore I would never do that, but it happened.

Abby, can my children forget my mistakes, or are they doomed to keep repeating this violence from generation to generation? Can it stop here if I get proper help? How do I prevent my children from following in my — and my parents' — footsteps in this regard?

— SORRY MOM

DEAR SORRY MOM: Your children are not “doomed.” They can learn better ways to manage their anger, and so can you. Tell your daughter you were wrong to hit her father, and you regret it. Explain that you are going to see a counselor and learn more appropriate ways to deal with your anger and frustration, and that you’ll share what you learn with her and your other children.

Make an appointment with a therapist as soon as possible, and locate the nearest chapter of Adult Children of Alcoholics. (They are in your phone book.) ACA is a 12-step group of people who grew up much as you did. They can help you understand the dynamics of your behavior and assist you in overcoming your learned reaction to problems.

If there’s no listing in your telephone directory, write: Adult Children of Alcoholics World Services Organization, P.O. Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510 for the location of the nearest chapter. You may also go to its Web site: www.adultchildren.org. My compliments to you for acknowledging your problem and seeking assistance. You are two-thirds of the way toward resolving it.

Bridge

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 7 5
♥ A K Q 8 5
♦ K 6 4
♣ 10 9
WEST
♠ 6
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ J 9 7
♣ Q 6 5 4 2
EAST
♠ A 9 8 4 3
♥ 9
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ J 8 7
SOUTH
♠ K Q J 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A Q 10
♣ A K 3
The bidding:
East Pass
South 1 ♣
West Pass
North 2 NT
Pass
South 6 NT
Opening lead — four of clubs.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in a match between the United States and New Zealand at the 1983 World Team Championship.

At the first table, Mike Passell and Eddie Wold, North-South for the U.S., quickly arrived at six notrump on the sequence shown. The New Zealand West led the four of clubs, and declarer won East’s jack with the ace. Wold then lost the king of spades to East’s ace, and East returned the club eight to South’s king. Declarer now cashed the ace of hearts and three spade tricks, on which West discarded his two low clubs and the seven of diamonds, producing this position:

North
[H] K Q 8
[D] K 6 4
West
[H] J 10 4
[D] J 9
[C] Q
East
[S] 9
[D] 8 5 3 2
[C] 7
South
[H] 7 6
[D] A Q 10
[C] 3

Wold next cashed the king and ace of diamonds, West following with the 9-J, and then led the heart six, on which West played the four. At this point, Wold recapitulated everything that had occurred so far. He then came to the conclusion that West had started with exactly five clubs, three diamonds and one spade, and, therefore, four hearts. Accordingly, he played the eight of hearts from dummy and so brought the slam home for a score of 990 points.

At the second table, where the contract and all the preliminary plays leading to the diagrammed position were virtually the same, the New Zealand declarer went up with the king of hearts and finished down one. Apparently, either his courage failed him at the crucial moment or he had not kept close track of the highly significant clues along the way.

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Cryptoquip

I H N T D U H U G Z H T Q E K B

I H H U T V V T N P H X Y J Z, V Y H

E D B Y T X V G V T P H O T K V

J Q T U V J Q E G O H K T V J G Q.

Saturday’s Cryptoquip: ARE WORDS LIKE “WEASEL,” “STOAT” AND “MINK” CONSIDERED ERMINE-LOGY TERMINOLOGY?

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: H equals E



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Honesty pays. I received a call today from a gentleman who had picked up a large cardboard box that I had left at the recycling center.

When he removed the Styrofoam “peanuts” to pack his merchandise, he discovered a large summer sausage from a well-known company. Instead of playing “finders keepers” and enjoying the sausage himself, he took the trouble to look at our address on the packing label and find our telephone number in the directory.

How fortunate for him that he was so ethical! The sausage had been a Christmas gift from 2004, which we had overlooked when we unpacked the box. It sat in a storage area, unrefrigerated, for a year when we decided to recycle. Had he munched on that morsel, he would surely have gotten his “just desserts.”

Instead, he received a nice chocolate fudge cake from us as a reward for his courtesy.

— OVERHASTY RECYCLER

DEAR OVERHASTY: Yes, honesty pays. And the man received a sweet payoff for his virtue. Thank you for relating a morality tale we should all digest.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, after 56 years of marriage, I became a widow. I am only 82. I miss the companionship, but what I miss the most is ballroom dancing. All my

friends are widows, or their husbands are too feeble to dance.

I keep house for my divorced son and teenage grandson. I drive my grandson to school in a carpool, take him to the doctor, the dentist, etc. I am blessed with good health and can travel across the country to visit my daughters and other relatives. I play bridge three or four times a week. I am active in my religious community and have many friends of all ages. I love to read, and I’m never bored or lonely. Abby, what I’m trying to say is: Age is all in the mind.

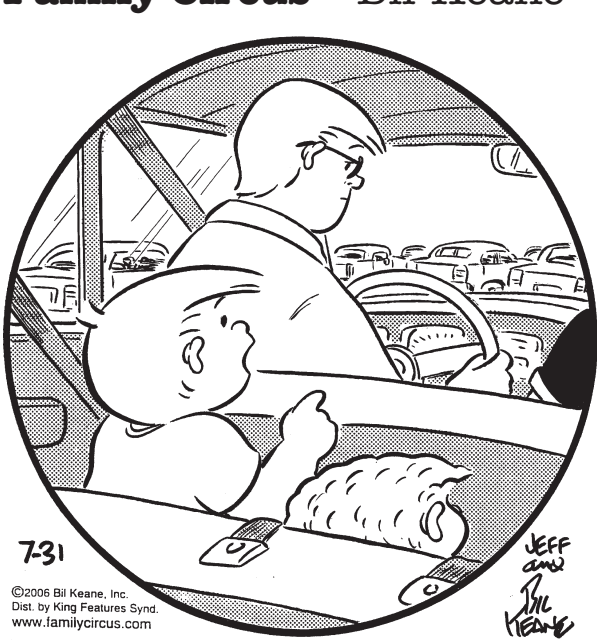
— YOUNG AT HEAR

DEAR YOUNG AT HEART: I agree with you. With your attitude you will never be “old” or lonely.

As to missing ballroom dancing, check your Yellow Pages for dancing schools and sign up for some classes. I knew a lady who went dancing well into her 90s. When she attended events, she would take one (or two!) dancing instructors with her. Where there is a will, there’s a way.

CONFIDENTIAL TO “SHOULD I CONTINUE OR QUIT?”: The answer to your question will be found in this profound statement that originated with Sir Winston Churchill: “To each there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour.” Enroll at your earliest opportunity and complete the preparation to fulfill your dreams.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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www.familycircus.com

“We could float over all the traffic, Daddy, if we filled our tires with helium!”

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Gives permission
5 Meadow
8 Jason's ship
12 Reverb-erate
13 Branch
14 Waikiki winding
15 Herr's mate
16 Takes for granted
18 Ruta-baga's cousin
20 Spry
21 Carey or Barry-more
23 Genetic abbr.
24 Runs the meeting
28 Staffer
31 Performance
32 Hotel accommodation
34 Phone bk. info
35 Track event
37 Fore-shadows
39 Before
41 Easy targets
42 Do to do
45 Public lecture hall
49 Gives
51 Being (Lat.)
52 Ripped
53 Three, to Caesar
54 Scruff of the neck
55 Mast
56 Lair
57 Maid's concern
2 Beige
3 “— she blows!”
4 Aural stimuli
5 Drank like a dog
6 Blunder
7 Congregation's cry
8 Female grad
9 Doing a ballroom dance
10 High-lander
11 River of central England
17 Round Table address
19 Rainbow
22 Dams
24 Standard score
25 — Victor
26 And others
27 Enters on the sly
29 Buck's mate
30 Curvy letter
33 Catch sight of
36 Chalk-board accessory
38 Rise
40 Prior night
42 Makes a decision
43 Har-vester's bounty
44 Okla-homa city
46 Jacob's twin
47 Mail org.
48 Encoun-ter
50 Dead heat

Solution time: 24 mins.

HEAPS RUBBLE
FOURTH INJURED
BUREAU SPRANG
IRON TREE STY
ASTO GAS
ARE KISS SHOO
BIRD IN THE HAND
CORE GROG TEE
ABA UPON
MEN LAMP TRIS
OXTAIL ESCUDO
SILICA REHEEL
STYLES SEEDS

Saturday's answer 7-31

