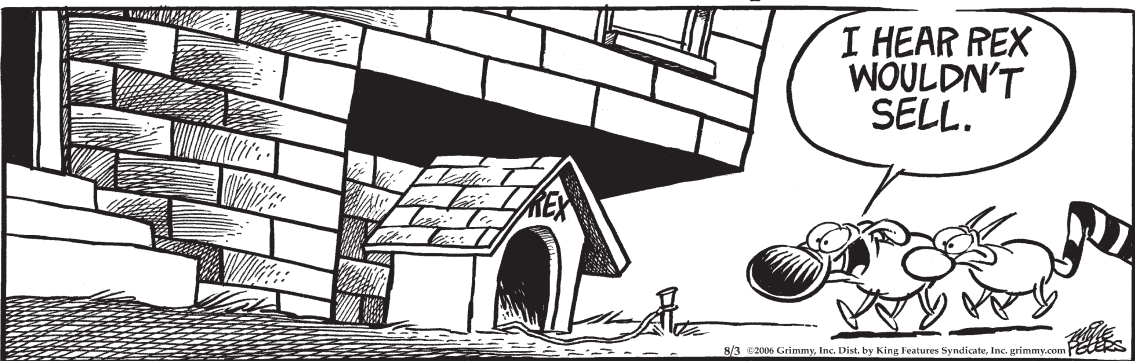
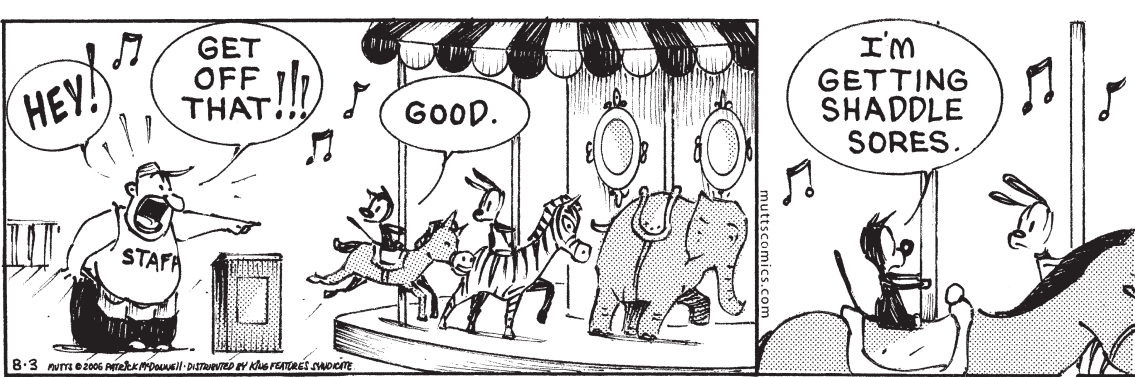


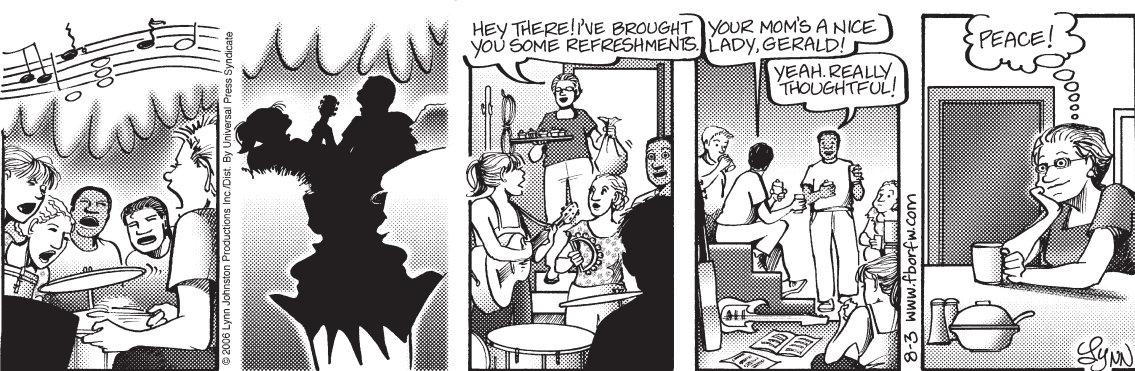
Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



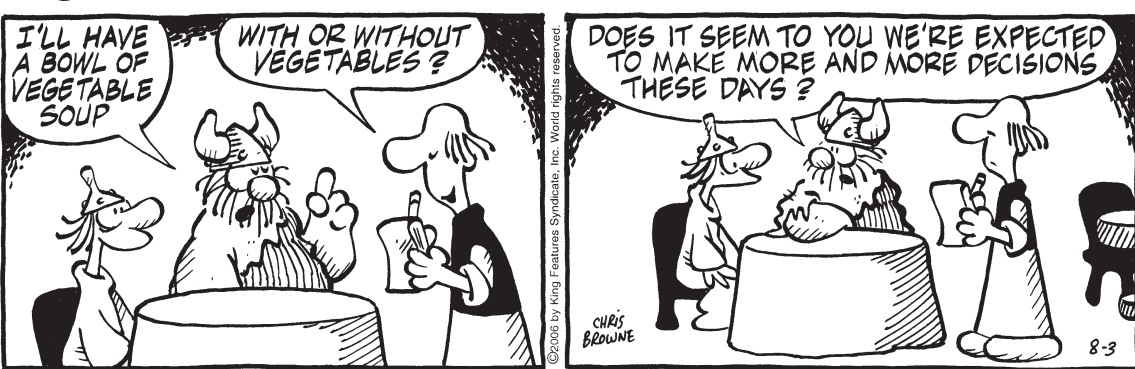
Mutts • Patrick McDonnell



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



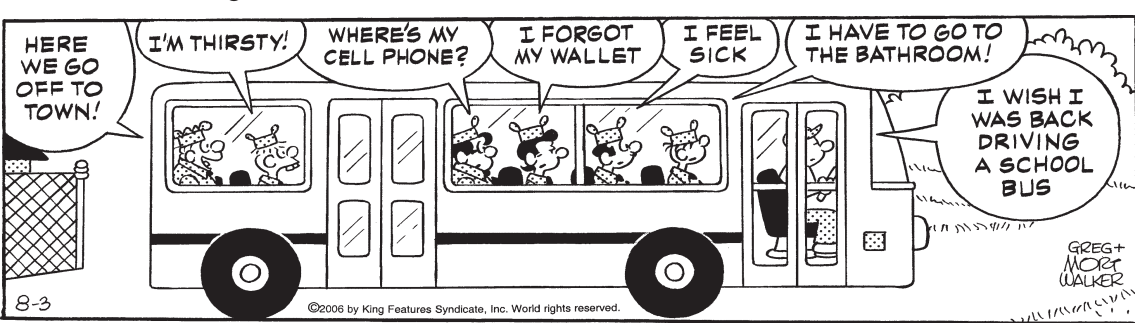
Garfield • Jim Davis



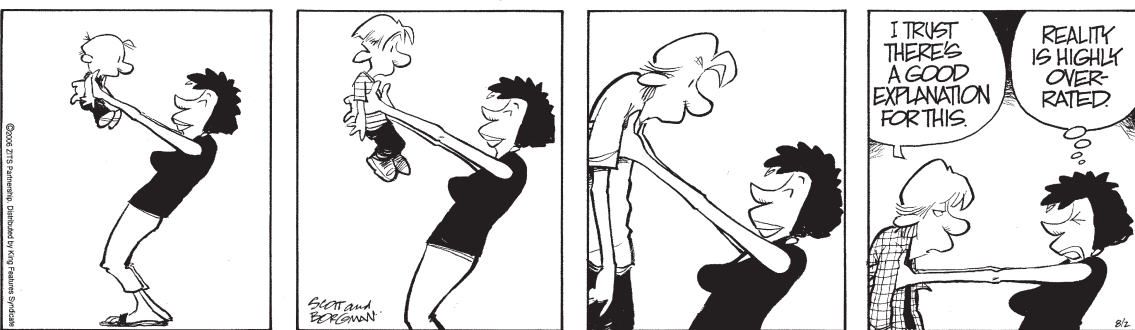
Blondie • Chic Young



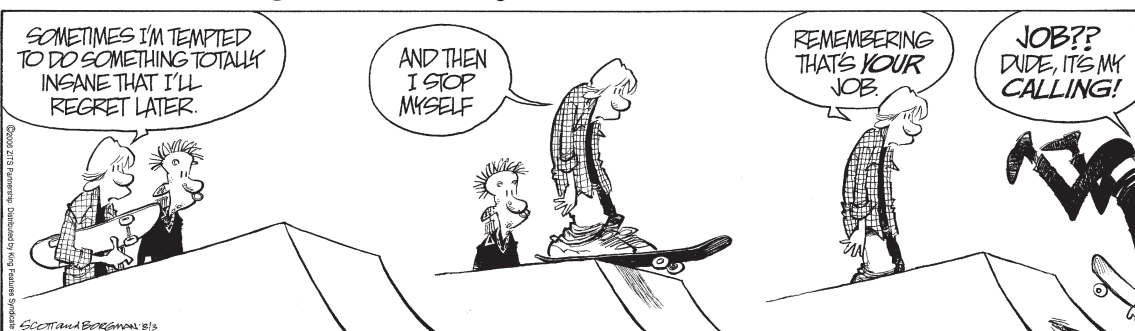
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sibling rivalry turns into unhealthy game

DEAR ABBY: I have never been overly fond of my brother-in-law, "Ivan." He's an obnoxious, overbearing bully, and his wife, "Anita," is envious and deceitful. My husband and I have been married 24 years, and I have tolerated these two because my husband and Ivan were in business together. By the way, my husband is 10 years older than Ivan and has much more business experience.

In their personal lives, Ivan and Anita have gone out of their way to upstage us. We bought a car; they bought a more expensive one. We redecorated our kitchen; they remodeled their whole house. We sold our home and bought a bigger one; they sold theirs and bought a house larger than ours. It became a family joke.

Ivan refused to consult my husband on business matters and purchased so much inventory, we nearly had to file for bankruptcy. Finally, after 13 years, we had enough. We sold our share of the business and have never been happier, nor more successful.

Abby, after putting up with their shenanigans for so many years, I literally hate Ivan and Anita. I know it sounds terrible, but I don't speak to them, and I refuse to be in their presence. Although my husband speaks to them, he doesn't really care for their company either.

The dilemma: I realize it's not fair to the rest of the family that I won't attend family functions if Ivan and Anita are there, but should I make myself miserable for the sake of my husband's family?

— FREE AT LAST IN FAIRBANKS  
DEAR FREE AT LAST: From your description of Ivan and Anita, they are more to be pitied

Bridge

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 8 6 2  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ 9 7 6 4

WEST  
♠ J 10 9 7  
♥ A 7  
♦ J 4 2  
♣ Q 8 3 2

EAST  
♠ Q 3  
♥ 9 6 4 3 2  
♦ Q 10 7 5  
♣ 10 5

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

The bidding:  
South 3 NT West Pass North Pass East Pass  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

The Theory of Probabilities

Bridge is a game of probabilities. You make a certain bid because you think it has a better chance to succeed than any other bid. You make a certain play because you think it is more likely to work than any other play.

But a probability, by definition, is not a certainty. All you can do in bridge is rely on the percentages and hope for the best. You may be wrong in a particular case if you follow the percentages, but in the long run you'll be right more often than wrong.

All of which leads us to this deal, which is strictly a matter of percentages. Let's say you win the spade lead with the king and play the king of hearts. West takes the ace and returns a spade, which you win with the ace.

You have eight certain tricks and two ways to try for a ninth. You can enter dummy with a diamond and take a club finesse. If the jack wins, you are home free. You have about a 50-50 chance of making the contract this way, but in the actual deal this approach would fail.

The alternate line of play is to cash the A-K of clubs and continue with the jack. This method will succeed if the clubs are divided 3-3 or if either the queen or ten falls as the A-K are led. The diamond king provides the en try to dummy if the nine of clubs becomes a trick.

Some knowledge of percentages is required to know which of the two lines of play has the greater chance of success.

The second approach is much better. The clubs will break 3-3 about 36 percent of the time, while a single ton or doubleton queen or ten will occur in approximately one deal out of three.

The combined chance of finding the clubs 3-3 or otherwise favorably divided comes to about 70 percent — 20 percent better than the finesse. Playing the A-K-J of clubs is therefore the superior line of play, and succeeds in the actual deal.

Cryptoquip

Y TS ROKD LHKO LGSOGAO

P Y N O W G P B - S O B T P Y L I

W K O W P G H W T A Y L N A G E L

O R O K D B Y R O Y A I G E A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU KICKED A BAGGAGE CARRIER OUT OF THE COUNTRY, THEN YOU'D BE A PORTER DEPORTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Equals M



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

than hated. Their self-esteem issues are so severe they destroyed a successful family business. You are free now and more successful than ever, so why are you hanging onto your anger this way?

To make your family "choose" which of you to invite to family gatherings is unfair. For the sake of your husband's family, bite the bullet and attend, but concentrate on other family members and avoid Ivan and Anita whenever possible.

DEAR ABBY: Our father died three years ago. He was married to "Mildred," his second wife, for more than 10 years. We weren't close to her. However, we do write occasionally and see her once or twice a year. He left everything to her in his will, which we accept.

Never in all the time since our father died has Mildred offered to give us anything of Dad's. Just something small and personal would be greatly appreciated and treasured. We're not talking about anything of monetary value. Also, there are numerous items such as old family photographs, a few things of my grandmother's, etc. We can't figure out why she would want to keep them, and we feel they should be kept in our family.

We thought that in time, she'd give us these items, so we haven't asked her about them. Perhaps if she

sees this letter she will realize that this means a lot to us. What do you think we should do, Abby? Or should we just ask her?

— HIS CHILDREN  
DEAR CHILDREN: Mildred isn't a mind reader. By all means, ask her. Granted, offering you something that belonged to your father would have been the sensitive thing to do, but she may have been preoccupied by her own grief, or perhaps she didn't think there was anything you wanted. Don't count on her seeing your letter in my column — speak up.

DEAR ABBY: Please tell me if I'm going crazy.

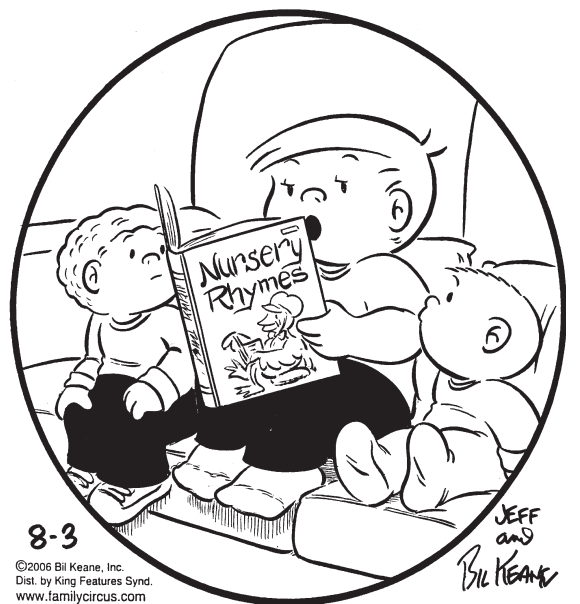
My husband of 30 years recently admitted that he enjoys wearing my undergarments! At first I was shocked, but now I am over it. We went shopping together and bought him several pairs of panties and a couple of nightgowns. He was in seventh heaven.

Our sex life has never been better and we really are enjoying each other — but still I wonder.

— MIXED UP IN FLORIDA  
DEAR MIXED UP: You are not the first wife who has helped her husband cross-dress, and you won't be the last. He is a transvestite — someone who enjoys wearing clothing that is traditionally worn by the opposite sex. Because your sex life has "never been better" and you are "really enjoying each other," my advice is to stop "wondering" and appreciate that after 30 years of marriage your husband finally trusted you enough to show you who he really is.

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

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Hi Diddle Diddle! The Cat and the Fiddle! The Cow jumped over the Space Station...”

Crossword

- |                                    |                                    |                              |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                      | <b>36</b> Aspirin brand            | <b>55</b> Oast               | <b>19</b> Slithery one                     |
| <b>1</b> Big party                 | <b>37</b> "Photograph" singer      | <b>DOWN</b>                  | <b>21</b> Exploit                          |
| <b>5</b> "Mayday!"                 | <b>40</b> Libretto                 | <b>1</b> Brosnan role        | <b>23</b> Minimal                          |
| <b>8</b> Pruritus                  | <b>41</b> TV studio need           | <b>2</b> Vicinity codes      | <b>24</b> Mysterious letter                |
| <b>12</b> Killer whale             | <b>45</b> Be patient               | <b>4</b> Popular food fish   | <b>25</b> Stern topic                      |
| <b>13</b> Name in China's history  | <b>47</b> \$ dispenser             | <b>5</b> Bloodhound's clue   | <b>26</b> Cupid's topic                    |
| <b>14</b> Cherished                | <b>49</b> Teensy bit               | <b>6</b> Scull prop          | <b>27</b> "Now then, where —?"             |
| <b>15</b> Conan of NPR             | <b>50</b> Sandwich treat           | <b>7</b> Witchcraft          | <b>28</b> Edge of a settlement             |
| <b>16</b> Mess up                  | <b>51</b> Caviar, basically        | <b>8</b> That is (Latin)     | <b>32</b> Frank enhancer                   |
| <b>17</b> Comes-tibles             | <b>52</b> Hold the scepter         | <b>9</b> Wonderland social   | <b>33</b> Set aside for a specific purpose |
| <b>18</b> 1973 Elton John hit      | <b>53</b> Hammerstein collaborator | <b>10</b> Grimalkin          | <b>35</b> Carton                           |
| <b>20</b> Point                    | <b>54</b> Coiffures                | <b>11</b> Coll. credit units | <b>36</b> Bikini half                      |
| <b>22</b> Jesse James contemporary |                                    |                              | <b>38</b> Board                            |
| <b>26</b> Terrible                 |                                    |                              | <b>39</b> Pinnacles                        |
| <b>29</b> Prior to                 |                                    |                              | <b>42</b> Needle case                      |
| <b>30</b> Regret                   |                                    |                              | <b>43</b> Rock partner                     |
| <b>31</b> Shopping center          |                                    |                              | <b>44</b> "So be it"                       |
| <b>32</b> Might                    |                                    |                              | <b>45</b> Stir-fry vessel                  |
| <b>33</b> Sicilian spouter         |                                    |                              | <b>46</b> Exist                            |
| <b>34</b> Bear, in Barcelona       |                                    |                              | <b>48</b> Excessively                      |
| <b>35</b> Clear the tables         |                                    |                              |  |

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-3

