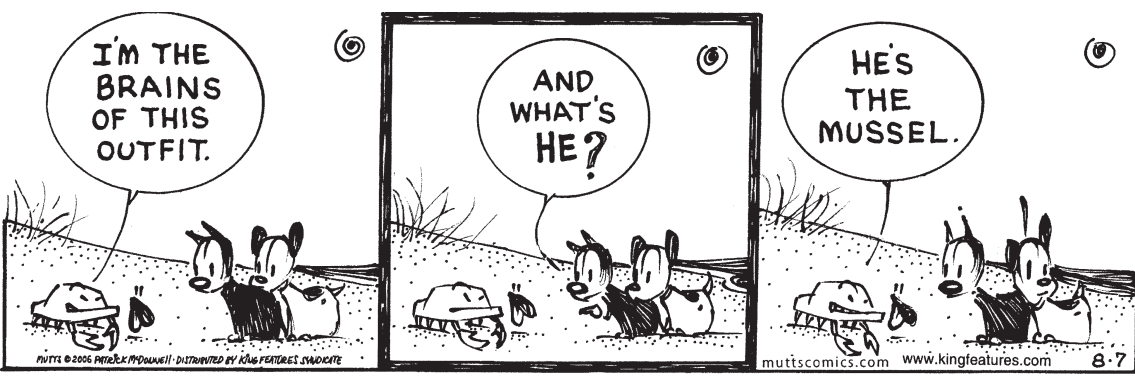


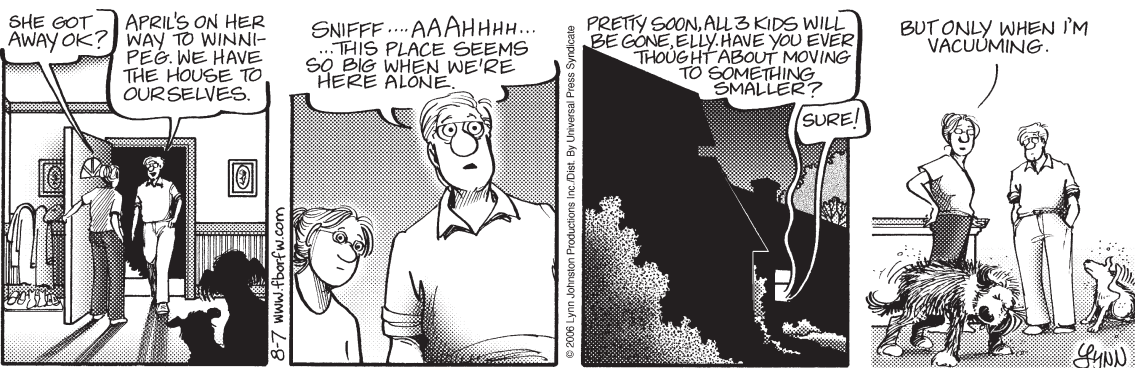
**Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)**



**Mutts • Patrick McDonnell**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



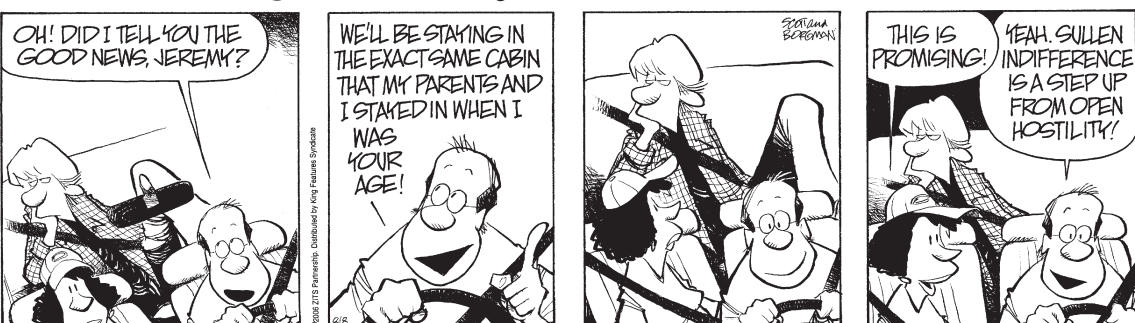
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



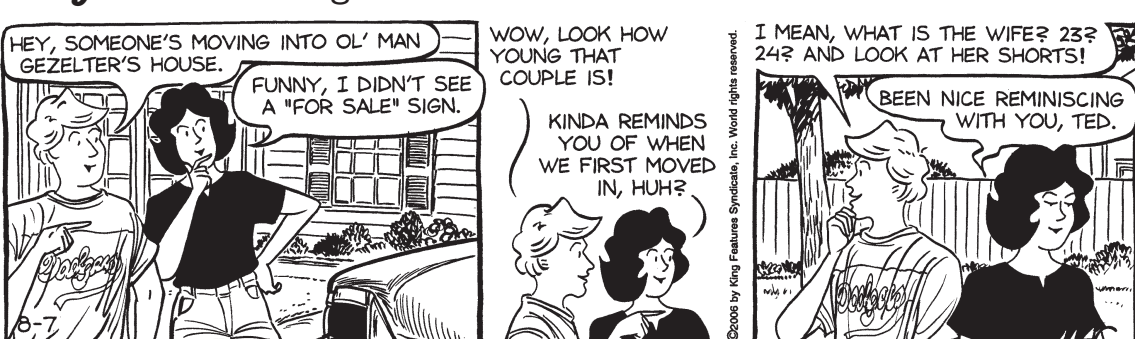
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Mom dumps material woes on daughter**

DEAR ABBY: I am 21 and have a complicated problem. My mother, whom I love very much and who is one of the most wonderful women ever, has, at 41, found herself in a very difficult situation.



**Abigail Van Buren**

Dear Abby

She recently confided to me that her marriage of almost 12 years to my stepfather has been extremely unsatisfactory — especially in the bedroom. He has absolutely no interest in the deed at all, and, as a normal, red-blooded woman, she does.

I suggested they seek professional guidance, but they have yet to do so. To further confuse the situation, Mom has found herself attracted to a 28-year-old co-worker who is also very attracted to her and has made his feelings known.

I am not sure how to advise her about this. On the one hand, it's wrong to have an affair. But on the other hand, you only get one life, and I want her to be happy. Mom is a wonderful woman and deserves everything good in life, and I don't know what to tell her. Please help, Abby.

— IN A HOT SPOT IN TUCSON

**DEAR IN A HOT SPOT:** Your mother may be a "wonderful woman," but it was extremely inappropriate of her to try to involve you in her sex life. Please don't give this your blessing, or the person who will get the blame for it later is YOU.

Tell her again that she needs to resolve this problem with

her husband and a marriage counselor. It's the mature way of handling the kind of problem she's dealing with.

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I are throwing a large 40th anniversary/60th birthday party for my parents and sending them on a trip as our gift to them.

In lieu of gifts, my sister sent out invitations that stated we would instead be graciously accepting donations to help pay for the trip. Because the range of donations will vary from person to person, my sister has decided to give Mother a list detailing the amount given by each guest. She feels that because some folks may go "above and beyond" what others donate, our mother needs to know who the most generous gifts come from.

I am vehemently opposed to the idea. I feel that any donation that helps to pay for the trip is "above and beyond" anyone's obligation, and that their being part of the celebration is enough — regardless of how much they give.

I see no reason for my parents ever to know who gives what, and think that my sister sharing the information is in terrible

taste. Your thoughts, please?  
— EMBARRASSED IN PITTSFORD, N.Y.  
DEAR EMBARRASSED: If the party and trip are a gift from you and your sister, I am mystified as to why the guests are asked to make contributions to foot the bill. I agree that any donation that will help to pay for the trip is above and beyond anyone's "obligation," and for your sister to give your parents an accounting of what each guest forks over would be tacky in the extreme.

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine from work and her family are from Romania. They moved to the United States nine years ago. She, her husband and son have all just become U.S. citizens. I am happy for them and proud to know them.

I would like to get them a gift in celebration, and I'm not sure what would be appropriate. Could you suggest something that you think would work? I'd appreciate any input you would give.

— PROUD OF MY FRIEND, BROWNTOWN, WIS.

**DEAR PROUD:** How about giving them an American flag?

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.  
North-South vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ J 4	♥ Q 7 5 2	♠ 6	♥ A K 4
♦ A K Q 8 4 2	♣ 6	♦ J 10 7 5 3	♣ Q J 8 7
<b>WEST</b>		<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠ K 10 5	♥ 10 9 8	♠ A Q 9 8 7 3 2	♥ J 6 3
♦ 6	♣ K 10 9 5 4 2	♦ 9	♣ A 3

The bidding:  
North 1♦ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass  
2♦ Pass 4♠  
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

Those who consistently perform well at the highest levels of the game certainly are deserving of the reputations they have earned. But the chances are that if you watched a top expert play, you would not be greatly impressed.

The fact is that an expert seldom does anything sensational. His most valuable trait is that he rarely makes a mistake. The ability to play one session after another without erring is his stock in trade, but it does not induce kibitzers to stand up and cheer.

Take this deal from a national championship. South was in four spades, and West led a heart. East took his A-K and returned a heart, won by declarer with the jack. South played the ace of clubs, ruffed a club and cashed the ace of diamonds. Next came the jack of spades, which lost to West's king. When West returned a club, declarer ruffed and easily took the rest.

What did South do that was extraordinary? On the face of it, nothing. He had to lose two hearts and a spade — and he lost them. Yet, upon closer study, South did something really good, and if he hadn't done it, he would have gone down. He made the key play of cashing the ace of diamonds before taking the trump finesse.

Let's say he hadn't done this. Suppose that after he ruffed a club at trick five, he had next led the jack of spades, losing to the king.

West would then have returned a diamond, and the contract would have been lost. South would have been unable to lead from dummy without losing a second trump trick to West's ten, and he would have gone down one. Giant oaks from tiny acorns grow.

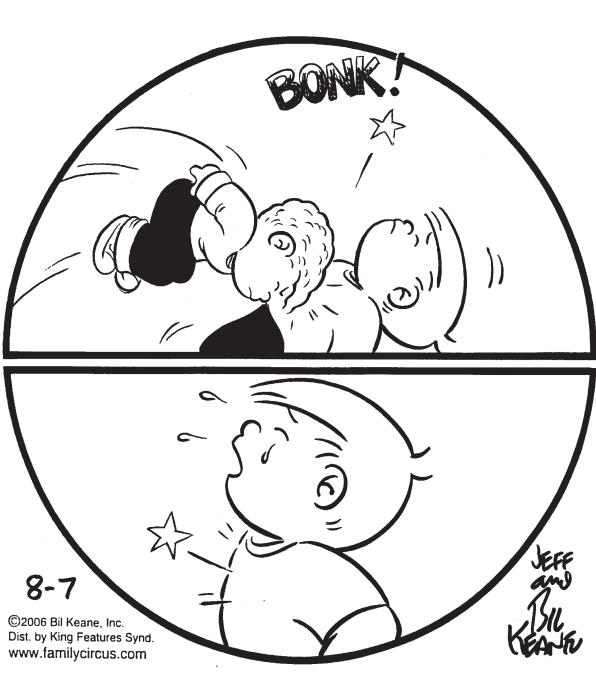
Tomorrow: The delicate art of defense.  
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**Cryptoquip**

H Z J U P W R U X B S W K W A U  
D L P H M H C A W D L P U K H J A J C D M,  
H J L E E U J W D W S U L M X

K W C M M B R W P U K A - H Z H W X.  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PERSON'S JOB IS JUST PHYSICAL LABOR, WOULD YOU SAY THAT HE EARNS A MANUAL INCOME?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals E

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



8-7  
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www.familycircus.com

**Crossword**

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>35</b> Cabbie	<b>3</b> Hallow- een mo.	<b>20</b> Cee follower
<b>1</b> Former Surgeon General C. Everett	<b>36</b> Take the wheel	<b>4</b> Intro- duced by stages	<b>21</b> Monster Caution
<b>5</b> Insult, slangily	<b>37</b> Got smaller	<b>5</b> Willy Wonka's creator	<b>22</b> Opine Eccentric one
<b>8</b> Informa- tion	<b>40</b> Pond carp	<b>6</b> Judge Lance	<b>26</b> Story Put your foot in it
<b>12</b> Partially formed	<b>41</b> Lummo x	<b>7</b> Erstwhile private	<b>27</b> Cereal choice
<b>14</b> Portent	<b>42</b> Gilbert & Sullivan's ship	<b>8</b> Tame	<b>31</b> Half a yr. before
<b>15</b> Figure of speech	<b>47</b> Oil-cartel acronym	<b>9</b> Andy's pal	<b>3-D</b> Down 3-D
<b>16</b> Rooster	<b>48</b> Covers partially	<b>10</b> Georgia or Cal	<b>33</b> Hut's roof material
<b>17</b> "My Gal —"	<b>49</b> Desire	<b>11</b> "Puppy Love"	<b>34</b> Suffocate
<b>18</b> Oriental entertainer	<b>50</b> Golf prop	<b>13</b> Milky gemstone	<b>36</b> Fly like the eagles
<b>20</b> Wooden rod	<b>51</b> Supple- ments, with "out"	<b>19</b> Model Macpher- son	<b>37</b> Plodding
<b>23</b> Narrate	<b>1</b> Kipling title	<b>2</b> Indivisible	<b>38</b> Kachina worship- per
<b>24</b> "Zounds!"	<b>2</b> Indivisible		<b>39</b> Regrets
<b>25</b> Alpine cottages			<b>40</b> Foot- baller's sore spot
<b>28</b> Make a mistake			<b>43</b> "— Got a Secret"
<b>29</b> Salty solution			<b>44</b> Acorn, in the future
<b>30</b> Discover- er's cry			<b>45</b> Deli bread
<b>32</b> Competi- tor			<b>46</b> Curvy letter
<b>34</b> Feed the hogs			

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 8-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15								16			
			17				18	19			
20	21	22				23					
24						25			26	27	
28						29			30	31	
			32			33			34		
			35					36			
37	38	39						40			
41						42	43		44	45	46
47						48					
49						50			51		