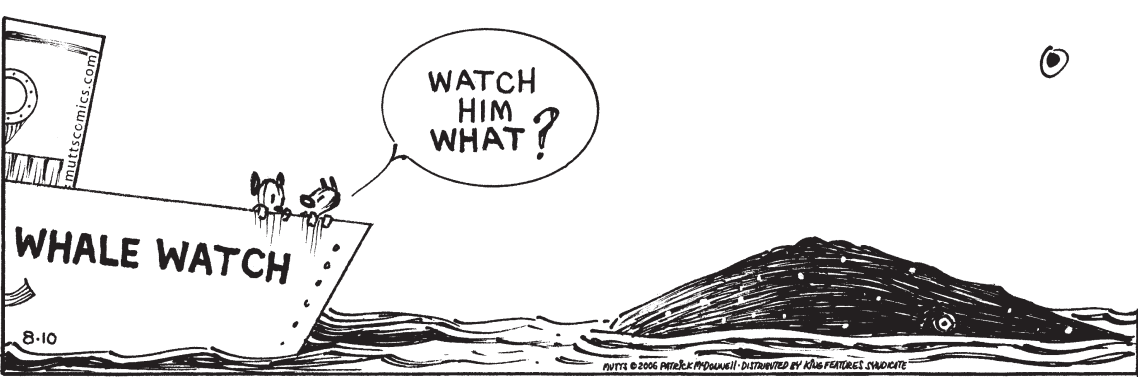


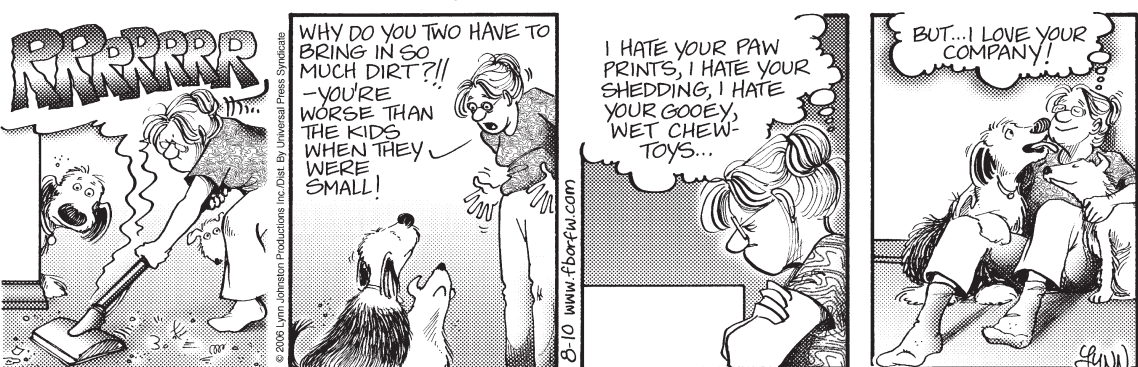
Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



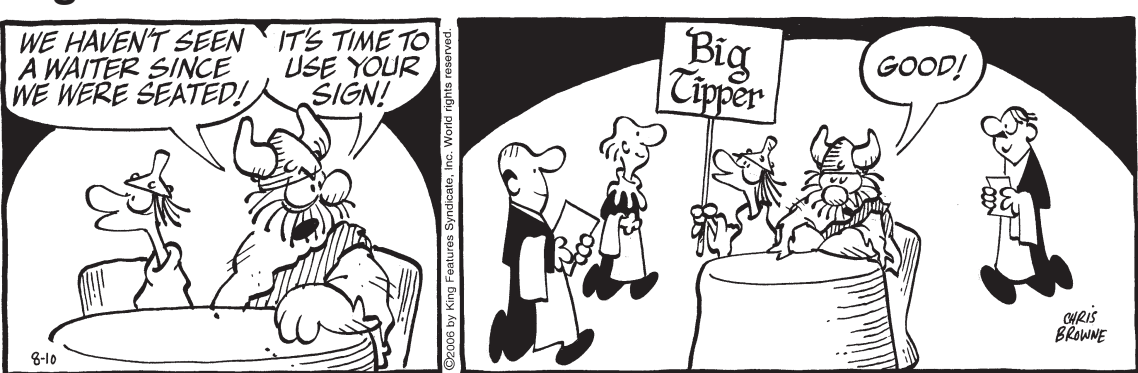
Mutts • Patrick McDonnell



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



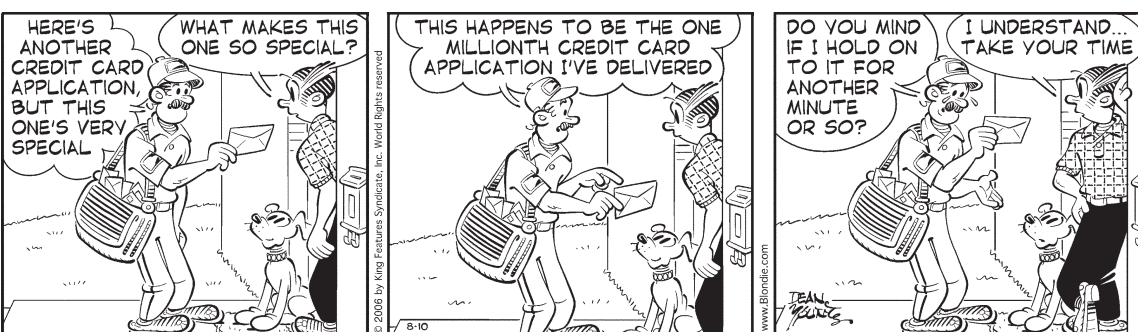
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



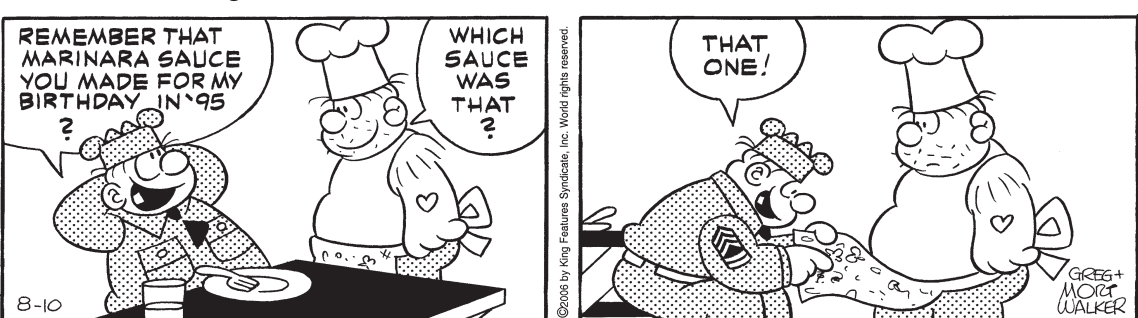
Garfield • Jim Davis



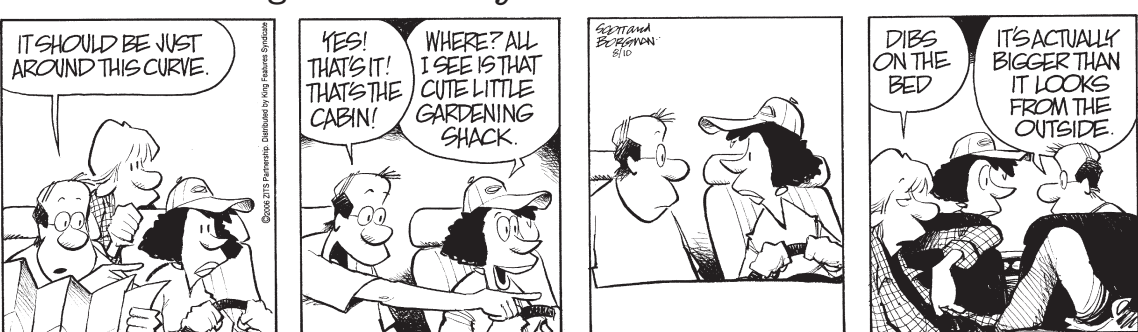
Blondie • Chic Young



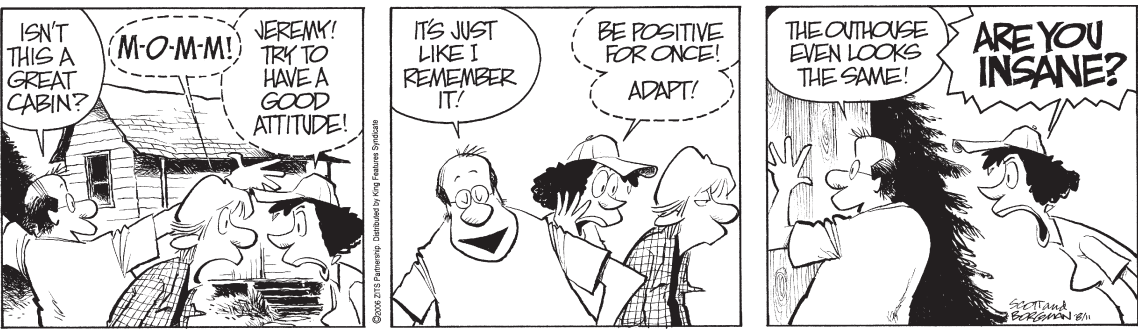
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Abuser's apology is manipulation

DEAR ABBY: "Distraught in New Jersey" (7/12), who stated that he was in an abusive relationship for about a year," made himself sound more like the victim than the perpetrator of domestic violence. His comment that he "enrolled in an anger management class" after being arrested for domestic violence also reflects a lack of personal responsibility for his crime. Perpetrators rarely, if ever, voluntarily "enroll" in such programs. They are mandated by the courts.

I also take exception to his use of the term "anger management." Spousal abuse has little to do with stress or anger, and everything to do with significant character flaws and psychopathology. I should note that such men rarely beat anyone but their wives and girlfriends. If their aggression was rooted only in "anger," the violence would be directed at everyone.

The abuser's statement that he wants to personally contact and apologize to his victim, who had a restraining order issued against him, also reflects his denial and manipulative qualities. Battered women seek restraining orders against their assailants because they want protection, not apologies. Restraining orders are also a means by which a victim tells her batterer that the relationship is over.

Domestic violence perpetrators are cunning and often use treatment as a means of manipulating their victims back into a relationship.

"Distraught in New Jersey" needs to understand that the completion of a program, even when the restraining order has expired, does not give him the right to contact the woman he previously victimized. If he does, he could once again find himself in the slammer.

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♦	6 3	♠	A Q
♥	A Q	♠	K J 10
♦	K J 10	♠	A K J 10 5 2
♠	A K J 10 5 2	♠	9 7 4
♥	10 7 6 5 2	♥	10 7 6 5 2
♦	8 6 4	♥	8 6 4
♠	9 6	♥	9 6
SOUTH			
♦	K 10 5	♠	A Q J 8 2
♥	J 8 3	♥	K 9 4
♦	Q 9 7 2	♠	A 5 3
♠	Q 4 3	♥	8 7

The bidding:
East 1 ♠ South Pass West Pass North Dble
Pass 1 NT Pass Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — nine of spades.

Looking Far Into the Future

The key to success in many deals lies in visualizing what the situation will be after, say, nine or 10 tricks have been played.

This is not as difficult as it might seem. To illustrate, consider this deal where South is in three notrump.

Declarer allows East's jack of spades to hold the first trick, and East then exits with the ace and another spade to the king, dummy discarding a diamond. At this point, South can count eight top tricks — six clubs, a heart and the spade already won.

In other circumstances, declarer might try driving out the ace of diamonds or attempt a heart finesse to develop his ninth trick. But either approach would be foolish here because East is virtually certain to hold both the king of hearts and ace of diamonds for his opening bid. A trick for East in either of these suits, plus his remaining spades, would spell immediate defeat for declarer.

However, the fact that East is marked with these cards can be used against him. With three tricks already played, South should try to picture what East's hand will consist of after six rounds of clubs have been cashed, reducing everyone to four cards.

Since East has to keep a guard for the king of hearts, his last four cards will be the K-x of hearts, the ace of diamonds and a spade, in which case the contract cannot be defeated.

Declarer therefore cashes all six clubs, East discarding two diamonds, a heart and a spade. Dummy's remaining cards are the A-Q of hearts and K-J of diamonds. A diamond is now led.

East wins with the ace and cashes his good spade, but is then compelled to concede the last two tricks to dummy's ace of hearts and king of diamonds, giving South his game.

Cryptoquip

XJ OVQYJ V IVIG'J KVND

ASP LT OVGZDQGXYKY

KSSNDI, WRJ JADT AXI

WDZRG ZQSPVGZ SG LD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN APE LOOKS SIGNIFICANTLY LIKE HIS DADDY, HE MIGHT BE A CHIMP OFF THE OLD BLOCK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals N



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

— MICHAEL GROETSCH, PROBATION OFFICER, NEW ORLEANS MUNICIPAL COURT

DEAR MICHAEL: Your letter is important, and thank you for writing it as a wake-up call not only to perpetrators of domestic violence, but to victims as well. As you so aptly stated, domestic violence is not about the inability to control one's temper; it is about control over the victim. In the case of "Distraught in New Jersey," if he succeeds in contacting his victim "to apologize," he will be in violation of the terms of his restraining order, and if he does so after it expires, he could be arrested for trespassing or stalking. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Speaking as a criminal defense attorney who handles domestic violence cases on a regular basis, I must warn "Distraught in New Jersey" not to contact his victim!

The police and the courts take these orders very seriously. If "Distraught" — or any other reader, for that matter — is the defendant in a restraining order, he should have not contact in any way, shape or form, with the plaintiff, or he stands a very real chance of being charged criminally.

I have had clients charged for doing something so simple as sending

a birthday card, or merely being present at the same high school graduation, as the person who holds the order. Is this unfair? Perhaps, but it is the law and must be obeyed.

So, "Distraught" should complete his counseling, obey the order, and realize the best apology is letting his former girlfriend get on with her life.

— CHRISTOPHER S. TODD, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

DEAR CHRISTOPHER: I couldn't agree more.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wonderful, intelligent man who is in his 50s. I am 42. We have been talking about marriage after dating only a few short months.

The problem is his incessant phone calls, sometimes up to 20 or 30 a day. If I don't answer, he calls repeatedly until I do.

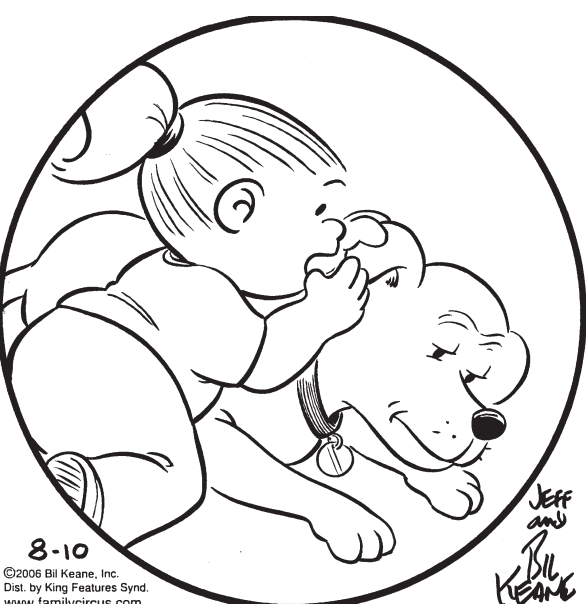
Abby, I have told him repeatedly that I hate being called at work so many times, but he continues. Is he obsessive, or is it love like he says?

— BUGGED BEYOND BELIEF, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILL.

DEAR BUGGED BEYOND BELIEF: What you have described is not love; it's insecurity. This "wonderful, intelligent man" is not only obsessive, but also so absorbed with his own needs that he has no concept of what yours are — even after being told. The incessant phone calls at work and his premature marriage proposal are both warning signs that you could be involved with a potential abuser. I urge you to step back and look at him from a different perspective before making any commitments.

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

Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-10
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Crossword

ACROSS	39 Pouch	DOWN	20 With it
1 Energy	41 Born	1 Spot on a domino	21 Expectorate
4 Angelic strings	42 Reason for a patch	2 Historic period	22 London gallery
8 Apparel	44 Rouse	3 Scaly anteater	23 Apprehend
12 401(k) alternative	46 Cheops' structure	4 Wasp's kin	27 Nitrogen, for one
13 Medley	50 Scrooge's call	5 Carte lead-in	29 Temple to the gods
14 Emanation	51 Crazy one	6 Lens holders	30 Out of the wind
15 Grand view	52 Slender cigar	7 Steal game	31 Crystal gazer
17 Picture of health?	56 Enthusiastic, plus	8 Urban carrier	33 Odd
18 Card-table call	57 Verve tool	9 "Yours, Mine and —"	35 Sweet potato
19 Separations	58 Scull	10 About 0.035 ounce	38 Yon bloke
21 Hot	59 Appellation	11 Emulates Simon?	40 Marianao populace
24 Toper's word	60 Collections	16 Lubricant	43 They're calling Danny Boy
25 Crony	61 Big Apple abbr.		45 Took a meeting
26 Play-ground game			46 Blueprint
28 Half a 1960s quartet			47 Guru's discipline
32 "How sweet —!"			48 Leeway
34 Inlet			49 Chip's partner
36 Hay block			53 — "King" Cole
37 Last Commandment			54 Deposit
			55 Circle piece

Yesterday's answer 8-10

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
32			33		34		35		36	
37				38		39		40		41
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	