

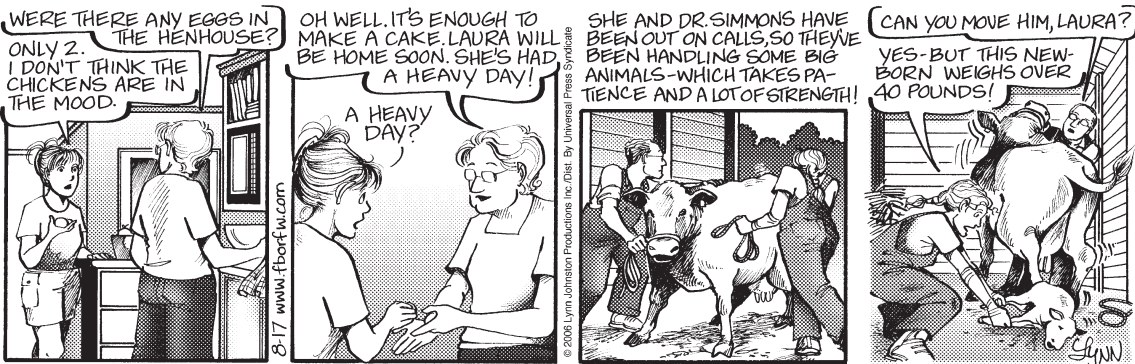
**Mother Goose & Grim** • Mike Peters (Sample)



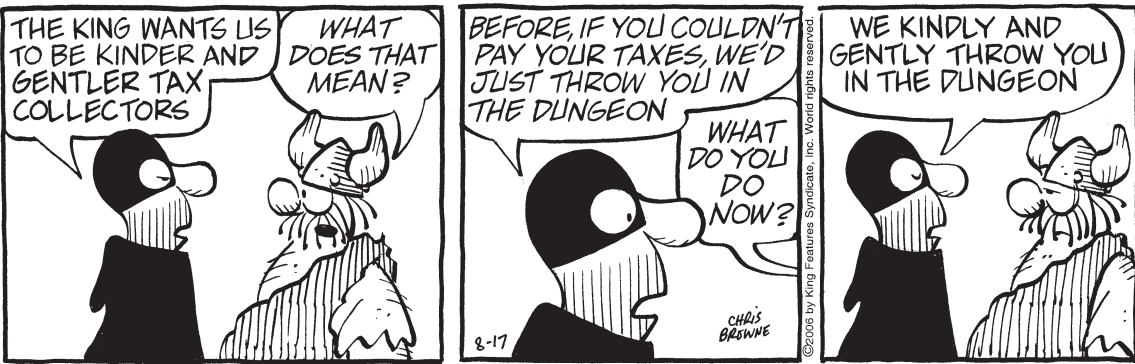
**Mutts** • Patrick McDonnell



**For Better or Worse** • Lynn Johnston



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



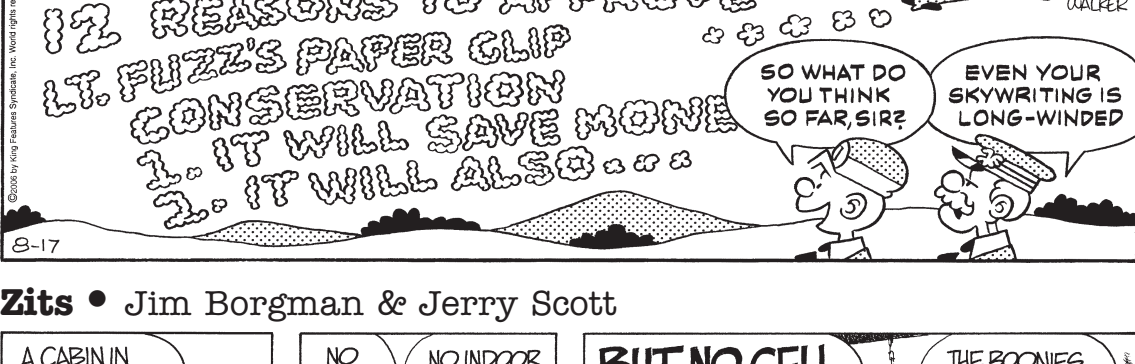
**Garfield** • Jim Davis



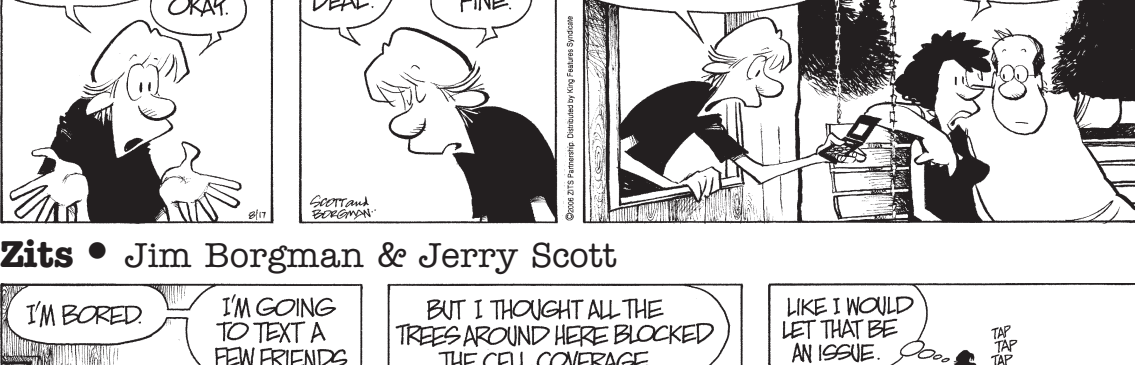
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Some honor dead in different ways**

DEAR ABBY: In response to "Wondering in Eau Claire, Wis." (June 5), who asked about proper attire at funerals: In modern times black is generally the approved color for mourning, white caskets are still customary for children, and purple is used to designate death and mourning for royalty and many Christian groups.



**Abigail Van Buren**

Dear Abby

hospital, I wore a blue silk dress. His last words to me were, "You look so beautiful in that dress! I love you." He passed nine days before his 61st birthday, and I wore the blue silk dress to his funeral. I still treasure it.

— LOVE IS BLUE" IN CALIFORNIA

However, in medieval times it was believed that black should be worn to funerals so that the spirit of the deceased couldn't recognize the family or friends and follow them home.

My opinion: Wear any color you choose, as long as you go.

— R.G.K., FUNERAL DIRECTOR, GREENVILLE, TENN.

DEAR R.G.K.: I couldn't wait to share your tidbit about the origin of the tradition of wearing black at funerals. It reminds me of another tradition from the Middle Ages — saying "God bless you!" when someone sneezes because it was believed that when one sneezed, the soul left the body and could be "snatched" by an evil spirit. And bless my readers for sharing the choices about what they wore at the funerals of their loved ones:

DEAR ABBY: When my mother passed away a year ago, I couldn't bring myself to wear a somber color to her funeral. I wore an ivory pantsuit. Wearing a color other than black or gray helped me get through that already more than somber day.

— WENDY IN VICTORVILLE, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: My brother, Dave, often wore bright Aloha (Hawaiian) shirts. When he died at 55, we buried him in one. A few hours before

his funeral, one of his daughters mentioned that she had considered wearing an Aloha shirt to the service. She almost didn't mention it for fear of offending someone. But Dave's wife, his other daughters and I all agreed — we had to wear Aloha shirts.

We tried to get the word out, but reached only a portion of the attendees. Half the guests wore Aloha shirts.

Anyone who knew my brother understood we were honoring him by breaking with tradition.

My one regret was that we didn't contact the minister. He later assured us that if we had thought to call him, he would have worn one, too.

— CRAIG C., ORLANDO, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: These days, hardly anyone wears black to funerals. I have attended five funerals over the past year or so. Three were for bikers, and their friends came dressed accordingly. Also, my religion dictates that at funerals, one should wear green or sage, as those are the colors associated with the crossing over of the spirit.

— KRISTI, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: That letter brought back a vivid memory for me. My father died of lung cancer in 1987. The last time I visited him at the

DEAR ABBY: When my husband died after a debilitating illness, I asked all family members to wear white to celebrate his release from a long, sad illness. Here in Alabama, many funerals are celebrations of the beginning of a new and better life. People wear clothes of many colors. Their respect and care for the family are demonstrated by their presence at the funeral.

— ROSEMARY IN MOBILE, ALA.

DEAR ABBY: After my father's funeral, I could tell you who was there, but not what one single person was wearing. Sometimes what you wear doesn't matter. The respect people show outweighs everything else.

— LINDAT., HARRISON, N.Y.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447.

**Bridge**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 3  
♥ A 9 8 5  
♦ 10 8 2  
♣ A K Q J 3

**WEST**  
♠ 2  
♥ Q 7 4  
♦ K 7 6 5 4  
♣ 9 7 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 9  
♥ J 6 3 2  
♦ A Q 9 3  
♣ 10 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 10 8 7 6 5 4  
♥ K 10  
♦ J  
♣ 8

The bidding:  
North 1 ♠ East Pass South 4 NT West Pass  
North 5 ♥ East Pass South 6 ♣ West Pass

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

**Two Wrongs Make a Right**

The Blackwood convention, correctly used, is extremely valuable in bidding or avoiding slams. It is especially important in hands where the number of aces is the key to how many tricks can be made. Assume you're South in this deal, taken from a tournament, and partner opens one club. The question of whether there's a slam depends almost entirely on how many aces partner has.

Without Blackwood — or a similar convention — you'd be totally in the dark as to how high to go. North could have an 18-point hand containing one ace, or might have a 13-point hand containing three aces. In the latter case, you'd make a grand slam; in the former case, your limit would be 11 tricks.

It therefore makes perfect sense to find out exactly where you stand by using Blackwood directly over one club. In the actual case, partner responds five hearts, indicating two aces, so you quickly put an end to the proceedings by bidding six spades, knowing that the opponents hold one ace.

That's how the auction went at most tables where six spades was reached. But at one table where the bidding began this way, North decided to try for a top score by bidding six notrump over six spades.

East led the ace of diamonds, continued with the three after West signaled with the seven, and North went down three, losing 300 points.

It was only after the play ended that North-South realized East had led out of turn. South had bid notrump first, so West should have made the opening lead.

If South had realized that East's diamond lead was out of turn, he could then, as declarer, have prohibited West from leading a diamond. In that case, South would have made seven notrump, and North would have had his top score.

**Cryptoquip**

MDLSR VLUAY YP QDTLQD

PS APID AFBUGKLSR

PUSBIDSYBK MLYA, L EBQ

YED FLTG PV YED RKLYYDU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY CONTINUALLY STRETCHES OUT HIS ARM, I GUESS HE MIGHT BE A REACHER OF HABIT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"I'm thirsty."

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Loosen  
5 Center  
8 Undergo ecidysis  
12 New Mexico art colony  
13 Historic period  
14 Relinquish  
15 On  
16 Pismire  
17 Latest fashion  
18 Awful  
20 Like parkas  
22 Greek H  
23 The whole enchilada  
24 Wan  
27 Chess maneuver  
32 Bill's partner  
33 Showtime alternative  
34 Conventional grad, likely

**DOWN**

9 Banner  
10 Advantage  
11 Act  
19 Tag player  
21 Bran source  
24 Expert  
25 Heir, often  
26 63 gallons  
28 Honest politician  
29 Grump  
30 Gist  
31 Wildebeest  
36 Van Gogh painting  
37 "Smoking or —?"  
38 Fanatical one  
41 Lindbergh book  
42 Clothing protectors  
43 Beige  
44 Apply crudely  
46 Mature  
47 Wittedness  
48 Casks  
51 Omega precursor

38 Humpshoudered ox of India  
39 "No seats"  
40 Lamb's mama  
42 Trailing  
45 "Citizen Kane" alliance  
49 Bumps off  
50 Gorilla  
52 Stead  
53 Highland hillside  
54 World Cup contender  
55 Tourney format  
56 Lather

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

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				52		
53				54					55		
56				57					58		