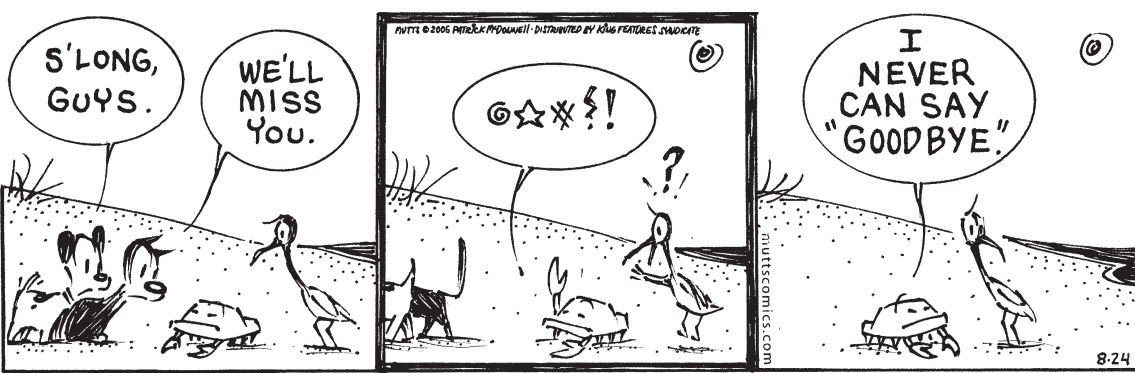


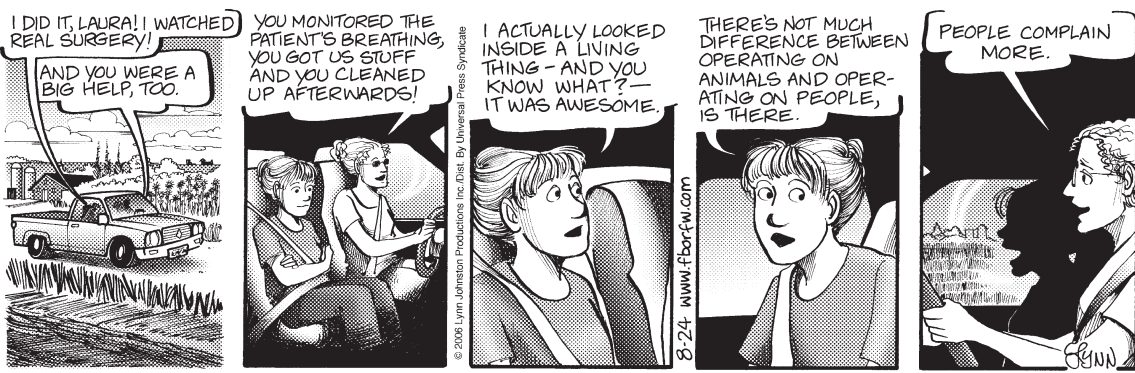
**Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)**



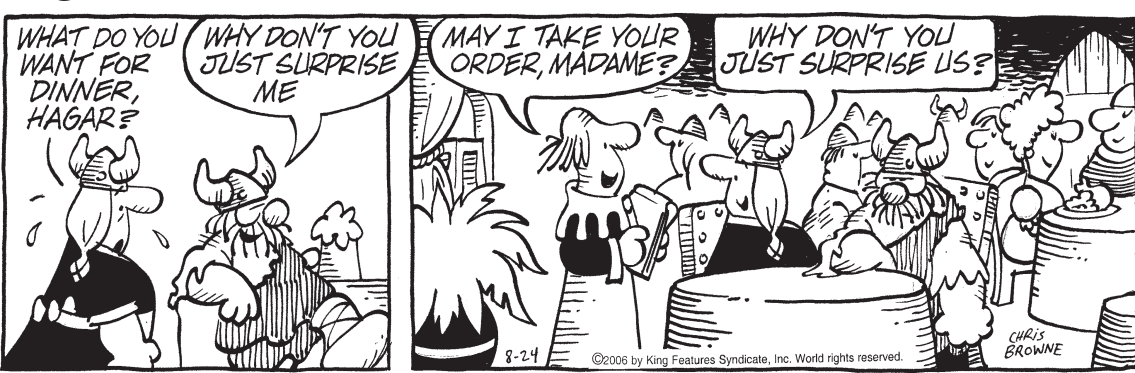
**Mutts • Patrick McDonnell**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



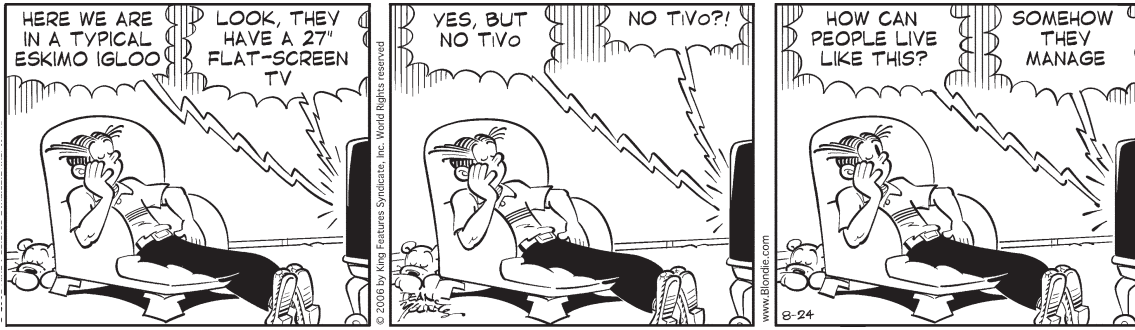
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



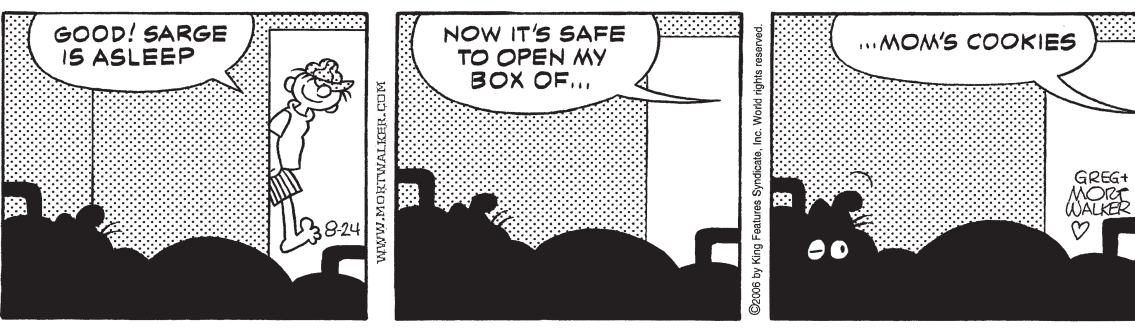
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



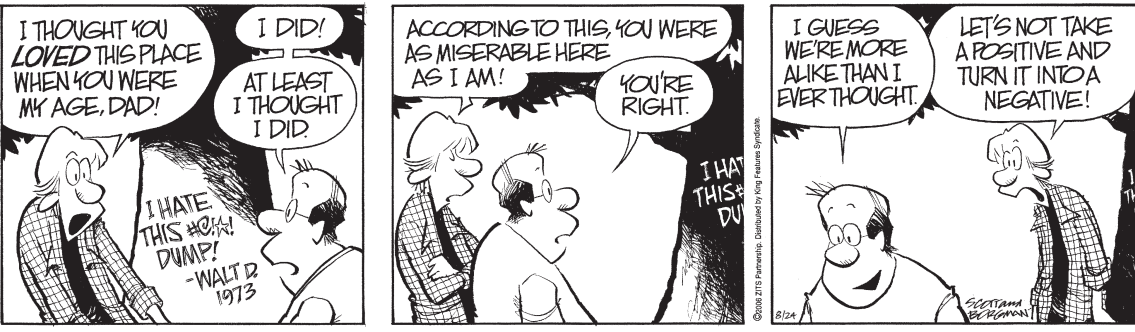
**Blondie • Chic Young**



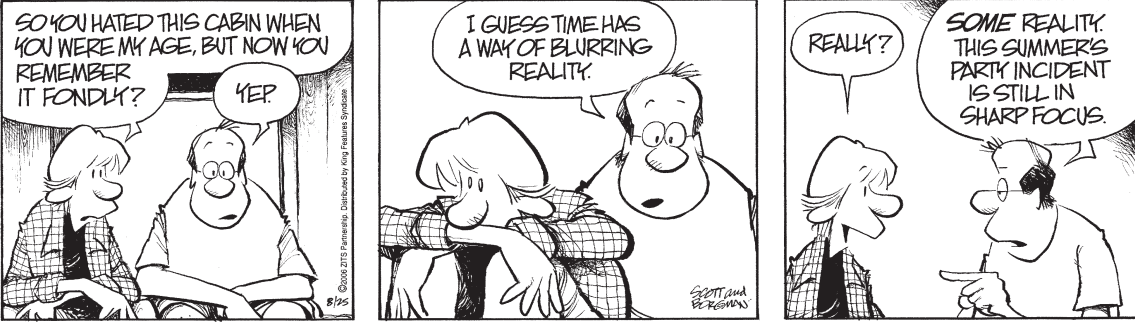
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



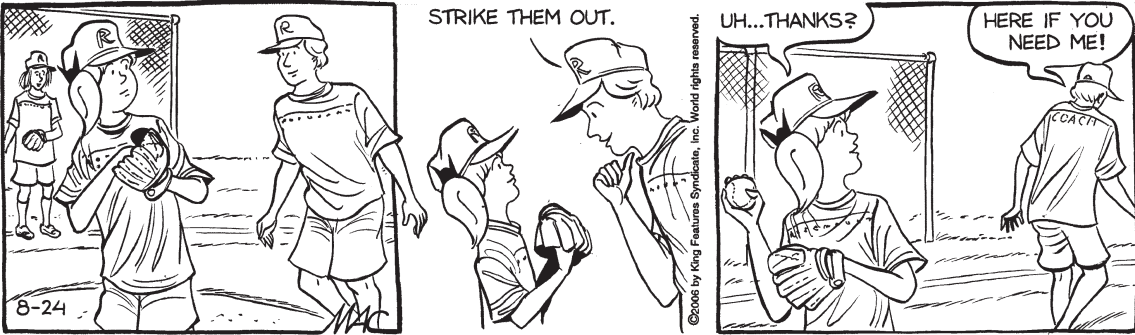
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Accidental mom does not like parenting**

DEAR ABBY: I'm 26 and have never wanted children. Last year, however, two lines appeared on a pregnancy test and 41 weeks later the girl was born. I pleaded and begged my husband throughout the pregnancy to sign adoption papers with me. He refused. He is in the military and was gone through most of the last seven months. We now live thousands of miles from my family, and I am miserable, stuck with a colicky baby who still doesn't sleep through the night.



**Abigail Van Buren**

Dear Abby

I find no joy, no pleasure and no love being a mother. I can't sleep knowing I must wake up to a crying baby and the same routine of feeding, diapers, baths and bottles.

I have become more and more detached from the girl and have nothing to enjoy. Showers are short. Dinners are rushed and usually cold. I can't even enjoy a cup of coffee without looking over my shoulder to see where the girl is.

I don't want her to touch me, and I can barely hide my revulsion when I have to pick her up.

I am exhausted beyond belief, and my thoughts are turning darker every day. It's not the girl's fault she was born, but I can't help feeling resentment and anger toward this little person who more and more resembles a block of concrete on my feet.

We can't afford day care, and we have no friends or relatives remotely close by. I can't stand to wake up much longer, and these long stretches of crying have my nerves shot and my hands itching to shake the girl until she shuts up. (I have never shaken her.)

I'm scared of my feelings. What's wrong with me? Why can't I love my child? Should I put her in foster care? My husband can't stand her, either, but he's adamant that we keep her. Yet I'm suffering, and so is she. She deserves a mother who loves her.

— GOING CRAZY IN SAN DIEGO

**DEAR GOING CRAZY: It is not a crime not to feel maternal — not everyone is. In a case like yours, adoption might have been the better option. I wish you had included your name, address or a phone number so I could have contacted you directly.**

**Because you didn't, I can only recommend that before another day goes by, you contact the doctor who delivered your daughter, or her pediatrician, and repeat what you have told me.**

**You may be suffering from post-partum depression, a hormonal condition that is treatable, and you may need a respite from motherhood.**

**Once your chemistry is balanced again, consider making a trip to visit your family for a few weeks. If you leave the baby with your husband, and he must assume responsibility for her care in your absence, he may begin to**

see the wisdom of placing her with a family who really wants her and is willing to accept the responsibility that goes along with having a baby. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl and a senior in high school this year. I don't have many friends because I have never been part of the "in" crowd, so I am very grateful for the few true friends I have. In particular, I appreciate my friendship with an older man whom I met through my local youth group.

He has been my friend and mentor throughout my high school years, and I would like to do something to show my appreciation for his friendship.

What would be an appropriate way to thank him for being my friend and role model?

— THANKFUL FOR FRIENDSHIP IN SAN FRANCISCO

**DEAR THANKFUL: An excellent way to show your appreciation would be to write him a letter telling him what a difference his caring and friendship have made in your life during these important years. It will be something he can keep and enjoy over and over again for a lifetime.**

*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.

**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 4NT 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, 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.

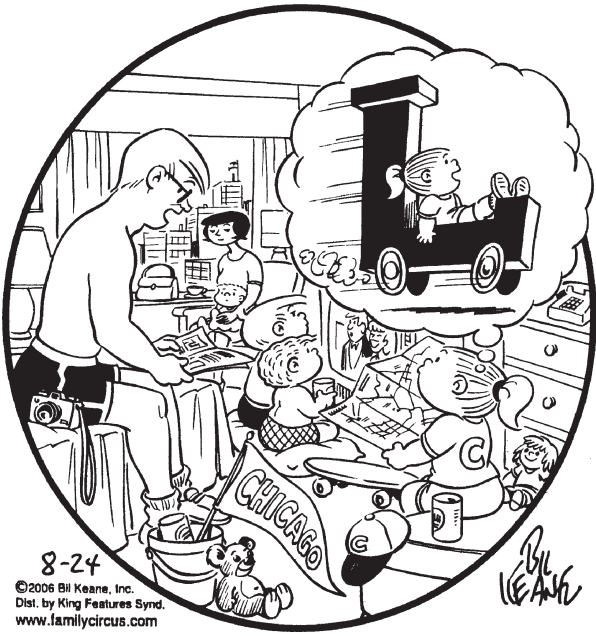
**Cryptoquip**

CU W QNH CY Y W CV WJ W  
VMCJ V PNR UNH W UCJJCIQ,  
KCQPJ J PZ JWCYNH  
MVZ WI WRZ KZWVMHZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE SOCCER COACH HELD A MEETING WITH HIS ENTIRE TEAM, HE HAD SOME GOALS IN MIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals A

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



**"How'd you like a ride on the 'EL'?"**

**Crossword**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |    | 27 |    |    |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |
| 34 |    |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    | 37 |    |    |
| 41 | 42 |    | 38 |    | 39 |    | 40 |    | 44 | 45 |
| 47 |    |    |    | 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    | 53 |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    | 56 |    |    |

**ACROSS**  
1 Puncturing tools  
5 Phantom's concealer  
9 Hot tub  
12 Gator's kin  
13 Reed instrument  
14 Apprehend  
15 Bad thing to be behind  
17 Indivisible  
18 Takes the helm  
19 Cut, in a way  
21 "Gracious!"  
22 WWII weapon  
24 Pastime  
27 Regret  
28 The gang  
31 Raw rock  
32 Packed away  
33 Actress Thompson  
34 Unwilling to listen  
36 "Law & Order" extra

**DOWN**  
1 21  
2 Legal document  
3 Theater box  
4 Plan  
5 Unruly crowds  
6 Barristers' org.  
7 Costa del —  
8 "That '70s Show" character  
9 Grow out of control  
10 Sheet of stamps  
11 Sleeping

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

ATOM JAR GNAW  
RODE EGO ROBE  
BROADWAY AWED  
SORTIE CANALS  
SOL EDGY  
PAW SEX SEUL  
ADAM DIM RUSE  
LOYAL VAT TEA  
FROM TAP  
SCAMPI APOLLO  
EURO SIDEWAYS  
ABET DOO ENOS  
MARS OUR RENO

Yesterday's answer 8-24

