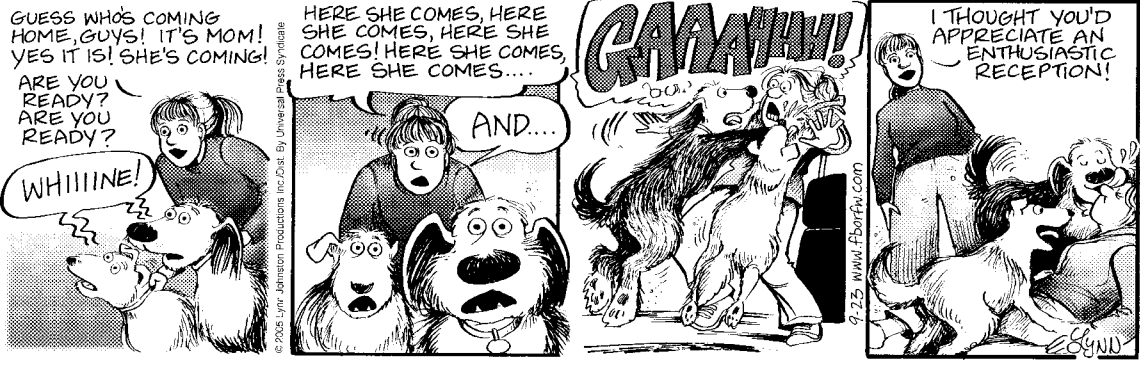


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



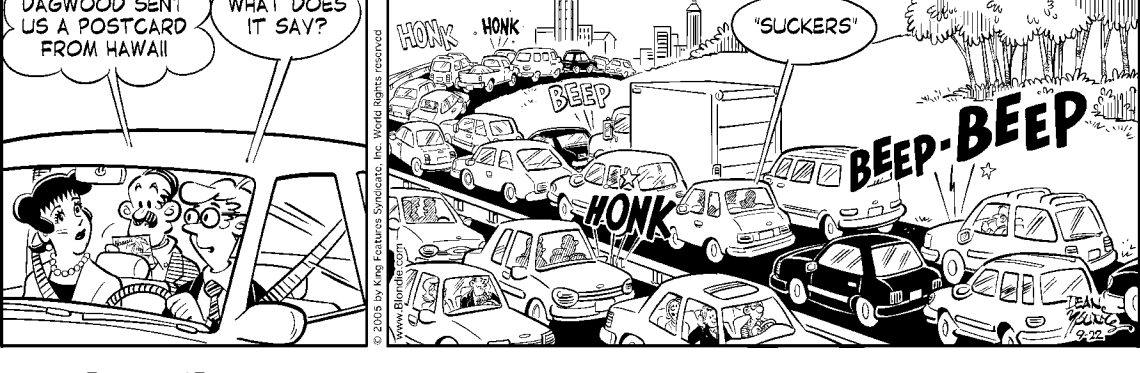
Garfield • Jim Davis



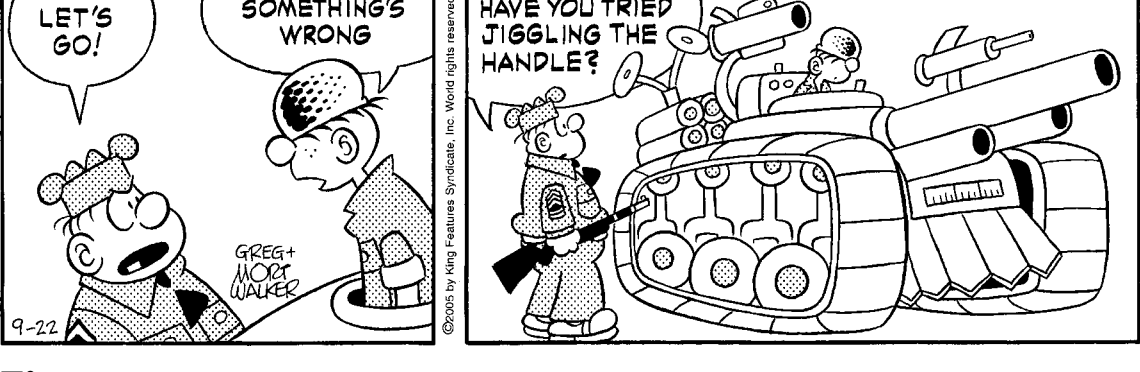
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



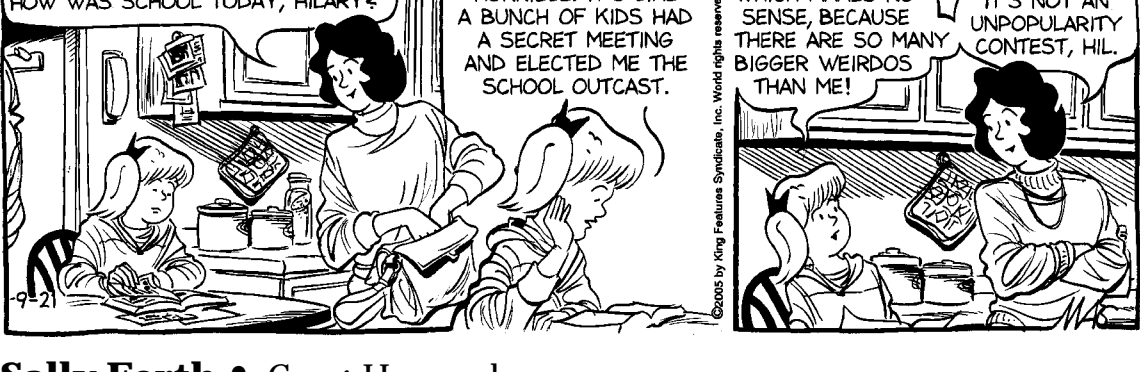
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



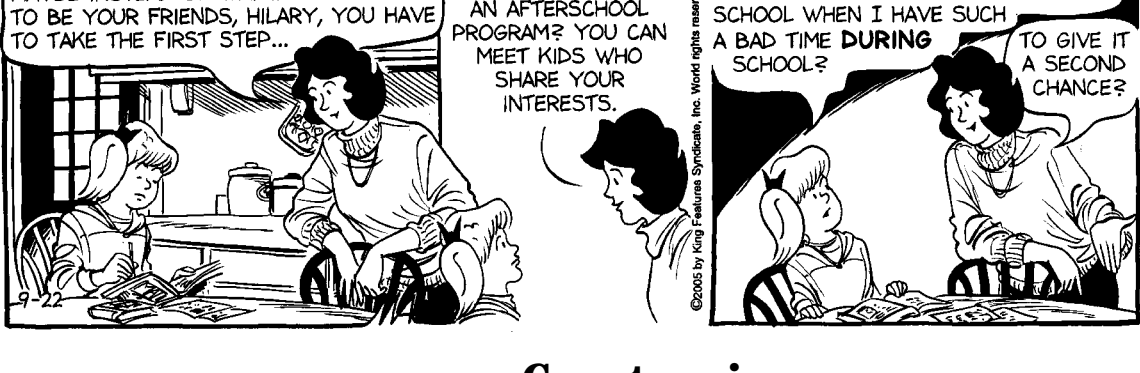
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Children mad at dad about secret



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my dad was diagnosed with a fatal degenerative disease. My parents moved down South because the warmer climate helps Dad's condition. Mom takes care of him, and every second of the day she's very stressed.

My siblings and I live in the Northeast and don't get to see them as often as we'd like. A year before Dad got sick, my parents seemed to go through a positive mid-life crisis. They lost weight, found new friends, partied every night. They rarely saw us or talked with us because they were busy. They seemed to be enjoying the next stage of their life together.

If I complained, they said they were "having a life now" because raising kids had taken all their time. My brother recently confided to me my parents were sowing their wild oats then because Dad knew he was getting sick.

He knew he was on borrowed time and he'd have to sell his business and give up driving. He told no one but Mother.

I am extremely upset with my parents. While they were going out every night, we could have shared some time with him before it was too late. Although I cry every time I see Dad, I feel I maybe don't have as much sympathy as I should. Knowing he kept a secret like that has altered our relationship. When Mom calls and complains that she has no life and has to do everything by herself, I want to say she did it to herself. My siblings and I are not selfish. We would have done everything for our father.

Please tell me if I'm being overly emotional. Didn't I have the right to know? Am I entitled to be angry, or should I let it go?

— CONFUSED DAUGHTER IN PHILLY
DEAR CONFUSED: No one —

and I mean no one — knows how he or she will react to the kind of diagnosis your father received. He and your mother chose to cram as much "celebration" as they could into the good time he had left. I can't judge his decision, and for your own sake, neither should you. Yes, it might have been better had you been told. But you would have naturally become upset, and your Dad wanted gaiety and no reminders of what was coming. That was his choice, and he should not be punished for it. Consider this: The "good time" is the time your father has left. Please don't waste another second of it dwelling on something that can't be changed.

DEAR ABBY: I'm not sure how to handle this. My across-the-street neighbor, "Joe," watches adult-rated movies at least twice a week. He turns the volume up so loud I can hear the moans and suggestive dialogue well into the wee hours of the morning. (Last night it went on until about 2:30 a.m.) The family who lives next door to Joe has two daughters, 12 and 14 years old. I'm not sure if they can hear those movies as I do, but our houses are all on very small lots. It's disturbing to think that they do.

The last thing I want to do is knock on Joe's door mid-movie, but this is getting ridiculous. I'm not sure what the other neighbors think — it's too embarrassing to mention.

— EMBARRASSED
DEAR EMBARRASSED: Write your neighbor a polite letter:

"Perhaps you are not aware that the sound of your late-night entertainment travels across the street. Because minor children live so close by, won't you please close your windows and/or turn the volume down? Thank you, Your neighbor."

If that doesn't do the trick, notify the police and let them handle the matter, because your neighbor is "disturbing the peace"—yours.

DEAR ABBY: I recently learned that my parents still have a videotape of my first wedding. I was married to that louse for a miserable four months. Several years later I met and married my present husband, a sweet guy.

We have been together for 10 years and have three beautiful children. I have asked my mother to destroy the tape, but she refuses. She says she keeps it because several of the wedding guests on the tape are now deceased.

I would love to see those deceased relatives again, Abby, but not that cursed wedding. And I certainly don't want my children to see it. What should I do?

— DISMAYED
DEAR DISMAYED: Your mother's reason for keeping the tape seems logical. Stay calm, and ask her to please not share it with your children. That's a reasonable request. When the time comes that your mother joins the relatives on the tape, you can dispose of the "evidence" of your youthful mistake without causing a family feud.

Bridge

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5 3
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ K Q 6 2

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

EAST
♠ 9 7 2
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 10 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 6 4
♥ A 9
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ A

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 4 ♠ Dble
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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A Problem Solved

Dear Mr. Becker: I am writing to you from Sing Sing prison, where I recently acquired a rent-free apartment for life due to the sudden demise of a friend of mine with whom I had a violent difference of opinion.

We have a large group here that greatly enjoys bridge, but lately there has been quite a bit of friction among us and some very unkind words have been directed toward me. It all began with this deal.

I was West and doubled South, a four-time loser, after he opened the bidding with four spades. I led the king of diamonds, and when my partner signaled with the eight, I continued with the ace.

There was now no question about my leading another diamond, because I knew East would ruff, but I did not know whether to lead the nine or the deuce.

You see, East and I play suit-preference signals. I knew that if I led the nine, he would return a heart, while if I led the two, he would return a club.

As you have said many times, in this situation a high card asks for the high suit, and a low card asks for the low suit. In this case, though, I did not want either suit returned. What I wanted was a trump return, so that I could give my partner another ruff.

I solved the problem very neatly by playing the 9-2 together! I then apologized to South, saying: "Oh, I'm sorry, but I'll play either card you want. It really doesn't matter."

East, who wasn't born yesterday, grasped the situation immediately. After ruffing the diamond, he returned a trump.

As a result, South went down two instead of one.

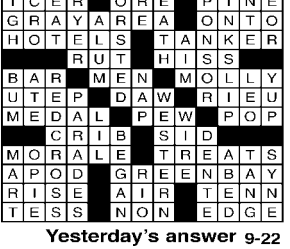
Judging from the way South reacted to all this, I must say I think he is a sore loser.

Sincerely, No. 31416.
Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Variety of lettuce
 - 5 Mexican money
 - 9 Mid-June honoree
 - 12 On the briny
 - 13 Grate
 - 14 Past
 - 15 Unlikely victor
 - 17 Sara of "Less Than Perfect"
 - 18 High regard
 - 19 "Today" weatherman
 - 21 Pharmacy abbr.
 - 22 Red Sea gulf
 - 24 Sacred
 - 27 Greek cross
 - 28 "— no kick from ..."
 - 31 Jackie's second
 - 32 401(k) alternative
 - 33 Freudian concept
 - 34 "Price Is Right" decorations
- DOWN**
- 1 Com-manded
 - 2 "... — hand-some does"
 - 3 Ernie's roomie
 - 4 Where to see nice buns
 - 5 Ball in a gymna-sium?
 - 6 Listening device
 - 7 Draft letters
 - 8 Some-times it's grand
 - 9 Certain historical period
 - 10 Malaria symptom
 - 11 Active one
 - 16 Curse
 - 20 Sapporo sash
 - 22 Ruth record breaker
 - 23 Campus area
 - 24 Bella Abzug trademark
 - 25 Man-mouse link
 - 26 Electronic stylus
 - 27 Fourth dimension
 - 29 Silly Putty container
 - 30 Youngster
 - 35 Perched
 - 37 Speak unclearly
 - 39 African grassland
 - 40 A wel-come sight
 - 41 Praise to the skies
 - 42 Addition-ally
 - 43 Roe provider
 - 44 Hammer-head part
 - 45 Emulate Shylock
 - 46 Mound stats
 - 49 Page
 - 50 — X

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-22

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

C X P R R M L H P C M E M P T
P V X S C P R X Y F P T L M G C, V S R V
Z T X Y M T G Z P L M P G C P C M -
X E - C F M - X I H X I P J J T M G G .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS DRANK SOFT DRINKS, THEY SHOULD MOST LIKELY PREFER COCA-KOALA.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals D

