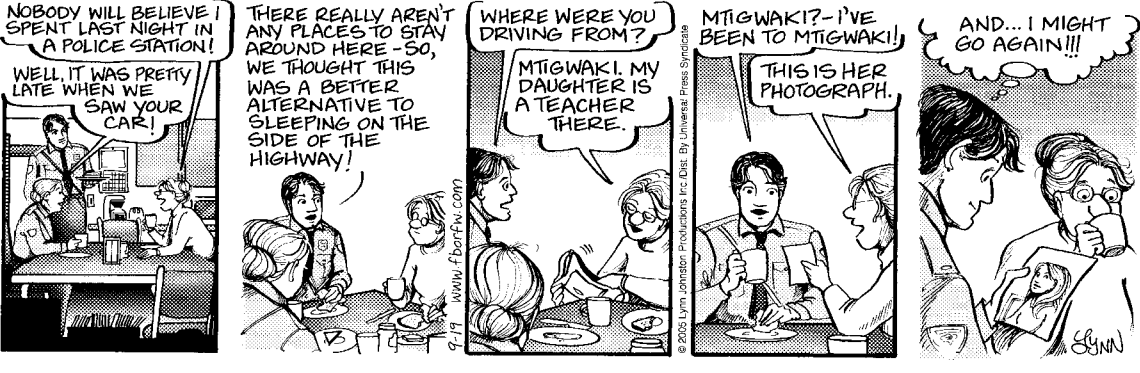
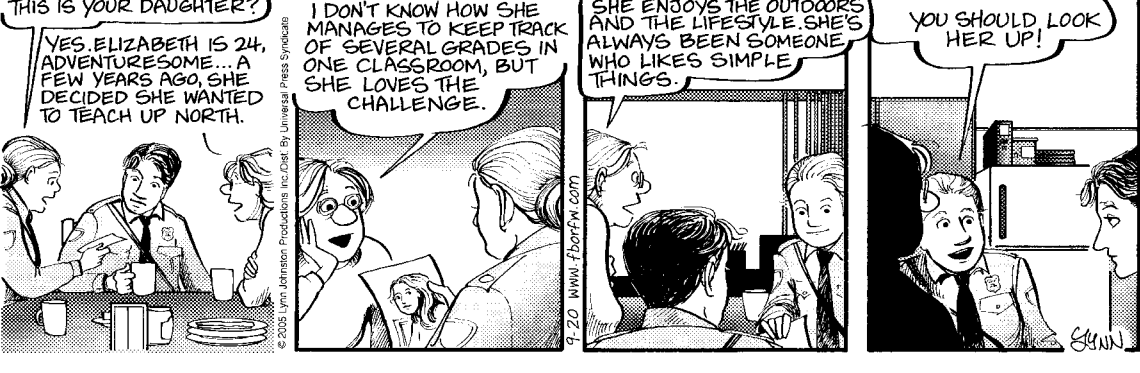


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



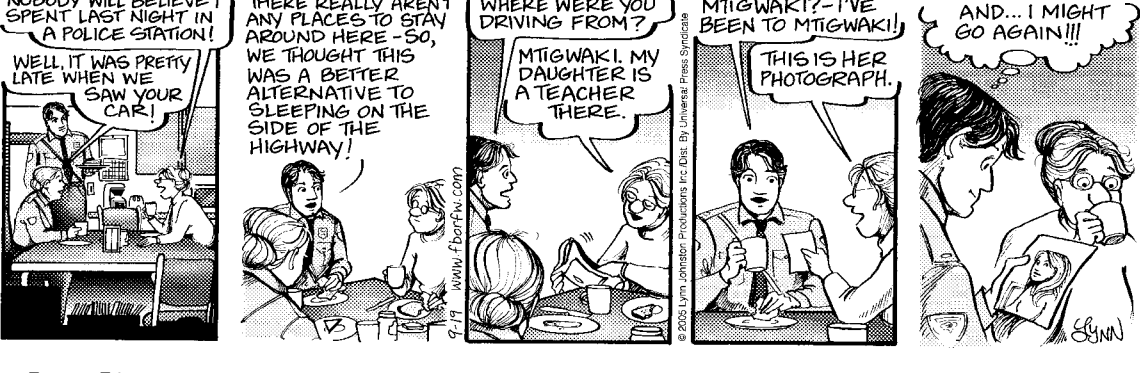
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Defending son tears family apart



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My brother, "Dick," was a sheriff's deputy for five years. He was arrested recently on felony theft charges, stemming from burglaries committed in the rural area he was assigned to protect. I gave up on Dick years ago. He has almost destroyed the family farm by not showing up for meetings and spending money that wasn't his. He also stole items from the farm, as well as a substantial amount of cash from our mother.

I am worried about Mother. She knows Dick is guilty, but makes up every excuse under the sun for him. He takes anti-depressants — she blames them.

She blames his soon-to-be ex-wife. She blames his girlfriend who "put him up to the crimes and then turned him in." She bails him out and lets him stay with her if he wants.

Anything negative my siblings say about him, she takes as a direct insult. Dick broke Mom's heart years ago, and my siblings and I were left to pick up the pieces. Now she's allowing him to do it all over again. He's tearing our family apart. How can we convince her it's time for tough love?

— TRYING TO HELP MOM IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR TRYING: It might be better for your brother if you could, but you can't. Your mother is so fully invested emotionally in your brother that she can no longer differentiate between him and herself. That is why, when you criticize him, she takes it as a personal insult. That is also why she is so determined to "protect" him from the consequences of his actions. What's sad is, she is not helping your brother. She's only allowing him to continue his antisocial behavior.

Let's hope the state steps in and prevents your brother from con-

tinuing his criminal activities — for a while. However, even then, don't expect him to change until the consequences of his actions become so severe that he feels he must. Why should he? Until now, his mother has tossed him a feathered every time he should have landed on his fanny. It's called ENABLING.

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, I e-mailed a message to an old friend. I received a reply from his son, who was handling his father's affairs after his death a few days earlier.

He had no idea who I was. If he had looked at his father's mailing list, he would have seen a list of people who would have been interested in his father's demise.

I'm going to code our list now, to indicate who should be contacted in case of death or serious illness.

— GRIEVING IN MISSOURI
DEAR GRIEVING: Over the years I have received literally hundreds of letters like yours from people who have lost old friends. These are people who would have liked to have sent condolences, made donations to charity, said a final goodbye at the funeral, or shared a happy experience at a memorial for the friend they lost.

Readers, although none of us likes to dwell on our own mortality, I don't know of anyone who has managed to last forever. So consider for a moment the people who care about you. Go through your address book and note the

individuals you think would like to be notified if you are unable to do it yourself. The task will take only a few minutes. And leave a note indicating where to find the information with your important papers.

DEAR ABBY: In a recent letter, the writer complained that she was embarrassed because her 50-something mother looked like a "motorcycle mama."

I'm in my late 50s. My husband is in his mid-40s. For the first time in our hardworking lives we're enjoying ourselves going places! I wear my leathers wherever we go (Harley Davidson, of course!) for protection. Also, for my birthday this year I got a tattoo on my back. My kids (late 20s and 30s) say it's cool. They say if we're happy, they're happy.

I would like to tell "Embarrassed" that she and her siblings should be thankful they have parents, and that they are healthy, happy and enjoying themselves. That's what counts.

— ANOTHER MOTORCYCLE MAMA, COALINGA, CALIF.

DEAR MOTORCYCLE MAMA: I pointed that out in my answer. I also advised the "children" to address their concerns with their mother.

I find the differing philosophies between generations to be fascinating. A conservative generation gave birth to the flower children of the '60s — which in turn has given birth to another conservative generation.

Bridge

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| NORTH | | EAST | |
| ♠ | 10 8 6 2 | ♠ | A K 4 |
| ♥ | 10 7 5 3 | ♥ | Q J 8 6 2 |
| ♦ | 10 2 | ♦ | A Q 7 4 |
| ♣ | 7 5 3 | ♣ | 8 |
| WEST | | SOUTH | |
| ♠ | Q J 9 5 | ♠ | 7 3 |
| ♥ | K 9 4 | ♥ | A |
| ♦ | 8 5 3 | ♦ | K J 9 6 |
| ♣ | K J 4 | ♣ | A Q 10 9 6 2 |

The bidding:
 East 1♦ South 2♣ West Dble North Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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"It's not for our baseball team. It's for my vegetable garden."

Famous Hand

The canape method of bidding has many advantages, but — as with any style of bidding — it also has disadvantages.

In canape, it is customary to bid a shorter suit before a longer suit when holding a two-suited hand.

When the second suit is named later, the opener's partner thus learns which is the longer of the two suits.

However, things sometimes go awry when the canape user runs into an uncharted situation. Consider this deal from the match between Venezuela and Italy in the 1967 World Championship.

Consistent with the canape style, Giorgio Belladonna, the Italian East, opened the bidding with one diamond. Robert Rossignol, playing with David Berah, overcalled with two clubs.

This posed a difficult problem for Walter Avarelli, who lacked the values for two notrump, could not afford to bid two diamonds with such weak trump support, and had too much high-card strength to risk a pass.

Faced with this dilemma, Avarelli chose to compromise with a double.

Belladonna had no good reason to pull the double, so he passed. This did not turn out well when Rossignol, after the opening diamond lead, had no trouble taking eight tricks for a score of 180 points.

At the other table, with a Venezuelan pair East-West, the bidding went:
 East South West North
 1H 2C 2H Pass
 4H

No canape, no double, no problems. East got to four hearts and made the contract easily, losing a heart, a diamond and a club to give the Venezuelan team a total gain of 600 points on the deal.

Tomorrow: Unusual defensive play. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

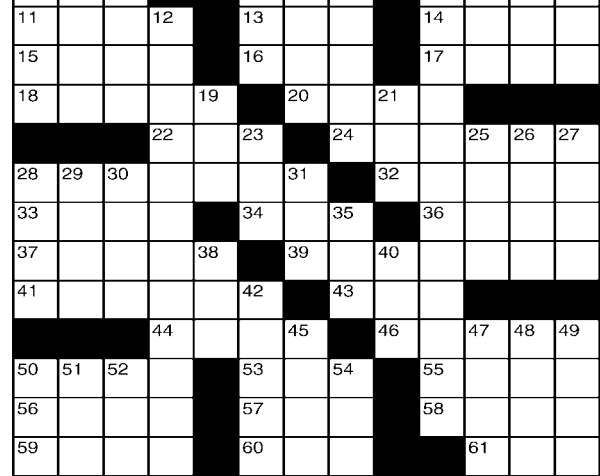
Crossword

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Espio- nage org. | 1 Woodwind instr. |
| 4 Fool | 2 Shake- spear villain |
| 7 Butter- fly- ballot problem | 3 "Diary of — Housewife" |
| 11 Easter entree | 4 Diving bird |
| 13 Last (Abbr.) | 5 Use a letter opener |
| 14 Depend (or) | 6 Knapsack part |
| 15 Culture medium | 7 Become tyrannical |
| 16 White- wine aperitif | 8 Whammy |
| 17 Wheel- base terminus | 9 Every last drop |
| 18 Wild West show | 10 Turn red? |
| 20 Post-bath applica- tion | |
| 22 Punctur- ing tool | |
| 24 Piercing | |
| 28 Fastened a seat belt | |
| 32 " — Grows in Brooklyn" | |
| 33 "... with sugar —?" | |
| 34 Obtained | |
| 36 Make like a werewolf | |
| 37 Church donation squares | 12 Win big Hooter |
| 39 Skills | 19 Hooter |
| 41 Takes the wheel | 21 Mauna — |
| 43 Present decoration | 23 Tripod part |
| 44 Hardly hirsute | 25 Press agent? |
| 46 Swayze/ Moore movie | 26 Salaman- der |
| 50 Goya's "The Naked —" | 27 Comes together |
| 53 Curved path | 28 Automa- tons, familiarily |
| 55 Between assign- ments | 29 Monad |
| 56 PC picture | 30 Give as an example |
| 57 Cistern | 31 Speck |
| 58 Snooker, e.g. | 35 Coca- Cola product |
| 59 Quest | 38 Historic period |
| | 40 Journal |
| | 42 Roofing material |
| | 45 It takes a beating |
| | 47 Stench |
| | 48 — gin fizz |
| | 49 Spill the beans |
| | 50 Wrong (Pref.) |
| | 51 Top card |
| | 52 Montana or Namath |
| | 54 Eye network |

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 9-19



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Cryptoquip

T S J I Q T H A I U P Q N W J I
 D J V C A U D C N W L N W T I Q Z J
 A H Q , T ' Y L A Q H H T Z V J A P Y
 E Q E A Z Z Q W U J I S A H T J I !

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I INVITED THE WOMAN TO HELP ME USE THE CROWBAR BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LEVER ALONE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals D