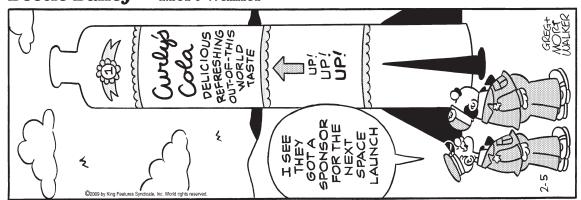
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker









Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard







Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



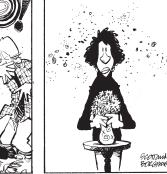






7 Comics CFP 2-5.indd 1







Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Breaking habits is hard to do

Dear Dr. Brothers: My little girl has a bad habit. Whenever she is alone, or not doing something with her hands, she sucks her thumb. She's been doing this ever since she was a baby, and now she is 6 years old. I have read that thumb-sucking can affect her teeth, and I don't want that to happen. I have tried painting her nails with bad-tasting stuff, but she makes a face and keeps sucking. What makes her continue sucking her thumb? Please help. – C.B.

Dear C.B.: Thumb-sucking is a habit that starts very early. In fact, it might be one of the only habits a child develops before he or she is even born! Expectant parents are often joyfully shocked when they notice their fetus sucking away at their thumb on an ultrasound. Babies seem to have a natural instinct to suck on anything they can get their tiny hands on; it's thought that the act soothes and comforts the child.

If children continue to suck their thumb past the age of 5, dental as well as speech problems can develop. Get her to engage in more activities that require both of her hands. Remove or change up the items or activities she associates with thumb-sucking -- perhaps a blanket or a favorite video - and have a "no thumb-sucking" story time instead. The more time you put into making her feel comfortable without it, the sooner she'll take her thumb out.

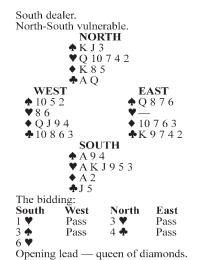
Dear Dr. Brothers: My son has been climbing out of his bedroom window at night and going to see his girlfriend, who lives on the next street. He just stands under her window and talks (yes, I followed him one night). I know this is wrong and I should call him on it, but I used to do the same thing when I was a kid. Only my girlfriend lived four streets away! I haven't mentioned this misbehavior to my wife, because she would have a fit. I don't know what to do. Help me! – F.W.

Dear F.W.: It sounds as though you are in the middle of a giant tug of war with yourself. Part of you identifies so strongly with your son that you don't want to have anything interfere with his innocent teenage fun. I suppose you could talk to your child privately and give him a warning. But in this case, a warning gives him a mixed signal: He's going to wonder why you would let him get away with this in the first place.

you were a kid. Today, your son is likely to get picked up by the police for being out in the middle of the night, or even hurt by a homeowner who thinks he is a prowler. Or maybe the girl's parents won't look too kindly on your son if he turns up on a starry night and they catch him.

(c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate C M

Bridge • Steve Becker



How to Figure the Odds

Let's say you've bid a slam and the outcome depends entirely on whether a finesse against the missing king of trumps succeeds. In that case, you have about a 50 percent chance of making

Now let's suppose you can make the slam if either of two finesses succeeds. In that case, if you plan to take both finesses, you're a 3-to-l favorite to make the contract.

This brings us to the present deal, where South reached six hearts as shown and West led a diamond. Declarer won with the ace, drew trumps and then finessed the queen of clubs. East took 21 his king and returned a diamond to dummy's king. Declarer later played the ace and another 22 spade to dummy's jack, but when this finesse also lost, South went down one

Declarer was undoubtedly unlucky to lose on a 3-to-1 shot, but actually he misplayed the hand. He overlooked a different method of play that would have added significantly to his chances.

After drawing trumps, cashing the king of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, he should next play the A-Q of clubs! On the actual deal, East wins and the party's over. He must either yield a ruff-and-discard or lead a spade into dummy's K-J.

What happens if West has the club king? He takes the trick but must then lead a spade to avoid a ruff-sluff. If he has the ten and leads it, the jack play from dummy traps East's queen and ends the contest. If West leads the deuce rather than the ten instead, dummy plays low and again East's queen is trapped. If West has the queen, it can later be picked up by a finesse. Thus, declarer fails only if East holds both missing spade honors. By adopting this approach, South makes the

slam if East has the club king or if West has either the queen or ten of spades. This gives him three chances to get home safely instead of just two, and makes him a 7-to-1 rather than a 3-to-1 favorite.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"We don't put prices on our drawings, Billy!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

				1				
		1		6			5	
					3			7
8		4				3		
					9		1	
5				4				2
	3		1					
		9				2		5
6			4					
	4			7		9		
Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/05								

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral.

The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

	4	2	1	8	5	3	9	7	6
	6	7	8	2	1	9	3	4	5
	9	5	3	7	6	4	2	1	8
	2	4	5	6	3	8	7	9	1
	3	6	9	1	4	7	8	5	2
	1	8	7	5	9	2	6	3	4
	7	9	2	4	8	1	5	6	3
	5	3	4	9	2	6	1	8	7
	8	1	6	3	7	5	4	2	9
Difficulty Level ****								1/2	

Cryptoquip

LEAANLD GNE WNEFS

Unfortunately, it's a different world than when LVG VM DFDWJQCWCVM CL

V ADQLNM UDQG CMJDQDLJDS 🚯

WEQQDMJ DUDMJL. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A FUZZY-ŠKINNĖD FRŪIT WITH AN UNUSUALLY TINY APPEARANCE? A PEEWEE KIWI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

DOWN

1 Farm

16 Con-

temptible

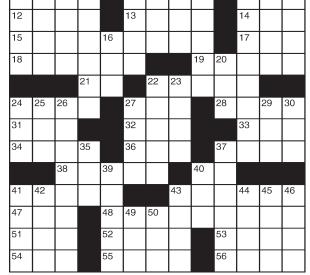
Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

32 Prune

33 Train

1 Quee-

. 0,000	oo mam	a	tomptible
queg's	compo-	fraction	canine
captain	nent	2 Coat-rack	20 Sushi fish
5 Chan-	34 Clean Air	feature	22 Castles
teuse	Act target	3 Burn	23 Little
Edith	36 Approves	remedy	devils
9 Scarlet	37 Terrier	4 Caused	24 Store-
12 "Unfor-	type	(oneself)	front sign
gettable"	38 Sail	to go	abbr.
singer	supports	5 Excellent,	25 Intention
13 Head	40 Tagged	in	26 Dorm
light?	player	modern	compan-
14 Overseas	41 Offer bait	lingo	ion
agree-	43 Scents	6 Author	27 Whodunit
ment?	47 Eggs	Fleming	basis
15 Dentist's	48 One of	7 Carte	29 Spring
task	the Rush-	lead-in	period
17 Bobby of	more	8 Creases	30 Anteced-
hockey	quartet	9 Luggage	ing
lore	51 Obtain	holder,	35 Hiatus
18 Maintain	52 Emana-	often	37 Ranges
meagerly	tion	10 Franc	39 Guitar
19 "Robin-	53 Facility	replace-	attach-
son	54 Indivisible	ment	ment
Crusoe"	55 Get ready		40 Rage
author	56 Lento	strophic	41 Not "for
21 Either's	Solution tim	e: 25 mins.	here"
partner	ASAP LO		42 Divisible
22 Stair	MALAIA OFFSHOR	M A F A R E E F T S	by two
part	KEATON	E E F T S L E S S E E	43 PDQ
24 "Listen!"	APE	LETT	44 Repast
27 Lapdog,	IDOISM		45 Addition-
for short	TUFTSO		ally
28 Weak,	SKIS	NUS	46 Ragout,
as an	TSHIRT	E M P I R E	e.g.
excuse	A E O N O F		49 "— Town"
31 Carnival	S M O G L O		50 Raw
city	VIIII2 EE	LADY	rock



Yesterday's answer 2-5

city