

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

6 Things You learn AFTER you have KIDS...

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

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

Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Workplace bully makes life tough

Dear Dr. Brothers: I never imagined that bullying would persist after middle school (OK, high school), but here I am at a new job, and I find myself working alongside a bona fide nasty, mean and cruel bully of the first order! She spends all her spare time ridiculing me, bossing me around (she is not my boss) and making my life miserable. I don't know what to do – could I have a sign on my back left over from high school that says “Kick Me”? – S.F.

Dear S.F.: A Zogby poll says 37 percent of workers are bullied! It's very likely that this bully would pick on someone else if you weren't around to take a beating. But there might just be some truth to the idea that you seem to be an easy target – bullies have a way of identifying the weakest link, or the nicest, most timid person, however you want to characterize yourself. So now you have something going for you. You're upset, annoyed and in a frame of mind to do something about this bullying. That's good! Sometimes the person who routinely gets picked on needs to be motivated to do something, and it sounds like you're just about there.

Why not surprise this woman and confront her, face to face? The boldness you exhibit will catch her off guard. Invite her to lunch and tell her that you know what she's up to, and that you expect her to cease and desist – now. Spell out the fact that you will make trouble for her if she doesn't. And then have a sandwich, thank her for listening and go about your business. I'll bet you win!

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am drawn to the medical dramas and emergency medicine or medical mystery reality shows on TV. Which would be fine, except that about once a month I break out in hives after watching one of these and become convinced that I have the same symptoms. I am not a hypochondriac – I never go running to the doctor – but I do find myself identifying with the victims in these shows. Can I watch them and still stay healthy? – B.W.

Dear B.W.: It sounds as though you really get into these medical shows. Regardless of how accurate these shows are, I believe their big attraction is two-pronged: First, we get to experience the thrills of dramatic action, and second, we always get to turn off the TV and be glad none of that happened to us! But sometimes the last part doesn't work too well.

Instead of experiencing all the horror of the action and the relief of it not being anything to do with us, we get stuck. The reality of it all gets to some people in such a way that they overidentify with what's happening on the screen. If you're actually breaking out in hives, I would say that this might be a little too intense for your psyche. In any case, I think any doctor would prescribe a bit of a vacation from medical dramas and reality shows. Game show, anyone?

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♣

Opening lead — four of clubs.

**Famous Hand**  
The United States played Japan for the very first time in the 1972 World Bridge Olympiad, and had much the best of the confrontation. This deal contributed greatly to the outcome.

At the first table, with Bob Hamman and Paul Soloway North-South for the U.S., the bidding went as shown. The one-club bid was artificial, showing at least 17 points, and the heart response was also artificial, showing at least six points.

One notrump indicated a balanced hand with 18 to 20 points, and two clubs was Stayman, inquiring about major suits. Two spades was natural, and four hearts, a “splinter bid,” showed support for spades with a singleton heart. The K-J-7 of hearts lost much of their value when they were known to be facing a singleton, so South signed off at four spades. Soloway made six with an assist from the defense, and the U.S. scored 480 points.

When a Japanese pair were North-South, they reached six spades on this sequence:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 [C]	Pass	3 [S]
Pass	4 [C]	Pass	5 [C]
Pass	6 [S]		

Had West (Bobby Wolff) led a heart, the slam undoubtedly would have been made, but he was sufficiently inspired to lead a diamond.

Declarer won with the ace, cashed three spades and five clubs, discarding his diamond loser, and then led dummy's singleton heart toward his K-J-7.

East (Jim Jacoby) smoothly followed low, and South had arrived at the moment of truth. Unfortunately, he played the jack rather than the king, hoping this would force the ace, but when West produced the queen, declarer still had to lose another trick for down one. Had South guessed the heart position, he would have wound up plus 980 instead of minus 50.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

5-18  
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“Mommy, somebody put a B on your sign during the night!”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	4	6	8		7		3	
1					6			4
		9				6		8
2	7			8				5
			4	9	2			
9				7			2	3
3		5				1		
4			5					6
	6		1		3	5	9	

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.

3	5	6	4	2	7	8	1	9
7	2	9	3	8	1	5	4	6
4	8	1	5	9	6	2	7	3
8	9	3	2	1	4	7	6	5
1	4	2	7	6	5	3	9	8
5	6	7	8	3	9	4	2	1
2	1	5	9	7	3	6	8	4
6	7	4	1	5	8	9	3	2
9	3	8	6	4	2	1	5	7

Cryptoquip

ISMP Q RQXCMJ MRYWEGMM  
OV NMXG VCOWWMH QJ  
IEXCOFF ZSMZCETJ, O FTMVV  
SM OV ZETPJMXYXEHTZJONM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEW HAVEN HAVE QUITE IMPECCABLE MANNERS. IT MUST BE CONNECTICUT ETIQUETTE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Amaze-ment, plus  
4 Glistened  
9 Insulation material (Abbr.)  
12 That girl  
13 Melodic and harmonic  
14 Golf ball's position  
15 Tinsel-town  
17 Help  
18 Having a bug  
19 Villain, slangily  
21 Asian capital  
24 "It Roman-tic?"  
25 Sprite  
26 Lorne Michaels' brain-child, for short  
28 Quarrels  
31 Union payments  
33 Obtained  
35 Any time now

**DOWN**  
1 Bonfire residue  
2 Personal question  
3 Conger, for one  
4 Fashions  
5 Coyotes' din  
6 Yoko of music  
7 Judd or Campbell  
8 Firstborn  
9 Green-house buy  
10 Henry —  
11 Relinquish  
16 Back talk

**36 Refine metal**  
38 "Holy cow!"  
40 Kimono sash  
41 Bad witness  
43 In the thick of  
45 Hallux  
47 Couric's network  
48 Fuss  
49 Glenn Miller classic  
54 Virgo neighbor  
55 Waste conduit  
56 Pair  
57 Pop  
58 Crocodile —

**59 Blunder**  
20 Black-birds  
21 Kennedy and Koppel  
22 Grad  
23 James Brown hit  
27 Journal  
29 Watch chains  
30 Fit of peevish-ness  
32 Narrow cut  
34 Head of the class?  
37 Follower of Lao-tzu  
39 Hearth remains  
42 Actress Zellweger  
44 Doctrine  
45 Hairless  
46 Notion  
50 Airline initials  
51 Praiseful verse  
52 " — Town"  
53 "Le Coq —"

**Solution time: 27 mins.**  

L	A	S	M	A	S	P	A	G	E
I	L	L	A	N	T	I	N	U	R
T	A	U	R	O	O	T	C	A	N
H	M	M	C	R	O	A	K		
O	O	P	S	A	P	R	P	I	C
			E	L	K	P	L	A	Q
E	L	O	P	E		A	S	S	E
T	A	R	T	A	R	C	O	T	
A	G	R	A	O	B	I	A	C	M
			A	C	U	T	E		Y
D	E	N	T	I	S	T	R		B
A	M	O	U	R		T	U	E	
B	U	G	G		E	S		R	E

**Saturday's answer 5-18**

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					59		