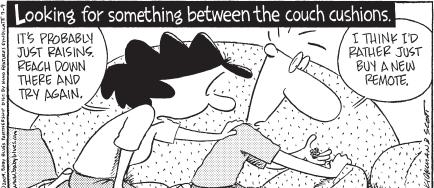
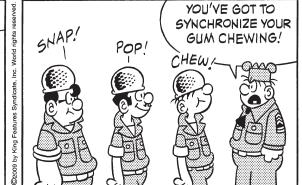
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young

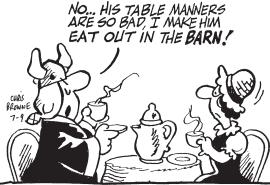






Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









SINCE WE'RE OUT OF

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott











Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Boyfriend tied up in TV show

Dear Dr. Brothers: I haven't seen my boyfriend in three days, which is funny because we live in the same house. I know he's not cheating on me, because I hear the sounds of laser fire from the basement den at all hours. You see, he's recently started watching a science-fiction TV show and is obsessed with watching every episode. He's bought five box sets with about 25 DVDs and is on some kind of weird bender. It's really getting on my nerves, as he has spent way too much time on this. What should I do? – I.J.

Dear I.J.: While having a boyfriend fall victim to the television is nothing new - millions of football widows are made every fall - that doesn't make living with a boob-tube zombie any easier. No one likes to be ignored, especially for something as silly as a TV show. You start to become a little jealous because the attention of your boyfriend is focused away from you onto something you find not worthy of his time.

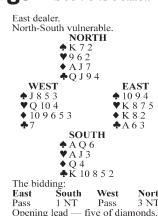
But to your boyfriend, his TV show is anything but a waste of time. For him, watching the show until its conclusion is not too different from not putting down a good book. He wants to get to the end to see how it all turns out. If there are no real repercussions to his behavior - like missing work, for instance - there's no real harm in just letting the whole thing play out. Every story has an end, and every series has a finale. If you really feel so ignored, when he's done with his show, get his attention. Perhaps a picnic in the park will do wonders to bring your boyfriend back from the outer reaches. Use it to start a "reality check' conversation on the state of your relationship.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I recently met this really nice girl, and we've been dating pretty seriously for about two months. There's a habit of hers that I found amusing at first but now is starting to bug me. At first, she would read my horoscope to me every day, which I thought was fun, but now I find that she's way too serious about astrology. She bought me a Capricorn pendant I feel silly wearing, and now she wants me to go with her and get my charts done to see if we are compatible. I don't know what I should do – help! – H.B.

Dear H.B.: There's nothing wrong with getting a little help from the stars. Millions read horoscopes over morning coffee, guessing at what fortunes await. Some go further and have astrological charts drawn up to see what course their ZBFGTCKEQ lives will take. Either way, for the most part it's a harmless guide to activities. We tend to ignore what our horoscopes get wrong, but remember when we interpret their predictions as "right."

It's all in how much credence we give to the zodiac. Your girlfriend sounds like she puts a lot of faith in astrology. Your job is to find out how serious she is about it, and whether her beliefs are a relationship breaker. It may be her way of making sure you're right for her. But if she wants the whole relationship mapped out instead of doing the real work herself, you might want to reconsider whether she's right for you. It's possible it's not in the stars for you to be together.

Bridge • Steve Becker



Fishing in Troubled Waters

This hand from a team-of-four contest illustrates how matches are sometimes won or lost for no good reason. Both Souths wound up in three notrump, and at each table, West's opening lead was a diamond.

At the first table, declarer followed low from dummy and lost the finesse to East's king. East then returned the heart five. South's choice of plays was now immaterial. When he followed low, West won with the ten and continued with the queen and another heart to force out the ace.

Declarer then led a club to the jack, hoping that whoever had the ace did not have the last heart, but it was not his lucky day. East won and cashed his good heart, and South was down one, losing a diamond, a club and three heart tricks all told. At the second table, declarer had no trouble

whatever making three notrump. He saw nine sure tricks as soon as dummy appeared, and could think of no good reason to jeopardize the contract by attempting a diamond finesse at trick one.

So he went up with the ace of diamonds and led the club queen at trick two. East ducked, then won the next club with the ace and shifted to a low heart, but South already had nine tricks -four clubs, three spades, a diamond and a heart.

It is granted that many players would experience at least a fleeting temptation to try the diamond finesse at trick one, since two overtricks can be made if West has the king. However, yielding to such a temptation is not a very good practice, since declarer can gain only a little if he's right and lose a lot if he's wrong.

If South's goal was simply to try to make as many tricks as possible, he would certainly be correct to play low from dummy at trick one. But that is not the primary goal here. Making the contract is the first consideration.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I wonder if birds fly in any other letters than a 'V'?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★↑

This is a logic-based num ber placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a num ber, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x region must contain only on instance of each numeral. The solution to the las Sudoku puzzle is at right.

1-	9	6	1	2	8	3	7	4	5
	2	8	3	7	4	5	6	1	9
1-	4	5	7	1	6	9	3	2	8
:h	7	1	6	3	2	8	9	5	4
.11 .2	8	4	2	5	9	7	1	3	6
.5	5	3	9	4	1	6	8	7	2
ıe	1	2	8	9	3	4	5	6	7
	6	7	4	8	5	1	2	9	3
st	3	9	5	6	7	2	4	8	1
	Difficu	lty Lev	el **	*					7/1

Cryptoquip

OEDDBOYFW OBRTIBGP ZTCT

YFKQVHVIQT IBVHO, Y'G OVP

HUVH'O KYFT CVKHORVFOUYD. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OUR COMPANY IS LAYING OFF EMPLOYEES TWO AT A TIME, I SUPPOSE IT'S BEING PAIRED DOWN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals D

4 Mellow

sash

some

lacker

7 Filch

8 Urban

trans-

port

9 "Slumdog

10 Converse

Thomp-

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20 Skedad-

dled

mental

pitcher

22 Double

23 Face

agent

21 Orna-

11 Kyser

and

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16 Moray,

Millionaire'

5 Sapporo

6 Y chromo- 29 Relax

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DeLuise 38 "What's

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40 "Give a

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45 Trump

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43 California-

Nevada

casino-

hotel

46 Smooch

47 Cranny

48 Needle

49 One

holder

Three

Bears

conso

nants

54 Energy

(Fr.)

7/9/09 8:21:34 AM

55 Water

53 Greek

30 First

(c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

46 Patella

51 Tittle

50 Lummox

compo-	52 1950s
nents	dance
8 Pushpin	resem-
12 Inventor	bling an
Whitney	elaborate
13 Last	patty-cake
write-up	56 Tart
14 Turkish	57 Piece of
bigwig	work
15 Active	58 By way of
person	59 Read
17 MRI fore-	quickly
runner	60 Simple
18 "A	61 Ostrich's
mouse!"	cousin
19 Cow	

ACROSS

1 Crazed

4 Cabin

vay of kly ple rich's

DOWN

catchers 21 Insignia 1 Blanc or Brooks 24 Fond du Wisc 2 "The 25 Court Greatest' 26 "Uh-huh" 3 Attack forcefully from above

28 Birthrelated 32 "Desire Under the —' Solution time: 25 mins. nate

34 Peregri-36 Infant 37 Change your offer 39 Intimidate 41 Barbie's compan-42 Period 44 Highway stopovers

Yesterday's answer 7-9

57

7 Comics CFP 7-9-09.indd