

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

MOMENTS OF Household Terror #68

Looking for something between the couch cushions.

IT'S PROBABLY JUST RAISING REACH DOWN THERE AND TRY AGAIN.

I THINK I'D RATHER JUST BUY A NEW REMOTE.

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

GET IN STEP! HUP! TWO! THREE...HOLD IT!

SNAP! POP! CHEW!

YOU'VE GOT TO SYNCHRONIZE YOUR GUM CHEWING!

Blondie • Chic Young

ARE YOU LOVELY LADIES BY ANY CHANCE SWIMSUIT MODELS?

NO, BUT THAT'S A NICE THING TO SAY

NICE ENOUGH TO GET A FREE SANDWICH?

NOT REALLY

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE THOUGHT WE'D FALL FOR THAT AGAIN!

JUST BECAUSE IT WORKED FOR THREE WEEKS STRAIGHT DOESN'T MEAN WE WERE BORN YESTERDAY!

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

MY HAGAR EATS LIKE A HORSE!

YOU MEAN HE'S THAT HUNGRY?

NO... HIS TABLE MANNERS ARE SO BAD, I MAKE HIM EAT OUT IN THE BARN!

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

DOCTOR, I THINK MY DOG RALPH HAS RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME.

WHAT ARE HIS SYMPTOMS?

IT'S HIS LEGS, HE JUST CAN'T STOP KICKING

THERE THERE, IT CAN'T BE ALL THAT BAD

ONE SINGULAR SENSATION

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

SALLY'S MIDSUMMER RECAP #4: TENSIONS KEEP RISING BETWEEN SALLY'S SISTER AND HER NEW ROOMMATE

HE IS MY BOYFRIEND! NOT YOURS! ONLY I GET TO SIT ON HIS LAP! UNDERSTOOD?!

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

SMACK SMACK SMACK SMACK SMACK

PLOP!

ROLL ROLL ROLL

SINCE WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE A BITE OF THIS COFFEE ROLL-UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE POT

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

CAN I DO ANYTHING PIERCE?

UPLOAD THIS VIDEO TO YOUTUBE, THEN HELP ME LOOK FOR MY KIDNEYS

THIS SHIRT IS WAY TOO WRINKLED?

SO THAT'S THE WAY YOU IRON? YEAH.

AAAGH! YOU'RE NOT WEARING THAT THING IN PUBLIC! LET ME PRESS IT!

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

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 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.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 7 2

♥ 9 6 2

♦ A J 7

♣ Q J 9 4

WEST

♠ J 8 5 3

♥ Q 10 4

♦ 10 9 6 5 3

♣ 7

EAST

♠ 10 9 4

♥ K 8 7 5

♦ K 8 2

♣ A 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 6

♥ A J 3

♦ Q 4

♣ K 10 8 5 2

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

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

7-9

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/09

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.

Cryptoquip

OEDDBOYFW OBRTIBGP ZTCT

ZBFGTCKEQ VH EOYFW

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

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Crazy

4 Cabin components

8 Pushpin

12 Inventor Whitney

13 Last write-up

14 Turkish bigwig

15 Active person

17 MRI fore-runner

18 "A mouse!"

19 Cow catchers

21 Insignia

24 Fond du —, Wisc.

25 Court

26 "Uh-huh"

28 Birth-related

32 "Desire Under the —"

34 Peregrinate

36 Infant

37 Change your offer

39 Intimidate

41 Barbie's companion

42 Period

44 Highway stopovers

46 Patella

50 Lummo

51 Tittle

52 1950s dance resemb-ling an elaborate patty-cake

56 Tart

57 Piece of work

58 By way of

59 Read quickly

60 Simple

61 Ostrich's cousin

4 Mellow

5 Sapporo sash

6 Y chromo-some

7 Filch

8 Urban trans- port

9 "Slumdog Millionaire" site

10 Converse

11 Kyser and Thompson

16 Moray, for one

20 Skedad-dled

21 Orna- mental pitcher

22 Double agent

23 Face

27 Atl. counter-part

29 Relax a bit

30 First victim

31 Photog's choice

33 Type of baseball pitch

35 Comic DeLuise

38 "What's up, —?"

40 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl

43 California- Nevada lake

45 Trump casino-hotel

46 Smooch

47 Cranny

48 Needle holder

49 One of the Three Bears

53 Greek conso-nants

54 Energy (Fr.)

55 Water

DOWN

1 Blanc or Brooks

2 "The Greatest"

3 Attack forcefully from above

15 Opt

16 Capo

17 Clap

18 Nor

19 Aged

20 Rope

21 Use

22 Top

23 Drawer

24 Sheaf

25 Sub

26 Coal

27 Ebb

28 Bed

29 Left

30 Over

31 Your

32 Awl

33 Deg

34 Ore

35 Reel

36 Right

37 Now

38 Dread

39 Tear

40 Pea

41 Myrrh

42 Bot

43 Tom

44 Sup

45 Iou

46 Ohio

47 Iago

48 Mat

49 Pomp

50 Soho

51 Ems

Yesterday's answer 7-9

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				60				61		