

Colby Free Press Thursday, August 13, 2009 Page 7



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



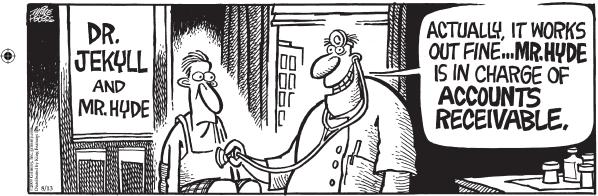
Blondie • Chic Young

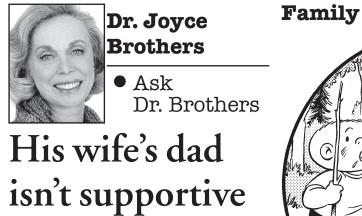


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Dear Dr. Brothers: My in-laws hate me, particularly my father-in-law. My wife and I have had our ups and downs, but he's never been supportive. He goes out of his way to be rude and even downright mean to me. I don't know of anything I've done to upset him, and I try to be nice, but nothing seems to work. What can I try to improve our relationship? - N.H.

Dear N.H.: It's good that you've been able to take the higher ground. Being nice to someone who seems to dislike you can be trying. The problem is you can't have the same expectations of your in-laws as you do of your own parents. Plenty of people are close with their in-laws, but there also are many who avoid in-laws. Avoidance can add stress to any marriage, so it is worth it to patch things up if you can.

You mention you can't think of anything you've done to make your father-in-law dislike you. Have you spoken to him about this? Talking to your in-laws can serve two purposes - you can learn if there was something you did to upset them; and you can express the emotions you've been suppressing. Keeping your feelings inside can lead to an explosion, leading to more conflict. If you can talk to your in-laws in a calm way, and explain that getting along is important to you, hopefully they will understand and agree.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I really don't like my son's girlfriend. She's mean and manipulative to him, and rude to me and my wife. I think she's taking advantage of him and he's not getting respect from her. He's an adult, and I want him to make his own decisions, but I also don't want to see him get hurt. Is there anything I can do? – J.P.

Dear J.P.: Unfortunately, there isn't a lot you can do. Beyond discussing your opinions of your son's girlfriend with him, anything else would backfire on you, and likely leave your son resenting your interference. Depending on the relationship you have with your son, a talk about your opinions of his girlfriend could help him to see your side, or it could cause him to rebel and hang on to his girlfriend even tighter.

You also have to keep in mind that your son is a different person from you, and he's at a different stage in life. Maybe he sees all the things that you ZLGM YR KBUXGM TBY LTP see in this girl, and is with her for other reasons that you can't see. Or maybe the situation is enas a parent. Possibly the most helpful thing could be getting him to open up to you. It's possible that he's seen what you've seen in this girl, and doesn't know what to do. You are in a position where you can give your son advice, if he asks for it. So all you have to do is allow him the opportunity to talk to you and ask for that advice. Make sure you're not reacting in a judgmental way and your son will be better off in the long run.

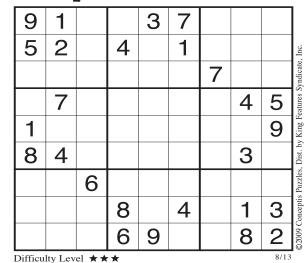
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"PJ's eating his marshmallows raw!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



This is a logic-based num-

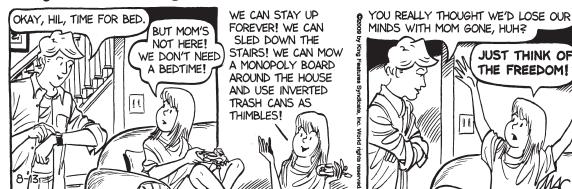
ber placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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| 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | onoptis |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ©2009 C |
| Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/12 | | | | | | | | | |

Cryptoquip

tirely different from the small sliver that you see KGGM OGE TE ELG LUOCSETD, PGASPGP S'P DSXG EU 🏵 ELBUZ T ATOE CTBER. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD CARTOON ANIMAL THAT'S BECOMING AN EXPERT AT A POPULAR HINDU EXERCISE SYSTEM: YOGA BEAR.

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





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| Opening lead — jack of diamonds. | | | | | | | | |
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Partnership Defense

At the outset of play, a defender often finds himself in the dark, trying to guess how to proceed. Once the play begins, however, much of the guesswork can frequently be eliminated if the defenders communicate properly with each other.

Here is a case in point. South reached four spades as shown, and West led his singleton diamond, taken by dummy's ace. Since it was not likely that he would ever reach dummy again, South continued with the diamond king and discarded a club. East in the meantime had followed 23 A to the A-K of diamonds with first the seven and then the deuce.

West ruffed the second diamond but was at a loss as to what to do next. Forced to lead away from one of his kings, and influenced by South's club discard, he shifted to a club, and that was that. Declarer took the jack with the queen, drew trumps and conceded two heart tricks to make the contract.

Of course, if West had shifted to a heart at trick three, the defense would have collected the A-K of hearts and a heart ruff, and West's king of clubs would eventually have put South down two. The question, therefore, is whether there was any way for West to know he should shift to a heart at trick three.

The answer is yes, but it wasn't West who was at fault. The blame lay entirely with East, who gave his partner no help whatsoever on the first two tricks. When the second diamond was led from dummy, East knew full well that his partner would ruff. He should therefore have availed himself of the opportunity to steer West in the right direction by means of a suit-preference signal.

Instead of following mechanically with the deuce at trick two, East should have played a much higher card -- preferably the queen. West could hardly have mistaken this vociferous signal as anything but a request to shift to the higherranking side suit -- namely, hearts -- and the defenders would have enjoyed a much more satisfying ending.

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS 1 Bridge coup 5 — de deux 8 Grand tale 12 Caffeine- | 39Honest politician?58Carry politician?40MimicDOWN42Kidnap- per's1Vail gear per's42Kidnap- demand2Ness, e.g.45"You Can't - Again"3Sheltered 4 | 21 Billboards 24 "Monty Python" opener 25 Citi Field player 26 Excessive suspi- |
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| 14 Doily feature 15 On the rocks | bird to meet 52 Mideast 6 Hearty airline brew 53 Main- 7 Balkan | Got a Secret" 29 Brazil neighbor |
| 16 Actor Stephen 17 Press | landers' native memen- 8 Bring out tos 9 Eden | 30 Greek X 31 Under- |
| 18 Everest guide 20 Empty | 54 Vast10 PCexpansepicture55 Ostenta-11 Small | standing 36 Haunt 37 Writer |
| 22 Have some- thing | tious change display 19 Circum- 56 Stats for ference | Buscaglia 38 Prepare leftovers |
| wrong 23 Accom- plished | 52-Across divided 57 Whatever by number diameter | 41 One of the Tele- |
| 24 Satan's minions27 Kiss | Solution time: 25 mins. | tubbies 42 Portrayal 43 Lend an |
| reminder 32 Earl Grey, e.g. | T O B O G G N O B E Y E N S U E D O R A D O C L O T D E C L O T D E C L O T D E C L O T D E C L O T D E C L D T D E C L D T D E C L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D L D D L D D D D D D D D D D D D D | illegal hand 44 Small |
| 33 ActressMendes34 That | E G O A C R E S O A K N O B D E M I A S H Y Y M A S L O B | plateau 46 Hodge- podge |
| woman 35 Baby carriage | A D J U R E N U T T Y H A U L T O B E S U R E E D G E C H I E B O N M O S S H O G R E D S | 47 Shoppers' site48 Differently |
| 38 Check | Yesterday's answer 8-13 | 51 Chaps |

