





Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young







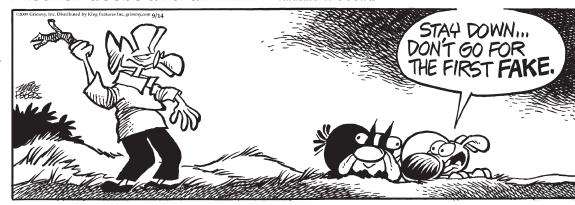
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne







Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









7 comics CFP 9-14-09.indd 1









Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Buddy wants job references

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a close friend from high school with whom I've kept in close touch after college. We both have a degree in advertising (from different schools), and both got jobs in agencies in a large city. But he was let go, and he's been bugging me about introductions in my company in case there's an opening. Frankly, I don't want to risk being replaced by my own buddy! Is it wrong to say no, and if not, how do I say it and not sound like a selfish jerk? - C.W.

Dear C.W.: It is nice to be concerned about vour friend's welfare, and I don't think you should be so hard on yourself - whatever you decide to do, it doesn't mean you are "selfish." One of the things you learn in business is to take care of yourself and your job security as well as help others - it's called networking, and people find themselves in dilemmas similar to yours all the time. Just because your friend has a problem with his career doesn't mean you have to solve it, or offer up your workplace as the solution - especially if it could put your own job in jeopardy.

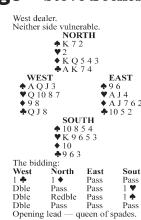
As just one part of your friend's work world, you can help him by encouraging him to use all the social-networking sites out there. He should know what they are. Be honest. If he knows you are concerned about keeping your own job, and he's a friend, he won't think less of you for not throwing him a life preserver. Let him know that you are going to keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities that wouldn't impact your own. It will be hard to think of yourself as a "jerk" if you put some effort toward helping your buddy. But in the end, he's got to do his own thing to land a job. Don't feel responsible for his success.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have met a woman who I'd like to hang out with. She is divorced and raising a young teen. I am having a hard time getting her to do things without her daughter. They are the kind of best-friend mom/daughter types you see out shopping together and sharing secrets. I find it creepy that she doesn't want to confide in women her own age - just her daughter. How do I wedge my way in, here? – J.T.

Dear J.T.: It is nice that you want to be riend this woman and hang out with her – it sounds as YAXY AOWU TXCN LXLLXT though it would be a good thing for both of you, but especially for her. Often when a mother makes her child into her best friend, she doesn't have TESUM NVECSECW GAXLRXWCU a lot of adult companionship. This may be fun for the child for a while, but ultimately carry too much adult responsibility. Sometimes children of divorcees become the caretaker of the fragile par- M I LOGA, RUIRTU JUVU ent, a burden they never should be asked to carry. This can rob them of their childhood and create resentment or emotional baggage.

So, if you can break into that inner circle, bravo. You need to create some clear-cut "rules" when it comes to attending functions. Make it clear that while her daughter is fun, you'd prefer to do certain things with adults. Show her that she doesn't need to lean on her daughter. Soon she will have the confidence both to separate from her child and to act as a single adult with much to offer.

Bridge • Steve Becker



Famous Hand

The value of a hand is often affected by bids the other players make, and a good part of what is called bidding skill depends on how well one 20 Pl is able to re-evaluate a hand as the picture keeps changing.

Consider this dramatic example from a 1972 national team-of-four championship. The road to oblivion for North-South began when Mike Becker, brother of this writer, opened the bidding as dealer with one club, and North innocently overcalled with one diamond. East, Andy Bernstein, passed, since a double would have been for takeout in the partnership's style.

Despite his anemic values, West decided to 32 Fr compete further when he doubled for takeout after South's pass of a diamond. East was happy to let the double stand, but South was not and ran to one heart.

Sensing that the opponents were in deep trouble, West this time doubled for penalties and, after North had made an SOS redouble, also doubled one spade – which became the final contract.

West's bidding was indeed remarkable. He had opened with absolutely minimum values and then proceeded to double every time it was his turn, just as though he had opened the bidding with a super hand.

Moreover, he made the highly effective opening lead of the queen of spades. Declarer ducked in dummy - quite naturally assuming that West had the Q-J and East the ace - whereupon West played the ace and another spade. South eventually went down three for a loss of

500 points, though he could have saved a trick in the play. West was exceptionally well-rewarded for recognizing that even a minimum opening bid can sometimes change its complexion and become a powerhouse.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"When the cold weather gets here, this will be one of the good ol' days.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

GXTTECW EY X VAECI JECI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE TWO MAGNETS START DATING? IT COULD BE BECAUSE THEY HAD A MUTUAL ATTRACTION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P

61 Popular

article

19 Buck's

mate

rable

54 Early

bird?

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

37 Sports-

caster

ACROSS

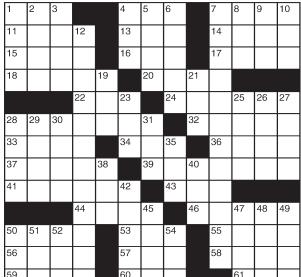
1 Friend

34 Joan of

quality

36 Color

i i nena	Castel	article	mate	
4 Vacation-	Mus-		21 De-	
ing	burger	DOWN	pressed	
7 Fried-	39 Judge	1 Carrots'	23 Bikini	
eggs	41 Spoof	mates	half	
side order	43 Thither	2 Soldiers	25 Jog	
11 News-	44 For fear	3 Depict	26 Sea eagle	
caster	that	4 Fre-	27 Color	
Sevareid	46 Lecherous	quently	worker	
13 Winter	looker	5 Banner	28 Appre-	
ailment	50 Quaker	6 Uproar	hends	
14 54-Down,	pronoun	7 Running	29 Fairy	
to a	53 Exist	fast	tale	
biologist	55 Tittle	8 "Hail!"	baddie	
15 Bullets,	56 Pig's	in old	30 Small	
etc.	sound	Rome	songbird	
16 Pitch	57 Schlep	9 Take to	31 Historic	
17 Abound	58 Nip	court	time	
18 Church	and —	10 "Let me	35 Weep	
council	59 Duel	think,"	38 Calendar	
20 Phil	tool	12 1967	abbr.	
Mickel-	60 "Family	Paul	40 Greet the	
son's	Guy"	Newman	villain	
game	daughter	movie	42 Song of	
22 High ten-	praise			
nis shot	Solution tim	45 Authentic		
24 Cheered	A C T O R C		47 Lummox	
(for)	R I P E N T		48 Engrave	
28 Remote,	INDEE	DHOST	49 Gather	
unfamiliar	AHAOVA		leaves	
territory	DARTAL STYRON	DEN ONETWO	50 Pirouette	
32 Fret	ESSA		pivot	
33 Taj Mahal	MAYBEF		51 With it	
city	O D I E D E		52 Insepa-	
	TITOTALVINIOLI	DITINIA K		



Saturday's answer 9-14