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







Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









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Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Retained worker stagnates on job

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been working at the same company for 16 years, and am one of the lucky ones who have kept jobs in these tough times. They say I'm lucky, but all I feel at work is like I'm in a fog. I don't feel I'm productive, and all anyone talks about is layoffs. I'd liked my job, but it's stagnant now. What can I do to revive excitement and productivity? - B.T.

Dear B.T.: Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in offices around the country right now. With the economy taking a downturn, more people are being laid off, but those who keep jobs are also experiencing inertia. With talk of the next cutbacks around your office, you don't want to take risks for fear of being singled out when cutbacks come. Additionally, companies are taking away perks, which can make you feel there's no reason to exceed expectations or use creativity.

The problem with this is, of course, that while it may feel like recovery is forever in coming, the economy will turn around, and you don't want to have wasted years. You can put yourself in a good position by remaining motivated now. Don't sit around waiting to get fired; instead, take stock of your aspirations, and work toward those goals. The only way to get through the fear-laden atmosphere is by making a plan of action and implementing it. Take charge of something, no matter how small, and start moving forward. This will reignite your drive, and you can start to motivate co-workers with your energy. And remember, you're sure to be rewarded eventually.

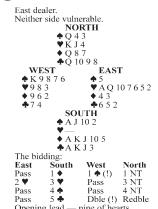
Dear Dr. Brothers: I just graduated and I'm interviewing for my dream job. I don't have much practice, and don't want to do something wrong that will give them a chance to dismiss me, when I know I'm qualified. I've read books on interviewing, but I'm still nervous. What do I wear? How eager should I be about the job? And how important are these little things, really? – P.C.

Dear P.C.: The littlest things actually are very important when it comes to interviews. The interviewer will form an opinion within the first few minutes that will color the rest of the experience. You're thinking along the right lines, though, and know you are qualified. Confidence goes a long way toward acing the interview. If you prepare you'll make the right impression from the start.

to common questions that aren't overused. Even if previous jobs were terrible, stay positive and focus on things you got out of them. When you are negative, it reflects poorly on you. Small, important bits of etiquette include: Avoid asking about vacation or pay until there is an offer; show up on time; turn off your cell phone; and toss your coffee before you reach the interview. As for the dress code, it's better to be overdressed than too casual. And no matter how casual an office is, never wear jeans to an interview!

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Steve Becker



Famous Hand

This deal goes back many years. It occurred in a duplicate game, where the primary aim is to get a better score than the other pairs playing the same hand.

The bidding is recorded the way it took place. West had paid his card fee and felt he could bid anytime the mood so moved him. His double of five clubs, incomprehensible though it seems, actually did make some sense, but his spade overcall defies logical explanation.

The hand was played back in the 1930s, when there was no 50-point bonus for making a doubled contract. West thought his opponents would probably bid a slam in clubs if he passed five clubs, so he tried to intimidate them by doubling. He also had calculated that if North or South redoubled and the contract was made - even with an overtrick - he would still be better off than if North-South bid and made a slam!

Five clubs redoubled, making with an overtrick, would amount to 900 points, while six clubs undoubled would come to 920 points. The 900 points scored against him would therefore beat every other East-West pair against whom six clubs had been bid and made.

But declarer also realized this when he saw dummy and so embarked on a complicated and risky line of play designed to secure a second overtrick and in that way make up for the lost slam. Accordingly, he ruffed the heart lead with the

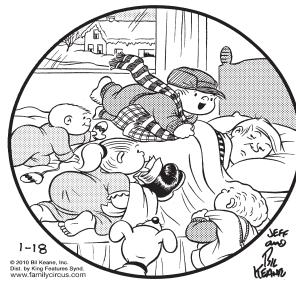
ace, played a low trump to the eight and ruffed another heart with the king. Still requiring a third entry to dummy to accomplish his goal, he led a low diamond and finessed dummy's seven!!

Having gotten over this hurdle, South next ruffed dummy's last heart with the jack, led a diamond to the queen and cashed the Q-10-9 of trumps, discarding the J-10-2 of spades to finish with all 13 tricks!

True, West could have thwarted declarer by playing the nine on the very first diamond lead, but who'd want to spoil such a great story?

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Daddy! Remember when you said you'd help build a snowman next time it snowed?...'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level *

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/15							1/15		
	3	7	2	9	4	6	1	8	5
	8	6	9	5	1	3	7	4	2
	4	1	5	8	7	2	3	6	9
	7	3	1	6	9	4	5	2	8
	9	2	4	3	8	5	6	7	1
	5	8	6	7	2	1	4	9	3
	2	5	8	4	3	7	9	1	6
	1	4	3	2	6	9	8	5	7
	0	9	/	'	Э	0	~	J	4

6 9 7 1 5 8 2 3 4

Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

LAOXUWVF DOW-RW BHQHMWDWXV

You want to be sincere, so think about answers DHIWHD HGAXDWVF BKH DHOIHB

QWMHD XR RXIUHI DAXLDHD: 🚗

"BKH HG RWQHD."

32 Longtime

34 Thailand,

once

star

Indy 500

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH FAST FOOD DO YOU SUPPOSE CERTAIN PENNSYLVANIANS WOULD LOVE? PITTSBURGHERS' BURGERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I

45 Praise

verse

in

46 Born

coffee

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

CLOSSA	vora • E	ugene Sne	eller
ACROSS 1 "Piggies" 5 Quick swim	35 Suitable 36 Animator Tex 37 Mideast	2 Lubricate 3 And so on (Abbr.)	20 Hearty brew 21 Catherine — -Jones
8 Conked	market	4 Figures	22 Blue
out	40 Con-	5 Let fall	shade
12 Coin-toss	sumed	6 Charged	23 Used
outcome,	41 Paradise	particle	diligently
e.g.	42 "Swanee"	7 H&R	25 Losers
14 Gaelic	singer	Block	26 Author
15 Eliot	47 Surround	employee	Wiesel
Ness' foe	48 Ocean	8 Go	27 Back
16 False	occur-	ashore	29 Celebes
idol	rence	9 Bagh-	ox
17 Spot	49 Old	dad's	31 Jimmy
on a	portico	land	Carter's
playing	50 Round	10 Jacob's	daughter
card	Table	twin	33 Kam-
18 Com-	address	11 Take out	pala's
memora-	51 Duel tool	of a text	nation
tive		13 Grand	34 Slender
tablet	DOWN	story	36 On
20 Victim of	1 Afternoon	19 MGM	37 Pleads
Cortes	gathering	mascot	38 Mine
23 Twosome			entrance
24 Dregs	39 Nil		
25 Noted TV	RAFDAB		40 Open
weather-	O N O E S A W I L D F I R		slightly
caster	W I L D F I R D E A F	E E G O S O B E S E	43 Floral
28 Greek H	SMELTF	ILE	neckwear
29 Foreigner	HAREWI		44 Taste
30 Meadow	A G O S H A		the

