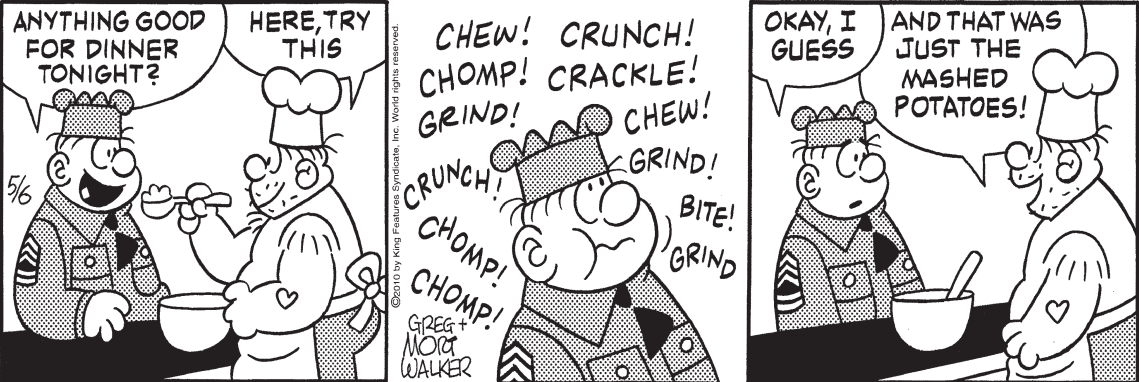


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



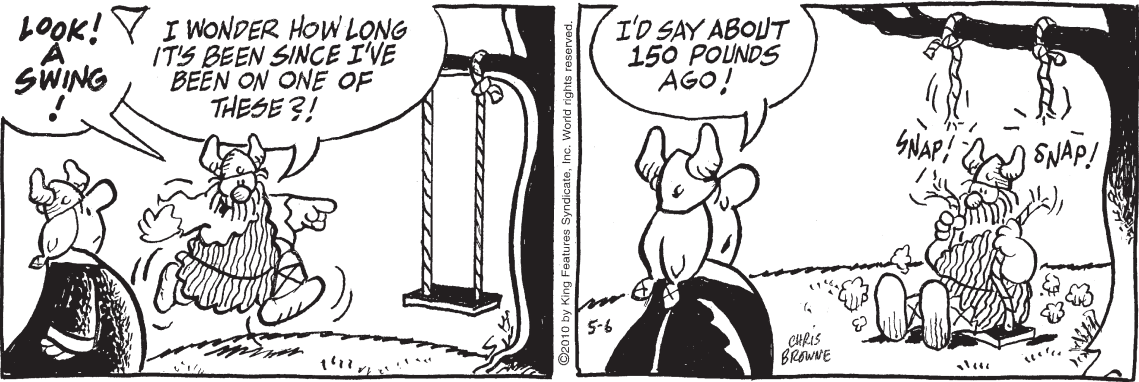
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



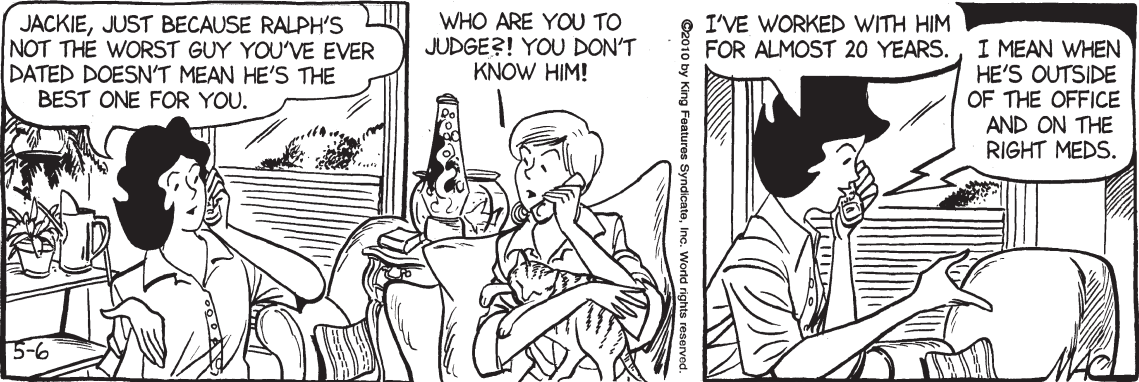
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



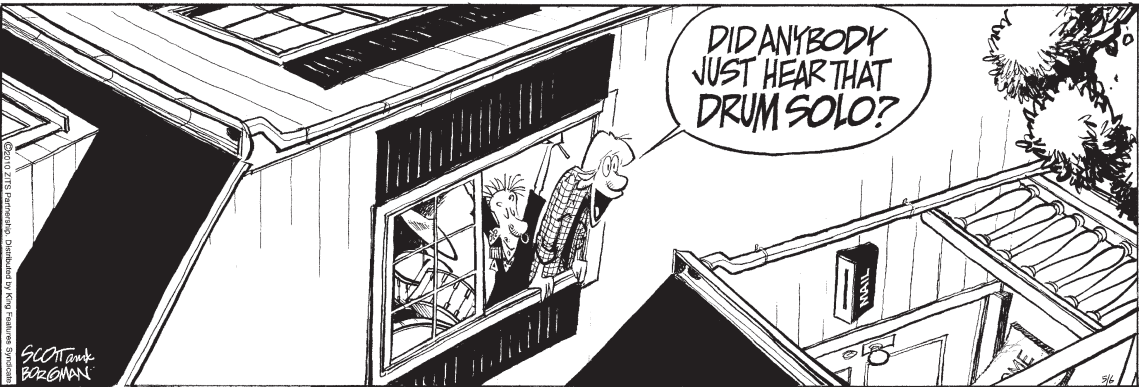
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Dr. Brothers

Dad is strict; aunt worried

Dear Dr. Brothers: My problem is my brother-in-law. He's always been a good provider for my sister and her kids, but recently he lost his job, and has taken on the task of house-husband. My sister has gone to work, and in her place is this drill-sergeant father! He makes the kids, who are girls, 7 and 9, do all sorts of household chores and homework. There never is time left for any fun. Should I say something helpful to him? I don't want my sister to have to worry. — S.G.

Dear S.G.: It must be frightening for your brother-in-law to go from being the main wage earner to being a house-husband. Although it can be rewarding to take care of children you have to provide for his family. It sounds as though he is concerned about his changing image, and wants to make sure his wife and daughters still respect and look up to him. Unfortunately, the way he has gone about it — which may have worked at his job — isn't an appropriate way to show his daughters he's still a big man.

From where you sit, there's probably little you can do other than take time to pick up the slack with the girls. I'm sure they'd enjoy spending time with their aunt, especially if it doesn't involve work! When you're with them, you can explain that their dad may not know what they enjoy doing when their chores are finished — and help them suggest some fun father-daughter activities. The girls probably are having a hard time adjusting to their mom being out of the house, too, so it would be great if you could help make these temporary transitions a bit easier for all.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have been married for two years, and are the parents of a baby girl, who is 7 months old. She is great, but I am worrying about the different parenting styles my husband and I have. He likes to measure everything, and set up rules, and I just want her to explore her world as a free little person. We never seem to agree on anything having to do with her. How do we raise this child? — N.J.

Dear N.J.: You two must have been a good example of the adage that "opposites attract." You may not have known how opposite you were, since raising a child wasn't something you had experience with. You may not have known what your parenting style was going to be until you had the baby. In parenthood we sometimes dredge up our own childhood, and vow either never to repeat it or to do everything to make sure our kids have the same upbringing we had.

So, now is a great time for you to sit down with your husband and have a serious chat about what the difficulties have been and how you can avoid them by trying to chart a clearer course. Knowing what to expect will be helpful, because then you can anticipate what is coming and how you want to approach it. This gives you an opportunity to discuss where you're coming from and try to come to some reasonable compromises. It's never too soon to work on a united front.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH: ♠ 10 5, ♥ A 9 5, ♦ A 9 8 4, ♣ K J 3

EAST: ♠ 9 7 6, ♥ 7 6 2, ♦ K 10 2, ♣ Q 7 5

WEST: ♠ 8 3, ♥ 10 4, ♦ Q 6 5 3, ♣ 10 8 6 4 2

SOUTH: ♠ A Q 4 2, ♥ K Q J 8 3, ♦ J 7, ♣ A 9

The bidding: South 1♥, West 3♠, North 2NT, East 4♥, South 5♠, West 5♠, North 5♠, East 5♠.

Opening lead — four of clubs.

Declarers Don't Have Nine Lives

To misplay a slam can be very costly, as South discovered to his sorrow in today's hand. West led a club, and declarer played the jack from dummy, covered by the queen and ace. South drew three rounds of trumps and later went down one when he lost a diamond and a spade.

South made two clear-cut errors during the play; he could have afforded one, but not both. To begin with, he should have played the three of clubs from dummy at trick one, not the jack. This would have trapped East's queen and given him three club tricks.

South should have seen that, with the nine in his hand, playing low from dummy would assure three club tricks whenever West held the ten or queen of clubs (or both). If East produced the ten, South could later finesse West for the queen. Playing the clubs in this fashion could not cost, since even if the later club finesse lost, South's diamond loser could be discarded on the club king.

Declarer's second error consisted of playing three rounds of trumps. He should have stopped after two rounds and then tried three rounds of spades. If the spades were divided 3-3 (or if the jack fell doubleton), South could then draw the last trump to assure 12 tricks.

If the spades turned out to be divided 4-2 and the player with the four spades had the last trump, as in the actual deal, declarer could ruff his fourth spade in dummy to make the slam. Even if the player with the third trump had only two spades and ruffed the third spade, this approach would not cost an extra trick, since South could later ruff his last spade in dummy.

Declarer would have made all 13 tricks had he played correctly. However, he fumbled twice — the second time fatally. Cats may have nine lives, but two's the limit for declarers.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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 Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Cryptoquip

PI H IHCWPYXHVOA DYRXM

CGRNAXG PC GWA AXATMAGPB

GDFA, P MRACC WA BYRON

V A H FAFD FTAFFD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT PHOTOGRAPHER IS REALLY INTELLIGENT, MANY PEOPLE ARE CALLING HIM A SHARP SHOOTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Pleased, 5 Docs' org., 8 "That's a relief!", 12 Staffer, 13 Rest-room, for short, 14 Emanation, 15 Paper quantity, 16 Monokini's lack, 17 Despot, 18 Department, 20 Clock sound, 22 Redundantly named money dispenser, 26 Disposed (to), 29 Weep, 30 Veto, 31 Knocks, 32 Sleepwear, briefly, 33 Wrinkly citrus, 34 Prior night, 35 Twosome.

DOWN: 21 Unfriendly, 23 Low-pay, low-skill work, 24 Shade of green, 25 Way out status, 26 Get ready, briefly, 27 Sitarist Shankar, 28 Freedom of access, 32 Jack-o'-lantern, 33 Left over, as money, 35 About to arrive, 36 Raw rock, 38 Has to have, 39 Dada artist Max, 42 State with conviction, 43 Antitoxins, 44 Helen's home, 45 Sphere, 46 Feathery neck-piece, 48 Greek vowel.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-6

