

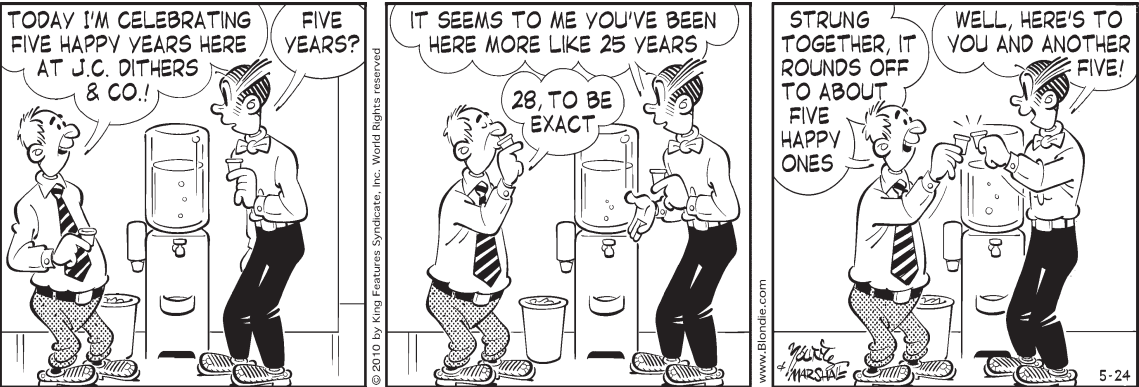
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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

You can choose not to feel guilt

Dear Dr. Brothers: I just found out I'm pregnant with my fourth child. I don't want to even tell my mother because instead of being happy, she gets very weird. Every time I try to tell her what I consider good news, she plagues us with questions like "Are you sure this is the right decision?" My husband and I are both responsible people. We're not rich, but we're not stupid either, and always make reasoned decisions. Why does she always get like this? – N.B.

Dear N.B.: It is difficult when someone close to you rains on your parade. You probably count on your mother to be happy for you, to understand your dreams, and to give them her seal of approval. Even though you are a competent adult, you are – like most of us – still wanting to please your parent, just like the little girl you once were. Especially on momentous decisions, it is natural to want your mother's approval. After all, you want her to be in your corner and a part of your life. When your mother comes up with worrisome questions, she could just be playing devil's advocate – pressing to make sure you aren't being impulsive.

She may have had experiences you haven't, and be trying to give you the benefit of her wisdom. Or is this just her style? Has she always questioned your judgment, either to get you to think or as a reflection of her own insecurities? If you put this in context, you won't be so apt to take it as an insult. I know it is disappointing to have her rain on your parade, but you still can be close.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My best friend is completely in love with his fiancée – I almost think too much. He left a place in the country he liked to move to her preferred location of the city. He sold his car – which he loved – to buy a vehicle more to her liking. Now he's talking about taking her last name. What's wrong with this dude, or am I too judgmental? – P.D.

Dear P.D.: Obviously you care about your friend and are hoping for the best for him. You don't want him hurt, and are uncomfortable seeing him "blinded" by love and losing himself in the relationship. It may also hurt that he is devoting his energy and attention to the woman in his life instead of you. Perhaps you are feeling left out and uneasy about whether he is going overboard. It is nice you are such a good friend.

Almost all the things you mentioned are fairly typical compromises while planning a transition from "I" to "we." It is natural to want to please our spouse and fit with his or her lifestyle. I would feel better if the fiancée also is changing! Perhaps she is. Taking her name does seem to be drastic, and I would expect that of someone who doesn't have a close relationship with his own family. Many men like to carry on that connection, but it's a new world, and maybe he just likes her name better, or there is another specific reason.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 5
♥ Q J 3 2
♦ Q 9
♣ 10 7 4 2

WEST
♠ A Q 4
♥ A 10 8 7
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ 6 5

EAST
♠ K 10 8 7 2
♥ 6 5
♦ 8 4
♣ A 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 1 9 3
♥ K 9 4
♦ A J 10 7 2
♣ K J

The bidding:
East Pass
South 1 ♦
West Pass
North 1 NT
Opening lead — six of clubs.

Famous Hand

This is one of the more unusual hands ever played in a world championship. It occurred in the Thailand-U.S. match in 1964 and featured an extremely rare play – a double squeeze against declarer. Squeezes are nearly always executed by the declarer, not by the defenders.

The contract was one notrump played by Bob Hamman of the U.S. West (Dr. Manoo Veeraburut) led a club, on which dummy and East (Benno Gimkiewicz) followed low.

After winning the first two tricks with the K-J of clubs, declarer led a low heart to the jack, which held, and next finessed the queen of diamonds, which also held. By now, East-West had had four chances to win a trick and had rejected them all!

Hamman then repeated the diamond finesse, at which point the defenders brought their big guns into action, and South never got another trick! West won the diamond with the king and played the A-Q and another spade. East won the third spade with the king and cashed the ten of spades and ace of clubs, producing this position:

North
♥ Q 3
♠ Q

West
♥ A 10
♦ 6

East
♥ 7
♠ 5
♦ 9

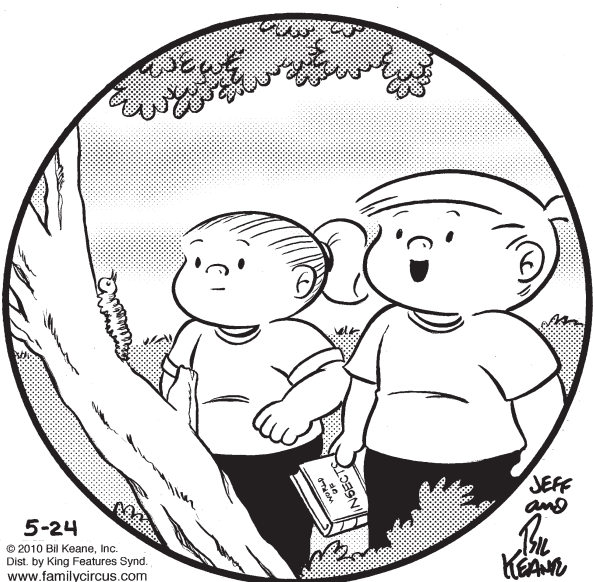
South
♥ K 9
♦ A

When Gimkiewicz next cashed the seven of spades, South could not spare the diamond ace, which would make West's six a trick. So he discarded the nine of hearts.

Veeraburut then discarded his diamond, and now dummy was squeezed. A club discard would make East's nine a trick, so Hamman discarded the heart three from dummy. East thereupon led a heart, and West took the last two tricks with the A-10 of hearts to put the contract down three!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"In a couple weeks that caterpillar's gonna get promoted to a butterfly."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

GR ES WGIS TFGUTGC MGRFG

RGOLS FOBC TCFH RHWSFETCY

SURS, FES WGYTLTGC LBTSI

"MSRFH LEGCYH!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE WRY COMEDIAN WAS FORMERLY A MARATHONER, HE TENDED TO USE A LOT OF RUNNING GAGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Eggs
4 Violinist's need
7 Dueling sword ...
11 ... and its handle
13 "— la la!"
14 Volcano outflow
15 Cat's call
16 Gorilla
17 Basin accessory
18 Use a broom
20 Balkan native
22 — Vegas
24 Overuses the mirror
28 Con-founded
32 Provide
33 Help a criminal
34 Corn on the —
36 Ocean motion
37 Mythical river of forgetfulness
39 Take up the slack

41 Grassy plains of South America
43 "Hum-bug!"
44 Black
46 Swamp-like
50 "CSI" actress
53 Charged particle
55 Radius' neighbor
56 Beehive State
57 Caustic solution
58 Authentic
59 Kindly bloke
60 De-pressed

61 Female sheep
63 Resistance measures
65 ABC daytime show, with "The"
67 Lotion additive
69 — constrictor
71 "My bad"
73 Last moment
75 Handle clumsily
79 Previous night
81 Listening organ
82 Shake-speare play

83 Chum
85 Exist
87 Dry, as wine
89 Tend a text
91 Un-dressed
93 Wit-nessed
95 Formal dance
97 First victim
99 Crumbly cheese
101 Speck eater's item
103 A billion years
105 Talk on and on
107 Aptitude
109 Toy on a string
111 Merriment
113 Chew away at
115 Harvard rival
117 Oktober-fest vessel
119 Had dinner
121 Scooted
123 Fresh

Solution time: 27 mins.

TUNER LAW TAW
ARETE ACH ERA
PITAS PHOENIX
FLIMSY POISE
PAL NAE LINEN
IRIS IDEAL
SEXTON DOOFUS
REELS GORE
DICED YEW RNA
OBOE ENLIST
DEEPSIX TIDAL
GAD ORE CRIBS
EMS WES HEXED

Saturday's answer 5-24

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
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60				61	