





Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young





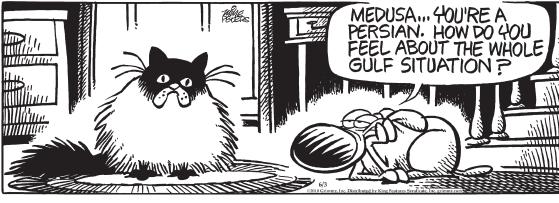


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts







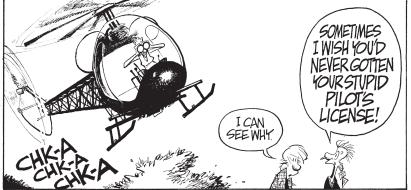


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





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Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Parents choose sleepover rules

Dear Dr. Brothers: Much has changed since I was a kid. My husband and I are in our early 30s, not overly strict, but with good values. Our 8-year-old daughter wants a slumber party with girls and boys! This was unheard of in my day, not all that long ago. We are leaning against it, but don't want to invent evil where none exists. Is there a way to compromise responsibly? – C.K.

Dear C.K.: It seems your daughter has already passed - or hasn't yet encountered (and maybe never will) – the stage in which she feels all boys are "icky." But that doesn't mean she should have them over for a slumber party, no matter how many are doing it – and yes, I'm sure there some parents think it is cute or harmless. But you sound so worried I wouldn't want to encourage you to take on this challenge. After all, there is no point in a party if the atmosphere is tense or there are so many rules the kids won't enjoy themselves.

Explain to your daughter she can have a better time with just her girlfriends, and you'll give her a lesson in valuing female friends - which some never learn. I don't think anything "evil" would occur or that you are wrong to think in those terms, but you want to protect your reputation. Kids younger than yours often play "doctor," and you don't want to be responsible for such activities. So, girls only – and a word to the wise: Take a nap the day of the party. You'll need to be rested. Engage your daughter in cooking up ideas for the evening, and assume she and her friends will have a blast – even without the young men.

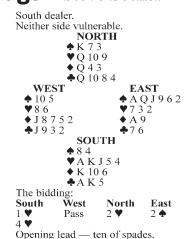
Dear Dr. Brothers: I have always been a quiet person who enjoys being alone. I like to read and draw, and I am enjoying raising a sweet baby girl. My husband has a similar temperament, and I don't doubt our child will follow in our footsteps. But I am getting pressure from other mothers to have baby groups and mother's mornings out, that kind of thing. Will my baby suffer if I turn down these opportunities to use social skills? – J.S.

Dear J.S.: Your baby will not suffer, as long as she has exposure to the enriching experiences all of us need to become well-rounded. But I don't think that because you are wary of all this groupmommy stuff you need to cut your child off from () [a richer social life than she would have alone at home with you. I understand you are a quiet loner, and such activities are not your cup of tea. But you might enjoy meeting and exchanging ideas with other new parents, as well as watching your child grow and learn, and interact with friends.

going to be a social being, and you will be interacting with other parents, caregivers and teachers. Maybe you would be more comfortable if you just picked one mother and child to do things with. You probably will find that less overwhelming than a whole group. I know you will want to do what is best for your child, and perhaps you also are open to this period of your life as one that will bring about changes to the way you see yourself and your role. Try to cultivate an interest in others, and you will feel less like a loner. And save the books for a few minutes before bedtime. You've got a lot of living to do.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Counting Provides the Answer

In the same way as declarer is often faced with the problem of overcoming a missing queen, he is sometimes faced with the problem of overcoming a missing jack. Thus, in the accompanying deal, South starts out with nine virtually certain tricks, and his primary objective is to try to score an extra trick in either diamonds or clubs by overcoming the missing jack in one of the suits.

West led the ten and another spade. Declarer ruffed the third round of spades high, West showing out. South then drew three rounds of trumps - East following suit to each - and played a low diamond to dummy's queen. East won with the ace and returned the nine of diamonds. Had South elected to finesse the ten of dia-

monds at this stage, he would have gone down one. But instead he went up with the king, knowing that he was sure to make the contract by doing so.

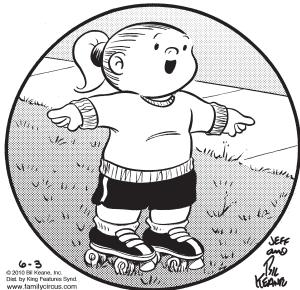
South realized that since East was known to have started with precisely six spades and three hearts, and had already shown up with two diamonds, East could not have been dealt more than two clubs. A diamond finesse was therefore out of the question, since making four club tricks had now become an absolute certainty.

After taking the nine of diamonds with the king, declarer played the A-K and another club and finessed dummy's ten after West followed with the nine. South then discarded his ten of diamonds on the queen of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

Keeping track of how many cards the defenders were dealt in each suit may be regarded by some as a difficult chore, but it sure does take a lot of guesswork out of the game.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'm a lot better at skatin' when I stay on the grass.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

	7	8	6	1	2	3	5	4	9
	3	2	5	8	9	4	6	7	1
	1	9	4	6	7	5	8	3	2
	2	5	3	9	6	8	4	1	7
	9	6	1	4	5	7	3	2	8
	8	4	7	3	1	2	9	5	6
	6	3	8	7	4	1	2	9	5
	4	1	2	5	8	9	7	6	3
-	5	7	9	2	З	6	1	8	4
Difficulty Local + + + 60									6/03

Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

FXB'YL BHHOAC

TQUXSXQ UXAGLAG XE FXBY

There really is no going back. Your daughter is WYOAR, OYLURXA GSTG'J

UTQQLW YTOJOAC GSL HYXXE. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ASSUMING A GOVERNMENT AGENT FAVORS A CERTAIN DECONGESTANT, DOES SUDAFED SUIT A FED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

55 Deco-

rates

19 Fellow

42 Word

43 "It's

shouted

by Jerry

Lewis

mimics

a Sin to

Tell —

44 Specks 45 Felon's

flight

alterna-

tive

21 Chowed

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

dispenser

34 \$

ACROSS

22 "Greed is 54 Scull

good"

1 Hearts or

. Hounto of		anopomoun		·		01101104
darts	35	Mimic		Easter		down
5 Cistern	36	Failed to		eggs	23	Eye
8 Un-	37	Sinclair				cosmetic
wanted		Lewis	DC	NWN	24	Deserve
e-mail		novel	1	Festive	25	Foolish
12 Grad	40	Gag	2	Settled		one
13 Eggs	41	Nude		down	26	"Pow!"
14 Poi	45	Asian	3	Dog-	27	Tiny
base		nation		sledder's		amount
15 Speech	47	Wire		command	28	Narrow-
impedi-		measure	4	Authorize		necked
ment	49	Some-	5	"Wheel of		bottle
16 Symbol		thing		Fortune"	32	Fast, as
of intrigue		about		purchase		music
17 Bullets		Mary?	6	Rd.	33	Threw
and	50	Rue the	7	Hot sauce	35	Request
such		run	8	Harrison	36	Lair
18 Not out	51	Opposite		cohort	38	Got
on the		of post-	9	Molly-		snoopy
town	52	Tend		coddled	39	Swiss
20 Seniors'		texts	10	Branch		mathe-
org.	53	Repair	11	Remark		matician



33 Actress Gilpin

46 Expert **48** 401(k) Yesterday's answer 6-3

from

Bossy

52 55