#### Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott







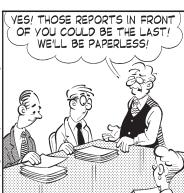
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker

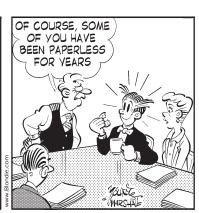




#### **Blondie** • Chic Young







**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne







**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters









Sally Forth • Greg Howard

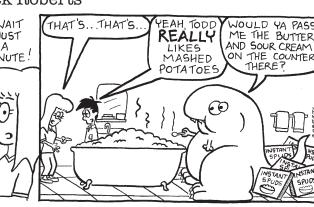




#### **Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts







**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott













# Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

# How proud is proud enough?

Dear Dr. Brothers: This Memorial Day, my neighbor went all out. American flags on each corner of his porch, a bald eagle with its wings splayed over his door. He even sprayed the stars and stripes onto his lawn. When I went for my paper, he asked where my decorations were and if I wasn't honoring our troops. I had nothing. I thought he was going too far, and it raises the question, Can one be too proud? – E.H.

Dear E.H.: I wouldn't confuse overdecorating with being too proud. So the short answer is no - one cannot be too proud of honoring fallen soldiers on Memorial Day. But your question raises underlying issues. Is it correct to equate putting up American flags with your level of patriotism? How did it make you feel when your neighbor questioned yours? He was making as superficial a judgment as you were. The flag as a symbol has, from time to time, been claimed by various groups. It is, unfortunately, sometimes seen as a political symbol that divides us.

Ideally, the flag will be displayed according to proper procedures: not allowed to touch the ground, replaced when it is tattered and so forth. More important, it can be flown by all Americans at any time during the year. If you are worried about your neighbor being too proud, consider what harm his display is doing - it makes him and others feel good, especially military families, whose sacrifice is often ignored. But you needn't be defensive about having no decorations - perhaps you show your pride in your own way.

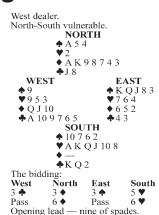
Dear Dr. Brothers: I don't know how other people do it. I see them making small talk with cashiers, mailmen and co-workers. I, on the other hand, feel like some kind of caveman as I stammer out a "Good morning" or a "Thanks." That's all I can spit out! How do people have this talent for being friendly to strangers, when the last thing I want to do is make conversation? – L.R.

Dear L.R.: You obviously find your lack of a glib personal style to be a major failing. It isn't, but since it causes you distress, it would be a good idea to remedy this situation. Once making small talk becomes second nature to you - and I believe change your life for the better. How? By turning small conversations into bigger ones, and bigger ones into relationships, and relationships into KJHOWS friendships or romances. As of right now, that's very unlikely to happen. So let's get to work.

One way to make yourself less self-conscious and awkward is to focus your attention on the BYEHXH UJE DJ HLXYD, LJEKP other person. It's hard to have meaningful conversations based on small talk, but you may actubut haven't talked with much. Comment on a story in the newspaper. Ask them how they like their new car. Take the emphasis off your shyness, and put it on getting to know them. There's nothing wrong with starting with a simple "How's your day going?" And listen to the answer. As others respond to your efforts, you'll get the knack of talking to strangers. Take it at your own pace, and I'll bet your social circle will start to expand.

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#### **Bridge** • Steve Becker



#### **Famous Hand**

Declarer sometimes finds himself playing a contract that seems utterly hopeless. When this unpleasant situation arises, declarer is nevertheless obliged to seek some way to surmount his difficulties. With the proper frame of mind, he might occasionally find a solution to his predicament.

Consider this deal, a classic of its kind, which was played many years ago by Charles Solomon. You might not approve of the bidding, but, be that as it may, Solomon wound up in six hearts, and West led his singleton spade.

Superficially, the slam appears impossible to make. Declarer seemingly has to lose a spade 41 and a club and go down one. However, Solomon 43 made the contract – and there was absolutely 44 nothing the defenders could do to stop him.

He won the spade lead with dummy's ace and started out spectacularly by cashing the A-K of diamonds, on which he discarded the K-Q of clubs! He then ruffed a diamond, establishing the suit, and drew trumps, discarding two spades from dummy.

Now Solomon made his bid for fame and fortune by leading the deuce of clubs toward dummy's J-8. Whether West, who had nothing but clubs remaining, went up with the ace or not, declarer could not be prevented from discarding his three spade losers on dummy's diamonds to bring home the slam. Had Solomon discarded two of his spade losers

on the A-K of diamonds before establishing dummy's diamonds, he would have failed against best defense. By taking the ace of clubs at the proper moment, West could prevent declarer from getting back to dummy and South eventually would have lost both a spade and a club for down one.

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### Family Circus • Bil Keane



"But the sun's up and WHO wants to spend their whole vacation in BED?"

#### Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

5 7		8			9			3
7	4	3	2		5	8		
		9					5	
	5	7	1					2 5
4				8				5
8					2	7	1	
	9					5		
		5	4		1	5 3 9	6	8
3			7			9		4
Difficulty Level ★								7/19

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.

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

# Cryptoquip

that if you work at it you'll master it – you may LZXW DZX YBEDX NXYM JN

ZYWPRYS UJEM

# ally know a lot about the people you see regularly DZYD RX VEMHX-VOMYDOJW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMMON WORDS FROM FOLKS WHO COMPLETELY ADORE ITALY'S CAPITAL: "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE ROME."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals Y

#### **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

7

11

13

14

15 16

17

18

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22

					,			
CROSS	46	Old		3	Ms.		19	Tease
Take a		anes-		Spelling		ng	21	Fuss
chair		thetic			of rea	lity	23	Corn on
Recede	50	Unkem	pt		TV	,		the —
Employer		one		4	Sprite	<del>)</del>	25	Deli salad
Handle	53	Court		5	Rosa	rγ	26	Unrivaled
Romanian	55	Leak			comp	•	27	Mimicked
currency		slowly			nent		28	Obama
Troop	56	KFC		6	Pack			predeces-
group		flavor			anima	al		sor
Beige		enhand	er	7	Dead	pan	29	Norway's
Distant	57	To the	_		star o	f		capital
Alluring		degree			silent		30	Ca-
Egg-	58	Standa			come	dies		boose's
beating	59	Bygone	Э	8	Insep	a-		position
tool		times			rable		31	Scratch
"Phooey!"	60	"Of		9	Half		35	Hair goo
— -tac-		course	,,		dozer	ı		Family
toe	61	Salary		10	Pigs'		40	Born
Texas city					home		42	Fabric
Ennui	DC	NWC		12	Swim	ming		softener
Ship's	1	Distort			cham	р		brand
lowest		the fac	ts		who		45	Memo
deck	2 Foot			played			47	Barrel
Addict		fraction	1		Tarza	n		part
Satchel	S	olution	tim	e. 2	7 min	15	48	Pound of
Hardy	_	ACTS	s			s H		poetry
cabbage		HARE	I			TA	49	"Rata-
Loose	G.	A M U T	М	_		R S		touille"
Ordered	Р	B E A	T I R A	Т		A N P T		rat
more		URS	I N		T		50	Bashful
maga-	1	N S U L	Т			ı c	51	Zodiac
zines		P A Z T E C	E A	N E I		R O E W		sign
Shocking		Z T E C A I R	P U		J A B	⊏ [ VV	52	Bobby of
Meadow	<u> </u>	I М В Е	R S		GE	ST		hockey
Soon, in	$\rightarrow$	R E T E D A	E E			1 O T Y	54	Surprise
verse	[H]	Sature	-			'   <sup>'</sup>   7-19		cries
		Jatur	aay s	Jan	SWEI	1-13		

