

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



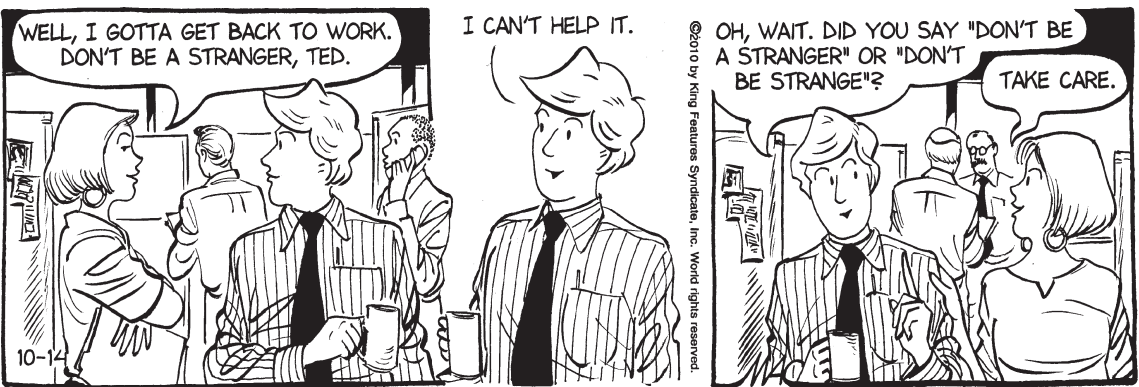
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



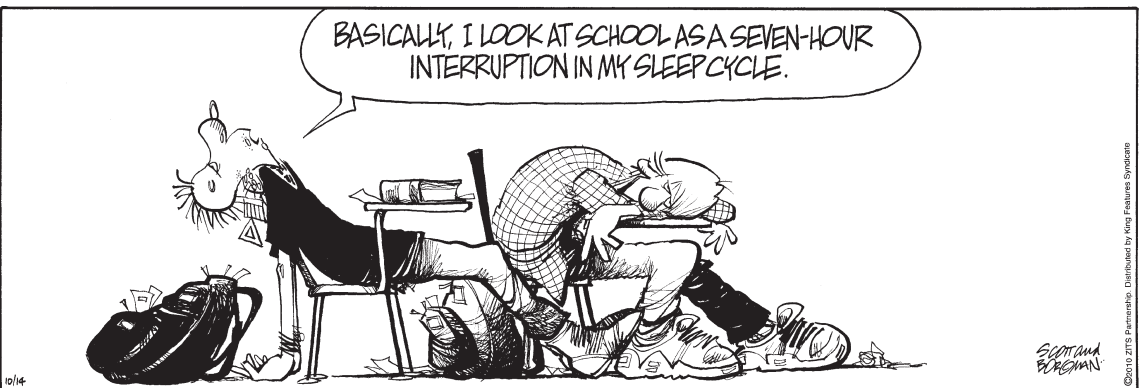
Sally Forth • Greg Howard




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

- Ask Dr. Brothers

Who chooses Mom's dress?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I used to laugh at those TV shows where the bride-to-be brings dozens of friends and relatives to help her pick out a wedding dress. It should be her own decision! Now my three kids have ganged up to tell me what dress to buy for my wedding (all are teenagers). I feel my own taste doesn't count at all. But I want to make them happy and get a good start with their stepdad. – K.M.

Dear K.M.: It sometimes is difficult for parents to give their kids choices. There are those who still pick out the clothing their kids will wear to school each day. It's important to let kids feel a sense of autonomy to exercise their personal choices. I'm sure your kids have had many years to assert themselves with choices – you even may have done your job too well, now that they want to make this important decision for you!

I think the key information in your letter relates to your wishes to get your kids and their stepdad off to a good start. Sometimes there's guilt attached to marrying someone other than the father of our children, and you may be letting that influence you. But your kids will respect you for putting your foot down – they really don't want the responsibility of picking a wedding gown, trust me. Let them pick their own (appropriate) clothes for the wedding, and you choose yours.

Dr. Brothers: Our child has just started kindergarten, and both his dad and I are thrilled to hear about his school day and see how much fun he's having. My problem is that his father has started taking him out every Saturday and Sunday to do "boy things" they find in the newspaper. This could be a fair, a sporting event, a zoo. I am never invited along because my husband wants to "bond." I need time with my son, too! – N.D.

Dear N.D.: Wow, talk about being shut out – you are batting zero, Mom! I think you need to assert yourself before this becomes a routine that is hard to break – or before your son finds that he knows his dad a lot more than his mom, or feels that his mom somehow doesn't have enough time for him, while his dad always does. Don't get me wrong – it is delightful that your husband wants to make time for his son after working all week. And he may feel that you do have more quality time together – do you have extra activities you don't think "count," like getting dinner together or putting the child to bed? Those may be adding up in your husband's mind as "your" time, even though you don't really see things that way. But why can't you all do some things together on the weekend, instead of having Dad just whisk the child away? It's almost as if you were practicing for a divorce. This family shouldn't be run like one with child-custody issues; you all should function as a team, where you can feel some real togetherness and bond as a threesome. If there are some petty jealousies or some feelings of empowerment by one parent depriving the other of the child, that is not a healthy thing. So take this seriously when you talk to your husband. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K Q 8		♠ 9 6 4	
♥ 8 2		♥ J 10 9 7	
♦ 7 6		♦ 9 8 5 4	
♣ J 10 9 7 4		♣ 5 2	

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ J 10 7 2		♠ 5 3	
♥ 4		♥ A K Q 6 5 3	
♦ A K Q 10 3		♦ 1 2	
♣ K 8 6		♣ A Q 3	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥		Dble	Redble
4♥			Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Alert Defensive Play

It is usually more difficult to defend a hand well than it is to play a hand well as declarer. Take this deal where West cashed the K-Q of diamonds against four hearts, then shifted to the deuce of spades.

Declarer won with dummy's queen and played the A-K of trumps, learning that East had a sure trump trick coming. South correctly continued with the queen and another trump, whereupon East found himself on lead in this position:

North

♠ A K 8		♠ 9 6
♣ J 10 9		♣ 9 8

West		East
♠ J 10 7		♠ 9 6
♦ A		♦ 9 8
♣ K 6		♣ 5 2

South

♠ 5		♠ A Q 3
♥ 6 5		
♦ A Q 3		

A club return at this point seems normal, but East returned a low spade instead. It was this unusual play that quickly settled declarer's hash. South won with dummy's king, discarded a club on the ace of spades, and then lost a club finesse to West for down one.

Had East made the more natural return of a club in the diagrammed position, South would have made the contract with proper play. He would simply have risen with the ace of clubs and cashed the 6-5 of hearts, squeezing West in spades and clubs to score the rest of the tricks.

Most declarers claim they find it difficult to recognize and execute a squeeze. But it is even more of a challenge for a defender to recognize that a squeeze is imminent – as East perceptively did in this case – and then break it up by severing declarer's communication with dummy. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/14

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

AMC JAS VYI SMISV ASZ
UYYC MJ CHZSNISC, H OYBTC
NTMHW THITS WHJJ WBUUSI

OMJ M OASFOMZC FYBIA.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A "STAR WARS" ACTRESS LUGS AROUND ANGLERS, WOULD YOU SAY CARRIE FISHER CARRIES FISHERS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Storage structure
- 5 Alkali neutralizer
- 9 Cudgel
- 12 Relaxation
- 13 Musical ending
- 14 Past
- 15 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" set
- 17 Sister
- 18 Rug, so to speak
- 19 Hoosegow
- 21 Bunyan's Babe, e.g.
- 22 "Star Wars" weapon
- 24 Dermatologist's concern
- 27 Increase
- 28 Hurry
- 31 "Humbug!"
- 32 Time of your life?
- 33 Shell game item
- 34 "Skedaddle!"
- 36 In medias

DOWN

- 1 Denomination
- 2 Head light?
- 3 Birthright barterer
- 4 Czar
- 5 Farm fraction
- 6 Bill's partner
- 7 Altar
- 8 Muffles
- 9 "Wheel of Fortune" chance and fever
- 11 Broadway prize
- 16 Driver's license datum
- 20 "The ramparts ..."

22 Beer type

- 23 Firetruck tools
- 24 Couric's network
- 25 "Uh-huh"
- 26 "The Price Is Right" jackpot
- 27 Piece of merchandise
- 29 Vast expanse
- 30 Crone
- 35 Erstwhile acorn
- 37 Sand component
- 39 Tenth president
- 40 Chum
- 41 Peruse
- 42 Approximately
- 43 Hawk
- 44 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 45 43-Across, e.g.
- 46 Capri or Wight
- 49 "— been had!"
- 50 "A pox upon thee!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	I	R	S	H	E	S	C	A	B	
L	U	C	I		W	A	X		A	R	G
A	N	E	C	D	O	T	E		L	E	A
P	A	R	C	E	L			R	O	T	O
			I	L	L		T	H	I	S	
H	A	M		L	E	G		S	N	O	R
O	B	I	T		N	O	M		E	T	A
P	E	S	O		O	O	H		E	N	D
			Q	U	I	T		D	I	S	
C	O	U	R	S	E			E	G	O	I
A	V	O	N		M	A	S	H		N	O
P	E	T	E		P	I	T		I	T	E
P	R	E	Y		T	R	Y		C	A	P

Yesterday's answer 10-14

