

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

WHEN YOU SAY:

THEY MUST HEAR:

I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU FOR DOING YOUR BEST.

I'M REALLY HOPING THAT'S NOT THE BEST YOU CAN DO.

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

LISTEN TO HIM WHISTLE. NOBODY WHISTLES ANYMORE

YEAH, IT USED TO SHOW HOW HAPPY WE WERE

I'M HOME!

HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING AGAIN?!

Blondie • Chic Young

\$2.95 FOR LOU'S 'EXOTIC IMPORTED COFFEE'?

YEAH, I NEED TO COMPETE WITH THOSE FANCY COFFEE PLACES

HMM... THIS IS GOOD! WHERE'S IT IMPORTED FROM?

DUGAN'S MARKET, DOWN THE STREET

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

GOOD! YOU'RE BACK FROM GOLF!

TWO DUCKS AND A SQUIRREL

WHAT DID YOU SHOOT TODAY?

HE DOES BETTER WITH GOLF CLUBS THAN HE DOES WITH A BOW AND ARROW!

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

NO, DEAR, I GOT RID OF THE DWARFS. THESE ARE MY DIVORCE LAWYERS--SHODDY, SLEAZY, SHAMEFUL AND VILE.

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

GUYS, THEY'RE CLOSING THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT.

OH NO! WAS IT SOMETHING YOU DID?

WHAT?! NO!

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL TALK TO JEFF. MAYBE YOU CAN BE HIRED BACK AS OUR ASSISTANT!

OH...OH...YOU GUYS REALLY AREN'T TETHERED TO THIS WORLD, ARE YOU?

HOW ABOUT SOME FREE CAKE FOR THE FIRED LADY HERE?!

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

LOOK, ALAN! I FOUND A JUNE BUG!

TODD, THAT'S NOT A JUNE BUG. I THINK IT'S A DUNG BEETLE

WHAT'S A DUNG BEETLE?

IT'S A BEETLE THAT REALLY LIKES... WELL... YOU KNOW... DUNG

THAT'S PRETTY SAD WHEN YOUR FRESHEST BREATH OF THE DAY IS YOUR MORNING BREATH

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

I WONDER WHAT JEREMY THINKS WHEN HE SEES GIRLS WHO DRESS LIKE THAT.

HE PROBABLY THINKS WHAT YOU THINK HE THINKS.

SHAME ON YOU!

JEREMY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?? I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR HOURS!

OH. WAS THAT YOU?

MOM, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS BEFORE... YOU HAVE TO TEXT SOMEONE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO CALL, OTHERWISE PEOPLE DON'T ANSWER THEIR PHONES.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT COMMUNICATION THAT YOU FIND SO CONFUSING?

Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Dr. Brothers

Her daughter won't go to camp

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a large extended family, and it has been tradition for us to go to a wonderful old camp. We have always sent kids when they were 8, but now, one of the cousins is refusing to go. That would be my daughter. She says it is “scary.” She has visited the camp since she was small and knows everyone else is going. I know she will enjoy it. Should I not listen to her and sign her up with the rest of the kids? – C.G.

Dear C.G.: Family traditions can be wonderful ways of passing meaningful experiences to younger members of the clan. It’s easy to get caught up in the continuity of things that “every-one” “always” does and be secure in the knowl-edge the whole family will have great memories to share and pass down. But in carrying out tra-ditions, we sometimes forget the kids are indi-viduals who may be marching to the beat of a dif-ferent drummer. Your daughter may be perfectly fine with going to the camp, just not yet.

Eight years old may be too young for her to separate from you. She probably has enjoyed see-ing the camp, but when she visits, she may be thinking she’s glad she doesn’t have to go there and leave her mom and dad. She may need time to adjust to being away from home. So maybe you could send her to a day camp this summer and let her have sleep-overs with friends. She probably has plenty of kids to hang out with around home, and by next year she may be eagerly awaiting sleepaway camp. So try having some patience.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been anxious since my daughter was a little kid, worrying about her popularity. You see, I was a loner as a child. I wasn’t bullied or anything like that, but had few friends. I have been making sure my daugh-ter is surrounded by kids and made her room a fun place and invited children over. How can I get them to invite her back? She is only 6, but I would like her to be more popular. She’s on the quiet side, like I was. – V.S.

Dear V.S.: You might not realize it, but you still seem anxious. It appears that just thinking about your childhood sets you off – and the feelings at-tached to being a loner are just under the surface. The more your child reminds you of yourself, the more anxious you become. It is obvious you are a sensitive person who feels your daughter’s ex-perience as though it were happening to you. So it might be good to be more aware of what your daughter’s needs are, as opposed to your own.

Of course, everyone wishes for popularity for their children. But many kids are capable of be-ing happy while being on their own much of the time, or while having only a few close friends as opposed to a crowd of adoring minions. You have set up the environment for your daughter to make friends. Now step back and let whatever happens happen, instead of obsessing. Try not to project your worries. When you do that, you let her know you don’t think she is capable of being a friend unless you engineer everything.

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South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 9 5 3

♥ K 8 7 2

♦ 4

♣ A 7 4

EAST

♠ 8 4

♥ J 5 4

♦ 9 6 3 2

♣ J 10 8 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 6 2

♥ A 6

♦ A J

♣ Q 5 3 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass

4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass

* singleton or void in diamonds. Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Better Way

Many declarers are guilty of choosing the line of least resistance in trying to make their contract. When the chosen approach fails, they blame the outcome on an unfavorable lie of the cards.

That was the excuse South used on this deal after he went down in six spades. He won the opening diamond lead with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps and ruffed a diamond in dummy.

Since it appeared that the slam could not be made unless East had the king of clubs, declarer next cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to the queen. West won with the king and returned a heart to South’s ace. Declarer later lost a club to East to finish down one.

South’s line of play left something to be desired in that it made no provision for the possibility that West might hold the doubleton king of clubs, in which case the slam was makable provided the proper preparatory steps were taken.

After winning the ace of diamonds and drawing two rounds of trumps, declarer should have cashed the A-K of hearts, ruffed a heart, ruffed the jack of diamonds and ruffed dummy’s last heart. The purpose of these plays would be to eliminate West’s hearts so he could not later safely exit with that suit.

In the process, South would have learned that West had started with four hearts as well as a singleton spade and five or six diamonds for his overall. And if West had six diamonds, then he could hold only two clubs. This in turn would mean that, whether West had the king of clubs or not, the slam was assured.

After ruffing dummy’s last heart, declarer next plays the ace and another club to the queen. This loses to West’s king, but it no longer mat-ters. Since West has nothing but diamonds left, he must return one, allowing South to discard dummy’s remaining club as he ruffs in his hand, and the slam is home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

4-21

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Mommy, we have a problem. Jeffy's already gone to bed and his toothbrush is DRY!

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/21

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/21

Cryptoquip

RZDKSZK JNCCLL XHNVTJK

KOSK XLNXML RZ KOL SHILV

CNHJLD IRWOK XTHJOSDL:

D N M V R L H D ' C N M W L H D .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PERSON MAILS SOME LETTERS VIA SAME-DAY DELIVERY, WOULD YOU SAY THEY'RE SENT POST-HASTE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Larger portion

5 Belle of the ball, maybe

8 Enos' grandpa

12 Concep-tion

13 Wrath

14 Missile shelter

15 Standard

16 Bando of baseball

17 Despot

18 Saw things in the dark?

20 Sleeping sickness carrier

22 Main-lander's memento

23 Slip up

24 Green gem

27 Full exposure

32 "The Greatest"

33 Helgen-berger series

34 "Barney Miller" actor Jack

35 Periods of relief

38 Mail carrier (Abbr.)

39 Hall-of-Famer Williams

40 Stannum

42 Not digital

45 Impact

49 For fear that

50 Novelist Radcliffe

52 Colorful fish

53 Appoint-ment

54 Fond du —, Wis.

55 Toy block name

56 Lacked originality

57 Candle count

58 Skittish wildlife

11 Still others

19 Yours truly

21 Witness count

24 Mayo container

25 Hearty brew

26 Aversion

28 Work with

29 Length from here to there

30 Bribe

31 "Help!"

36 Struck repeat-edly

37 Altar

38 Open out

41 In that case

42 "M*A*S*H" star

43 Tide type

44 Festive

46 Duel tool

47 Zoo structure

48 Hammer-wielding deity

51 Kvetch

Solution time: 25 mins.

MAIL IFS PSAT

IPSE ADO ANNE

COLD SNAP RATA

ADAGE HAMPER

EXAM CAB

DEBS TIER ESS

ARE MOXIE AHA

BRA APER ANEW

NAM DEAL

MAPLES BASSO

IDOL POLESTAR

SALE ANY KANE

OMEN TEE AYES

Yesterday's answer 4-21

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	26			27	28	29			30	31	
32					33					34		
35			36	37					38			
			39				40	41				
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			