Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



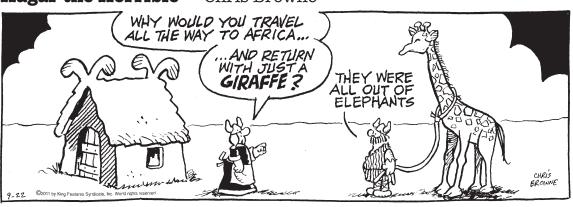
Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

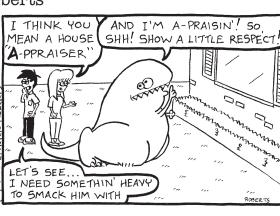


Sally Forth • Greg Howard

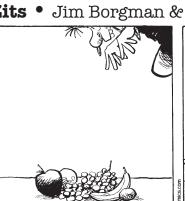


Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts





Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott











Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Child wears only dress-up

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am at my wits' end with my 6-year-old. An only child, she gets a lot of attention, but I don't want to spoil her. She has developed an annoying behavior, and by giving in I have created a monster! She absolutely refuses to wear regular clothes - she spends a lot of time in frilly dresses, tutus, striped leggings, crazy hats and other "dress-up" things. When school starts, I anticipate a battle. Help! – D.N.

Dear D.N.: It's always good to give a child choices, and you need to look at things through a slightly different prism. Suppose you think of your little girl as creative, free-spirited and imaginative? You have provided the tools she needs to do her own thing - and yet when she does it, you have a negative reaction. By forcing her to conform, you may be teaching her to stifle the fun outlook on life she is developing. But it would be nice to find a happy medium.

I understand your concerns about school and the need to get her into simple T-shirts and shorts or jeans. When she sees what her friends are wearing, she may modify her look, and if you take her shopping and let her pick out school clothes with your guidance, she may respond with enthusiasm. Give her a choice of two or three outfits she can mix and match. The key is to let her have free expression within guidelines you can control - without the negativity you are sending her. I'm sure this will resolve itself if you don't make it a power struggle. Enjoy your child and her individuality, and let her know she can dress up when she's at home or being the life of the party.

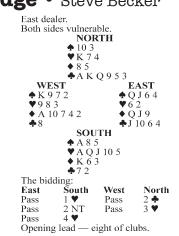
Dear Dr. Brothers: I am feeling bad about something I didn't do. I heard from one of my aunts a few months ago. She wrote me a letter saying she was diagnosed with cancer. I haven't seen this aunt for years and am busy with my own family, but I wrote to her three times and then I stopped. I was told by a cousin she died yesterday, and now I am feeling guilty about abandoning her. How will I forgive myself? – R.P.

Dear R.P.: I can understand why you are suffering after hearing about the death of your aunt. Not only are you sad but you also were hit with guilt because you didn't write that last letter. I think after a while you will realize you did the best you could and the letters you did write probably were of comfort to a woman trying to have closure of her own. Since you weren't close, she probably understood you weren't going to go to extraordinary measures to stay in touch. And because of her serious illness and the deterioration of her health, she might not even have been aware that you had dropped the ball.

Your situation is one many of us find ourselves in when someone dies. Most of the time death is unexpected, and we don't have time to say goodbye or write letters about our lives together. You at least had enough of a warning to get out the pen and paper and make a difference, even if you didn't follow through. If you can stay in touch with other relatives and try to put an emphasis on extended family in her honor, I think your guilt gradually will give way to peace.

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker



The Worrving Kind

You can't be a good declarer unless you're also a worrier. You have to worry about finesses that might fail, about suits that might break badly, and just about anything else your mind can conjure

If you don't think along such lines, you're sure to run into trouble from time to time, as South did in this deal where he went down in four hearts.

West led a club. Declarer won with the queen, drew three rounds of trumps and played a club to dummy's king, on which West showed out. South continued with the ace of clubs, discarding a spade, and then tried leading a diamond to the king. When this lost to the ace, declarer had to go down one, eventually losing three diamonds and a spade.

Had South been a worrier, he would have made his contract. He would have realized that the opening club lead was almost surely a singleton, and he would have started to think about how to overcome the likely 4-1 division.

After winning the club, he would have cashed the A-J of trumps and then led a club toward dummv. If both defenders followed suit, he could then play the king of hearts to nail down 12 tricks. But if, as in the actual case, it turned out that West had no more clubs, South would still be assured of 11 tricks whether or not West ruffed.

If West did ruff, South would finish with five hearts, five clubs and a spade. And if West did not ruff, South would still wind up with 11 tricks by winning the club in dummy, ruffing a low club

high and leading a trump to dummy's king. It's easy to see that even with the 4-1 club division and the diamond ace offside, declarer should have made the contract. But, unfortunately, South

was not the worrying kind. (c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

								9/22		
	3	5	6	7	8	4	2	1	9	
	8	7	2	9	1	6	5	3	4	
	4	9	1	2	5	3	7	8	6	
	1	8	7	3	4	5	6	9	2	
	6	4	5	1	2	9	8	7	3	
	9	2	3	8	6	7	4	5	1	
	7	6	4	5	3	1	9	2	8	
	2	1	9	4	7	8	3	6	5	
	5	3	8	6	9	2	1	4	7	
Ì	Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/									

11 Shad

product

vous tyke

19 Mischie-

21 Adver-

23 Thine

sary

24 Loosen

25 Primary

26 Bound

covering

28 Showing

replica

funds

35 Resort

36 Regret

39 Nose,

42 Largest

of the

seven

month

keeper

(Abbr.)

date

45 Book-

46 Art

43 Camera

part

44 Mid-

38 Busybody

slangily

27 Seed

32 3-D

33 Tribal

Dwarfs'

53 Bit of

55 Lip

DOWN

2 Car

3 Bar

4 Core 5 Sultan's

wives

6 Individual

7 Fencer's

warning

8 Malt shop

orders

1 United

nations

54 Pismire

workplace

plankton

Cryptoquip

BKKNKB Y M U MYHHXM A

YDNKPFMLS PDPHCCZ IYKCKYY.

XDICB ZDI YHZ MP VHYL'P

VDUPF H AMS LKVPDL? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD POST OFFICE MACHINE WENT KAPUT. I THINK EMPLOYEES

WORKED MANUALLY AS A LAST PRESORT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer



Pat. Off 17 Ranch visitor 18 Lassie. for

related

16 — U.S.

20 Somewhere out there 22 "The

of the Opera' actress 26 Drink eagerly

29 Praise in verse 30 "CSI"

50 A couple 9 Thanksof cups giving, example 51 Cattle e.g. call? 10 Succo Solution time: 25 mins. Phantom

45 Nickel,

e.g.

47 Big bother

49 Second-

hand

Yesterday's answer 9-22

medium 48 Announcer evidence Pardo 16

46

52