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



as secretary for the church I have joined. I'm not shy but am afraid to open my mouth around my pastor. He and his wife are sweet and never say anything stronger than "darn" or "heck," while my vocabulary includes an occasional "damn" or "hell." I don't want to jeopardize my job or my status by offending them, but they have commented on how quiet I am. Any advice? - S.C.

Dear S.C.: You seem completely intimidated by the culture at your new church, and I hope you will give the job time to get to know everyone better before you decide they are impossibly holier than thou! It seems you have the best of intentions in trying to not offend anyone, but you may need to lighten up and realize all the people around you are human too.

On the other hand, examine the worst-case scenario: You come out with some expletives and are soundly put down. That might be hurtful and mortifying, but give you some insight into what kind of place you have found yourself worshiping and working at. It may be a poor fit, and in that case it would be better to acknowledge it and find another job and church in which you find yourself less likely to be judged.

So, I would suggest giving the new place and people a chance and then deciding if this is going to be a comfortable workplace and church for you. If your language turns out to be a problem, just realize many people are going to be offended, but just as many are not.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been looking forward to moving to a new city with my family, but as the time draws near, I worry about how my kids will adjust to leaving their friends and the only home they have ever known. They are 8- and 10year-old boys, and while they are excited, they have started whining and fighting more than usual. I wonder how to make this easier on them. My husband and I are fine, but we're adults! – J.T.

Dear J.T.: It would not be unusual for everyone in the family - including the adults - to be on edge when a big move is coming up. Perhaps you don't realize it, but any tension - even with the children's behavior. Kids pick up on the emotions you feel, so try to be optimistic and upbeat with them at this stressful time. Your husband also can add to the positive atmosphere by talking with the kids about what they will all do together in the new city. That should help clear the air.

home in advance by searching for kid-friendly activities on the Internet. By the time you move, they will have some specific things in mind that $\ \mbox{H}\ \mbox{G}\ \mbox{T}$ will make finding friends and things to do more real to them. Remind them they will always have each other as well as you and Dad, and that this is an adventure for the whole family. Don't be afraid to ask if they have concerns, and take their insecurities seriously. Luckily, the Internet will help them stay in touch with old friends, too.

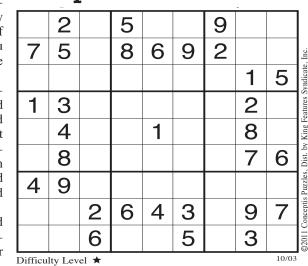
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I don't think the bath I took yesterday has worn off yet.'

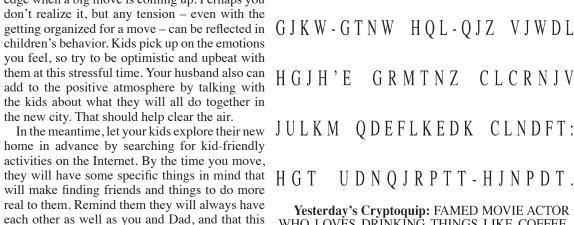
Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

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Cryptoquip



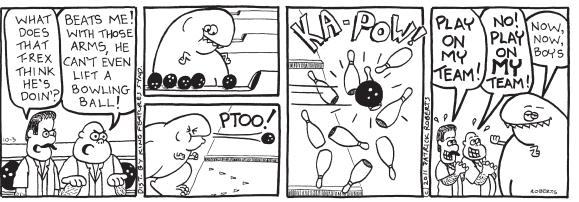
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMED MOVIE ACTOR WHO LOVES DRINKING THINGS LIKE COFFEE, TEA AND BEER: BREWS WILLIS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Bridge • Steve Becker

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Famous Hand

This is one of the most dramatic hands in bridge history. It occurred during a match between Sweden and Italy at the World Bridge Olympiad held in New York in 1964.

The deal was played on Bridge-O-Rama before a large and enthusiastic audience. The match 24 \$ was close, and the spectators, regardless of their 25 sympathies, were in a high state of excitement 26 when the hand was displayed on the huge electronic screen. They saw that the Swedish North-**28** (South pair could make a vulnerable grand slam by guessing which opponent had the king of 31 (spades.

A great roar went up from the audience when 33 / South (Sven Berglund) bid seven diamonds. They 35 F knew the Italian pair at the first table had already 36 F bid and made six diamonds.

The Italian West led the king of hearts, taken by dummy's ace. Berglund now took five long minutes to study the situation as the spectators debated whether he would guess the location of the king of spades and thus avoid a heart loser. Most of them thought he would cash the ace of spades and then lead the queen, discarding a heart after East followed low. This, of course, would have resulted in down one.

The audience sat transfixed until, at long last, Berglund led a club to the ace, returned the ten of spades and followed low from dummy. At this point, pandemonium broke loose. The cheers, the groans, the shouts, the applause and the I-toldyou-so's that followed could surely have been heard in Stockholm.

Berglund proceeded to make the grand slam by ruffing two clubs in dummy and discarding a heart on the ace of spades. This gave the Swedish team a gain of 13 International Match Points instead of a loss of 16, and Sweden won the match, 66 IMPs to 49.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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