

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



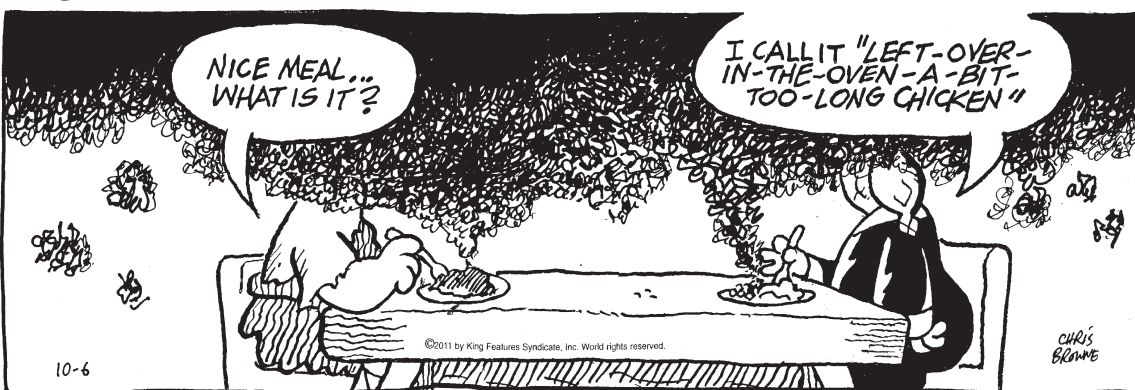
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



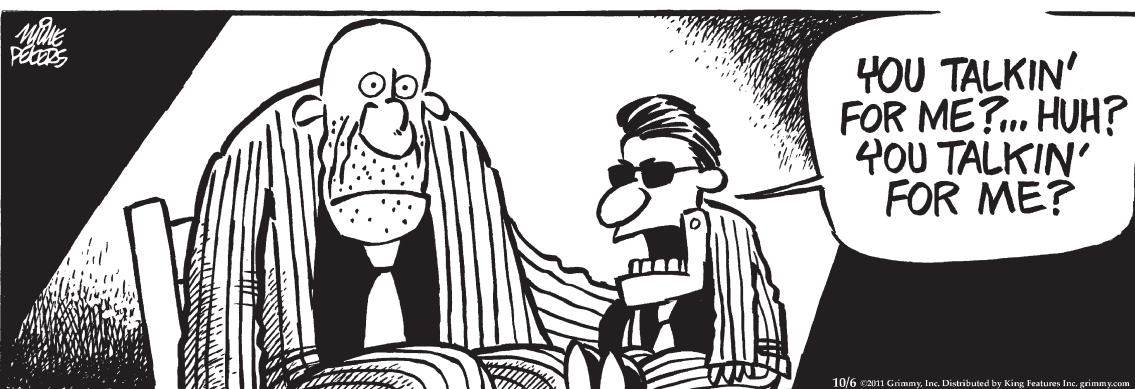
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



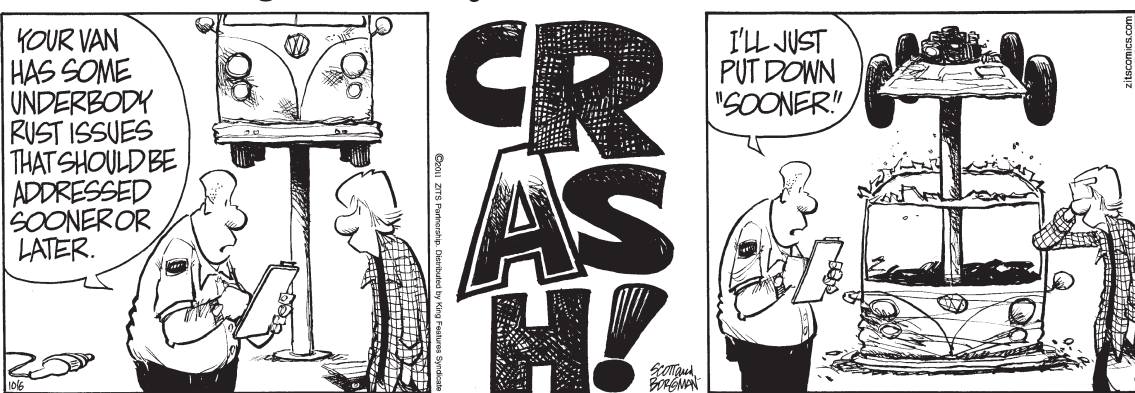
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers



• Ask Dr. Brothers

Stepchild causes family concern

Dear Dr. Brothers: My new wife has an 8-year-old little boy I enjoy getting to know. I'm not going to lie, he's a handful. He is hyperactive and our family is having trouble adjusting. My mother and wife don't seem to be getting along well, and I was caught in the middle when my mom tried to discipline my stepson and my wife got defensive. How can I deal with these and not have hurt feelings in the end? — C.S.

Dear C.S.: It may be impossible to shield your mother, your wife and your new stepchild from being hurt by family dynamics. But your heart is in the right place, so let's examine strategies. Of course you'd love it if your wife and mother were best buddies. This is unlikely to happen, as your mother might not be interested in or willing to develop the same feelings for your stepson that she would if he were her flesh and blood. That may be blunt, and if it isn't the case, you can work with her more successfully.

On the other hand, you have taken the time to get to know the little boy and find things you can do to forge an ongoing relationship. So you might think of ways to help your mother accept him, while showing her you are teaching him rules appropriate for behavior in your family. As for your wife, she probably realizes her son is disruptive, but needs to be supportive as he adjusts to his new family. If you let both your mom and wife know you are there for them and want to work to have a happy home for all of you, things should start to smooth out. When your mom gets to know your stepson better, I'm sure she will start to form her own special relationship with him.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am so mortified. First it was all my girlfriends trying on my engagement ring. That made me mad. Now that I am married and pregnant, it seems that at least once a week, someone is patting my belly. I want people to keep their hands off me! Both of these have come from people who are happy and excited for me, so I can't figure out what to say or do that won't seem mean-spirited. Any suggestions? — G.T.

Dear G.T.: I am sure it must be annoying to have people treating you with disrespect. Somehow in sharing your happiness, a number of well-meaning individuals have gotten the idea your body is fair game, and I know you don't want to appear as rude as they are by telling them to keep their hands off you. You could ask your husband to let others know it makes you uncomfortable to be touched without permission. And here's a quick tip: Try going back to the old-fashioned pregnancy look — wear loose-fitting maternity tops that de-emphasize the baby bump. The currently fashionable stretched T-shirts make it impossible to ignore and do seem to invite patting.

In a few months, this all will be a distant memory, and you likely will have a new concern. Everyone will want to hold, pat, squeeze, breathe on and otherwise assault your new baby, and you may find that your concerns about people invading your space are just as troubling when they attempt to get up close and personal with your infant. So now is the time to think ahead to how you are going to handle this. You only have to allow whatever is comfortable for you, but you can practice saying "no" in a nice way, while still being firm.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 9 4
♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ K J 10 9 4
♣ K

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ 5 3
♦ 7 6
♣ Q J 10 8 4

EAST
♠ 7 6 3
♥ Q J 10
♦ A 3 2
♣ A 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ A K 7 4
♦ Q 8 5
♣ 7 6 3

The bidding:
South 1 NT Pass North 2♦ Pass East Pass
2♥ Pass 4♣ Pass
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

A Case of Timing

In every deal played at a suit contract, declarer must decide how to handle the trumps. Whether to draw all, some or no trumps, and precisely when to do so, is probably the single most common problem declarer faces as the play begins.

Consider this case where South arrived at four hearts after a Stayman sequence, and West led a club. East took dummy's king with the ace and returned the queen of hearts, hoping to reduce dummy's ability to ruff clubs.

Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a club in dummy, led a trump to the king and ruffed his last club with dummy's last trump. South then attacked diamonds, but East wisely held up his ace until the third round. As a result, declarer went down one, losing a trick in each suit.

South could have made the contract by timing his play differently. There was no need to ruff clubs immediately.

After the trump return at trick two, he should draw a second round of trumps with the king and then force out the ace of diamonds. Two trumps remain in dummy when East wins the ace of diamonds, so declarer cannot be stopped from subsequently gaining entry to dummy's diamonds by ruffing a club. South's only losers in this case are a heart, a diamond and a club.

Interestingly, East can defeat the contract by taking the same tack declarer mistakenly chose in the actual deal. If East leads a second club rather than a heart at trick two, forcing dummy to ruff prematurely, South must lose four tricks no matter how he proceeds.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I don't think that's medically possible!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

10/06

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Y XQNEK OKENYB ZNRYKM,

TNRKJM XTQ GNKIEU. Y

VYTXJJU LKBXZK X ZKZLKE

NV IOK KGYBM BNZZYIKK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS OLD CROONER WHO WOULD QUITE FREQUENTLY PLAY A POPULAR GAME OF CHANCE: BINGO CROSBY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 En-grossed
 - 5 Old man
 - 8 Rabbit's tail
 - 12 Wrinkly fruit
 - 13 Japanese sash
 - 14 "My bad"
 - 15 Let fall
 - 16 Joker
 - 17 —tat-tat
 - 18 Ohio city
 - 20 Tailor, humorously
 - 22 Frequently
 - 23 Speck
 - 24 Freeway access
 - 27 Adverse
 - 32 Hearty brew
 - 33 Author Santha Rama
 - 34 Sundial numeral
 - 35 Hat seller
 - 38 Auto-maker Ransom Eli
 - 39 Pitch
- DOWN**
- 10 Doing
 - 11 Despot
 - 19 "—Thee I Sing"
 - 21 Fuss
 - 24 Aries
 - 25 Clay, today
 - 26 Loss of self-control
 - 28 Dundee denial
 - 29 Traitor decline
 - 30 Disen-cumber
 - 31 Insult (Sl.)
 - 36 Legend-ary TV pooch
 - 37 Anger sweet —
 - 38 Unilateral
 - 41 "I see"
 - 42 Croup-ier's tool
 - 43 Eastern potentate
 - 44 Some-where out there
 - 46 Had on
 - 47 Malef-icent
 - 48 Trans-action
 - 51 Acapulco gold

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-6

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
32					33					34
35				36	37					38
				39						
42	43			44		45			46	47
49					50	51			52	
53					54				55	
56					57				58	