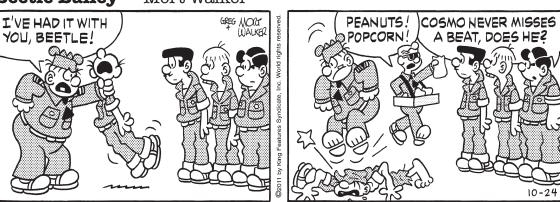
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

COSTUME.









Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

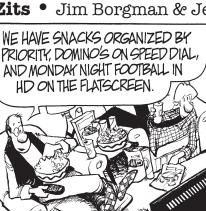




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

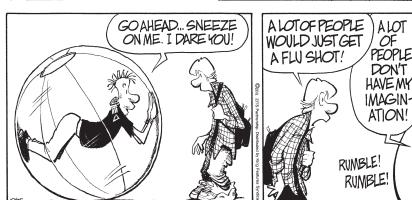


RUMBLE!

RUMBLE









Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Office rudeness growing problem

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have worked in the same office for nine years. When I began, there were high standards of behavior and a power structure based on your job. Now everything seems to be going down the tubes. My colleagues and I notice people don't seem to be following the rules anymore, and rudeness is on the rise. What can we do to get back to the way things were? – K.B. Dear K.B.: Unfortunately, you might not be

able to turn the tide of ill-humor and bad behavior sweeping the corporate scene. While you and your colleagues can turn the other cheek, ignore it or try to kill them with kindness, workers throwing old rules out the window probably are unhappy. They may be underemployed, overworked or both. The economy has made it impractical to leave a job for which one is ill-suited, so there are a lot of disgruntled employees who don't want to be there. All this makes for a rise in insults, rudeness and ugly behavior that is free-floating rather than targeted toward any one individual.

The American Psychological Association recently discussed workplace incivility, and found that, according to research at Indiana Wesleyan University, 75 percent of workers have experienced rudeness at work. Another survey put the number lower, but indicated such behavior seems to be spreading. If you want to do something, you can suggest training for employees in basic manners. This may not be well-received, but until the economy picks up, it may be your best bet.

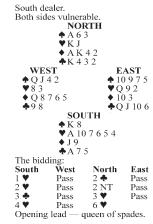
Dear Dr. Brothers: My job is great, but not my whole life. I wish I could say that for the people I work with. Everyone is one big, happy family, expected to socialize on weekends, get kids together, etc. I am single and don't go for this togetherness. I have my own friends and want to keep it that way. How do I get around this without getting a bad reputation and maybe not advancing at work? - D.V.

Dear D.V.: You seem to imply your unwillingness to go on play dates with colleagues can mean you will fail to get promotions. If you are sure it is realistic and not just speculation, you'd best do something to combat the reputation you may develop as not a team player during recess. It's unfair, but you may have to think of extracurriculars as part of the job description until you find a niche that preserves your free time. As a single guy, you have fewer options for socializing, but that can be good.

Why not start a book-discussion or dart-playing group for the singles, managers, tech guys, or whatever group makes sense? It can meet every couple of weeks so it doesn't take up a lot of time. Or you can volunteer in the name of your company – on a house build, food drive or road cleanup. These activities may be more comfortable than going out to dinner or bowling and making chitchat with the secretary down the hall.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Famous Hand -- Part 1

The 2010 Rosenblum Cup Open Knockout Teams, held in Philadelphia last October as part of the 13th World Bridge Series, was won by John Diamond, Fred Gitelman, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Brad Moss and Brian Platnick, They defeated Nick Nickell's many-times world- and national-champion squad by 43 IMPs in the 64deal final.

The two finalists were the survivors of a 145team field that had begun play nearly two weeks earlier. The victory by the relatively young Diamond group represented a passing of the torch from the older Nickell team, which had dominated U.S. and international bridge for more than a decade. The deal shown amounted to the final nail in 24 Kill

the coffin of the losers, coming when the Nickell squad was attempting to overcome a 21-IMP deficit during the final 16 deals. When Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood held

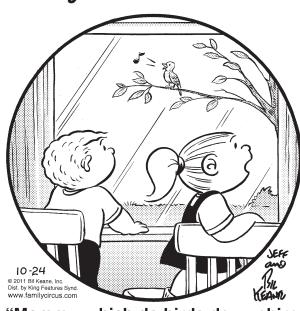
the North-South cards, they reached the tenuous contract of six hearts as shown. It appears that declarer must guess which way to take the heart finesse to make the slam, but Zia found a way to get around that problem. He won the opening spade lead with the king,

led a diamond to the ace, played the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. Next came the king of diamonds and a diamond ruff as East discarded a spade. The A-K of clubs were then cashed, and dummy's last diamond was led, declarer ruffing after East discarded a club. With four tricks remaining to be played, Zia exited with a club. With the A-10-7 of hearts in

his hand opposite dummy's K-J and a low club, he could not be stopped from scoring the last three tricks as the cards lay. One would think that bidding and then making the slam would be an excellent result, and could possibly produce a big pickup, but in fact the re-

sult was a 13-IMP loss! Just how that came about will be reported in tomorrow's column. (c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc

Family Circus • Bil Keane



'Mommy, which do birds do -- chirp, whistle or tweet?"

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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Difficulty Level ***										

Cryptoquip

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BLO ZHQATBMJ LHM ZHMOOR

MDOMHOLKDKDP. K XQTFA

BLFF OGMV VMXJ OGLO LVTJM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD GUESS THAT WHEN CAIN'S ELDEST SON WAS JESTING, HE LIKED TO TELL ENOCH-KNOCK JOKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

19 Smooth-

20 Recipe

talking

meas.

21 Banned

apple

22 Long

skirt

23 Folder

25 Bent

27 Holler

29 Fellow

31 Shelter

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34 Handgun

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36 Now, on

37 Restau-

33 Small

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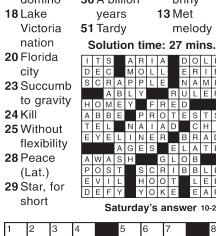
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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer





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