

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



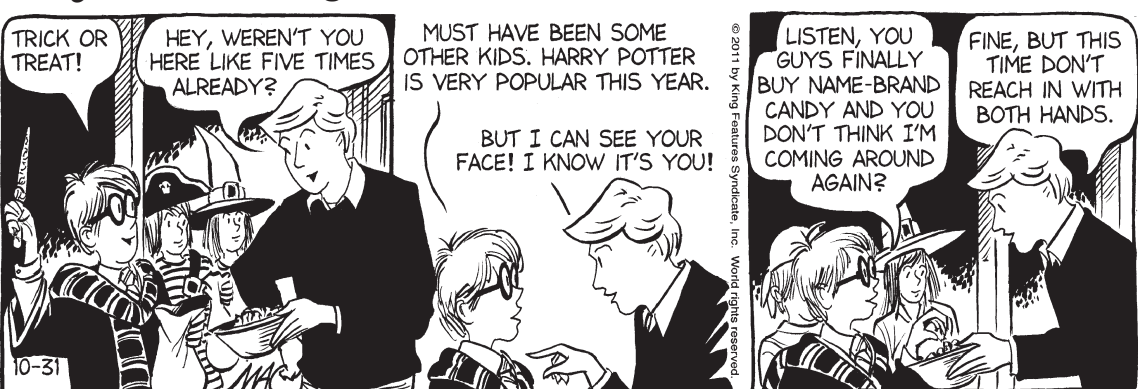
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

New boss does no work

Dear Dr. Brothers: It took me a while to catch on about how things work at my new job, but now I get it: We three employees do the work – I mean ALL of it – while the boss sits in her corner office and keeps her Facebook and Twitter accounts up to date. Or she's shopping on eBay or chatting. Everything is delegated. At the end of the day, she is still there, "working." Is this my business? It is making my blood boil. – G.K.

Dear G.K.: It is your business if it truly is making your blood boil. Boiling blood can mean high blood pressure, headaches, anger, inability to concentrate. If your boss has a boss of her own, chances are her poor work habits are going to be exposed and she will be taken down a notch or two. She may be taking advantage of the evening to catch up on the real work she has neglected – or she may be so efficient she is doing something worthwhile in between your visits, when all you see is her Facebook. In any case, there is a good chance the four of you – boss included – don't have enough work to go around.

If your boss were doing her job – as you understand it – would you still have a busy enough day to justify your existence? Perhaps not – but that might free you up to spend more quality time on an in-depth project where you could show your worth. Try suggesting such a project to the boss, and ask her if you could have help with your regular duties. She might redistribute the work so she is doing some of it. But if she dumps it on one of your colleagues, that could be enlightening.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a member of a new group at my office – supposedly we were all hand-picked for our ability to think on our feet, be creative and exercise leadership. We are mostly men, with a couple of bright women. But so far everyone is just sniping at one another, and nothing is getting accomplished. We have to make a report soon and I'm afraid we will look bad. Any tips for pulling the group together? – E.L.

Dear E.L.: Sometimes picking the best and brightest and putting them together doesn't live up to expectations. The assumption is the whole will exceed the sum of its parts, but that isn't so. The most brilliant group of individuals is not guaranteed to work together. But whoever made up the group may have been looking at the wrong qualities. A study reported in the journal *Science* came to some interesting conclusions: It's not the brainpower that's important, but the ability to have social sensitivity, understand what the other members are feeling and cooperate well.

The study concluded women were more likely to display these traits. So perhaps your male-heavy group will have obstacles because of sex; now that you know, perhaps you can make better use of the intelligence of the group instead of trying to outshine one another. What a group needs most is people who can channel their egos into results. Leadership is not as important as cooperation. So start cooperating.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 9 7 6  
♥ 4  
♦ 10 6 4 3  
♣ K Q 6

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

**EAST**  
♠ 10 5  
♥ K Q J 9 8  
♦ Q J 9  
♣ 9 8 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 2  
♥ A 7 2  
♦ A K 5  
♣ A J 7 3

The bidding:  
North: 1 ♠, 2 ♥, 3 ♦, 3 ♣, 4 ♦, 4 ♥, 5 ♦, 5 NT, 6 NT  
East: Pass, Dble, Pass, Pass, Pass, 4 ♥, Pass, Pass, Pass  
South: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, 4 NT, 5 ♣, 6 ♣, 7 ♣  
West: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass

Opening lead — three of hearts.

**Famous Hand**  
Most of the top players use natural bidding, but some employ highly artificial methods to improve their chances of reaching the perfect contract on every deal. Today's hand, on which North-South reached the perfect contract of seven clubs on a 4-3 fit, provides an apt illustration.

The deal occurred in the annual Reisinger team championship. North was Ron Rubin, and South was Mike Becker, both multinational champions. They reached the club grand slam after one of the longest bidding sequences on record.

It started with a normal one-spade bid by North, but from then on most bids were artificial, with South asking North at each turn to describe his hand. Two clubs was artificial and game-forcing, and two hearts showed unbalanced distribution. Three diamonds over East's double of two hearts indicated precisely five spades and four diamonds!

Three hearts was once again artificial and said "Tell me more." Three spades showed one heart and three clubs!

Four clubs said "Tell me more," and four diamonds said "I have a minimum opening bid." Four hearts asked for the number of controls (ace equals two, king equals one), and four spades showed three. Four notrump asked "Where are they?"

Five diamonds showed the king of clubs; five hearts said "Tell me more." Five notrump showed the ace of spades and denied the queen of diamonds!

So Becker concluded that his partner had both black queens for his opening bid and therefore bid seven clubs, which he made easily after ruffing a heart in the dummy.

Purists will note that only with clubs as trump can 13 tricks be made. Only 12 tricks are available in either spades or notrump.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



10-31  
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"Daddy said if I want to be something REALLY scary, I should dress up as a politician."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/31

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.

Cryptoquip

K XMTZ'R TYGB K JHYUE

JHZPBGTB XKRD IC ZBX

LHCQGBZE'T QMIKUC, LYR K

EKE KR XKRD GBUMRKP-BTB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ROCKY CELESTIAL BODIES MAKING COMPLETE ORBITS FAR MORE RAPIDLY THAN OTHERS: FASTER-OIDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 That guy
  - 4 Actor Malcolm — Warner
  - 9 Throng
  - 12 Historic time
  - 13 Give a speech
  - 14 Lawyers' org.
  - 15 Mexican street musicians
  - 17 Deteriorate
  - 18 "CSI" evidence
  - 19 Easter bouquet
  - 21 Insist on
  - 24 Racetrack tipster
  - 25 Greek H
  - 26 Pick a target
  - 28 Water nymph
  - 31 The Red Planet
  - 33 Curved line
  - 35 Knob on a shield
  - 36 Of a pelvic bone
  - 38 Weep loudly
  - 40 Right angle
- DOWN**
- 41 Guitarist
  - 43 Tidbit
  - 45 Slanted typeface
  - 47 — choy
  - 48 Wicked
  - 49 Showy yellow flowers
  - 54 Anger
  - 55 Buck-wheat pancakes
  - 56 "Of course"
  - 57 "Mayday!"
  - 58 Marsh plant
  - 59 Ram's mate

- 22** And others (Lat.)
- 23** Tenderizing sauces
- 27** "— Doubtfire"
- 29** Competent
- 30** Barbie or Raggedy Ann
- 32** Take to the seas
- 34** Barber-shop treatment
- 37** Goes up
- 39** Dance to rock music
- 42** Weighing device
- 44** Old theater letters
- 45** Wading bird
- 46** Poi base
- 50** Disen-cumber
- 51** Caustic solution
- 52** Morning moisture
- 53** Away from NNW

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 10-31

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
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
			41		42		43		44	
45	46						47			
48				49		50			51	52
54				55					56	
57					58				59	