Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



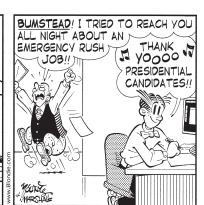




Blondie • Chic Young







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











Tom and Ray Magliozzi

• Click & Clack Talk Cars

Mechanic's got dangerous dance

Dear Tom and Ray:

I've been a fan for years. I had a great 2000 Ford Crown Victoria, which I always had serviced at a local muffler/repair shop. Last year, I gave the car to my daughter in Michigan. When she took it to her own mechanic for a tuneup, he discovered that all eight fuel-injector clips had broken off and the fuel injectors were held in position by plastic zip ties! My repair-shop owner is telling me that there is a problem with these clips, that they tend to break off, and that it is standard to use zip ties to hold them in place. He never mentioned this during the nine years he serviced my car. My daughter's mechanic says my guy is "blowing smoke," and he has never seen anything like this before. Who do I believe? I am very leery about returning to my old guy now with my newer 2005 Mercury. What do you fellows think? Would you go back to him? -- Dorothy

TOM: No. He's endangering your life, Dorothy. And he's trying to cover up his bad judgment with a song and dance. RAY: We used to try that, but very quickly, we

ran through the entire 20th Century Songbook, and our feet were killing us. TOM: Those clips do break sometimes. We've

seen it happen when you remove the fuel injectors to make a repair. But if you break one, or two, or eight, you buy new ones. They're sold separately by dealers, and they're cheap. Very cheap. RAY: So the only reason to use zip ties would

be laziness. They're not an acceptable substitute. TOM: They're plastic, so they're not designed to take the high underhood temperatures in the

middle of the engine compartment, which can be several hundred degrees. And over time, the zip ties will get brittle and fail. If one breaks, a fuel injector can come flying out, spraying gasoline at high pressure all over the engine. RAY: And that leads to what? Fire. So, to sum-

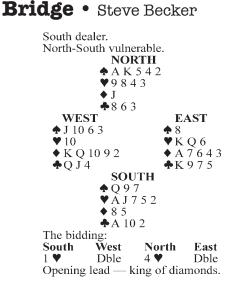
marize: bad idea!

TOM: We use zip ties all the time to group bunches of wires together, or hold a wire out of the way if it's at the periphery of the engine compartment -- and if the zip tie's failure would not result in anything dangerous happening. But we'd never use one to hold an injector in place.

RAY: To say that it's "standard to use zip ties" to secure fuel injectors is nuts. It's standard to use $\begin{tabular}{lll} P \ C \ V \ O \ R \ & V \ E \ H \ F \ S \ & V \ \end{array}$ zip ties to close kitchen garbage bags, Dorothy. And if your guy doesn't know that, it's time for a new mechanic.

and Doug Berman

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Famous Hand

A questionable bid can come back to haunt the perpetrator in many ways. It might, for example, cause the partnership to go overboard during the bidding, or to double an opposing contract that cannot be defeated. It might also lure partner into misdefending during the play.

A case in point is this deal from the 1988 Spingold team championship. North-South were Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, pitted against Norman Kay, West, and Edgar Kaplan, East.

After Rodwell had opened with one heart, Kay elected to make a light takeout double, no doubt influenced by the favorable vulnerability. When Meckstroth leaped to four hearts, Kaplan, holding the best hand at the table, expressed his doubt that declarer could make that contract.

Kay led the king of diamonds, and Kaplan overtook with the ace in order to shift to his singleton spade. He planned to split his trump honors when a heart was led from the table, win the next heart and then put Kay in with the ace of clubs to gain a spade ruff. These four tricks plus the king of clubs would yield a 500-point set. But Kay did not have the ace that Kaplan

thought he had to have for his double, and disaster ensued. After winning the spade return with dummy's king, Rodwell led a trump to the queen and ace, and conceded a trump to the king. Kaplan returned a club, but, unfortunately, Rodwell produced the ace.

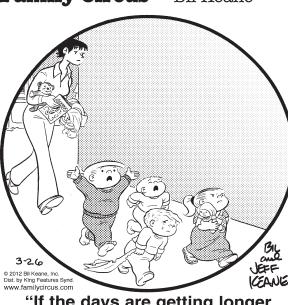
Declarer drew the last trump, cashed the Q-A of spades and ruffed a spade. He then ruffed a diamond and discarded a club on dummy's established spade to make his contract for a score of 790 points. Had Kaplan shifted to a club at trick two, as

he no doubt would have without Kay's double, declarer would have had to lose two clubs, a heart and a diamond for down one. At the other table, Kaplan-Kay's teammates,

sitting North-South, defeated five diamonds doubled one trick for plus 100. Their team thus lost a net of 690 points instead of gaining 300, a swing of nearly 1,000 points on the play of just one card.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"If the days are getting longer, why do we hafta go to bed at the same time as usual?'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



This is a logic-based num-

ber placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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/.	20	
1	8	2	6	9	4	7	5	3	
4	9	5	3	7	1	6	2	8	
7	3	6	2	8	5	9	1	4	
5	6	4	1	3	7	8	9	2	
9	7	3	8	6	2	5	4	1	
2	1	8	4	5	9	3	7	6	
8	4	7	9	2	6	1	3	5	
3	5	1	7	4	8	2	6	9	
6	2	9	5	1	3	4	8	7	
Difficulty Level ★★★									

PDCSVMA

21 Derek and

38 Gender

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42 Win-

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47 Envelope

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48 Commo-

49 Bigfoot's

cousin

and on

50 Talk on

51 Chicken

king

Cryptoquip

GHLD UDHUND VCD SHSVNNR

(c) 2012 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi GHFSK VLDCMPVA PHFASCR.

M PVNN SKDL ECVQMN AFSG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC SONG ABOUT SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T CUT THE GRASS VERY WELL: "I SHOULD HAVE MOWN BETTER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

41 Birdcage DOWN

ACROSS

20 Tooth-

1 — -Wan		attach-	1	October		Diddley
Kenobi		ment		birth-	23	Knock
4 Health	43	Swab the		stone	25	Gambling
resort		floors	2	Skeletal		game
7 Recording	44	Way out		compo-	26	Ms.
11 Swimming	46	Stretchy		nent		Brocko-
venue		candy	3	Tiny		vich
13 Lummox	50	Pop singer		amount	27	Agents,
14 Thing		Lady —	4	Weep		for short
15 Opposed	53	To and —	5	Role	28	Riches
to	55	Col.	6	In a	29	Sheltered
16 Buddy		Mustard's		state of	30	Tarzan's
17 Options		game		conflict		wife
list	56	Settled	7	Ontolo-	31	Dine
18 Rife with		down		gists'	35	Leg,
foliage	57	Legisla-		concerns		slangily

8 Dined

paste 58 Into the 9 Corral container 10 Flightsunrise 22 Hearing 59 Big party less organ **60** Storm bird 24 Shoe center 12 Vitally without 61 Next-toimportant laces last Greek 19 Sweet

tion

28 Sleeppotato letter wear Solution time: 27 mins. **32** Trap 33 Verve 34 Wrinklyfaced dog

36 Faucet problem 37 Gives temporarily 39 "The Big Bang Theory"

52 Our soldiers 54 Have Saturday's answer 3-26 star Jim bills 13