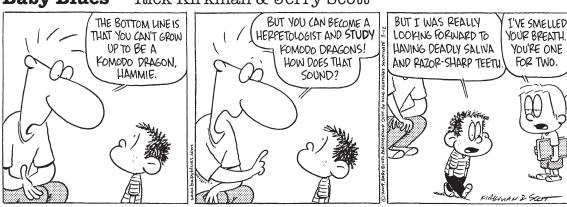
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne







Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters







Sally Forth • Greg Howard



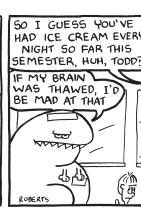


Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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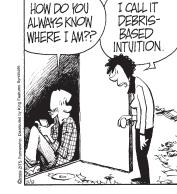




ON THE OTHER HAND, IT

WAS PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE





Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

When is it time to let go?

Dear Dr. Brothers: We are a couple of seniors who are very happy to have two great grandkids. Like a lot of people, we have stepped in from time to time to care for those good boys when their mother was working two or three jobs. So we feel we know them well. Now that they are in high school and middle school, we wonder if we should lay off and begin letting them go. We know how independent teens are, and don't want to interfere with their lives. Your advice, please.

Dear C.A.: What a lovely letter! It is wonderful to see loving grandparents who are concerned about their young grandchildren, and I'm sure you have done a great job of stepping in when your daughter had her hands full with work. It sounds like she was a single parent, and that makes your attention doubly helpful. So, today I can only say to you, very sincerely: Don't stop now! Even though you might get the brush-off occasionally, you already know not to take it personally – yes, teenagers have their own agendas, and older relatives aren't always at the top of the list. But that's no reason to quit.

A survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America looked at grandparents and kids, and found that more than half were in regular contact with their grandchildren and nearly half felt that parents don't have enough time to talk to their kids on subjects like drugs and alcohol. Your grandkids are at an age now when that conversation should be an ongoing one, and they might be more willing to listen to you than to Mom!

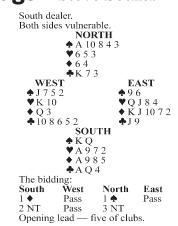
Dear Dr. Brothers: I am worried about my little girl. She is only 11 years old, but kids seem to grow up so fast today. I am afraid she has been excluded by a clique and has become rather bitter about it. I have tried to tell her that these girls aren't worth it, but my words seem to have no effect. In the meantime, my daughter has had opportunities to play with other children and has treated them – I hate to say it – pretty meanly. How can I get her to change her attitude? - L.B.

Dear L.B.: It is an awful thing to be rejected as a tween or preadolescent. Although friendships develop throughout the years and go through various changes, when kids reach your daughter's age, they often struggle with new personalities that seem to come out of nowhere, and this can cause a traumatic shakeup in the social scene.

A new report in the Journal of Personality and A new report in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology details some experiments in ZIWY SFNIOQ, BIAA, YGHY which college students were told that based on a test, they were going to live a lonely life. They, in turn, were hostile to other students they didn't attention and support during this disappointing time. See if you can get her to focus on just one friend at a time to build up her relationships. She doesn't need a whole clique to be happy. But let her know that she may not be mean to others she should know just how awful that feels.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Improving the Odds

The refinements of good declarer play are sometimes so delicate that they virtually amount to splitting hairs.

For example, consider this deal where declarer went down one after playing the hand in what seemed to be an entirely normal fashion. However, he would have made three notrump by adopting a slightly different method of play, raising the question of whether the alternative approach was

A club was led, and South could immediately count eight sure winners. His best chance for a ninth appeared to lie in spades, where he reasoned that he could pick up two extra tricks if the spades were divided 3-3, or if they were 4-2 and the doubleton included the jack.

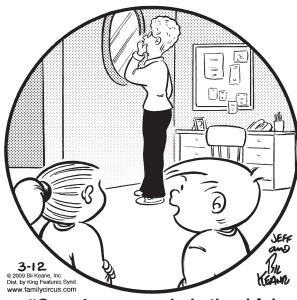
So he won the club lead with the ace, cashed the K-Q of spades, led a club to the king and played the ace of spades. When East showed out, discarding a diamond, declarer tried to establish a ninth trick in hearts. But when that suit also divided 4-2, he finished a trick short of his goal.

A better method of play, after taking the ace of clubs and cashing the king of spades, is to lead the spade queen and overtake it with the ace! When East produces the nine, declarer continues with the ten, establishing the 8-4 and giving him nine easy tricks. By overtaking the queen, declarer gives him-

self an extra chance to make the contract. He is sure to succeed if the spades are 3-3, or if either opponent started with the doubleton jack or doubleton nine. But if South simply cashes the K-Q of spades,

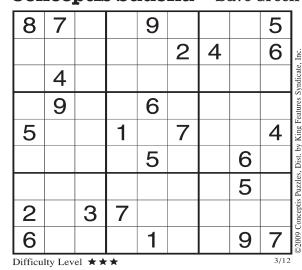
he loses when East started with the 9-x. (If West produces the nine on the queen, it is obvious to overtake the queen with the ace to assure the contract.) The extra chance of East's holding the 9-x - roughly an additional 8 percent - makes overtaking the queen with the ace the superior play.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Grandma savs she's thankful wrinkles don't hurt."

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.

8 4 5 7 6 9 1 3 2 9 6 2 3 5 1 4 8 7 1 3 7 4 8 2 5 6 9 6 1 4 8 2 3 7 9 5 7 9 8 5 1 4 6 2 3 5 2 3 9 7 6 8 1 4 4 7 9 1 3 8 2 5 6 2 5 1 6 9 7 3 4 8 3 8 6 2 4 5 9 7 1										
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		2	5	1	6	9	7	3	4	8
Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/11	t	3	8	6	2	4	5	9	7	1
		Difficu	lty Lev	el **	*					3/11

Cryptoquip

KIHOSDARW BGIO

NOWMAYNOT YGNOTW YD KE

even know. Your daughter will need some extra FIHAAE KHRIW KE ZMQ ZDNA. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE PLAYING AN ONLINE FENCING GAME, THEN I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT BE USING A CYBER-SABER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals W

55 Messes

DOWN

1 Look

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3 One of

5 Hunting

dogs

do it

Almighty"

construc- 32 Cows

6 "Evan

tion

7 Land-

8 Pants

9 Pale

10 Eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

scapes

material

purple

11 Longing

4 Last

2 Two-way

HOMES

19 Compass

21 "- Little

23 Greeting

24 Nestling

hawk

25 Himala-

yan

26 "Scat!"

27 Ripped

28 Smiley

e.g.

sows

outing

moisture

35 Morning

36 Doctor's

38 Stockpile

due

39 Scruffs

42 Hebrew

43 Yukon.

45 Swab

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46 Altar

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44 Corrodes

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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52 Pub

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54 "May-

day!



20 Baseball

ACROSS

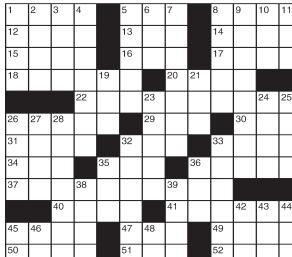
team 22 Placing first, second. or third 26 Jobs in

technology? 29 Mound stat 30 Decorate

eggs 31 Dorothy's destination 32 Soar

33 Warmth **34** Acapulco gold?

Easter Yesterday's answer 3-12



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