

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

IT'S WEIRD.

EVERY APPLIANCE IN THE KITCHEN IS BREAKING ON THE SAME DAY!

IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF SPOOKY!

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S A DISASTER OR A CONSPIRACY!

MOM, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE TOASTER IS LOOKING AT ME.

MOM, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE TOASTER IS LOOKING AT ME.

Bill Amend & Scott

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THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A HOT PEPPER PIZZA ON A CHILLY NIGHT!

3-19

GREG + MOBY WALKER

SARGE THINKS HEARTBURN WILL KEEP HIM WARM

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Panel 1: Homer Simpson is at the counter of JJ's Ice Cream Shop. He says, "I'M IN THE MOOD FOR AN ICE CREAM CONE". The clerk, a young boy in a cap, says, "YESSIR! WOULD YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE? DUTCH CHOCOLATE? DARK CHOCOLATE? CHOCOLATE FUDGE?". A sign on the counter lists: "• VANILLA • FRENCH VANILLA • VANILLA FUDGE • CHOCOLATE".

Panel 2: Homer asks, "DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FLAVORS BESIDES CHOCOLATE?". The clerk replies, "OH, YESSIR!".

Panel 3: Homer lists his choices: "WE HAVE VANILLA... FRENCH VANILLA... VANILLA FUDGE... VANILLA...". The clerk is holding a cone. A sign on the counter lists: "• HERRING • VANILLA • CHOCOLATE • VANILLA". The comic is signed "KANE" and "HOSKOT" in the bottom right corner.

I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR SIX MONTHS!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY BELOVED WIFE, HELGA!

HI, THERE!

BE BACK LATER!!

THERE'S A 50% OFF SALE AT THE DRESS SHOP IN THE VILLAGE!!!

BROWNE

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A political cartoon by Peter Dinklage. Four men in suits are shown from the chest up, standing behind a large spit that holds a massive pig. They are roasting the pig over a fire, with flames visible at the bottom. The man on the far right is speaking, with a speech bubble that says "PSST... CONGRATULATIONS ON THAT SUBPRIME THING." The cartoon is signed "Dinklage" in the bottom right corner.

SO HOW DO I TELL NONA I DON'T WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER ANYMORE?

WELL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE KIND...

DON'T TELL HER SHE'S SOME BOSSY KNOW-IT-ALL WHO WILL JUST SMIRK AT EVERYONE AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.

UH, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD HERE, MOM, NOT YOURS.

WHEREVER JENNY SLATER IS, I HOPE IT'S ON A RAPIDLY MELTING ICE FLOE.

3-19

MAC

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WOULD YOU LIKE SOME PEANUTS?

YES, MA'AM

WAIT! DON'T GIVE HIM PEANUTS!!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

NOW HE'S GONNA SWELL UP!

SWELL UP? OH NO! IS HE ALLERGIC?

NO, PEANUTS GIVE HIM GAS

BOY, LOOK AT THE TIME!

URP

3-19

ROBERT'S

OF COURSE WE CAN TALK ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS!

HOW CAN I MAKE THIS ABOUT ME?

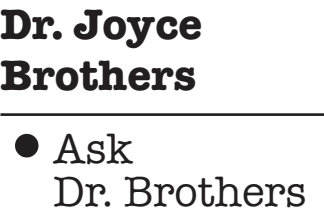
I DIDN'T REALIZE THIS WAS YOURS.

I DIDN'T REALIZE ANYTHING WAS NOT MINE.

Usually MEANS...

Usually MEANS...

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Dear Dr. Brothers: My 10-year-old son is having a hard time in school. He isn't very athletic, but his dad has encouraged him to get out there and try different sports. But he is easily discouraged, and it shows in his face and demeanor. I see the same reactions when he comes home with a bad grade in school. How can I help my son become more confident and attract more friends? When he looks like a sad sack, I am afraid it drives the other kids away. – C.B.

Dear C.B.: It is difficult to be an easily discouraged child. Kids who don't have a great deal of resiliency when things don't go their way tend to become pessimistic people, never trying very hard because they are sure they will fail. Your child can learn to act as though he were more enthusiastic, and that will actually help him begin to feel that way.

Several studies in the U.K., the U.S. and France have delved into the connection between posture and emotion, and while it may echo the simple advice our mothers used to give about standing up straight, there actually is evidence that body language can influence what we and others see as our confidence level. Standing up straight with shoulders back and chin up is a reminder you can start to give your child. Make sure you model confidence and resilience for him, and you'll be helping out.

Dear Dr. Brothers: This is an unusual problem. I think, and I don't know what to do. We have a darling little boy, 6 years old, who was born with a disability. His father stepped in right away and has been a godsend. But when our second child came along, I was pretty much left to care for him myself. He is a normal 3-year-old. His father barely notices him, and spends all his time with our disabled son. When I ask him to play with our youngest, he says our oldest needs him. – A.K.

Dear A.K.: This is a poignant problem for an outsider looking in. You obviously have done a wonderful job of meeting the special needs of your first child, and both of you undoubtedly were very grateful that your second son was born without any physical problems. But you are right to be concerned if your husband is emotionally or physically neglecting the needs of his little 3-year-old. Besides hurting him, this can engender jealousy and bad feelings toward his brother as they grow up. This probably is just the opposite of the attitude you'd like your youngest to assume toward his older brother.

Your husband may be suffering from a great deal of guilt and an overwhelming sense of love and obligation toward his disabled son. As such, he thinks of himself as the boy's protector and defender. This is admirable. His feelings are understandable, but his behavior is not helpful for any of you. I'm sure you all could benefit from some family counseling to help you come to terms with your complicated family situation.

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ A Q 7 2  
♥ 8 3  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ A 7 6 3

WEST	EAST
♠ K 10 8 5 3	♠ J 9 6 4
♥ 10 9 4	♥ K Q J 7 5 2
♦ J 3	♦ 6
♣ K J 5	♣ 10 2

SOUTH

♠	—
♥	A 6
♦	K Q 9 8 7 5 2
♣	Q 9 8 4

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

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

This deal occurred in a team contest at a recent regional tournament in Connecticut. It features a relatively rare play that enabled one of the declarers in a two-team match to bring in a slam that failed at the other table.

Both declarers reached six diamonds on essentially the same auction, East making a pre-emptive jump-overcall of two hearts that was raised to three at both tables.

At the first table, declarer took East's jack of hearts with the ace and drew trumps ending in dummy. After discarding a heart on the ace of spades, South played the ace and another club, hoping East had the king. When West turned up with the K-J-5, the slam was down one.

At the other table, South, Warren Rosner, felt that given East's pre-emptive bid and West's raise, the chance that East held the king of clubs was not good, and that West was likely to have more clubs than East. If West held three or more clubs including the K-J-10, there was virtually no chance of making 12 tricks. But if West held the K-J-x or K-10-x, the slam could be made.

He began just as his counterpart had, winning the heart lead, drawing trumps and discarding his heart on the spade ace. But then, instead of cashing the ace of clubs, Rosner led a low club from dummy to his nine.

West won with the jack and returned a heart, ruffed by declarer, and it was here that South made his bid for fame and glory. Still assuming that West had the club king and more clubs than East, he led the queen, hoping East had started with the 10-x.

It did not matter whether West covered with the king or not. Either way, South could not lose a second club trick, and the slam was home.

3-19

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**“That little box can heat our whole house.”**

JEFF and PHIL KEANE

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

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Difficulty Level ★★

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

BJ PHT NSDHZS ZBESM BC

K C A A H O I      H J      Z S A R S M

DOH DHA CRS NCEL B'M ICE

PHT'ES DCTKOR BO DCOMP.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN YOU GO  
DOWNHILL IN WINTER IN A REALLY  
LIGHTWEIGHT METAL SLED, IS THAT  
ALUMINUM SLIDING?

## Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals C

### ACROSS

1 Existed

4 A bit of a shock

8 Talon

12 Inventor Whitney

13 Do as you're told

14 Timber wolf

15 Crony

17 Off-dunked treat

18 Preceding

19 Actress' cameo role, maybe

21 Poltroon

24 Seek restitution

25 Oklahoma city

26 Round Table address

28 Cunning

32 Wire measures

34 Sailor

36 Baby carriage

37 Tea type

39 Rose, at first

### DOWN

1 Eggs (Pref.)

42 Started

44 Cue

46 Piano note

50 Greek consonants

51 Pennsylvania port

52 Civil War general

56 Teri of "Tootsie"

57 Verifiable

58 Pooch

59 Picnic invaders

60 Palmist, e.g.

61 Green, in a sense

### DOWN

1 Film director

2 "The Greatest"

3 Pavement

4 Wags

5 Sapporo sash

6 Walesa of Poland

7 Youngsters

8 Seal

9 Traditional tales

10 First victim

11 58-Across' comment

16 Historic time

### DOWN

20 Bad hairpiece

21 Too theatrical

22 Garfield's pal

23 Investigate

27 Plagiarize

29 Burr role

30 Stromboli spillage

31 Jannings of silents

33 Joins with a lead-tin alloy

35 Clear the tables

38 Conger, for one

40 Word with jacket or theater

43 Liabilities

45 Astronaut Grissom

46 Huge, in ads

47 Persia, now

48 Gossip

49 Remedy

53 Regret

54 "What's up, —?"

55 Swelled head

### Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-19

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	31
32				33		34		35		36		
37				38		39		40		41		
				42		43		44		45		
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		