

★ Colby Free Press Thursday, June 4, 2009 Page 7

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott DON'T DO TYOU KNOW ANYTHING ATTEMPTED WHAT WHERE DID YOU AFTER SPEAKING THE WORDS "WATCH THIS" MUST BE DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN IT YET, HAMMIE! FULE? GET A WEATHER THE FULE BALLOON ???? THE ADULT OR A FIRST AID KIT, "MOM" FULE!

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a new resident of a town that, previously unbeknownst to me, harbors a whole lot of registered sex offenders. My two daughters and I are living in a townhouse that has about 40 of these monsters living within a few square miles of our place. I didn't know about this when I moved. Now I am afraid to let my little girls play outside or go anywhere without me. How can I make sure they are safe? – G.B.

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Dear G.B.: It is very disconcerting when we think we have a handle on things - especially the safety of our children - and then something happens to upset our emotional apple cart. Although it was frightening to find out that you are surrounded by sex offenders, you found out in a benign way and not as a victim. Now you need to take a breath and calm down a bit before you give in to a feeling of hysteria. Doing more research might calm your fears. If you look at the registry, chances are you will find that it includes people who were convicted of offenses that have nothing to do with molesting children - pedophiles are just one category of sex offenders.

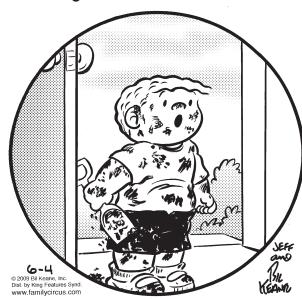
It probably would help you to join a neighborhood group that focuses on children's activities in a safe environment. This way, you can hear the experience of those already living there who have many of the same concerns. I wouldn't advise you to get involved with groups focusing solely on the pedophile issue, as you want to be able to move on with your lives in a way that puts this problem in its proper perspective. Forewarned is forearmed, so you are better off than you may think. So, focus positively on helping your kids adjust to their new lives.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are not pushovers, but we wonder if we are going overboard by giving our child every kind of thing he desires - as long as it is related to music. You see, he is a born musician, and we want to encourage that, but he has a lot that other 10-year-old kids don't. On the other hand, we don't allow him video games or other expensive toys. How do we encourage his talent without spoiling him? - F.V.

Dear F.V.: I wouldn't consider buying your son lessons and equipment to pursue a musical talent spoiling him, unless you find out he is abusing them, ignoring them or becoming a dilettante spending little time on each instrument or gadget and tossing them aside, instead of mastering them. Of course, you should have in your own mind some restrictions on just how much "stuff" to be said for learning patience or earning the next instrument. You also should encourage him to recycle his older things so that younger musicians might share in his good fortune.

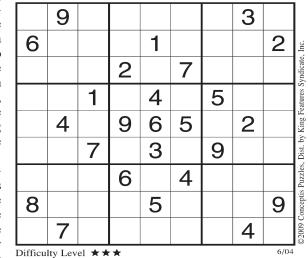
It is great that your son has his sights set on being a musician and that he has a God-given talent. Don't be so restrictive that he misses out on everyday fun activities while on a path to musical success. And don't pressure him into feeling it is the only course his life can take. (c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, was tonight gonna be a bath night?'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

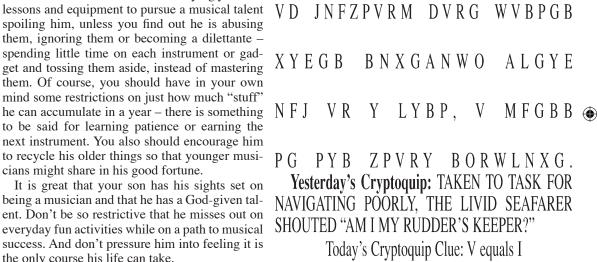


This is a logic-based num-

ber 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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Cryptoquip



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

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Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Bridge • Steve Becker

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A Sure Thing

Anyone who has played bridge for any length of time has had the unhappy experience as declarer of seeing an apparently certain contract disintegrate right in front of his eyes. Usually, the cause is a freakish distribution of the opposing cards, in which case declarer is probably not to blame. But when declarer himself is responsible for turning a sure thing into a losing proposition, that's another story.

Take this case where West led a heart against South's three-notrump contract. Declarer put up 29 dummy's queen, which held, and then set about 30 establishing the club suit. However, East declined to cooperate, refusing to take his ace on either the 31 first or second round.

This left declarer with no recourse. He could go ahead and establish the clubs by playing a third round, but there would then be no way to reach the dummy. In practice, he turned his attention to spades and wound up down one, scoring two tricks in each suit.

Considering that South had a sure thing going from the opening bell, it is difficult to muster any sympathy for him. The plain fact is that after the opening heart lead, nine tricks were there for the taking.

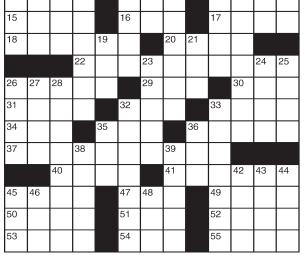
Declarer's error came when he played the queen of hearts from dummy at trick one, a momentary victory that eventually cost him the contract. Instead, he should have played dummy's deuce and taken whatever card East produced with the ace. This would have assured a later entry to dummy with either the queen or jack of hearts.

In the actual deal, after taking East's nine (or six) with the ace, declarer plays three rounds of clubs. East can then return a heart or shift to another suit, as he likes, but nothing can stop South from scoring a spade, two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs for his contract.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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