

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



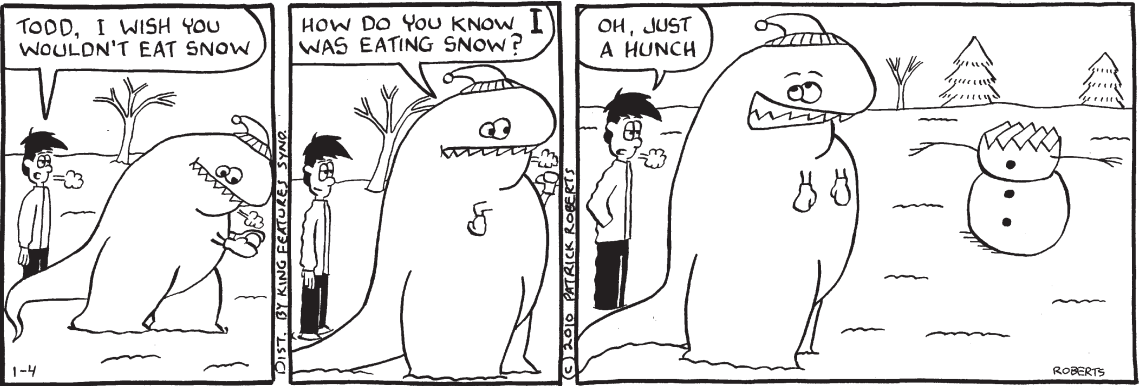
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Can you help a grieving friend?

Dear Dr. Brothers: Two years ago, my friend lost her husband to cancer. I know this loss has profoundly affected her, but it's changed her entire outlook on life as well. Her sense of humor has almost completely dried up, and she's become very sarcastic. She no longer brings up the things that used to interest her, and seems like a bystander to her own life. Is there an expiration date on grief? – C.F.

Dear C.F.: Grief is one of those things that we try to avoid talking about. Even if we have our own idea how long grief should last, we try not to be judgmental of someone else and how long he or she is "supposed" to mourn. "If it were us," we think, "we'd be over him by now and would have moved on." But then we realize it is not for us to decide how someone else should be feeling. So we sit by helplessly while life goes on and our friend or relative doesn't. That seems to be the position you find yourself in.

You might be interested in a study by scientists at UCLA, who studied the neural signals of the brains of women who had lost relatives to breast cancer experiencing long-term grief. Those who were unable to move on were showing activity in the reward center of the brain, giving grief an addictionlike quality. It could be your friend is "rewarded" by her grief, so has been reluctant to move ahead. She might benefit from counseling, or the understanding of a friend who realizes grief affects different people different ways. Staying by her side is the best thing you can do.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son is a talented musician, but no one knows it. He has written songs, plays the guitar and sings, but refuses to do anything in public! I think he just has stage fright. He doesn't want to be in a band; he says he is a solo artist. He is 19, and though he makes me CDs, he tells me not to let anyone else hear them. I want to put his stuff online, but he turns green when I say that. What can I do? – J.T.

Dear J.T.: It is a shame your son is content to hide his light. But maybe he isn't content. Maybe there is nothing he would like more than to turn his talent loose. You don't have to be a star to enjoy the fruits of your labor as a musician. Social-networking sites have places for musicians, and there are contests on the Internet to listen to music and rate artists. I'm sure your son knows this. The puzzle is why he doesn't get into the game.

Either he is painfully shy and doesn't want an audience, or has so little faith in his talent he is fearful of humiliation. Your letter gives little hint of which is more likely. To say he is shy isn't diagnosing the problem; lots of shy kids find strength to transform themselves. If you could persuade him to give a small performance for some family members, he might begin to feel that empowering pride when he entertains people and hears enthusiastic applause.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K J 10 8 6 4
♣ Q J 7 5 3
♠ A 8

WEST
♦ A K Q 10 8 2
♥ 9
♦ K 10
♣ K 10 9 4

EAST
♦ 9 7 6
♥ A Q 7 5 3
♠ 8 6
♣ J 7 2

SOUTH
♦ J 5 4 3
♥ 2
♠ A 9 4 2
♣ Q 6 5 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 Dblc 1 NT 2 ♠
4 ♦ 5 ♦ 5 ♠ Pass
Pass 6 ♦ Dblc
Opening lead — nine of spades.

Famous Hand

In most circles, the players don't bother with enforcing the official laws of the game. If an irregularity occurs, they settle the matter in a fair and amicable way.

But in tournaments, the laws are strictly enforced, and the appropriate penalty is invariably applied when an irregularity takes place. For example, take this deal from a regional tournament, reported in Bridge World magazine some years ago.

South wound up in six diamonds doubled, intended as a sacrifice against five spades. However, declarer actually made the contract! It required extraordinary cooperation by East-West for this to occur, but South got it.

To begin with, East led the nine of spades. It wasn't East's lead, though, so the tournament director was called and presented South with several options, one of which was that he could bar a spade lead by the proper opening leader, West.

Declarer chose that option, whereupon West, a bit unhinged by his partner's lead out of turn, led the queen of spades. The director informed West that he was barred from leading a spade and, furthermore, that the queen of spades was now a penalty card that he would later have to play at his first legal opportunity.

West then led the nine of hearts. East won dummy's ten with the queen and continued with the ace. When South ruffed with the two, West overruffed with the ten!

Again the director was called. He told West that he was required to play the exposed queen of spades on the trick and was not allowed to overruff. Furthermore, he told West that the diamond ten was now a penalty card that he would have to play at the first legal opportunity.

Declarer thereupon led a low diamond to the jack, on which West had to play the ten, and continued with a diamond to the ace, spearing the king. South then had no trouble making the rest of the tricks and the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I forgot to give this to you and Daddy. I made it at school before Christmas."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 1/0/4

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

QZHMXRZ LP KZMAYUB "LASZA
YU FKZ HLXAF!," RLTZLUZ
AZOWYZS "QXABZA MUS
PAYZR PLA TZ, OWZMRZ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN UNCONFINED MORAY IS SOBBING LOUDLY, WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL THAT SCENARIO? LOOSE EEL BAWL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Peculiar
4 Bikini half
7 Poet
11 Satirical comic
13 "— the ramparts ..."
14 Mid-month date
15 Celebrity
16 Witty one
17 Last year's frosh
18 Skewered entree
20 Mineral hardness scale name
22 Apprehend
24 Toy (with)
28 Sheriff
32 Did a cobbler's job
33 Composer Khachaturian
34 Catch some rays
36 Require

DOWN

37 Stiff
39 Lustrous, in a way
41 Meryl Streep's alma mater
43 Hawaiian garland
44 Overly confident
46 Fake drake
50 New Zealand bird
53 Bow the head
55 Coffee
56 Reverberate
57 Raw rock
58 Mideast sultanate

12 Message
19 "Hum-bug!"
21 Storefront sign abbr.
23 Cudgel
25 Run off
26 Ogler's look
27 Vortex
28 Sports-caster Albert
29 Met melody
30 "Before," in an Alger story
31 — Vegas
35 Zero
38 Weir
40 Started
42 Talk nonstop
45 Former veep
47 Arrived
48 Elliptical
49 Tug hard
50 Trivia maven
51 Lemieux Jennings
52 Which person
54 Morning moisture

Solution time: 25 mins.

PREP	CRY	ABLE
AURA	ROE	FEUD
SNIP	OWL	FLAG
STEAMS	PRAGUE	
YES	III	
CUBA	BELGRADE	
ATE	OVA	NUN
BELLOWED	USED	
LOW	YON	
ECHOED	BRIDLE	
COOT	EMU	QUIT
ROPE	LAG	ULNA
USSR	ITS	EYES

Saturday's answer 1-4

