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

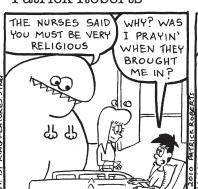


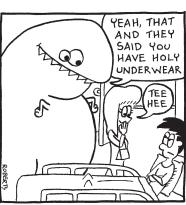
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Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts







Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









8 comics CFP 2-25-10.indd 1







Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Dropping ire helps girl heal

Dear Dr. Brothers: I found out my boyfriend of three years had been cheating on me for the past year with someone at work. I've had a really hard time getting over it, and my best friend keeps insisting that I take revenge – I know his boss, and I definitely could make some trouble for him if I told his boss what happened. It's tempting, but honestly I just want to move on. Will taking revenge help me get over this, like my friend claims? - T.H.

Dear T.H.: Your intuition is much more correct than your friend's in this case. Revenge actually almost never makes us feel better, and in your case this certainly would be true. When we take revenge, it's usually only ourselves who end up feeling worse - both in the short run and the long run. This is because the act of taking revenge keeps the anger you feel toward your cheating boyfriend on the surface, and forces you to keep thinking about the experience long after it ends. You also might end up feeling guilty for revenge, and that only adds to the problem.

People are notoriously bad at predicting how they will feel after taking revenge on someone. Whether it's a large or small act, most people your friend included - assume it will make them feel better. But actually, when you don't act on those feelings, it is easier to convince yourself that the transgression was less important. This makes it easier to forget and move on, which is what you want to do. Once you've taken vengeance, you can't trivialize the situation. Taking revenge only will keep the wound open and allow it to fester. Tell your friend to drop it.

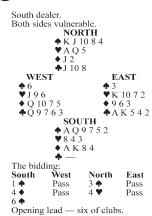
Dear Dr. Brothers: My brother has always wanted to be more outgoing and sociable, and recently he started dating a woman who seems to be giving him confidence with new social groups. His girlfriend seems to have brought about a huge change in him. I want to think this is for the best, since he's finally becoming the person he wanted to be, but I'm afraid she may be pressuring him. Should I be worried, or is change normal in a healthy relationship? – L.F

Dear L.F.: It sounds like you care about your brother, and you probably can stop worrying. You've put your finger on the phenomenon that researchers call "the Michelangelo effect." Like Michelangelo, your brother's girlfriend is chipping away the marble to reveal the ideal person. A recent paper in the journal Current Directions in Psychological Science reviews an international collection of papers on this effect, and shows that BQXKQEUMUQHE, UWTAEE when partners reinforce each other's ideal selves - who they want to become, not just who they are - both they and their relationship benefit. He's becoming more of what she sees in him, and now other people are starting to see it too.

Not all changes in personality or habits in a relationship are good, and you were right to worry this new girlfriend might be pressuring or trying to control your brother. But from what you describe, it sounds like your brother truly is realizing a dream. His girlfriend is treating him not just in a positive way, but in a way that coincides with his view of his ideal self. Some people are better at this than others, and it sounds like your brother got lucky and found one of the best.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Improving the Odds

Assume you have a 50 percent chance of making a contract by taking a particular finesse. If that's your only way to get home, all you can do 2: is pray that the finesse succeeds when you try it. 23 But in many cases of this sort you can raise your chances to significantly better than 50 percent, which naturally improves your chances consider- 24

Take this deal where West leads a club against your six-spade contract. Superficially it seems that making the slam depends on the success or failure of the heart finesse -- a 50 percent chance – but actually your prospects are much better than that if you play correctly. What you should do, after ruffing the first club and drawing trumps, is lead a low diamond toward dummy's J-2!

In the actual deal, this play puts a quick end to the proceedings. West can do no better than take his queen, and sooner or later you discard dummy's Q-5 of hearts on your A-K of diamonds, enabling you to make 12 tricks without bothering with the heart finesse.

Of course, it may turn out that East has the queen of diamonds, in which case your effort to avoid the heart finesse will be thwarted. Even so, you will be no worse off than you were before. You'll still make the slam if West has the king of hearts, and it will have cost you absolutely nothing to test the diamond situation first.

The low diamond lead toward dummy thus gives you two shots at the contract instead of one, and elevates your chances from even money to about 3-to-1 in your favor.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Good job, Daddy! I bet you'd win the gold medal in snow shovelin'.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	7			2			6	
5			7		6			1
			1					
	4					5	1	
7				3				6
	8	5					2	
					8			
6			3		4			7
	2			1			5	
Difficulty Level ***								

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

-	3	9	7	2	8	4	5	6	1
	8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2
	2	5	6	7	1	9	8	4	3
	7	1	2	4	5	3	6	8	9
1 3	6	3	9	8	7	2	4	1	5
<i>'</i>	4	8	5	9	6	1	3	2	7
2	1	2	8	3	4	5	9	7	6
	9	7	3	6	2	8	1	5	4
t	5	6	4	1	9	7	2	3	8
	Difficu	lty Lev	el **	*					2/24

Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

EUHWAP FAOOLIVAH

KAHHAF VAP QIH XTEUBLO

MVQEA IAPA PAAEA'E KUABAE. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ANIMAL'S ANATOMY WERE MUCH THE SAME AS A WEASEL FAMILY MEMBER, COULD IT BE SABLE-BODIED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Fish eggs 57 Stick with 21 "— the	
1 Not	35 Inventor, a kick ramparts	S
barefoot	often 58 Lo-cal"	
5 High-	38 Pack 24 Prune	
lander's	cargo DOWN 25 Mound	
hat	39 Crafty 1 Use a stat	
8 Eject	40 Chinese teaspoon 26 Carell/	
12 Proof-	tea 2 Steven- Hathawa	ау
reader's	42 "Thanks son villain movie	
catch	—!" 3 Cartel 28 "Ulalum	э"
13 Ortiz of	45 Impede acronym writer	
"Ugly	49 "Yikes!" 4 Mardi 29 "USA	
Betty"	50 Savings- Gras Today"	
14 Multi-	plan mask graphic	
national	acronym 5 Join in 30 Bill's	
money	52 Show- 6 Singer partner	
15 The	room DiFranco 31 Chop	
same, in	sample 7 Herbie of 36 Gets	
a bibliog-	53 Existed jazz away	
raphy	54 Neither 8 Tends from	
16 Family	mate 9 Vendor's 37 Big	
17 Being, to	55 Settled wagon Apple	
Brutus	down 10 Gaelic 38 Summe	r
18 Cookbook	56 Studio 11 Travails shoe	
entry	construc- 19 Common 41 Greeting	j
20 Snacks	tions ratio 42 Wields a	a
(on)	needle	
22 Pinch	Solution time: 25 mins. 43 Curved	
23 List-	ARCO ALP ALSO molding	
ending	GILL BOOLLOAD 44 Intima-	
abbr.	H E A D C A S E I N T O tion	
24 Building	A L P H A M E A G E R 46 Party-	
block	PEST SECS UFO platter	
name	EMU KAPUT 10U prepare	r
27 Fairway	PSI IRIS STET 47 Send	
shot	TOW APSE HECTIC ALGAE forth	
32 Tramcar	UTAH HEADLONG 48 Repetitiv	ve

Yesterday's answer 2-25

routine

Howard

51 Director

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contents

monarch

33 Marseille