

### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



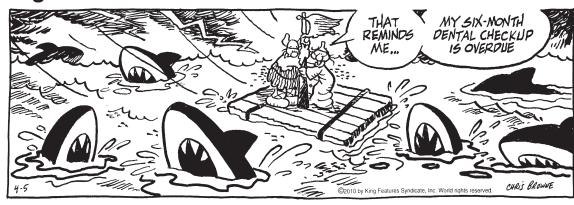
## **Blondie** • Chic Young



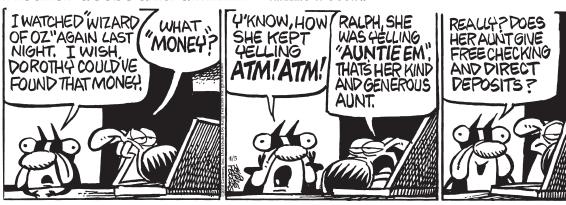




#### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



#### **Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



# Sally Forth • Greg Howard



## **Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott







I SWEAR SOMETIMES IT



6 comics CFP 4-5-10.indd 1







ANDTHAT



# Adopted parent fears problems

Dr. Brothers

Dear Dr. Brothers: I was adopted as a child, and though I don't recall my birth parents, who are deceased, I have some rather unhappy memories of growing up feeling lonely and unloved. My adoptive parents are nice, but were always sort of cold to me, and I didn't feel a lot of affection toward them either. I am grateful for all they did for me, but now I am trying to adopt, I'm afraid we will have the same issues. – G.H.

**Dear G.H.:** Adoption stories are more complicated than we like to pretend, and when there is no opportunity to have some closure with birth parents, questions and doubts are bound to linger. Since you didn't have a wonderful relationship with your adoptive parents, I can see how you have concerns about your ability to love. It is natural for these to intensify when you welcome a child into your life. It would be unusual if doubts didn't occur, but you can work things out.

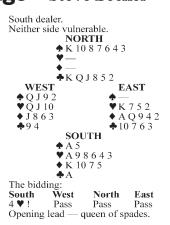
When you were adopted, the procedure was hidden and secret, while today things are out in the open. You'll tell your child the story of his or her birth so that he or she grows up knowing the facts about his or her parents, including possibly meeting them someday. You will have an opportunity to express love to this needy child, and because of your background have a special capability to understand the adoptive experience. So embrace your past and use it for your own family going forward. Along the way, you might find you have a huge capacity to love and be loved.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Is my son off his rocker, or what? He has always lived at home and paid rent. We are close and have had no problems, but he has become obsessed with getting married. He's only in his early 30s, and I tell him there is time, but he seems to have a timetable. He's meeting girls on the Internet and acting like he's on a TV dating reality show. Help! – L.R.

**Dear L.R.:** Your son sounds like he is having a battle with his biological clock. It has awakened him to the fact that he needs to leave home and find a wife. And although he is "only" in his early 30s, these feelings are appropriate for a man his age. Though it's hard to lose a child to another woman, you've had him longer than most par-PA ZSCL APZG JLFL CSHILI ents. It would be kind if you were to support him, rather than trying to make him seem crazy.

That said, I agree he is going about this in a R S chaotic and probably failure-prone way. The Internet might find him a date, but the likelihood of finding a life partner on a timetable is low. It would be good for him to be more realistic. Encourage him to go out with friends and meet new people. His goal should be to expand his social circle, get to know some women and stop thinking about marriage. You can impact his happiness. The first step is to let go and give him a little boot out the door.

# **Bridge** • Steve Becker



# **Famous Hand**

The story you are about to read is true. The names have not been mentioned because nothing could be gained by doing so. Suffice it to say that I was East when the bidding shown took place in a team event at a regional tournament.

As can be seen, six spades is an excellent contract for North-South, and is defeated only by the 4-0 spade break. One would think that if the deal were played, say, a hundred times, the final contract would be some number of spades, ranging from game to grand slam, at about 98 percent of the tables.

Yet, when the deal actually occurred at just the two tables in the team format, neither North-South pair wound up in a spade contract. What's more, spades were not even mentioned by North at either table!

At my table, South, who must have been having a very tough day, opened four hearts in first seat on his six-card suit headed by the A-9! Considering that South held a perfectly normal oneheart opener, it is not clear what he intended to accomplish with this bid. As it was, he found just about the only way to silence North, who looked like a man who had been done out of his life's savings. When the smoke cleared, declarer was down four – 200 points.

At the other table, my teammate could think of nothing more imaginative to do than to open one heart with the South hand, whereupon West bid one spade! This left North, who was playing negative doubles and so could not double for penalties, no choice but to pass in hopes that his partner would reopen the bidding with a double.

When South bid two diamonds instead, North tried three clubs, and everyone passed! North made nine tricks for a score of plus 110, and was not very happy until he heard the result at the other table.

And so, the deal returned to wherever deals come from without anyone ever bidding spades with the North hand. On its next time around say, 10,000 years from now - maybe someone will get it right.

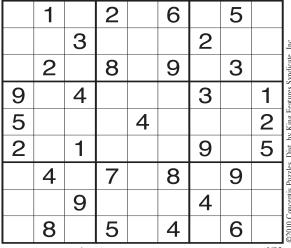
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## Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How'd you like your egg this morning, Daddy? Purple? Yellow? Green?..."

# Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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.

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

# Cryptoquip

HSSB HPBL

KWDOWBLZ, PYNLZZ SDL

CPYGR LDI NK JPRG OFLKL OSI.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** BECAUSE I AM TOTALLY FOND OF THIS FINE EMBROIDERY YARN, WOULD (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate YOU SAY I'M CREWEL-HEARTED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals C

3 Staff

24 Shriver of

machine's

succes-

(Abbr.)

quarrel

land's

42 Lovers

43 Cleve-

**44** "The

Thin

Man'

dog

47 Heavy

48 Advan-

46 Rainbow

weights

# **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

45 Fool's

**ACROSS** 

rulers

28 Morays,

e.g.

31 Tummy

lack



19 Bagh-DOWN dad's 1 Effervescountry cence 22 Bygone 2 On the Persian briny

muscles 32 Miniskirt bigwigs creator Solution time: 27 mins. Mary 34 Knock **35** Rolling stone's 37 Drugstore 39 Resistance measure **41** Fix. in a sense **42** Mexican

Saturday's answer

tage 50 Dawn goddess

