

**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

JUST REMEMBER, WREN, MOST THINGS ARE HARD BEFORE THEY'RE EASY.

**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker

FEEL THOSE RAINDROPS? YOU SHOULD CALL OFF THE HIKE

I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING

**Blondie** • Chic Young

ROUGH DAY AGAIN, DEAR?

IT WAS FRUSTRATING! THE BOSS LEFT EARLY, SO I WAS IN CHARGE

I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING

ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVERYBODY IN THE OFFICE JUMPED UP AND STARTED SHOOTING RUBBER BANDS AT EACH OTHER

AND, THERE I WAS, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION WITHOUT A SINGLE RUBBER BAND IN MY DESK!

**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne

I LIKE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY...

BUT I MISS SHOPPING IN THE BIG CITY!

I WISH SOMEHOW THEY COULD CREATE SOME KIND OF CATALOG OF WOMEN'S FASHIONS AND SEND IT TO ME SO I COULD SHOP BY MAIL!

WHY DO I THINK THAT'S AN IDEA HUSBANDS ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE?

**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters

I'M GLAD TIGER IS FINALLY OUT OF REHAB, I STILL LOVE HIS ADS.

YEAH, ME TOO

I SENT A NICE LITTLE NOTE TO HIS HOME IN BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN.

BATTLE CREEK? HE DOESN'T LIVE IN BATTLE CREEK...

TIGER, I HOPE YOUR SEX REHAB WENT GRRREEAAT!!

**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard

YOU'RE QUITTING THE SOFTBALL TEAM?

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT PLAYING THEN NEITHER AM I!

SAME HERE.

SAD THING IS THAT MEANS YOUR DAD JUST LOST HIS THREE BEST PLAYERS.

TRUE, WE ALL HAVE WALKED TO FIRST AT LEAST ONCE.

**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts

GULP GULP GULP

OH NO! NOW I'M GONNA BE SLEEPY ALL MORNING IN SCHOOL!

WHY?

THIS ISN'T CARNATION INSTANT BREAKFAST! THIS IS CARNATION INSTANT THANKSGIVING DINNER!

I THOUGHT IT LOOKED KINDA CHUNKY

**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

I JUST HAD THE GREATEST IDEA OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!

REALLY?

TOTAL PARENTAL OUTRAGE!

THAT'S THE IDEA?

NO, THAT'S MOSTLY WHAT MAKES IT SO GREAT.

**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Should she speak to parents?**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have been having a discussion with my husband about whether it is OK to intervene when I see a parent verbally or physically abusing a child in a public place. He thinks we should mind our own business, as the person could get even madder or attack us. I think it is my duty as a mother to stand up for defenseless kids when I see them. We have had this argument several times, and I want it settled. – B.C.

**Dear B.C.:** It is sad when you come upon a parent yelling at a child or even grabbing, swatting or otherwise physically disciplining him or her in public. One thing parents aren't taught is the embarrassment of having a child misbehave in public. We feel like all eyes are upon us, and we must get the child to do the right thing. If the child cries or throws a tantrum, it draws more attention and makes us more upset. We want to show we are in control. Then there's another type of parent who is oblivious to public opinion, and goes ahead and smacks or yells at the child just the way he or she always does.

Enter the well-meaning, good parent – you! It is not something to be ashamed of that you want to stand up for kids. Your own safety is paramount, but usually the last thing the parent wants is more negative attention. He or she might respond favorably to some words of empathy: "It must be very frustrating to have your child screaming on the floor. I remember when mine did that." Notice I didn't suggest yelling at the parent or accusing him or her of abuse! But your focus should be the child: "I bet you're really tired walking around this big store. It's good you have some cool sneakers on!" Being in the kid's corner is a good thing.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My husband and I are very involved in our church. In fact, he is one of the pastors, and I am active in leading the teen group. I have four great kids who have been brought up as decent, God-fearing, church-going children. The oldest is only 11, but he and his sister have started to resist going to services and functions. They know they aren't allowed to embarrass their daddy, so they have to go. What can I do? – H.I.

**Dear H.I.:** I know you and your husband have a huge stake in having the kids attend all the church functions. There probably is pressure to raise the perfect family as an example. This is a lot of pressure to put on your children, no matter how caught up you may be in having them follow in your religious footsteps. It is natural for kids to rebel, especially as teens. Your son probably is setting the example for your daughter, who looks up to him. If the subject were something else, would you know how to handle their rebellion?

You and your husband can become punitive, running the risk of truly turning off your kids. You want church to be pleasant for them, with hopes that someday they will carry their own convictions. If they are rebelling against too much structure, perhaps you could let them help you assist with the groups. Try to get them excited about working with other kids and having some fun along the way. Church isn't a punishment. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K J 10 2  
 ♥ 7 3  
 ♦ 10 8  
 ♣ K 10 8 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 3  
 ♥ A 10 6 5 4  
 ♦ K Q 6 2  
 ♣ A 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q 6  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A 9  
 ♣ Q J 9 7 6 5 3

The bidding:  
 East 1♥ South 2♥ West 3♥ North 3♠  
 3♥ 5♣ Pass Pass  
 Dblc Pass Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

**Thoughtful Defense**

Bridge is not a game that can be played by rote – thinking is a basic requirement. To play mechanically is certain to lead to poor results. For example, take this deal where West led the king of hearts, which held, and continued with a heart, ruffed by declarer. South lost a club to East's ace and then had 11 easy tricks, eventually discarding his diamond loser on dummy's fourth spade after the last trump was drawn. The contract could have been defeated, however. East should have overtaken the king of hearts with the ace and returned the king of diamonds at trick two. This would have saddled declarer with an unavoidable diamond loser. The winning defense was not really very difficult to find. All East had to do was to overcome the natural aversion to wasting an ace on his partner's king. However, a little thought should have convinced East that overtaking the king was a perfectly sound play. The bidding, the opening lead and dummy's threatening spades all indicated that a diamond shift at trick two was mandatory. West's heart raise must have been based on three, four or five hearts. If he had five hearts, no harm could come from playing the ace, since in that case declarer would ruff the first trick. If West had four hearts, South would have one, and East could again afford to play the ace and make the vital diamond shift. Finally, if West had three hearts, the ace play could do no harm, since West was marked with the queen by his lead of the king. (With three or more hearts not including the queen, West would lead a low card. Only with a holding headed by the K-Q would he lead the king.) All signs therefore pointed in one direction: that East should play the ace of hearts at trick one. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



4-8  
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**"Doesn't anybody want to cheer me on while I do my homework?"**

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

D Q W J B N B J R B K V V S P  
 O W B Z Q S J R S O P N S F P Q V D O V  
 E K V E W K U I U W B E , I V G Z V G U F  
 Z B U U S O P E K S J R O K B S J S J R .  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD IRON WASN'T GETTING THE WRINKLES OUT OF HIS PANTS, SO HE SHOUTED "FOR PLEAT'S SAKE!"**  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals U

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                             |                          |                      |                                       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | <b>DOWN</b>              | <b>ACROSS</b>        | <b>DOWN</b>                           |
| 1 Record                    | 33 Antitoxins            | 1 Love               | 21 Crucial                            |
| 5 List-ending abbr.         | 34 Einstein's birthplace | 2 too much           | 23 Fear, and then some                |
| 8 Presage                   | 35 "Eureka!"             | 3 Couple, to a field | 24 Parliamentary title                |
| 12 Director                 | 36 Rice                  | 4 gossipy-monger     | 25 Vacillate                          |
| Prelinger                   | 37 Retreats              | 5 alcohol            | 26 Organization                       |
| 13 Mai (cocktail)           | 38 Achilles' downfall    | 6 Greek cross        | 27 Luau entertainment                 |
| 14 Mysterious character     | 39 Manually              | 7 HBO offshoot       | 28 Monday morning quarterback's place |
| 47 Retriever type           | 40 Bedouin               | 8 Nurture            | 32 "Frankenstein" author              |
| 49 Met melody               | 41 Actor LaBeouf         | 9 counter-part       | 33 Walks the catwalk                  |
| 15 Blue hue                 | 42 Id                    | 10 5-Across          | 35 Mimic                              |
| 16 Attila, e.g.             | 43 Bigfoot's kin         | 11 Soak up           | 36 Thick-ness                         |
| 17 Kin of 5-Across          | 44 Still                 | 12 Follow            | 38 Skewered entree                    |
| 18 Personify                | 45 Lip                   | 13 Conger, e.g.      | 39 Monastery VIP                      |
| 20 Supplemented, with "out" |                          | 14 Relentless        | 42 Vicinity                           |
| 22 Olympians' prizes        |                          |                      | 43 Little lice                        |
| 26 Eng's closest relative   |                          |                      | 44 Speaker's spot                     |
| 29 Shaft of light           |                          |                      | 45 Fool                               |
| 30 AAA job                  |                          |                      | 46 Sigma preceder                     |
| 31 Entice                   |                          |                      | 48 Time of your life?                 |
| 32 Gender                   |                          |                      |                                       |

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 4-8

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		