

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



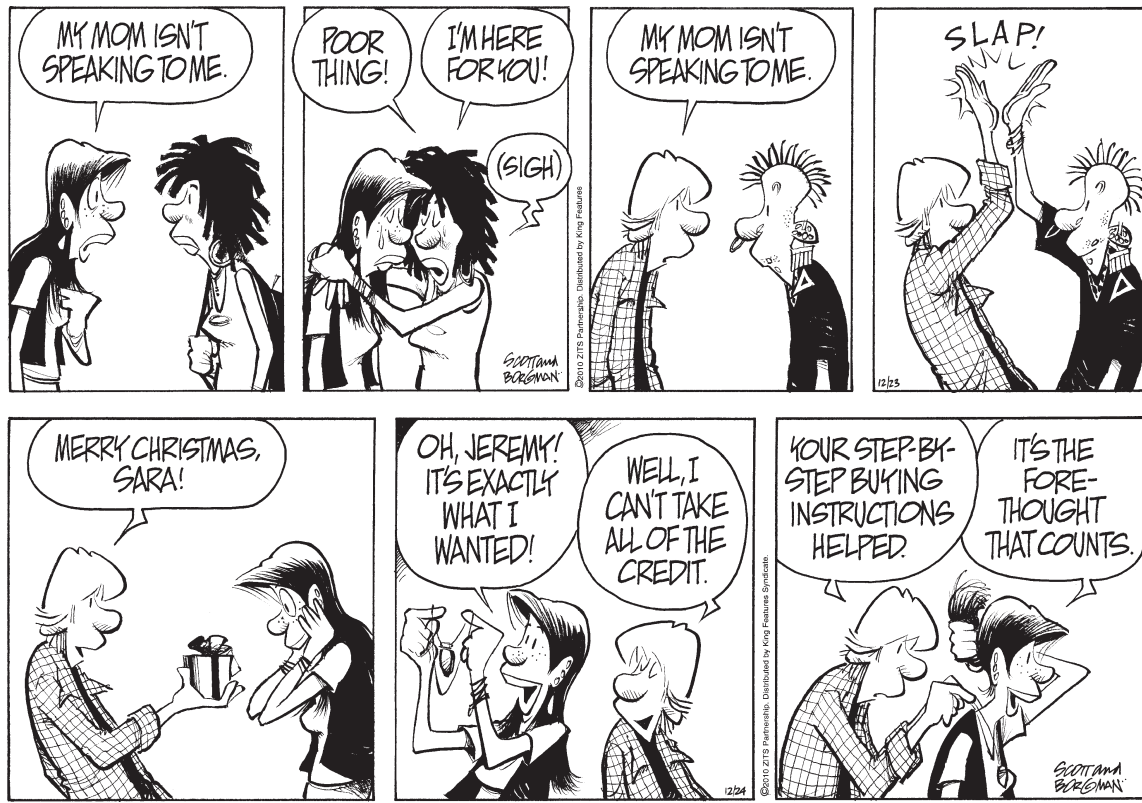
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He's given up his job search

Dear Dr. Brothers: When my husband lost his job last year, it didn't seem that bad. He was up every morning calling contacts and looking online for a job. After four months, he lost heart. He lost motivation and would not get up until noon. Now, he doesn't care if he ever works again. I can't stand to see him like this, but don't know what I can do to get him out of this funk. — G.N.

Dear G.N.: Unless you have an income that is covering expenses, or live so conservatively that bills aren't a problem, your husband must know there is some reason to keep looking for a job. The fact his state of mind prevents him is worrying, I'm sure. Many are in the same boat and so stressed from trying to keep their homes or maintain a family that they give up. You need to summon all the strength you have in order to keep his spirits up and hope alive. If you have insurance, it would be an excellent idea for your husband to try psychological counseling to help him cope.

With that said, it also may be time for him to think outside the box — gather with others for brainstorming or sit down with the family to see what options might be available. Perhaps it's time to develop interests into marketable skills. He must love doing something. Let him treat a hobby like a job and see if he could make an interest into an income. The key is finding something to motivate him to keep trying. You can be key, so take the lead and be a positive role model he can count on in the days to come.

Dear Dr. Brothers: A tiny kitten found its way into our garage, and my husband and I have been taking care of it. He wants to keep it, but I want to put it up for adoption. I don't know why I should be the responsible one that goes out of her way to take in strays. He says no one's going to want it. Who is responsible for the kitten? — S.S.

Dear S.S.: It is great you were willing to take in a stray. Who could resist? Some people could have overlooked the animal, chased it out, unleashed the dog on it, or worse. There are still people who tie them in a bag and throw them in the river — and more who are not responsible enough to spay and neuter their pets. So you've done more than some. If you have a no-kill shelter, you could ask if it would take the kitten.

Most shelters are crowded with more cats and kittens than can be adopted, and are little more than executioners. So if your household can't handle an addition, you may need to work to find an owner for the new kitten. It is all right to admit you can't care for it, and you needn't think no one else will, either. Telling your friends, posting signs and using bulletin boards at your local pet store and veterinarian including a cute picture might yield some results. While your husband thinks no one would want the kitten, he may just be wishing to keep it. It is easy to become attached to a baby anything! He may wish to take care of the kitten himself — why not ask him?

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 9 5
♥ 4
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ A K 3

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ 10 8 6 5 2
♦ 8 7
♣ J 8 7 4

EAST
♠ 4
♥ K Q 7
♦ A Q 10 4 2
♣ 10 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 6 2
♥ A J 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♦ Pass 4NT Pass
5♥ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

A Self-Imposed Challenge
Bad bidding sometimes makes for good drama. Witness this deal where South got to six spades. He was clearly entitled to investigate the possibility of a slam after North had raised one spade to two. North might have had a hand that would make six spades a laydown.

South had planned to stop at four if North had bid three spades over three hearts, but when North elected to cuebid four clubs, South pressed on to slam. Having made a slam try with his three-heart bid, South would have been better advised to return to four spades, and North would undoubtedly not have taken another bid.

West led a diamond, won by East with the ace, and — because the lead could have been a singleton — East returned a diamond. This proved fatal, as East later discovered to his sorrow.

South took the king, drew trumps and ruffed the nine of diamonds, hoping the queen would fall. When it didn't, South played all his remaining trumps, producing this position:

North
♥ 9
♦ J
♣ A K 3

West
Immaterial

East
♥ K Q
♦ Q
♣ 10 6

South
♥ A J 3
♣ Q 9

South cashed his three club tricks, and on the third one, East couldn't afford to part with the queen of diamonds, so he discarded a heart. Declarer then scored the last two tricks with the A-J of hearts.

The outcome would have been different had East shifted to the king of hearts at trick two. This would have severed a crucial line of communication between the North-South hands, and the slam would have gone down one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-23
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"If Santa doesn't have a Magical-Maria Giggle and Coo Interactive Talking Baby, would another kind be okay?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/23

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.

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

Cryptoquip

PE N BHFHQEWF, BJNAAM

XPQC KNMK KHGSAJPID

KNAPQPBNF, P DWSKK AJNA

GPDJA XS N RNQQHAM RNQHCM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BROADWAY MUSICAL ABOUT PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO VISIT A CERTAIN INDIAN METROPOLIS: "HELLO, DELHI!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jungfrau, for one
4 Docket entry
8 White spread
12 Vast expanse
13 Awe-struck
14 Pinnacle
15 Fence for defense
17 Anatomical network
18 See 6-Down
19 Ache aid
21 Pluto, once
24 Historic boy king
25 Tease
26 Tear
28 Re Benedict XVI
32 Earthenware pot
34 Promptly
36 Tibetan monk
37 Commemorative pillar
39 Homer's interjection

DOWN

20 Young seal
21 Experts
22 Springlike melody
23 Stannum
27 Spacecraft compartment
29 Cream-colored horse
30 Andy's pal
31 Strip of wood
33 Fettuccine sauce
35 Moo goo gai pan
38 Hearty brew
40 Commandeer
43 Let off the hook?
45 Cudgel
46 Kernels' cores
47 Wrinkly citrus
48 Bobbin
49 Recording
53 Whopper
54 Siesta
55 Type measures

Solution time: 25 mins.

ASK	BABE	MEMO							
LEO	ANON	IRAN							
URN	CANDI	DATE							
MAGMA		SAW							
	ORBS	MARCH							
VALID	DATE	YALE							
ALA	IRAOI	GLOB							
MOTL	INUND	DATE							
PECOS	DICE								
	CUE	HEIST							
LIQUID	DATE	OUR							
ONUS	EPIC	WBA							
GNAT	NECK	ASP							

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	
56			57						58		
59			60						61		