Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker









Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



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Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts





Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









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Dr. Joyce **Brothers**

Ask Dr. Brothers

Couple dates; she feels bored

Dear Dr. Brothers: My boyfriend and I have been dating about six months. We are college students and spend our time studying, eating or going to films or concerts. We have done this as a couple, not hanging out with anyone else. I am beginning to feel bored with the relationship. I feel we need more. Do you have any ideas that would deepen our connection? - N.C.

Dear N.C.: I do have an idea, sparked by a study published in the journal Personal Relationships, on 60 dating couples at Wayne State University. The study may hold clues as to which things can provide that needed spark in college dating. The couples had either intense personal discussions with another couple they were paired with, or else just made small talk with partnered couples and their own mate. The group with intense interactions actually became closer to those couples they were paired with, and in some cases sought them as friends, while the couples who engaged in small talk were not affected enough to make further contact. Most importantly, the first group felt a new spark with their own partners.

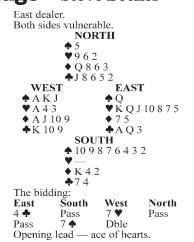
So, based on this and common sense, why not ask couples you know to double-date? It might be fun to try new things and get to know other couples who are committed and looking for things to do. You can have alone time, too, but including others in your dating life just might provide that lift. No one can meet 100 percent of another person's needs, no matter how much in love.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Last year, a teen at my son's school killed himself. It was very sad, and though he wasn't friends with my son, everyone was affected. The school did all it could to comfort kids - counseling, a memorial service, etc. But in the past year, two more kids took their own lives. Again the school did everything I mentioned. Is there anything else it could be doing? – C.A.

Dear C.A.: It sounds as though the school did all the right things. Conventional wisdom holds that instead of sweeping a suicide under the rug and pretending it didn't happen, acknowledging the student's death and life will provide appropriate closure. Yet when the original suicide is followed by others, it is difficult to pin a label DP BTFBWT XNMITG IF ZRL of "copycat" on any one act, but often these tragedies do seem to come in clusters.

At any rate, there is some new thinking on what PNOQDFMNZWT might be the school's best response. Counselors at Ohio State University have studied this and believe tributes may inspire other troubled students to see death by suicide as a glorification of the act. They recommend counseling only in small groups and focused on depression and telling an adult if kids are aware of someone's desire to harm him- or herself. Although it would be nice to think every suicide is preventable, some victims are good at hiding their intentions and symptoms. Keeping communication open is essential. (c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker



Famous Hand

This deal occurred at the 1987 world team championship in the semifinal match between Sweden and the United States.

At one of the two tables, this was the first deal of the match. As can be seen, it did not take the U.S. pair seated East-West very long to warm up. In fact, it took them just two bids to reach a laydown grand slam!

East's opening four-club bid announced a strong four-heart opener, whereupon West leaped directly to seven hearts. But Tjolpe Flodqvist of Sweden was not asleep at the switch. When seven hearts came around to him, he bid seven spades, hoping to go down less than the value of the grand slam.

West doubled, and Flodqvist went down seven for a loss of 2,000 points. Since West would have scored 2,210 for making the grand slam, this represented a potential savings of 210 points for the Swedes.

When the deal was played at the second table, Hugh Ross of the U.S. held the South cards. At this table, the deal was the last of the 16-board set, and Ross had yet to play a hand as declarer. After the Swedes arrived at seven hearts on similar bidding, Ross also bid seven spades, partly due to the frustration of not yet having declared a hand.

Here, though, his Swedish opponents would not allow him the dubious distinction of going down seven, doubled and vulnerable. They bid seven notrump instead, giving them a score of 2,220 points. This, combined with the result at the other table, netted them a gain of 6 IMPs on

Thus concluded the strange episode of a player who willingly lost 2,000 points on his very first deal of a world championship semifinal and came out ahead, and another who tried to do exactly the same thing only to be denied that satisfaction by his opponents.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Nothing! I was just checkin' to make sure the cookies were still in here.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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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.

_	4	3	8	7	1	6	5	2	9		
	7	5	6	9	2	4	1	8	3		
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	THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH. 1997										

Cryptoquip

KWFIQDMC, GF LFR IQDMJ

IQTL XFRWG OQFB NI ONKJO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING SOME PREHISTORIC HUMANS HAD GREAT STATURE, COULD ONE CALL THEM NEANDER-TALL MEN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Puncturing	36 Chills and fever 37 Merce-	moisture 61 See	12 Was guided by intuition
tool	nary	3-Down	19 Chum
4 Hooter	39 First		21 "—
7 Vatican	AFL	DOWN	cares?"
VIP	president,	1 Perfor-	23 Central
11 Bloke	Samuel	mances	25 Rim
13 — Beta	41 Purim	2 "Eh?"	26 Insult
Kappa	heroine	3 Bear's	27 Sight-
14 Acknowl-	43 Thee	hideaway	seers?
edge	44 Mormon	4 Choose,	28 Nonsense
15 Head's	state	with "for"	talk
opposite	46 Vestibule	5 Fillmore,	29 Experts
16 Up to,	50 — the	for	30 Let
briefly	Terrible	one	it all
17 — of	53 Bowling	6 Light-	out
Good	target	purple	31 Kvetch
Hope	55 — En-lai	shade	35 Lad
18 Backpack	56 Platter	7 Was	38 Allow
part	57 Anger	potent	40 Curly's
20 Stare	58 Island	8 Eggs	brother
stupidly	dance	9 Soda	42 Fast
22 Sweet	59 Egyptian	10 Ram's	45 Employ
potato	cross	ma'am	47 Dull
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Yesterday's answer 3-26

and Sullivan princess **51** Actor Diesel 52 Request 54 Fresh

48 Portrayal

49 Money of

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50 Gilbert

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