Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

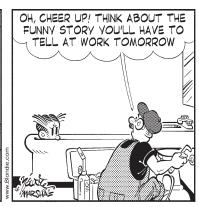




Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Sally Forth • Greg Howard





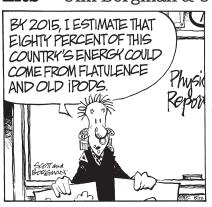
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts





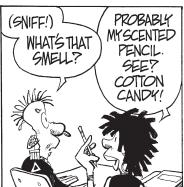


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

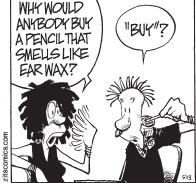














Ask Dr. Brothers

Must she have racial identity?

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband thinks it's no big deal, but ever since we moved to a new house, I've worried about my daughter. We are an African-American family in an all-white subdivision, and it seems like our little girl will never get the experience I had as a child. Where I grew up, all our family lived on the same block, attended the same church and listened to the same stories at block parties. How important is racial identity to a child's well-being? – R.P.

Dear R.P.: You don't mention if your daughter has made friends in the neighborhood, or if she has friends of her own race and others at school. If she seems lonely or unhappy, you might have an issue, but if she is comfortable moving in and out of various circles, there's little reason to be concerned. It is great you have good memories of your childhood and a close-knit set of friends. Your daughter's experience will be different, but not necessarily worse. Still, there is much to be said for your daughter being exposed to other African-American children and forming friendships within her own racial group.

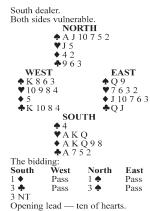
In fact, some research in the Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology has emphasized the importance of identifying with a racial identity. Surveying black adults in Michigan, the researchers suggest the stronger the link between the individual and his or her identification as an African-American, the happier the individual is with life. This is not to say your daughter couldn't be happy in her all-white neighborhood - it just means she should have opportunities to know children like herself. The key is to keep communication open so you know how she's doing.

Dear Dr. Brothers: One of my good friends is prone to making her life dramatic. She turns everything into a major event, so it's sometimes difficult to tell when there's really something wrong. Last week, she got into a minor fenderbender. Both she and the car were unharmed, but the way she's been acting, you would think she cheated death. I feel I'm consoling her way too much for something so minor - but what would be the alternative? - K.F.

Dear K.F.: It seems in every social group there is always at least one drama queen - and let me guess, this woman probably is not too happy unless she is the center of attention. These types seem to feed off their reflected glory, which is what you are dishing out to her when you give her excessive amounts of attention. But you alsomeone makes everything into such a big, dramatic deal, it's hard to shrug it all off. You risk looking like a cold-hearted, fair-weather friend, and now she has a new drama to exploit! So, how about trying to find a happy medium? Express a moderate amount of interest in her issues and offer a moderate amount of sympathy, and then change the subject.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Some hands lend themselves much more readily to a mistake by declarer because the correct play is not self-evident.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. The contract seems easy to make, so South wins with the queen and starts to play diamonds. But after he cashes the A-K and West shows out, declarer finds himself in a very uncomfortable position.

What a moment earlier had seemed a certain nine or 10 tricks has abruptly changed to only eight tricks. Even worse, there's nothing South can do now to make the contract.

But what should he have done, and how should he have known to do it? Declarer's first reaction. after seeing dummy, should be that he has eight unassailable tricks, and that the only reasonable place to try to secure a ninth lies in the diamond

This will be easy enough to manage if the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3 or 4-2, but what if they're divided 5-1? In that case, the contract would be in jeopardy, unless the jack or ten falls on the first diamond lead.

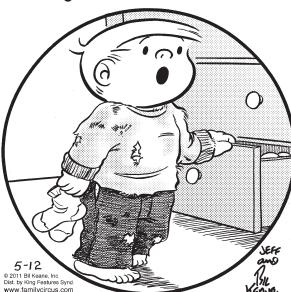
In the actual deal, when South cashes the ace, both defenders follow low. He should then realize he can overcome even a 5-1 division if East is the one with five diamonds.

So declarer crosses to the ace of spades, returns a diamond and, after East follows low, plays the nine. If it wins, South immediately acquires his ninth trick; if it loses, which means the diamonds were divided no worse than 4-2, the eight automatically becomes trick No. 9.

As in so many other hands, declarer's state of mind at the outset has an enormous effect on how he finishes at the end. If he casually assumes a 3-3 or 4-2 diamond division, he quickly runs into a dead end and goes down one. But if he assumes the worst and prepares for it, he wraps up nine easy tricks.

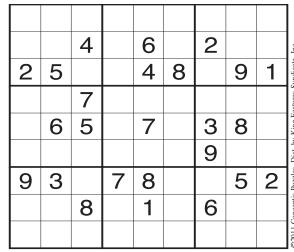
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, which goes better with this outfit - blue socks or white?"

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.

-	7	4	3	6	9	2	1	5	8
	9	5	1	3	8	7	2	6	4
_	8	6	2	4	1	5	7	9	3
1.	2	3	9	8	7	4	6	1	5
ι >	5	1	7	2	6	З	8	4	9
,	4	8	6	1	5	9	3	2	7
?	3	2	8	5	4	6	9	7	1
	6	9	5	7	3	1	4	8	2
t	1	7	4	9	2	8	5	З	6
Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/11									

Cryptoquip

XYZL CY MTR WP MHTXP

EQCUTCTYEHX GQRRXLWLEC

ready know that. It's really not your fault; when RTXXG TE NLLU, CKLE XHNLX

CKLW "WHXCP-ZTCHWTEG." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE FELLOW WANTS TO FILM SOME SPIDERS' HOMES.

SHOULD HE PURCHASE AND USE A WEB CAM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

talk

21 Soothing

ointment

Howard

garland

54 Floral

55 Once

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

36 — Strauss

34 Insult (Sl.) 61 Back

ACROSS

1 Ambu-

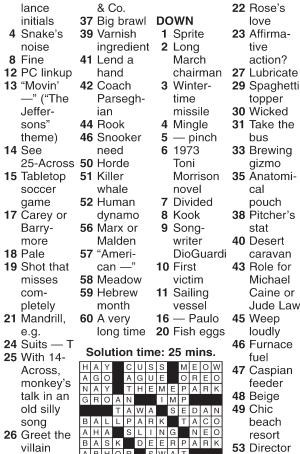
28 He's had

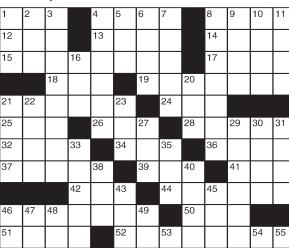
32 Spring

melody

some bad

hare days





Yesterday's answer 5-12