Page 6 Colby Free Press Monday, January 11, 2010

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



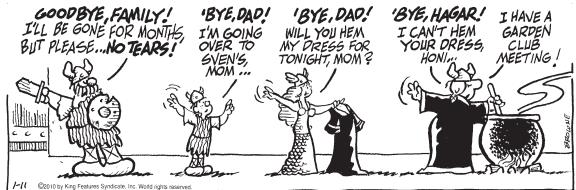
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young

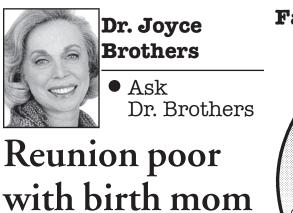


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Dear Dr. Brothers: I had been thinking about contacting my birth mother, and finally did. I am in my 30s and she is in her 60s. The problem is, it didn't go as well as I'd hoped. I thought I'd feel something, but she was just a senior citizen with an ugly purse. I almost wish I hadn't met her. My adoptive parents are nasty, so now I feel all alone. My "real" dad is unknown. Now what? - K.B.

Dear K.B.: Before figuring out where to go from here, let's review the past. When adoptees plan to contact their birth parents, they pour a lot of expectations into the experience. It can be so perfect in your head. Television shows emphasizing reunions with heart-stirring music set the seeker up for a peak experience. The problem is, almost any reunion is bound to be a disappointment when measured against the fantasies both parties build up. It is almost inevitable that you would suffer a letdown afterward, along with a restless feeling of wanting more.

The fact you didn't have a very good relationship with your adoptive parents and your birth father is unknown puts more pressure on you and your birth mother. But I wouldn't be quick to characterize your meeting as a colossal failure. Her willingness to meet signals her willingness to get to know you. The fact that you felt like a stranger is not terrible - you were a stranger. A study in the U.K. showed that about half of the adopted people followed were still in touch eight years after the reunion. Like them, you can build on your interest, and give her another chance.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have suddenly been thrust into a strange world I know nothing about, and I am feeling very anxious. A relative called and said her son is in a drug-rehab facility near me, and wondered if I would visit him. He is a teenager whom I used to spend time with but haven't seen for a few years. I don't know what I would say in such a place, but I agreed. How should I act, and what should I say? Help! - M.Y.

Dear M.Y .: You do sound nervous. It's understandable: You want to be helpful, but have a vague idea that the potential is there for you to make things worse. So first relax; realize this isn't can about the facility, its staff and philosophy, as well as the rules under which you must operate if you go there to see your relative.

There are different approaches to addiction, and each center has its own culture. Learn about it before you go, and speak to the teen's counselnot allow visitors at all. Then do some research about your relative. What are his interests, his dreams? What music does he like, what sports? If you rouse his interests, he won't resent his parents sending you as he might if you were there just to please them. So calm down. You have an opportunity to do some good.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"When I grow up do I HAFTA look like Daddy?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

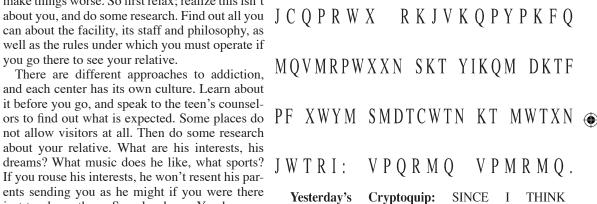
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This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

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.

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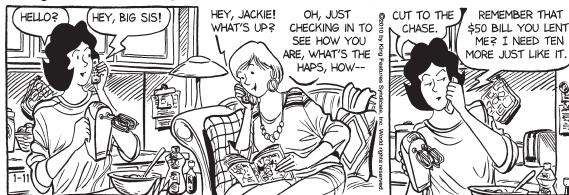
Cryptoquip



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I THINK LOGICALLY ABOUT WHICH HERBS TO COOK WITH, YOU COULD CALL IT SEASONING REASONING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R

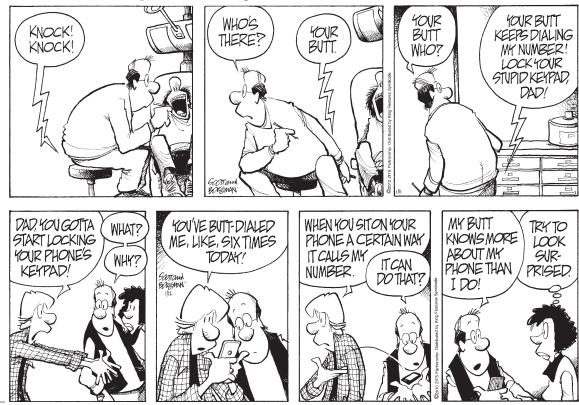
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Bridge • Steve Becker

| North dealer. Neither side vuln | erable. RTH | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
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| ♦ Q 6 ♣ J 5 The bidding: | 4 | |
| North East 1 ◆ Pass 3 NT Pass | South 1 ♥ 4 ♥ | West Pass |
| Opening lead — | | les. |

Famous Hand

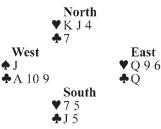
Today's hand occurred at the 1986 world team championship in a match between teams from France and the Netherlands. The deal featured sparkling play by the French at both tables.

When France held the North-South cards, Paul Chemla wound up as declarer in four hearts on the bidding shown. In the French pair's methods, North's jump to three notrump indicated a strong hand with excellent heart support, and South then signed off at game.

It may appear that the 5-0 trump division spelled certain defeat for the contract, but Chemla proved otherwise. According to one account, he had 10 tricks tucked away in less than a minute.

He won the opening spade lead with the king and cashed the ace of hearts, revealing the bad break. Seemingly unfazed by this development, Chemla next cashed the A-Q of spades, then led a diamond to the ten, losing to the king.

East's diamond return was taken by the queen, and a club was led to the king. When this held, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and led dummy's last diamond, ruffed by East with the eight and overruffed with the ten to produce this position with South needing two more tricks:



When Chemla now exited with a club, the defenders were helpless. West put up the ace to prevent his partner from being endplayed, but this merely delayed the inevitable. West's club continuation was ruffed by the four and overruffed by East, who then had to lead from the Q-9 of trumps into dummy's K-J to give South the contract.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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