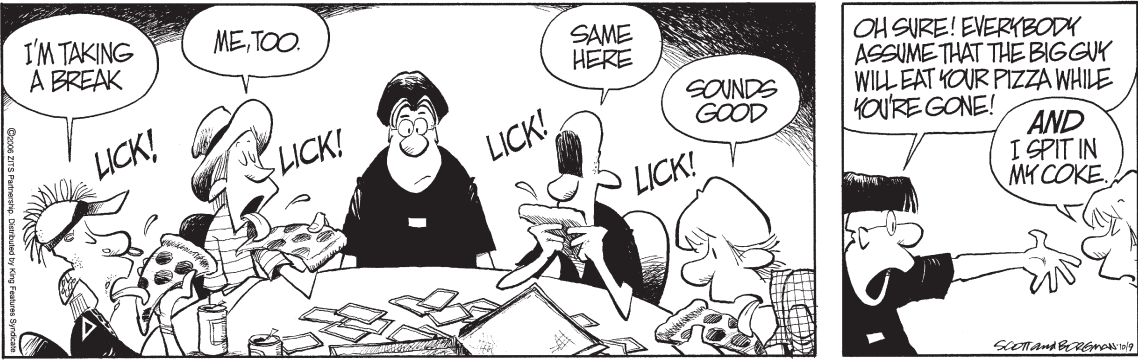


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



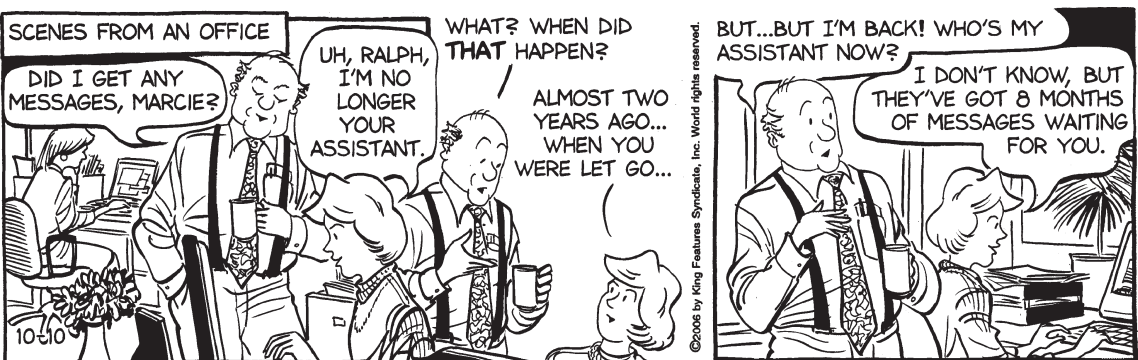
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



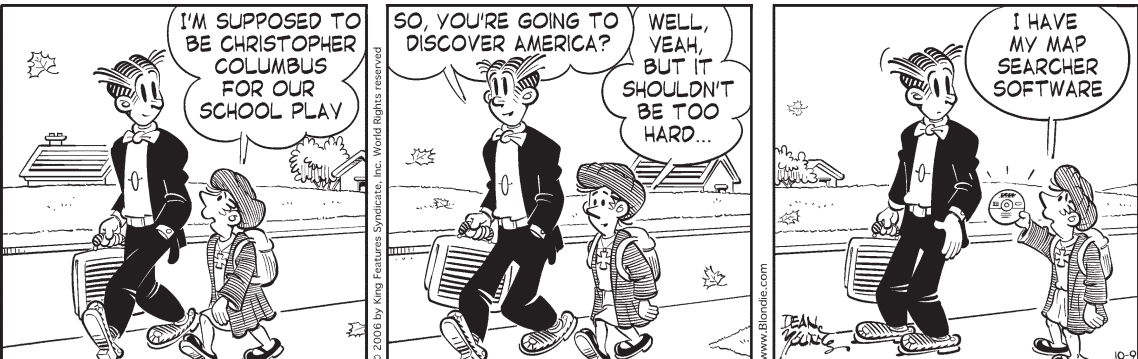
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



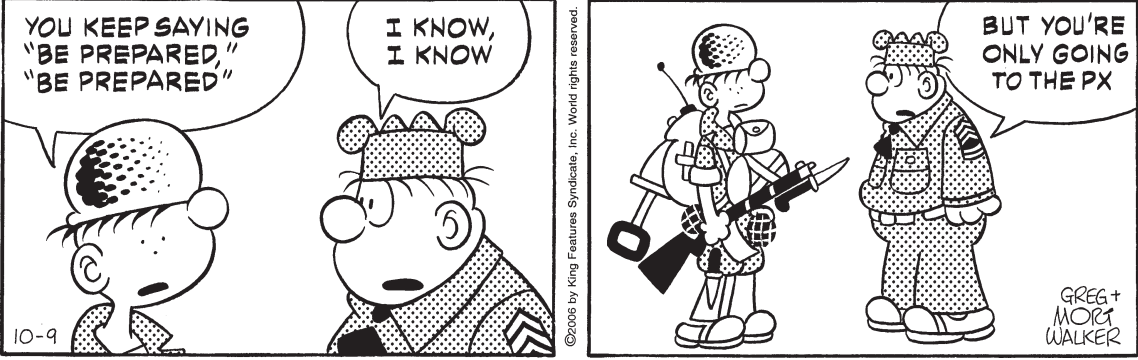
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Student looks for birth parents

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a college student who has two wonderful parents — adopted by them as a baby through a private arrangement. Ever since graduating from high school, I've been thinking of trying to find out about my biological parents. I've never said anything to my folks, but I have been thinking about it more and more. At the same time, I am feeling very guilty. Should I tell my parents that I want to do this, or would it hurt them?



Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Dr. Brothers

these prescriptions because of various side effects. A few of these side effects sound frightening. The bottom line is, I am now afraid to take the medicine, fearing that the cure could be worse than the problem. How can people just blithely take anything a doctor gives them? Any advice?

Dear W.L.: You sound like a very considerate and caring young person. What might help you in making your decision is to realize that while you are just coming to a point where your curiosity has been aroused and you are considering alternatives, your parents have very likely been preparing for this moment for many years, since it is one of the issues that adoptive couples typically face. I'm sure that your parents are wonderful people and they won't want to stand in your way. You might all benefit from some specialized counseling about how to proceed and what to expect.

There is even a chance that your parents have some information set aside for you and have been waiting for the right time to share it with you. So don't be afraid to bring up the subject. If they seem flustered or reluctant, you must reassure them about what is obvious to you — but perhaps not to them — concerning this stressful subject: that you love them and that you know they are your "real" parents. In fact, have them look at the first line of your letter.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I hate going to the doctor. I get very nervous. I finally went for a checkup and was prescribed medication for high blood pressure. I did a lot of reading on the Internet, and it seems doctors are always changing or adding to

Dear E.P.: Yes: First, calm down! All your anxiety and angst can't be good for that blood pressure. It is a positive thing that you are a responsible patient, researching medications so that you are aware of interactions and side effects. But there is a difference between being an educated consumer and being a nervous wreck! You are showing a rather typical reaction of a hypochondriac — you can't bear to go to the doctor, and when you do go, you don't believe him. So, in essence, your fears stem from the lack of control you feel in turning your health over to a stranger and then following his or her advice. I know it's hard.

Certainly the warning labels that go with most medications today are daunting. But you need to understand rationally that most side effects are essentially harmless, and those that aren't are very rare.

Keep a log of any reactions you have to the drugs in the first few days or weeks — then you will be able to discuss them with your doctor so that he can adjust your dosage in the most informed way. You can also question the phar-

macist about any potential problems. Just start with the first pill, and take it one day at a time.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My daughter came home from high school this week very upset because a group of kids have been pressuring her to join a movement that's all about staying "pure" before marriage. She is 16, and while she tells us that she has no intention of having sex in high school, or even in college if she isn't very serious about someone, she doesn't feel comfortable committing to the pure-until-marriage lifestyle that these kids are advocating. She has asked my advice, and I hate to be put on the spot like this, wish I could encourage her to sign the pledge, but I have to agree with her that it sounds somewhat coercive and extreme. Am I being a bad parent?

Dear C.W.: There are so many pressures on kids to be sexual today; your daughter probably does not need any more, especially from her parents. Many teens go with the flow of their crowd, regardless of what nuances their well-meaning parents try to put on their advice. But surely, parents and peers can be coercive, too, in their own subtle ways.

The "purity" group, on the other hand, is advocating a stance that is clear-cut, drastic (in today's world) and long term. As there is always strength in numbers, this movement has armed teens to take strength and resolve from one another, and this is why it's appealing to some.

If you don't agree with their philosophy, you owe it to your daughter to honestly tell her. But I wouldn't try to sway her opinion. She will respect you for your honesty, while deciding for herself what is right in her situation.

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Bridge

West dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	9 7 6 5 2	♠	A J 4
♥	Q J 10 8 6 3	♥	7 5 4
♦	5	♦	K Q 9
♣	K	♣	A 10 5 3
WEST		EAST	
♠	10	♠	A J 4
♥	A 9	♥	7 5 4
♦	8 7 6 3	♦	K Q 9
♣	Q J 9 8 6 4	♣	A 10 5 3
SOUTH			
♠	K Q 8 3	♠	A J 4
♥	K 2	♥	7 5 4
♦	A J 10 4 2	♦	K Q 9
♣	7 2	♣	A 10 5 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
2 ♣	Dble	2 NT	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Dble	

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred during the quarterfinal-round clash between Italy and the United States at the 2004 World Bridge Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey. The Italians scored a 12-IMP victory in the 80-deal confrontation, and went on from there to win the title.

The bidding shown took place at the table where Steve Weinstein and Robert Levin were North-South for the U.S. Weinstein's double on the second round was of the "responsive" variety, showing the two unbid suits.

Levin naturally bid his spades at his next turn, and Weinstein then took what he most likely thought was a sacrifice against the threat that East might make a vulnerable game. Weinstein was correct in his assessment, as three notrump could not be defeated as the cards lay.

Against four spades, West started with the ace of hearts and shifted to a club, but he was fighting a losing battle.

East took the ace and continued with a club, ruffed in dummy. Levin then led a spade to the king, cashed the king of hearts and the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond in dummy and began to run his hearts.

East could not score more than his ace of spades, and the doubled contract was made for a score of 590.

At the other table, where Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood were East-West for the U.S., the bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 [C]	1 [D]
3 [S] Pass		4 [S]	Pass
5 [C]			

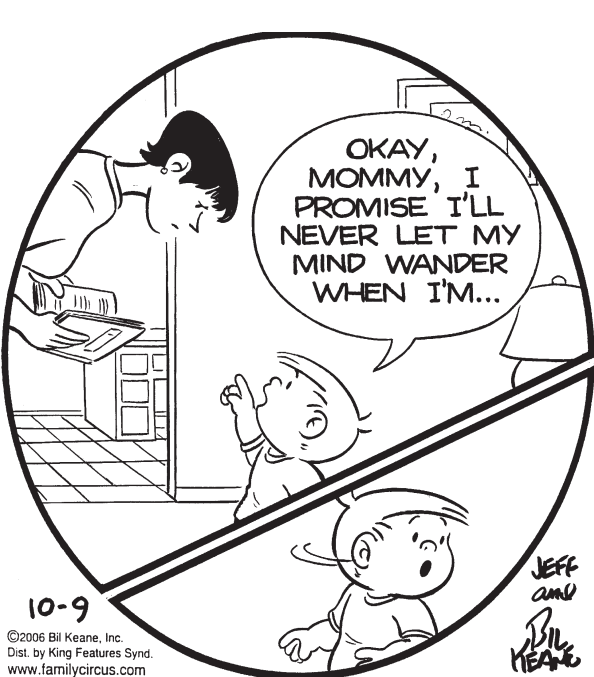
Zia's three-spade bid was a "splinter" intended to show club support and shortness in spades, but Rosenberg claimed later that the meaning of that bid in this sequence had never been discussed.

He therefore bid four spades to cover all contingencies, and Zia corrected to five clubs. Rosenberg lost two diamonds and a heart to finish down one, but this result, combined with the one at the other table, gave the U.S. a net pickup of 490 points, good for a 10-IMP gain.

Tomorrow: The bidding tells the tale.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...Hey! Look at that moth!"

Crossword

ACROSS	36	59	16
1 Auction action	Mini-plateaus	Egos' counter-parts	Come-dian Philips
4 Urban fleet	38 "Phooey!"		20 Fat
9 Agent, for short	40 Unhealthy		21 Serene
12 Brouhaha	41 Mid-March date		22 Curved molding
13 "Tosca" or "Turandot"	43 Dan Brown's output		23 In the style of "The Barber of Seville"
14 Buy now, pay later	45 Bob Dole, for one		27 Chatter away
15 Julius or Ethel of WWII	47 "How — love thee?"		29 Shopping center
17 Shark's venue	48 Black cuckoo		30 Puncturing tools
18 Russian spacecraft	49 Historic passenger		32 Tiny amounts
19 Lascivious lookers	54 Verily		34 Authoritative command
21 Ring around the sun	55 Box		37 Quest
24 Paper quantity	56 Resume		39 1978 Burt Reynolds movie
25 Past	57 Possess		42 Sleep soundly?
26 Show-biz job	58 Lumber-jack, often		44 Through
28 Eugene O'Neill's genre			45 Crushing blow
31 For fear that			46 From the beginning
33 Water barrier			50 Carpentry tool
35 Sketch			51 Baseball stat

Solution time: 24 mins.

DAY PITT RASH

ORE ORO ESPY

LIT MONA DEAD

FAIR AND SQUARE

ADS TEX

FROZE NED HUM

ROLE MIR JOKE

ODD OIL SEVEN

IAN SHE

TRAFFIC CIRCLE

WARN MAUL OAR

INTO UNDO DUG

GIST MESH ADO

Saturday's answer 10-9



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Cryptoquip

CO P JFREPM DNR IQYM P

ICD DSS OPL SE DXY

OQSSL, FSN RCJXD MPF XY

ISNEHM SND SO ISNEHM.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: TOWN IN NORWAY WHERE FOLKS ARE KNOWN TO TAKE MALLETS TO EASTER FLOWERS: LILYHAMMER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O