

Outlook on Lifestyle

BRIDGE

James Jacoby

NORTH 10-10-27			
♦ A 6 6 3			
♥ A J 10 6 3			
♦ 6 2			
♣ J 5			
WEST		EAST	
♦ K 4		♦ 5 2	
♥ 8 5		♥ K Q 9 7 2	
♦ A Q 8 4 3		♥ J 10 9	
♣ K Q 10 9		♦ 6 4 3	
SOUTH			
♥ Q J 10 9 7			
♥ 4			
♦ K 7 5			
♣ A 8 7 2			
Vulnerable: Both			
Dealer: West			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♦ K			

Endlessly endplayed

By James Jacoby

Bridge bidding would be easier if partners could read each other's mind. Because North had a skimpy overcall, he would have passed South's one-spade bid, but opener West bid two clubs. In the spirit of competition, North raised spades. South thought the overcall and subsequent raise showed sound high-card values, so he bid four spades. Making game required a lot of luck and the ability to sniff out an unusual endplay.

Declarer won the ace of clubs and then played to dummy's heart ace and ruffed a heart. Next he led the nine of spades and finessed. He played a second spade, winning with dummy's ace when West's king came up. Another heart ruff disclosed that nothing good was happening in that suit, and declarer now played a club. West won the queen and continued with the 10. Declarer could ruff that in dummy, but to what avail? Eventually he would have to lead diamonds and surely lose three more tricks to be set. Then South saw the endplay possibility. He discarded a diamond from dummy on the 10 of clubs. West continued with the club nine, and declarer discarded still another diamond. That was book (three tricks) for the defense, but West was on lead with nothing left but diamonds, and the two diamonds originally in dummy had disappeared. If West played a low diamond, declarer would ride it around to his king. If West played the ace, declarer would ruff and still have a trump left in dummy for his last losing diamond.

A new book by James Jacoby and his father, the late Oswald Jacoby, is now available at bookstores. It is "Jacoby on Card Games," published by Pharos Books.

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The name of the English royal house of Plantagenet came from the French word meaning "broom stalk."

Diamonds will burn when heated to a temperature of 800 degrees Celsius (1,472 degrees Fahrenheit).

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Peter Gott, M.D.

A fable that's all too true

The vicissitudes of modern medicine often seem to be intimately interwoven with the legal system. Doctors are increasingly inclined to blame attorneys for the malpractice crisis; lawyers denounce physician wrongdoers as incompetents who must be weeded out and brought to justice. This adversarial position has ruined many golf-course friendships between medical healers and their legal brethren.

Because many children are being groomed to enter medical or law schools, I believe that they must be informed early about the natural antagonism existing between the two professions. Children's literature provides an ideal vehicle in which to teach grown-up reality. With this goal in mind, I herewith submit a modernized version of Billygoat Gruff, a traditional children's story. I am certain that any sophisticated adult will per-

ceive my updated version of an old story as giving new strength and urgency to an otherwise mundane tale.

BILLYGOAT GRUFF

One fine spring day, Billygoat Gruff and his two younger brothers decided to forage for better pasture in the high fields in the mountains. To reach their destination, they had to cross over dangerous rapids on a bridge under which lived a malicious troll.

As the youngest goat daintily tripped across the bridge, the ugly troll appeared and exclaimed: "Who's that crossing my bridge? I'm going to eat you up!"

"Oh, please, Mr. Troll," cried the little goat. "Wait for my brother, who is much fatter than I!" The troll withdrew.

A few minutes later, the larger second goat clip-clopped across the bridge. The troll appeared and demanded: "Who's that crossing my bridge? I'm going to eat you up!"

"Spare me, troll," the goat pleaded. "My brother will be along soon and he is much fatter than I!" The troll allowed the second goat to pass.

Soon Billygoat Gruff clump-trumped across the bridge. The troll reared up, reached for the goat and screamed: "Aha! I've been waiting for you to cross my bridge! I'm going to eat you up!"

"Nonsense!" replied Billygoat Gruff. "A bridge belongs to anyone who wishes to cross it!" With that, he butted the cruel troll off the bridge,

down onto the sharp rocks below.

Billygoat Gruff and his two brothers then proceeded to the upper fields, where they contentedly enjoyed the new grass.

The troll required admission to the hospital intensive-care unit. Eventually, the following press release was issued: "The patient suffered multiple lacerations, several compound fractures and a severe concussion, with bleeding into the brain. He required immediate neurosurgery. Despite heroic efforts by the hospital staff, he never regained consciousness after surgery. He has remained in a coma and is now being maintained with artificial life-support mechanisms. The patient will require long-term medical management in an extended care facility."

The goats were arrested for trespassing, malicious mischief and unprovoked assault with a deadly weapon. There was an enormous public outcry against "the molycoddling of punks and muggers." The two youngest goats were remanded to the juvenile authorities. Billygoat Gruff was tried in a long and sensational courtroom drama, during which the American Civil Liberties Union provided legal funds for his coterie of lawyers. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in a maximum-security facility. After serving three years of his sentence, he discovered religion, shaved his beard and became a model prisoner.

DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

She says widower is victim of abuse

DEAR MEG - I'm 58 and am very fond of a 60-year-old widower. Bob has said that after his back surgery next month he wants to buy a home outside our area. He says we can either live together or get married, whichever I prefer.

Meanwhile, Bob is living with his daughter and his teenage grandson. They abuse him verbally and call him dirty names. Bob is a kind, gentle man, and the abuse is terrible because he is sick and can't fight back. Their treatment of him makes me furious, but I dare not say anything.

When Bob leaves the hospital, I'd like to have him stay with me, but I'm afraid his daughter would be jealous and cause trouble. Should I ask him, or continue to stay out of his family business? - TEMPTED, PHOENIX, ARIZ.

DEAR TEMPTED - Since Bob has already asked you to live with him, I see no reason why you shouldn't extend the invitation. (Save your stamps, readers, they're grownups!) But don't be surprised if he doesn't take you up on it. He may not see life at home in the same light you do. The fact that he can afford to move, but hasn't, tells me he's not as badly

treated as you may think - or he's taking it all with a grain of salt.

DEAR MEG - I'm 22, and I still live at home. My plan is to move in with my boyfriend next month.

Last year Mom and I bought new living-room furniture. We share the payments. I told Mom she could have the whole set, but she wants the bedroom furniture instead, and that's mine.

But the furniture is the smallest problem. Mom wants to move in with us. She says if we get a house and give her a room, she'll be our maid. Meg, the reason I'm moving is to get away from her. I'm 22, but she is still over-protective and very nosy.

Mom has no money. She has convinced herself that I make piles of money and "hoard it." The reason is, I get up and go out to work every morning while she and my sister sleep. I pay rent, my sister doesn't.

I want to start a life of my own, but I don't know how to tell Mom I'm moving out without her. - DUTIFUL DAUGHTER, MOBILE, ALA.

DEAR DUTIFUL - Humorist James Thurber used to say, "Let the meek inherit the earth, they have it coming to them!"

Let Mom inherit the furniture payments and the rent, and my guess is you'll see your sleep-in sister (and maybe Mom, too) in the job market so fast you won't see their smoke.

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when

I'm against the wall
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that
it's about to fall
I gather visions
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