## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



# Blondie • Chic Young



#### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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# Bridge

# **Two Double-Dummy Problems**

1. Spades are trumps, and it's your lead with the South hand. How would you make all the tricks? NORTH [S] 5 [H] K743 [D] K [C] K WEST [S] — [H] 6 [D] Q 5 3 [C] 9 4 [S] — [H] Q 10 [D] 1096 [C] Q 3 EAST SOUTH [S] Q [H] 5 [D] AJ 8 [C] A 10

Cash the diamond ace and lead the jack. If West covers with the queen, ruff in dummy, overtake the king of clubs with your ace and play the queen of spades, placing East under severe pressure.

He cannot spare a heart, which would make dummy's hearts all tricks; he cannot spare the diamond ten, because you'd then cash your eight, squeezing him again; nor can he spare the club queen, because you'd cash your ten, continuing the remorseless squeeze.

If West ducks the diamond jack, you discard a heart from dummy, ruff the diamond eight, overtake the king of clubs and play the queen of spades, placing East once again in the same hopeless predicament.

2. You are on lead with the South hand and, with diamonds as trumps, must make five of the last six tricks. How would you proceed? NORTH [S] A2 [H] AQ6 [D] Q [C] -

WEST [S] KQ [H] 10 [D] — [C] K53 [S] 3 [H] KJ8 [D] - [C] AQEAST SOUTH [S] 4 [H] 2 [D] K [C] 642

Play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. East is forced to discard a club on this trick and, furthermore, must discard the ace. (If he discards the queen, you play the deuce of clubs next and discard a heart from dummy, forcing East to win and return a heart into dummy's A-Q.)

Now lead the deuce of clubs. If West follows low, you discard a heart, compelling East to win the club and return a heart into the A-Q. If West instead goes up with the king of clubs to prevent East from being endplayed, you ruff in dummy and return the six of hearts. If East wins the heart, he must yield two heart tricks to dummy; if West wins the heart, he must yield two club tricks to you by leading from the 5-3 into your 6-4!

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21 Six-pack

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# **The Art** of Card-Reading

The ability to count out a hand is the greatest single asset in declarer's bag of tricks. Counting is not really difficult - you never have to go beyond the number 13 - but the fact is that most players seem to look upon it as something beyond their reach.

Yet observe how easy it is in this hand where South

#### Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



# Sally Forth • Greg Howard



IT HELPS THEM FEEL DISTINCT, SOMEONE NOT JUST DEFINED BY THEIR PARENTS. SO WHEN WE USE HILARY'S SLANG, IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE INVADING HER PERSONAL SPACE.



#### Solution time: 27 mins. 35 Addition-43 Horace or ally Herbie 36 Trig 45 Helen of function 37 "Births = 47 Stud fee deaths" 48 Computerstat screen 38 Post-proo symbol 49 Lair abbr. 40 Sipowicz's 51 Privy 53 Actor org. 42 — Darya Kilmer Yesterday's answer 1-17 12 13 14 15 16 19 22 24 25 28 35 39

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DOWN

14 Reach

NAME TWO PARTS OF SPEECH. R)

Family Circus • Bill Keane

1-16 © 2004 Bil Keane, Ind Dist. by King Features

"Umm ... your voice and your mouth."

is in five spades doubled.

You might not agree with the bidding, but that's the way it went.

West led the king of diamonds and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace of spades, felling the king. In alternating order, he then trumped three hearts in dummy and two diamonds in his hand, ending in dummy after the last heart ruff.

By this time, dummy consisted of one trump and four clubs, while South had two trumps and three clubs. Then came the key play - a low club from dummy.

East won with the queen and, having only hearts left, was forced to lead one.

This permitted South to dispose of his remaining club loser as the heart was ruffed in dummy, so he made five spades doubled. Note, though, that if he had led the ace and another club at the crucial point, he would have gone down one.

The particular South in this case was well-versed in the art of counting.

The play to this point had revealed that East started with one spade, eight hearts (since West had shown out on the third heart lead) and three diamonds (since East had shown out on the fourth lead of the suit).

With 12 of East's cards accounted for, it was certain that he had started with exactly one club. The low club play was made in the hope that East's lone club was the singleton K, Q or 10, in which case one defender or the other would have to commit harakiri on the next lead.

# Cryptoquip

LUHCR RCI QAPGY'N	R PVBRVFV EIZE Z SLDEXCD					
RQIORV LANR RIONI FIAFGI	RHDAVSERXH SXLBM PV					
HIR RA TI AO RCI TINR-	BXXTVM LAXH ZD Z					
N R P I N N I Y G U N R ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I TRIED HELPING A HYPOCHONDRIAC BY REASSURING HER THAT	E Q Z F V B V Q ' D S I V S T . <b>Yesterday's Cryptoquip:</b> MIGHT THE WORLD'S TWENTY MOST TENSE PEOPLE GET TO BE ON					

LIFE IS NO BED OF NEUROSES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals S

WENTI MOST TENSE PEOPLE GET TO BE ON THE BEST-STRESSED LIST? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

