For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

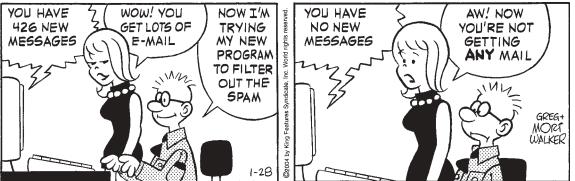


Blondie • Chic Young

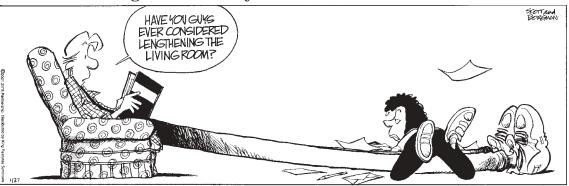
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Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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Bridge

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Both sides vulnerable.											
NORTH											
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♥63											
♦ Q J 6											
	4	,									
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	WEST EAST										
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♥KQ.	152		987								
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♣AQ65 ♣J1072											
SOUTH											
• 5											
♥A 4											
◆ A K 10 9 7 4											
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The biddi	ing:										
South	West	North	East								
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Pass	2 🎔	2 🛧	3 🎔								
4 ♦	4 🎔	4 🛧	Pass								
5 🔶	Dble	• •	1 400								
* strong t											
Opening	lead k	ing of hea	rte								

pening lead — king of hearts.

South Stages an Extravaganza

How should declarer play this hand in five diands doubled? Of course, he cannot see the Eastst cards; his only real clues lie in the bidding and opening lead.

great deal of information is available from the ding.

First, declarer should assume that West has no monds for his two-diamond bid and subsequent ong bidding. For the same reason, West should o be credited with virtually every missing high d, since his direct cuebid showed a powerful d. So while it is true that South cannot actually the defenders' hands, he can nevertheless apximate their holdings, and all he has to do is to to take advantage of this knowledge.

Declarer's first key move is to duck the king of arts! This is an important part of the overall plan play. Let's say West leads another heart. South is and leads the king of clubs! This play is likee crucial to declarer's plan.

Vest takes the ace and can do no better than lead king of spades. Declarer wins with the ace and mps a spade. From then on, he has clear sailing. th trumps his 9-8-3 of clubs in dummy, re-enng his hand each time by ruffing a spade, and so shes with 11 tricks. The early heart duck and the mingly extravagant play of the club king at trick pave the way for a successful crossruff.

Observe that if South takes the king of hearts with ace at trick one, he can be defeated. West can oner or later put East on lead with a heart to ren a trump and ruin the crossruff. Similarly, if larer leads a club lower than the king at trick ee, East can win and gum up the works with a np return. Two hurdles, carefully surmounted by th, get him home safely.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH A 3 A J 9 4 A 9 8 5							
♣J62 WEST EAST							
$\bigstar K 6 2$							
♥K65 ♥Q10832							
◆K 1072 ◆J64							
♣1098 ♣7543							
SOUTH							
🕈 Q J 10 9 8 7 4							
♥7							
◆ Q 3							
♣AKQ							
The bidding:							
South West North East							
4 Pass 6 All Pass							
Opening lead — ten of clubs.							
Reducing the							

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DMXL AMBFFJ AMXATXG	R'QH JHUWM FUYHP EL U					
DXLH HQ FRGO, NQ JQB	QHWA IRX PFEOH RNUXH					
HMCLT MX QGNXGXN MCO	EL U IECHW RO HXAVF,					
N G C L T O D C H M R H D C O H ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOUSE MAY OFFER THESE PARTING WORDS TO A PIECE OF WOOD: "NICE GNAWING YOU!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals B	OUNHM YHEO PVJROC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN CHUBBY CHECKER WENT TO BARS, DO YOU THINK HE ORDERED HIS DRINKS WITH A TWIST? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S					

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24 — Bottom 1 "The —

61 Request

Must Be

DOWN

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Risk Factor

At times, great foresight is required to achieve the best possible result. Take this deal where West led a club against six spades. Declarer won with the ace, played the queen of spades and finessed. Had South next played another spade, hoping to catch the king, he would have gone down one.

Rather than put all his eggs in this one basket, however, South temporarily abandoned further trump leads in order to first play a heart to the ace and ruff a heart. Now he led a trump to the ace, and when the king failed to appear, South continued his long-range plan by ruffing the nine of hearts and cashing the K-Q of clubs.

South then made his bid for fame and fortune by exiting with a trump. West won with the king but, having been shorn of spades, hearts and clubs, had to return a diamond from the king, thereby handing South the contract. The hand represents a prime example of planning the play. Having noted at trick one that his main chance of making the slam was to find West with the singleton or doubleton king of trumps. South sought and found a way to add to that chance by setting the stage for a potential endplay against West if he had the guarded king of spades.

When the main chance failed, the secondary chance came to South's rescue at the end. South was lucky to find West with the king of diamonds and only three hearts, but this is the kind of luck that can come to a declarer's aid when he lays his plans far enough ahead.

