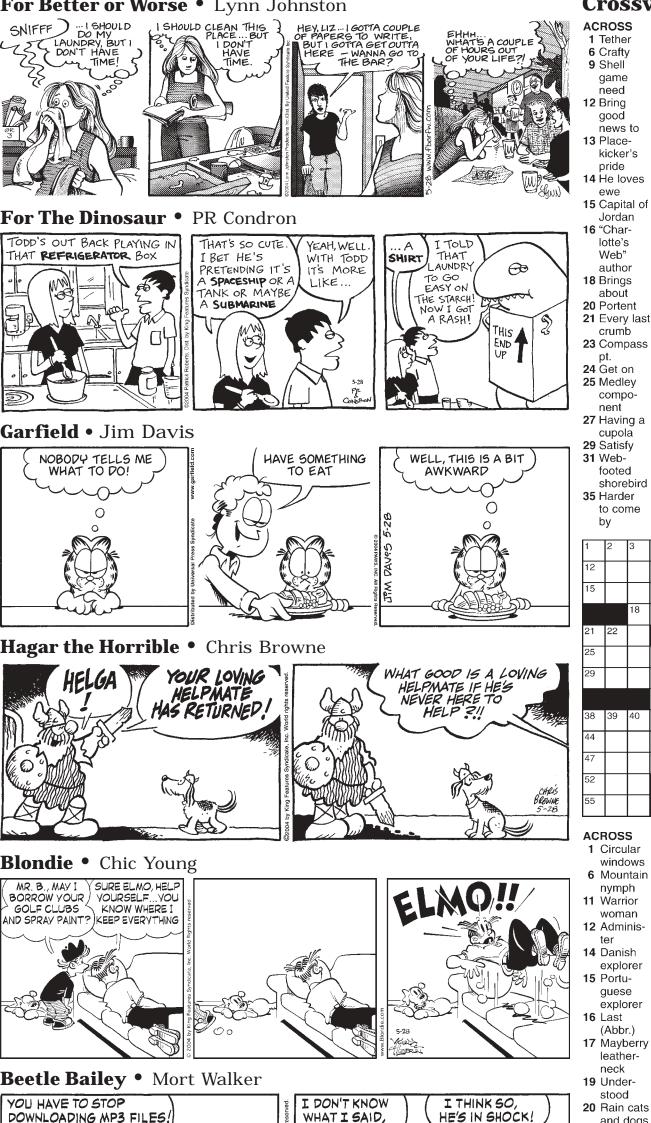
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:

oluunig	nas gone	•		
North	East	South	West	
1 [D]	Pass	1 [H]	Pass	
2[H]	Pass	?		
What	would yo	u bid now	with each c	of the follow-
ing four	hands?			
1. [S]	AJ9 [H] (QJ95 [D]	Q7 [C] K98	34
			0] 95 [C] Qe	
3. [S]	10 [H] K	97632 [D) Q83 [C] A	195
4. [S]	J8 [H] K.	I73 [D] K	(962 [C] K	27

1. Three notrump. Since you have an opening bid facing an opening bid, there is no question about reaching game. Only two game contracts are feasible — three notrump or four hearts — and the best way of reaching for one of them is by jumping to three notrump. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, which partner might pass.

If North's heart raise was based on four trumps, he will almost surely remove three notrump to four hearts, but if he raised with only three trumps, which is possible, he will no doubt pass and leave you in a contract you're a heavy favorite to make.

2. Pass. Partner has 13 to 15 points, part of which might be distributional in value. You are therefore unlikely to miss a game by passing, and will often wind up with a plus score instead of the minus that might result from bidding, say, three hearts. It is true that you have a king more than you might have had for your one-heart response, but that is not a goodenough reason for continuing to bid when game is unlikely.

3. Four hearts. The strength of this hand lies as much in its distribution as in its high cards. Granting that you have only nine high-card points, the fact is that you have lots of tricks - and that's the bottom line in bridge.

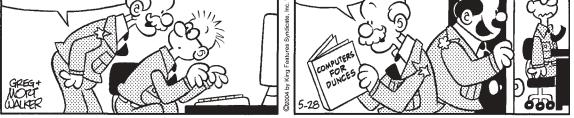
Another way of assessing your prospects is to ask yourself: "Am I likely to lose four tricks with this hand after partner opens one diamond and raises hearts?" If the answer is no, as it ought to be, you should go directly to game.

4. Three clubs. You are on the verge of a game but can't tell whether to play in hearts, diamonds or notrump. Three diamonds (also forcing) might seem a more truthful bid, but it is not as helpful as three clubs in reaching for a notrump game - if that is the right contract. Partner might have spade strength, club weakness and only three hearts and be unable to bid three notrump over three diamonds.

West dea	ler.		
North-Sc	outh vulne	rable.	
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	🗕 🛧 Q 10		
	• 10 9		
	• A K		
	* 965	_	
WES			CAST
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♥Q51		—	
• 8 7 2			653
- 🛧 Q J 1			42
	SOU	TH	
	♠ A J		
	$\mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{K}$		
	♦ 10.9	4	
	. 🛧 A K		
The bidd			C U
	North		South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 🖤
Pass	3 🎔	Pass	4 🛖
Pass	4 🔶	Pass	6 🎔
Opening	lead — q	ueen of c	lubs.

Death of a Monarch

All bridge players at times experience a good-luck streak where everything - good cards, favorable distribution - goes right. However, there are also times when everything goes wrong. It is during these unlucky streaks that the mettle of a player is tested. Unfortunately, some players devote so much time to feeling sorry for themselves that they make no effort to overcome their bad luck. For example, consider what happened to South in this deal. He was in six hearts and would have been home free had the trumps divided 2-1, or even 3-0 with East holding the three trumps. Furthermore, even if West had all the trumps, there was at least an even chance that a spade finesse would succeed. All these chances combined made South a huge favorite to make the slam. He won the queen-of-clubs lead with the ace and got his first bad news when he cashed the ace of trumps and East showed out. Having suffered a few similar misfortunes earlier, South had expected this development. And when, shortly afterward, he attempted the spade finesse and the queen lost to the king, he sadly finished down one. However, South would have made the slam had he concentrated on the task at hand instead of allowing himself to wallow in his earlier misfortunes. After getting the bad news in trumps, he should have tried for an elimination play. This could have been done by cashing the king of trumps and king of clubs, followed by a diamond to the queen and a club ruff. The A-K of diamonds, another club ruff and a trump lead would then put West on lead in a hopeless position. With only spades remaining in his hand, he would be forced to lead one and present South with his 12th trick. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.



BUT DID I SAY

IT RIGHT?

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

YOU'RE USING TOO

MUCH BANDWIDTH!



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SW KY KEEIPYHG'V WSPQ	DM YAZ JDCYDZJ, VNTQX
KVVHQDZHX WIP K	NMZ ZCLZVY YABY
RPITB BLIEIRPKBL, NITZX	VZGYBDM KBGJ BMX LTKJ
E L K E D H K Z K N V L I I E ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU DO REALIZE MY FATHER IS TRULY NUTS. HE NAMED ME HAZEL AND MY BROTHER FILBERT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O	A B X B A D L L D Z A N T G ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ATTORNEY'S FIRM ASSEMBLED FOR A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH, WOULD THAT BE A LAW SHOOT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

24	Razo		entree						veneer							38	on ai Blood		
28 30 31	sharpener 26 Go over again and again? 28 Spigot 30 "— good deed" 31 Muslim woman's veil 35 Cut into cubes			E L M L O L E L G I N	L N E D O W N Y	S T A N G A R A G E	H E N C E S A N L C D	U D E R F L O E	S T E R E O E D I S O N	L B S M A R I N	Y E W B E V M I N C E	H O O D O O T E R N	P R I M A C S L E W I S	E A T E R L I E M U	A M E N D T O P		41 44 45 48	blood bank Gold finge Admo isher word Faxe Paulo prece Cance ized Mlle.	VII - r? on- 's d o ede
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14	_			+		╀					15	4		_					
16				1	7	+			18		10	\downarrow		_			19		

explorer

51 Absentee

of a

rack

53 Measles

horse

54 Trusty

DOWN

52 Part

relative

9 Slowly, to

minions

10 Satan's

11 Touches

13 Per-unit

costs

18 Ruin

the

Stokowski

operation

Cup con-

31 America's

tender

mances

32 Ro-

33 Spoof

34 Reunion

group

36 Wheedle

37 Walking

16 Last

(Abbr.)

leather-

neck

stood

and dogs

23 Excellent 1 Brunch

19 Under-

22 Pitch

20 24 36 37 31 32 38 39 43 46 50 52 54

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Which way did that 'maybe' lean, Mommy — a 'yes' or a 'no'?"

Man No No Naci 5-29 TIL KEANKI

"On the plane we had to chew gum so our ears wouldn't pop off.