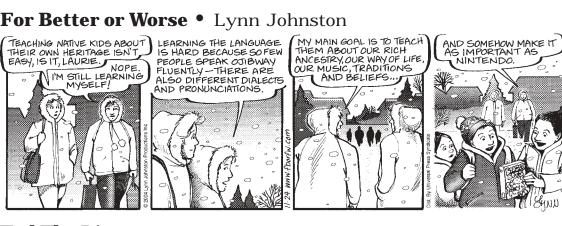
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Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron









Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Blondie • Chic Young







Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott













Cryptoquip

QRFL OWVFG UCU M G E B

UGOYWOGO YHGPEB,

NRGOO HVG QWNLP OCB

LG'O CMGEOG PH MGEOG. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FISH IS GREAT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT DESCRIBE IT AS FINTASTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals V

KLGI A L G K B C P UXBCQ

HWKWAH KUJJWAUQWBAP,

QYL IBCAH ACGPL HUKL WQ

YLG XLPQ PYBQ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE DAD VERY

MUCH DESPISES POETRY, I GUESS ONE MIGHT SAY HE'S AVERSE TO VERSE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Crossword **ACROSS** 39 Mischief-

1 Mallard's

cousin

Scoundrel

8	Summer		athlete	5
	cabin site	43	Winning	
12	Cartoonist		and	6
	Goldberg		winning	
13	"Tobacco	47	Atten-	7
	Road"		dance	
	character		check	8
14	Samoan	49	Concept	
	port	50	Bender?	
15	Belliger-	51	Doctor's	9
	ent deity		due	
16	Bia	52	Apparel	10

maker

40 Texas

A&M

computer 29 Ms. Vulgate Bible bks. 31 Indivisi-0 Friends scores in 53 Garand dener's neighbors starter Hassle-54 Youngster 55 Piccadilly 17 Former statue **Patriots**

3 Help a

hood

4 Piece of

Punjab

potentate

Rib relin-

. Middle X

Conven-

auisher

or O?

ient

22 Chart

23 Separa-

tion

solution

25 Producer

(Suff.)

deed"

27 Wapiti

28 Beluga

product

piggy?

ble

like

bus

35 Well-

37 Elf

39 Bay

42 Mirth

43 Bread

40 Clumsy

craft

41 Vanished

spread

Skunk's

defense

45 Toy block

name

46 Colleen

48 Stern

15 Panty-

19 Annoy

20 Lemon

21 Apart-

drink

22 Cry out

23 Reply to

24 Cactus

buds

Hopper

trademark

– pro-

fundo

merce

29 Jargon

30 County of

31 Amorous

gaze

32 "— a

England

Wonder-

ful Life"

science

series

34 Freeway

35 PBS

Secretary

28 Com-

25 Hedda

ment sign

the Little

Red Hen

hose

shade

Colum-

financed

org.?

36 "I — line-

man ...

34 Went

good

instruction 24 Caustic

18 Capital of Brandenburg 20 Restless 21 La-la preceder 22 Long March leader

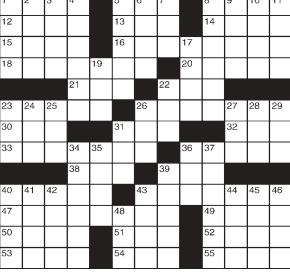
Vegas

23 Astronautturnedpolitician **26** Dulling influences 30 Thumbsup vote 31 "Alley 32 Privv 33 Character 36 Distorted

38 Mimic

owner DOWN Victor 1 Snare **19** Get 2 Franc dressed Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-23



2 Big rig

3 Adoles-

cent

4 Inert

gas

5 Resort

lake

6 Leading

7 Barbra's

"A Star

Is Born'

co-star

to the

9 Ancient

10 Winter

woe

e.g.

14 Merri-

12 Pavarotti,

future?

ascetic

8 Pack

man

30 Samuel's

teacher

seen with

13-Across

Ewing

37 Comes in

with a

beat

39 Eternally

40 General

Chinese

menus

41 Clinton's

instru-

et al.

last

38 Beatle

ACROSS

1 Concorde 33 It's often letters 4 — glance 7 "Fish Magic' 36 J.R. painter

8 Profession 10 Physique 11 Shocked 13 Chairs.

sofa, etc. 16 Exploit 17 Singlehandedly 18 Bambi's aunt

19 "Boy!

Did — a Wrong Number" 20 Unsigned DOWN (Abbr)

21 Babe Ruth wore it 23 Green Party 25 Pan foe

candidate 26 Drill 27 Completely 28 Cheer up

Solution time: 21 mins.

39

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"I like it when the lunchroom is

noisy. I can't hear people chewing."

Bridge

South dealer.

Neither side vulnerable. NORTH **♦**954 ♦ K Q 10 9 3 ♣A O 4 WEST **EAST** ♠ 10 8 6 2 ♥A 10 8 5 4 **♦** 6 5 **♣**10 9 7 3 SOUTH **♠** A J 7 3 **♥**K Q 6 ◆ A 8 **♣**K 8 6 5 The bidding South North East West 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass five of hearts. Opening lead —

Eliminating the Risk Factor Declarer occasionally adopts a line of play espe-

cially designed to prevent a particular defender from gaining the lead. One reason might be that an opponent has good tricks that he can cash. Another reason might be to protect a holding that is vulnerable to attack if led by one defender rather than the other. Today's deal presented declarer with the latter type of situation, and he came through with flying

colors. After winning East's jack of hearts with the king at trick one, South could count eight certain winners — three diamonds, three clubs, a heart and a spade. He had excellent chances for a ninth trick if the jack of diamonds fell under the A-K-Q, or if the opposing clubs were divided 3-3. But before staking the outcome on either of these possibilities, South pondered what might happen if

both suits divided unfavorably. He realized he could overcome J-x-x-x of diamonds in the West hand by conceding a trick to West's jack on the fourth round of the suit. But if East had J-x-x-x and was given a trick with the jack, a heart return could sink the con-It was at this point that it dawned on South that he had a sure way to make nine tricks. Accordingly, at trick two he led a club to the queen, returned the

eight held, he cashed the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs and cashed three more diamonds to finish with 10 tricks in all. The great advantage of South's method of play was that it assured a favorable outcome regardless of which opponent had the jack of diamonds or how the suit was divided. Even if the finesse of the eight

had lost to West, any return he might make would

diamond three and finessed the eight! When the

leave South with at least nine certain winners. Tomorrow: A sacrilegious play. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer. NORTH **↑**QJ108 **♥**743 SOUTH The bidding: West East 2 ***** 2 **V** 4 **V**

* strong, artificial
** negative Opening lead — queen of spades. A Sacrilegious Play

Pass

In planning the play of a hand, it is usually wise to rely on well-established principles. Their efficacy has been confirmed by the highest authorities, and they tend to be a good guide for most hands. But — and here's the rub - "most" implies "not always," and the conscientious player must constantly watch for the exception to the rule.

Consider this deal where South failed in a frequently encountered situation. He took the spade queen with the ace, led a low trump to dummy's eight and returned a club. When East followed low, South played the jack.

West took the queen and returned a trump. Declarer played dummy's king and led another club. The king lost to the ace, and West returned a third trump. Eventually, South lost a diamond and another club to go down one.

South failed because he allowed himself to be led astray by his holding of the K-J-x of clubs facing two small. In the great majority of hands, it would be normal to lead toward the K-J-x to try to develop a trick in the suit. But in this deal, South did not need to score a trick with the king or jack of clubs. All he needed to do was to ruff a club in dummy.

To that end, South should have led a club — any club —from his hand at trick two, treating his K-J-x of clubs as if they were x-x-x. After that, he could not have been stopped from making the contract.

It was the initial trump lead to dummy — to lead toward the K-J-x — that opened the door to defeat. South might have felt that leading low toward dummy's 6-5 of clubs was sacrilegious, but the fact remains that violating standard procedure in this case ensures the contract, while following it jeopardizes the contract.

Tomorrow: The rationale of good defense. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.



is get started."