

Zits Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

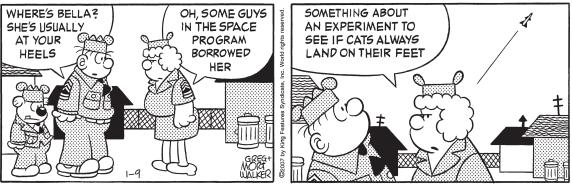
ALICE KEEPS ASKING ME FOR ADVICE

ON DATING. BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN

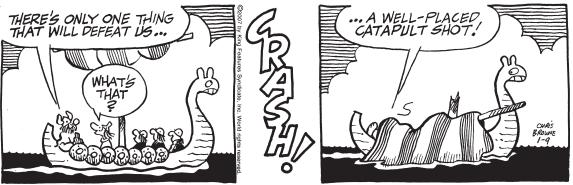
ON A DATE SINCE COLLEGE!



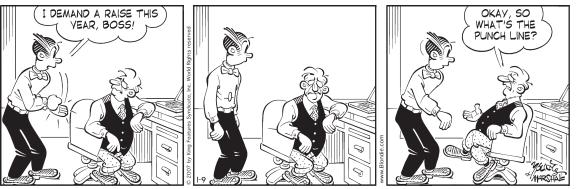
### **Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



# Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



# **Blondie** • Chic Young



### Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



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# Bridge

<b>↑</b> Q 8 ♥ Q 9 ♦ 5	RTH 6
WEST	EAST
<b>•</b> 10 7 2	<b>•</b> J 9 5 3
♥J53	♥10862
◆ A 10 7 4 3	<b>♦</b> K 9 2
<b>*</b> 82	<b>♣</b> K 6
SO	UTH
🛧 A K	5 4
♥AK	57
♦ O J	86
🜩 1 O 🤄	95
The bidding:	
South West	North East
	3 NT All Pass
Opening lead —	four of diamonds.

# **Pop Goes the Weasel**

There are plays that are difficult for a declarer to make because they run completely contrary to standard procedure. But bridge being the kind of game it is, there is room for an occasional deviation from the norm especially when logic indicates that the deviation has everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Take this case where West led the four of diamonds against three notrump, and East won with the king. East returned the diamond nine, covered by declarer with the queen, whereupon West made the eminently correct play of the three.

West's only hope was that East would later gain the lead and return a third diamond before declarer could score nine tricks. East's return of the nine indicated he did not have four diamonds originally, as in that case he would have returned his original fourth-best diamond. Declarer's most likely diamond holding, therefore, was O-J-x-x

Lacking a ninth trick, South now tried a club finesse. East won with the king and returned a diamond, and the contract went down one.

The excellent defense notwithstanding, declarer did himself in at trick two when he covered East's nine of diamonds with the queen. Instead, he should have played his eight on the nine! This maneuver would have thoroughly discombobulated the defense. Another diamond lead by East would have given the defenders their third trick, and East's king of clubs would subsequently have scored their final trick.

From declarer's viewpoint, the diamond duck at trick two guarantees three notrump regardless of whether West started with four, five or six diamonds. The hard part is to think of it before the queen or jack pops out of declarer's hand.

Contract: Seven Diamonds. North-South vulnerable.

torur South	vanieraore	•
	NORTH	
<b></b>	A 6 5 3 2	
•	AJ 10 9	
•	К 9	
-	43	
WEST	1.5	EAST
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♥KQ8		♥76543
<b>♦</b> 76		♦ 5 4 3 2
<b>♣</b> K Q 8		<b>*</b> 765
• • • • • •	SOUTH	.,05
<b></b>	K 4	
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	A J 10 9 2	
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### A Horrible Nightmare

Editor's note: The west hand has 12 cards and the east hand has 14. See last graph for explanation.

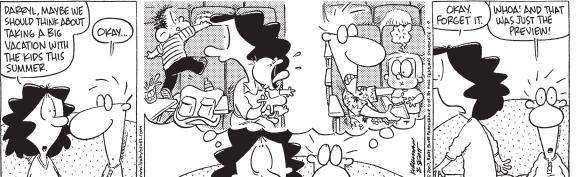
Dear Mr. Becker: I suffer from nightmares - bridge nightmares, that is. I have this recurring dream where I hold the West hand and find myself on lead against seven diamonds.

I always lead a trump, and South draws four rounds

Mother Goose and Grimm Mike Peters



**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



#### Cryptoquip EQYF ZKFR CURL HEVO G UWGC " M E V G M P M E U C F E Y M O F C K F U P AWKQGIWT VQCU WSMVK MZQGBEM," XZP AZPTC UWX G ZML URCQ YL GQQJK'E ESUR, KF ZME PFMBBL CUJSFO. HWU BGIGQB SWGK HWKQGQB. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOME TINY PARASITES MADE THEIR WAY INTO MY ROUTINELY PUT CASH INTO A BIG COFFEEPOT, I GUESS HIS MONEY WOULD BE WELL-URNED. POOCH'S SKIN, HE WAS REALLY TICKED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals H

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y

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# Family Circus • Bill Keane



of trumps. I discard a club on the third trump lead, and so does dummy, but on the next trump lead I run into a serious problem.

Sometimes I discard the eight of hearts. When I do, South plays a heart to the ace and ruffs a heart, establishing the J-10 as tricks. He then plays the K-A of spades and cashes dummy's two high hearts, whereupon I get squeezed and declarer makes the rest of the tricks – to the tune of 2,440 points.

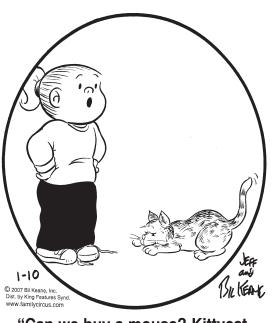
Sometimes I discard a spade at trick four. When I do, South cashes the K-A of spades and ruffs a spade, establishing two spade tricks in dummy. He then plays a heart to dummy's ace and cashes the 6-5 of spades. I discard a heart on the fourth round of spades, but on the fifth spade, I'm again hopelessly squeezed. Whether I discard my king of hearts or a club from the K-Q, South makes the rest of the tricks.

Sometimes I discard the queen of clubs at trick four, hoping declarer won't realize I've unguarded the king. But South is a real smart cookie and invariably sees through my scheme. He plays the ace, nails the king, and I wind up shelling out the same 2,440 points.

Now, even though the stakes are nominal and the whole thing's only a dream, the fact is that psychologically, I can't afford to continually lose that many points on one deal. I was therefore wondering whether you can suggest any way for me to escape this awful dilemma. I would be most appreciative of any help you might give me. Cordially yours, Constant Reader.

Dear C.R.: Happy to oblige. The next time this terrible dream recurs, I suggest you ask for a new deal. You have only 12 cards! Cordially yours, S.B.

Tomorrow: Wrong way to run a railroad. (c)2007 King Features Syndicate Inc.



"Can we buy a mouse? Kittycat keeps stalking my shoelaces."