

Colby Free Press Wednesday, September 17, 2008 Page 9

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

AUTHORITIES NOW SAY REGULAR EXERCISE IS VITAL TO A PERSON'S WELL-BEING ...



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

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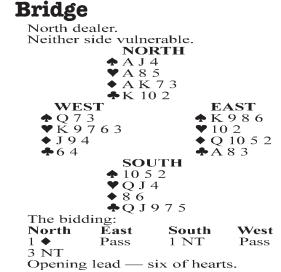


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

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OKAY, HERE'S THE GAME: THE SANDBOX IS A DESERT ISLAND SUPROUNDED BY OCEAN.	THERE'S NO ESCAPE, AND WE HAVE TO SURVIVE OUT HERE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER	LUNCHTIME!	THAT WASN'T SO BAD!	5

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Look Before You Leap

After you've played bridge a while, you learn -usually through bitter experience -- that reflex-action plays should be carefully avoided. There is no reward for speed in bridge, and long experience shows that it's far better to think first of what you're about to do before you actually do it.

Consider this deal where West led a heart against three notrump. Declarer played low from dummy, taking East's ten with the queen. He next played a club to the king, but when East wisely held up his ace and also ducked the next club, South found himself in dire straits. He could establish the club suit if he wanted to, but since he had no subsequent entry to his hand, he was out of business. Soon after, South finished down two.

The sad part of the affair was that nothing could have stopped declarer from making nine tricks if he had played the hand correctly. All he had to do to assure the contract was to play the ace of hearts from dummy at trick one, resisting the temptation to let the lead run to his hand. By doing so, he would have preserved the Q-J of hearts, one of which was certain to provide him with an entry to his clubs later on.

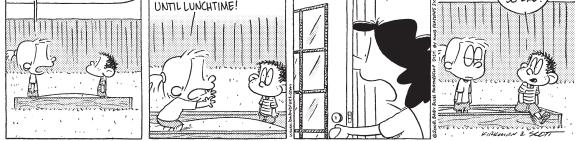
After taking the heart ace, declarer plays clubs until the ace is dislodged. Regardless of which defender wins the club, no return can prevent declarer from scoring four clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and a spade for a total of nine tricks.

A heart return establishes an entry to the closed hand immediately, while a diamond return allows declarer to win in dummy and establish the heart entry himself. A spade return similarly causes no problem, since the 10-5-2 facing dummy's A-J-4 assure South that, no matter which defender wins the club and shifts to a spade, he has the necessary intermediate cards to assure the contract.

> Tomorrow: Avoiding a finesse. (c)2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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Avoiding a Finesse					

Avoluing a Finesse The opportunity to finesse is an irresistible lure



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

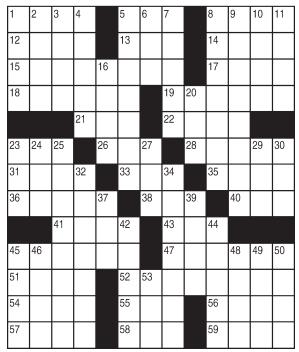


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

TAFM GNY'QF OZSFQVMR KYUS	XK V OIZGEQ IK VZWSTVEXVP
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to many declarers. But while the finesse is undoubtedly a valuable weapon in many situations, it is also much abused.

The fact is that the finesse is a play that may or may not succeed, depending upon the location of a particular card or cards held by the defense. It should therefore not be used whenever there is an alternative line of play that accomplishes the desired result without risking a finesse.

Consider this deal where South is in four hearts and West leads the queen of clubs. East overtakes the queen with the king, cashes the ace and continues with the jack, ruffed by declarer with the nine. South has already lost two tricks and must lose a diamond, so the outcome appears to depend upon the success of a spade finesse.

Superficially, it might seem that South, after drawing trumps, should lead a low spade to the king and finesse the jack on the return. This play will succeed if East has the queen, but fails if West has it.

However, this is not the best line of play. After ruffing the jack of clubs, declarer should draw three rounds of trump and then play the king of diamonds. When West wins with the ace, which seems very likely from the bidding, the hand is over. It does not matter whether West returns a spade or a diamond, or where the queens of spades or diamonds are located.

A spade return automatically eliminates the spade loser, while a diamond return -- whether or not West has the queen -- establishes a diamond trick in dummy.

By leading the king of diamonds at trick seven, South obviates the risk involved in attempting the spade finesse. In effect, he wins the spade finesse by avoiding it.

Tomorrow: Any port in a storm.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

