

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

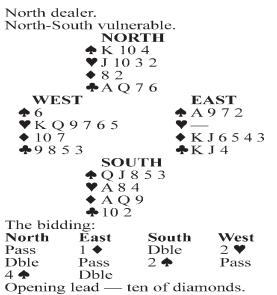


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This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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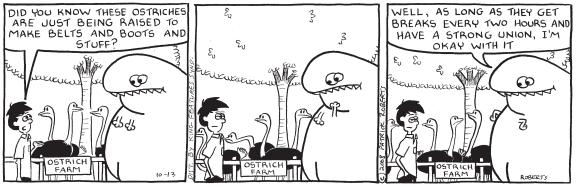
Bridge



Family Circus • Bil Keane



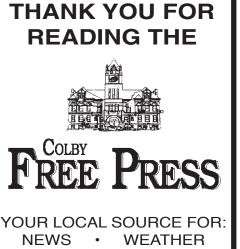
Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip



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Famous Hand

This deal occurred in a match between Australia and Italy during the 1987 world women's team championship. The heroine was Luciana Capodanno of the Italian team, who brought in a doubled game contract that virtually everyone -- including a panel of experts -- was certain would not be made.

South's initial double was in keeping with the Italian style of making a takeout double with almost any hand worth an opening bid. When North doubled West's pre-emptive two-heart bid, Capodanno showed her true colors by bidding two spades, which was raised to four by North and doubled by East.

Capodanno won the opening diamond lead with the queen, cashed the ace and ruffed a diamond with the four of spades as West discarded a heart. The king of spades was taken by East, who exited with a trump to dummy's ten. Since South apparently still had to lose a club and two hearts, a one-trick set seemed inevitable.

However, declarer now made the key play of leading a low club from dummy, taken by East's jack. East returned a diamond, ruffed by South, who discarded a club from dummy. Declarer then drew East's two remaining trumps, discarding a heart and the queen of clubs from dummy.

Nine tricks had been played to this point, and Capodanno had won seven of them. South's four remaining cards were the A-8-4 of hearts and ten of clubs, while dummy had the J-10-3 of hearts and ace of clubs. West still held the K-Q-9 of hearts, and had been forced to discard all but one of her clubs.

Capodanno now put the frosting on the cake by leading a club to the ace followed by the jack of hearts, ducked to West. West won with the queen but had to lead a heart from the K-9, allowing South to score the last two tricks -- and her doubled game -- with the ten and ace of hearts.

Tomorrow: Necessity: the mother of invention.

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"Daddy, if you fall asleep, can we change the channel?"

Crossword

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"USXCX'M ASX RCFXC?" Saturday's Cryptoquip: TO SEE HOW MUCH STARCHY GRAIN A COUNTRY IS USING, WOULD YOU CALCULATE ITS CONSUMER RICE INDEX? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W