For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young

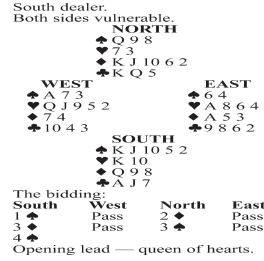


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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Bridge



The Rationale of Good Defense

To defend well is difficult, but certainly not impossible. It's mostly a matter of gathering clues available from the bidding or play, and taking advantage of the knowledge you gain.

Assume you're East and win partner's queen-ofhearts lead with the ace. What should you return? Considering all factors, your best return is a low diamond! If you make this play, the contract goes down one.

Declarer wins in his hand and leads a trump. Following your line of defense, partner rises with the ace and returns a diamond. You win with the ace and play a diamond, and partner ruffs to score the setting trick.

How can you be expected to find this extraordinary defense without seeing all four hands? Actually, it makes a lot of sense - if you stop to reason things out.

To begin with, you should conclude that you don't have a ghost of a chance to defeat the contract unless partner has the ace or king of trumps. You therefore assume that he has a trump trick coming. You also know from the queen-of-hearts lead that partner does not have the king, so that a heart return is futile.

Finally, you know from South's three-diamond bid that he has either three or four diamonds. If South raised with four diamonds, your best defense is to play the ace and another diamond. But if South raised with three diamonds, your best defense is a low diamond at trick two.

In trying to solve this problem, you make the reasonable assumption that if South had held four diamonds, your partner, who is presumed to hold the trump ace or king, would have led his singleton diamond. Therefore, you say to yourself, partner must have two diamonds, so the best chance to beat the contract lies in a low diamond return.

Tomorrow: Two double-dummy problems.

NOR ◆ 10 9 8 ♥ A ◆ A K	TH 8 7 5 4 3
♣Q 3 2	
WEST VEST	EAST
♠ K Q J 2	♠ A 6
♥8765	♥J 10 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 6 5 4 3	♦ 2
♣ —	• 7654
SOU	ГН
• —	
♥KQ	
♦ J 10 9	87

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Cryptoquip

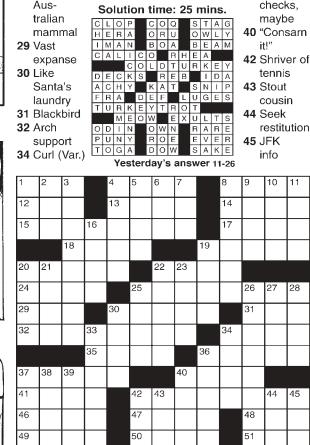
MK ZQT MDDQMN	HN CJXSJWS RSNP FRMAFDSF
KWMDORVAPADV GADDYT	CJBM BWFPPSWOSO JW PAS
KWAR FYMT, YPYTFZDY	DBGWSG, HP XHIAP CMSRR
ADRARKYG ZD KMNOADV	DDOWSO, III AIITAI CMSKK
KQTOYF. Vesterday's Cryntaguin: VFRY NERVOUS	O H C F C P S G . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT OUR ANNUAL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY NERVOUS ABOUT GIVING VACCINATIONS, THE YOUNG NURSE GAVE IT HER BEST SHOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N

THANKSGIVING DINNER

THIS YEAR. EVERYONE INSISTED ON TALKING TURKEY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals L



47 King of

18 Charitable 48 Eviscerate 10 Soft

49 Sultry

50 "Take -

vour

51 Culpa

DOWN

1 Energy

leader"

preceder

comedy

Sommer

uprisina

9 Panache

mineral

11 Egyptian

cross

19 "Sex

20 Barrel

21 Writer

James

16 Sheltered

and the

33 Veer

36 Elton

34 Took off

John is

seen at

37 Charlatan

specialty

between

often

one

38 Satan's

39 Time

pay-

15 Lover

17 Chatter

19 Child's

plav

20 Shrewd

feature

symptom

looking

donation

Crossword Answers for above puzzle

Ρ	0	Ρ		Μ	А	Υ	0		М	Е	Т	А
Е	۷	Α		0	D	0	R		U	L	Α	Ν
Ρ	Α	R	Α	Μ	0	U	R		Т	Α	L	Κ
		А	L	М	S			С	Ι	Ν	С	Н
С	А	G	Е	Υ		С	Н	Ι	Ν			
Α	G	U	Е		Ρ	L	А	Т	Υ	Ρ	U	S
S	Е	А		S	0	0	Т	Υ		А	Ν	Ι
К	Е	Υ	S	Т	0	Ν	Е		F	R	Ι	Ζ
			W	Ι	F	Ε		Ρ	L	Α	Т	Е
F	Е	W	Е	R			D	Ι	Е	D		
А	۷	Ε	R		Ρ	А	R	А	D	Ι	S	Е
Κ	Ι	Е	۷		А	L	А	Ν		G	U	Т
Е	L	Κ	Е		М	Е	Т	0		Μ	Е	А

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE LEFT ALPHABET SOUP UNATTENDED ON THE THE BURNER, IT MIGHT SPELL DISASTER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

♣A K J 10 9 8

Two Double-Dummy Problems

These are double-dummy problems, which means you're allowed to look at all four hands while trying to find the solution.

1. You are declarer with the South hand at Six Clubs, and West leads the king of spades. How would you play the above hand?

1. About as good a way as any - even if you don't see the East-West hands - is to ruff the spade lead and play four rounds of trumps, discarding the ace of hearts from dummy! Then cash the K-Q of hearts, discarding the A-K of diamonds from dummy! Your housecleaning done, concede the jack of diamonds to the queen, and the rest of the tricks are yours.

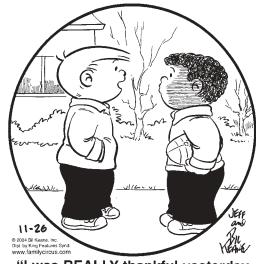
2. You are on lead with the South hand. Diamonds are trumps, and you must win all six tricks. (This is not an easy problem to solve.)

2. Cash the ace of clubs, playing the jack from dummy as a preparatory move for a possible finesse later on. Ruff the queen of hearts in dummy and lead the jack of diamonds.

East can do no better than discard the queen of spades as you also discard a spade. West, who cannot spare a spade or a club, is forced to discard the ace of hearts.

When you next cash the ace of spades, East is squeezed and must either allow you to score the jack of hearts or the nine of clubs.

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"I was REALLY thankful yesterday. I didn't have to eat dinner at the card table.'