For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston





Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Crossword

ACROSS 1 Ready to rumble			
	41 Bambi's	2 "Flying	21 N.
	aunt 43 Drops on	Down to "	modifier 22 Old
6 Pinafore	the grass	3 Fourth	French
abbr. 9 Wrong	44 Corn lily 45 Snarl	President A Bemnants	coin 24 Waste no
(Pref.)	45 Shari 47 Fill-in-the-	4 Remnants 5 Holmes'	time
2 Schroe-	blanks	creator	26 Ceremony
der's prop	game 49 Hold the	6 Choir book	28 Swash- buckling
3 Verily	scepter	7 Anthro-	star
4 Hostel 5 Rum	52 Bygone days,	pologist Margaret	30 Bran source
recipe	once	8 Blue	source 32 Portu-
6 "Evita"	53 West of	9 Clemen-	guese
star 8 Gilligan's	Hollywood 54 Goose-	tine's dad was one	wine 33 "Hail,
home	bump-	10 More	Caesar!"
0 Bad	raising	central	34 Fresh 36 Wonder-
aroma 1 Pompous	55 Pigs' digs 56 Museum	11 Serpen- tine	land
sort	stuff	17 Valencia,	service
3 Zsa Zsa's sis	57 Wipe out	e.g. 19 States	38 They ain't worth a
4 Torment	DOWN	with	nickel
5 "Let's Make a	1 Suitable	conviction	39 Praise to the
Deal"	Solution tim	e: 25 mins.	skies
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7 Spritelike 9 Family	I T E M L E S C A B E N	SLENO	42 Match 45 Ski lift
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1 Errand-	TREEAP	ERITIF	look 48 "—
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5 Delicious	M A S S L E U T H	GOO AFGHAN	"
7 Icicle's place		N GENE	50 Joe's barracks
8 Opening	BUSSAY	EEDIT	mates?
night		's answer 12-10	51 Born
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6 Half a 1960s	40 Chaps 42 Branch	ist Chast	23 Corporate division
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2 Wards	44 De-	(Var.)	27 Fate
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4 South American		6 Nightwear	
land	land	7 Shake-	31 Covers
5 Mideast-	49 Mediter-	speare's	com- pletely
ern land 6 Posses-	ranean Iand	river 8 Apiece	pletely 32 Medal
sive pro-	51 Merchant	9 Zealous	earners
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Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding
has been:
East South West North
1 H Pass 2 H Pass
Pass ?
What action — if any — would you now take with
each of the following four hands?
1. S AJ10 H 7642 D K93 C K85
2. S J9853 H J76 D Q72 C AK
3. S Q874 H 10 D K853 C A1096
4. SAK6 H KJ95 D 108742 C 7
* * *

1. Double. Competitive bidding for partscores receives short shrift from most teachers and writers, partly because game and slam hands are far more interesting to discuss than partscores. However, considering that half the deals in bridge contain no game for either side, partscore hands merit far more attention than they customarily receive.

Let's say that in a given hand you can make three clubs and the opponents can make two hearts. If you let them play two hearts unopposed, they will score 60 below the line instead of your scoring 60. Since this will then make it that much easier for the opponents (rather than you) to score a game on a subsequent deal by completing the partscore, your total loss in the average rubber will come to about 300 points. Your savings will be somewhat smaller if you fail to make your contract, but since you will have prevented the opposition from making theirs, you will still be significantly better off.

Such swings are substantial and emphasize the importance of fighting for and against partscores. Here partner is bound to have some of the missing high cards - judging from the opponents' reluctance to venture past two hearts - so a double for takeout is strongly indicated. Partner probably has a singleton heart and is therefore likely to have a five-card suit. It would be a serious mistake to sell out so cheaply.

2. Two spades. Ordinarily, this would be a dangerous overcall, but the risk has been diminished by the inference that partner has some values and no more than two hearts. To permit East-West to make a comfortable partscore, when you yourself might have one, would be an even greater risk, and you should not close your eyes to it.

3. Double. True, you have only nine high-card points, but the hand will be worth much more than that after partner responds in one of your suits. Partner is almost certain to have seven to 11 points, and he can probably make eight or nine tricks in a suit contract.

4. Pass. You don't always have to compete when the bidding dies at a low level, and whether to do so naturally depends on your hand. Here a pass is indicated because (1) you have good defense against two hearts and (2) it is too dangerous either to double for takeout (partner might respond in clubs) or to bid three diamonds on such a shabby suit.

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◆ J 10 3	3		954	
🗭 J 9 7	32	₩Q	10 6	
SOUTH				
	A Q	1095		
♥Q73				
♦ Â 8 7 2				
	♣ 4			
The biddi	ing:			
South	West	North	East	
1 🛧	Pass	4 NT	Pass	
5 🎔		7 🛧		
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.				
Unwelcome Assignment				

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



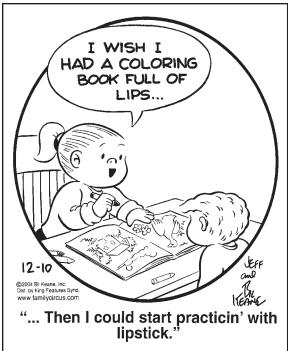
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ML SP KMUUCD OEYNC MR	BCWX MCVM MEVQQDU
LQXD-WQDUCDCK, M	UZN CVJMWH MCW TXZBLVX,
RXOOQRC PQX WQXEK RYP	ZXW LDRCM TVF QEZTMF
M CYN RGXYDC SCYER. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A VERY POPULAR SOAP OPERA SHOULD BE DUBBED A HOT SERIAL? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S	B V T T M Z N N W H U Z J H . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF MY DINNER PLATE IS FOUR-CORNERED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I EAT SQUARE MEALS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Skillful card play can compensate for a multitude of sins committed during the bidding. Consider this deal where North became so enamored of his hand after his partner opened the bidding with one spade that he contracted for a grand slam after determining only that his side held all four aces. The small matter of how to take 13 tricks was left to poor South to resolve.

Declarer was naturally disappointed when dummy appeared, since a heart loser seemed inevitable. He had been to the wars before, however, and recognized that the situation was not entirely hopeless.

Accordingly, after taking the opening diamond lead with dummy's king, declarer cashed two rounds of trumps, then played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Next came the A-K of clubs and a club ruff, followed by another diamond ruff in dummy. Declarer then led dummy's last trump to his queen to bring about this position:

North [S]	A 5; [C] 8
West [H]	K 10; [C] J
East [H]	J 9 8
South [S]	10; [H] Q7

As South hoped, West had started with the king of hearts and at least five clubs. Having taken care to exhaust East of clubs in order to put the burden of guarding that suit entirely on West, declarer now led his last trump. This left West without recourse, and the slam was home.

Unfortunately, it also left North with the impression that he had bid the hand brilliantly, much to the consternation of the opponents - and his poor, beleaguered partner.

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get to vote on it?"