### 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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# Crossword

ACROSS				Has	ty		DC	ЭW	'N		<b>19</b> F	Panth	neon		
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ACROSS 26 Move tur-2 On the 19 Support-1 Sylvester bulently Meditering 20 "Sleepy 27 Last ranean or Stimpy (Abbr.) 3 Lay of the Time -4 28 Play-21 One's land Speed ground 4 Gamut perforwagon fixture 5 Square mances 7 Relaxa-30 Compredance 22 Witty tion hend folks group 33 Book-8 Toss 6 Medlev 23 Vintage choice keeper's 7 Big name video-10 Wiser. place in scat game maybe 36 Extras 8 Nervous 24 Match 11 Motor 37 Nonsense 9 With little alterna-38 Hack-13 Informaleewav tive 10 Hallowtion neyed 25 French 39 Elusive distribueen abbr. nobleman 40 Peculiar 12 Sen. tion 26 "Lather, 41 Deterio-Kefauver center 16 Make 14 Capri, repeat" rate 28 Fancy lace e.g. 17 Plus-DOWN 15 Vast fiddle column 1 West 29 Use expanse

# Bridge

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	• À 10	0.8	
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The blad	ing:		-
South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 🛧	Pass
2 🖤	Pass	4 🎔	
Opening	lead — I	king of spa	des.

### **Structural Visualization**

You run into good, bad and indifferent bridge players wherever you go. Some bid well and play their cards badly; others bid badly and play their cards well; some bid and play well; others bid and play badly.

This last category seems to be the most numerous of all, if you accept as gospel the testimony of their partners. Maybe Abraham Lincoln had bridge players in mind when he said that God must love the common people, since he made so many of them.

The South in this deal was obviously from the class that plays their cards well. We wouldn't know how to classify his bidding from just this one hand - about all he did was to open a notrump with 15 points instead of the customary 16 - but it might be that he always stretched a bit because of his skill in the play. North then used Stayman to locate the 4-4 heart fit.

South took West's king-of-spades lead with the ace, played a heart to the king and a low club back. East followed low, and South won with the king. After cashing the Q-A of hearts, declarer led another club from dummy, East taking the ace and returning a club to South's queen.

Declarer still had three tricks to lose - two spades and a diamond - but by this time he was certain that he would be able to avoid the loss of one of them and so make the contract.

He knew East had no more spades; otherwise, East would have returned a spade rather than a club. West's hand therefore became an open book. He had started with six spades and had already shown up with two hearts and three clubs. Hence, he could not have been dealt more than two diamonds.

So South cashed the A-K of diamonds and led a spade. West took his two spade tricks but then had to yield a ruff-and-discard, handing South the contract.

North-South vulnerable. NORTH $\blacklozenge J 10 9 5$ $\blacklozenge K 9 5$ $\blacklozenge Q J 2$ $\clubsuit K 10 3$ WEST $\blacklozenge 8 4$ $\blacklozenge Q J 10 8 4$ $\blacklozenge A 7 6$ $\blacklozenge 6 2$ $\blacklozenge 8 7 4$ $\blacklozenge 8 6 2$ SOUTH $\blacklozenge K Q 2$	
<ul> <li>↓ J 10 9 5</li> <li>↓ K 9 5</li> <li>↓ Q J 2</li> <li>↓ K 10 3</li> <li>WEST</li> <li>♦ 8 4</li> <li>♦ A 7 6</li> <li>♥ Q J 10 8 4</li> <li>♦ 6 2</li> <li>♦ 8 7 4</li> <li>♦ 8 6 2</li> <li>SOUTH</li> <li>↓ K Q 2</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>♦ Q J 2</li> <li>♦ K 10 3</li> <li>₩EST</li> <li>♦ 8 4</li> <li>♦ A 7 6</li> <li>♥ Q J 10 8 4</li> <li>♦ 6 2</li> <li>♦ 8 7 4</li> <li>♦ 8 6 2</li> <li>SOUTH</li> <li>♦ K Q 2</li> </ul>	
★K 10 3         WEST       EAST         ♦ 8 4       ♠ A 7 6         ♥ Q J 10 8 4       ♥ 6 2         ♠ A 9 5       ♠ 8 7 4         ♣ 8 6 2       ♥ Q 9 5         SOUTH         ♠ K Q 2	
WEST       EAST         ◆ 8 4       ◆ A 7 6         ♥ Q J 10 8 4       ♥ 6 2         ◆ A 9 5       ◆ 8 7 4         ◆ 8 6 2       ♥ Q 9 5         SOUTH       ♥ K Q 2	
<ul> <li>★ 8 4</li> <li>★ A 7 6</li> <li>♥ Q J 10 8 4</li> <li>★ A 9 5</li> <li>★ 8 6 2</li> <li>★ 8 7 4</li> <li>♥ Q 9 5</li> <li>SOUTH</li> <li>★ K Q 2</li> </ul>	•
♥QJ1084 ♦A95 ♦862 SOUTH ♦KQ2 SOUTH	3
<ul> <li>▲ Â 9 5</li> <li>◆ 8 7 4</li> <li>◆ 8 7 4</li> <li>◆ Q 9 5</li> <li>SOUTH</li> <li>◆ K Q 2</li> </ul>	
◆8 6 2 ◆Q 9 5 SOUTH ◆K Q 2	
SOUTH ♠KQ2	4
<b>♦</b> K Q 2	
▼A / 3	
◆ K 10 6 3	
• A J 7	
The bidding:	
East South West No	orth
Pass INT Pass 31	

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

### It's Not a Guessing Game

Assume you're declarer at three notrump and West leads the queen of hearts. How would you proceed so as to give yourself the best chance for the contract?

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



## Sally Forth • Greg Howard





## Cryptoquip

D MIHQL JV H VDRI	W JGY'P UAUF MEFFZ
BHQEIRGIQ CMJ EQJXLTU	EFGHYJ MGWYX. W RHUXX
WHDL "HTTJC AI GJ	ZGH KWRVP XEZ W'K
D R G Q J L X B I A U W M I T V ! " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN ANY CHEMIST'S LABORATORY, YOU COULD PROBABLY SAY THERE IS COMPOUND INTEREST. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L	E A U F X U P G M V E Y R U. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEARD OF A FINE CARPENTER WHO PROUDLY SAID "ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY SHELF!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals R

		entry			Pointer of time				;		hand	ily	
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### Family Circus • Bill Keane



When the deal was played, declarer took the queen of hearts with the ace and played the spade king at trick two. East won with the ace and returned a heart, establishing three heart tricks for West. Eventually, West gained the lead with the ace of diamonds, and declarer went down one.

As the cards lie, had South tackled diamonds instead of spades first, he would have made four notrump. In that case, West's only entry card would have been forced out before his hearts were established, and that would have meant success instead of failure for declarer.

It might therefore seem that making the contract depends on a straightforward guess, but actually, South can eliminate the need for any guesswork by allowing West's queen of hearts to hold at trick one. It then makes no difference whether declarer attacks spades or diamonds first after West continues with a heart at trick two.

Either East will win the trick and be unable to continue hearts, or West will win the trick and in the process lose the entry to his heart suit. Indeed, the only way declarer can fail to get home safely is if West started with five or six hearts and both missing aces.

The purpose of the holdup play at trick one is to try to interfere with enemy communications. It can't cost declarer the contract to concede the first heart to West, but in so doing, South disposes of the need for a crystal ball at trick two.

Tomorrow: Assumptions are essential. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.

