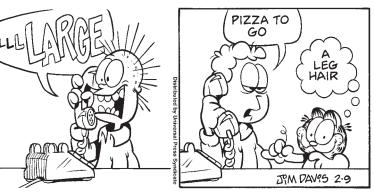
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston HE PUT ON HIS COAT AND HIS BOOTS AND WENT OUTSIDE. HE SAID YOU GAVE HIM PERMISSION! MOM? GARY? DID YOU SEE YES-HE JUST WENT THAT RIGHT! **Garfield •** Jim Davis HELLO, LUIGI'S? I'D LIKE PIZZA TO

TO ORDER A SMAL-



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young THE SPECIAL TODAY IS CHILI RANCHERO



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott











J XNTJMGO BWBBO FX

VUTG FG J XLZZQMUTHX, VJKZI, IKE XEVJU'J PKZMLJ

QFFKN PKZ Q XQZMSU

NGLU JIYSUM EY Q GKZZKZ

KP JLZZKZ.

Cryptoquip

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I BEGAN COLLECTING BREATH-FRESHENER WRAPPERS, I'D WANT THEM IN MINT CONDITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R

TWGL-UY-LEZ-IFQQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TYPING UP A HORROR STORY, YOU MUSTN'T FORGET TO ALLOW FOR A MARGIN OF TERROR.

TZNHUG EZ IWXL

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

Crossword

36 Torched

3 Shrek is

4 Standard

market

section

6 Hostels

7 Coloring

agent

thetic

square

9 From

one

rind

11 Venom-

ous

vipers

control

tion, for

short

10 Rid of

8 Local

one

5 Super-

22 Lagniappe

23 A network

24 Solo of

"Star

Wars'

motion

den's

transport

27 1980s GE

acquisi-

28 Paddle

halves

31 Favorite

along

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matter

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38 Undo a

dele

40 Excep-

41 Former

tional

veep

shelter

42 Missile

43 Recog

nize

trees

46 Visibility

11 Stagger

20 Oohs'

"We have 24 Tina of

16 Forehead

mates

23 Make up

"SNL"

Jersev

Popeye

decessor

mouse!'

disdain

abeyance

figured

partners

puzzle-

dom

48 Unclear

49 Ms.

image

Turner

seers?

when

45 Guys'

46 Ox of

32 Treated

with

37 Needle-

fish

39 Incite

34 Pad

29 JFK's pre-

town 27 Verb for

25 New

30 "A

your mind

hindrance 47 Suitable

44 Evergreen

39 Burn a bit

37 "Cross-

fire"

34 Speed

35 Heart

25 Com-

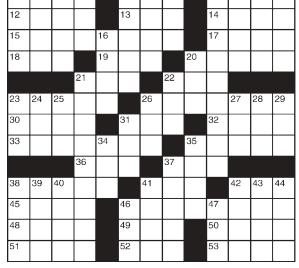
26 Kram-

1 Support 37 Sales 5 Accompitch? plished **38** Ort 8 California 41 Tank fill 42 Firmavalley

ACROSS

- ment **12** Guru's 45 Siamese, discipline 13 Whatever 46 De Havilland's 14 Individsister uals 48 Have
- 15 Region of coming 49 Raw rock France 17 Second in 50 Earth mover? command 51 Arbore-— out a living tum
- specimen Robin-**52** Solidify 16 Beyond **53** AAA son' 20 Orange 20 Occupatasks and Rose **DOWN** 21 Coquet-1 Nabors' 21 British tish
- 22 Spasm role chan-23 Slate 2 Castle user's Solution time: 21 mins. need
- 26 Outre **30** Commanded 31 Little Lab 32 Picture in pixels 33 Catches some

ZZZS 35 Makes like a rodent Yesterday's answer 2-8



DOWN

1 Too

lenient

2 Beehive

State

3 Where

met the

4 Pack to

future?

George

6 Have a

bug

Man"

author

8 Difficult

plan

10 Wile F.'s

supplier

9 Truman's

7 "The

and Buffy

Invisible

the

5 St.

enemy ...

38 Greek

conso-

nants

beat

51 Gray

(Abbr.)

52 Justice

Rob

54 Actor

55 Self

56 "Clair

de

57 Chopin

ion

58 CNBC's

59 History

Insana

chapters

Solution time: 21 mins.

compan-

Albania

ACROSS 1 Tallow 5 Spotted

- 40 Money of 8 Somewhere out 41 Kuralt's there 12 Other 43 Hot tub (Sp.) 13 False 45 Aplenty hood 47 Modest
- 14 "The Amazing 15 It's within bounds
- 17 Exemplar thinness 18 Postula-
- tion 19 Crown of honor 21 Placekicker's
- **22** Not bare 23 Vacation-26 Con-

pride

- torted 28 Jacket material TV dinner veggies 33 Pouch
- 35 "Smooth singer 36 Macrame work

Operator"

50 Sight-53 Way back



Family Circus • Bill Keane "There wasn't enough snow to

give him a body.'

Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH **↑** A Q 6 **♥** 8 7 4 **♦** 6 2 WEST 10963 ◆ Q J 9 7 3 ♣K 10 8 6 SOUTH **♠** K J 10 8 104 The bidding: South Pass Pass Pass Pass queen of diamonds. Opening lead

It stands to reason that a finesse should be avoided when there is an alternative play that might gain a trick without incurring the risk inherent in a finesse.

Consider this deal where South is in six spades and West leads a diamond, won by declarer with the ace. What should he do next?

Since South can concede a diamond and later ruff a diamond in dummy to bring his total to 11 tricks, his only real problem is to avoid a heart loser. Obviously, if a heart finesse is attempted and succeeds, the slam is home. But if the finesse fails, so will the Similarly, if declarer takes a club finesse, he

then discard the queen of hearts on the ace of clubs. But if the club finesse fails, the slam again goes The finesses are equally likely to win, and which one to attempt appears to be a tossup. But actually,

makes the contract if West has the king, since he can

it is wrong to take either finesse before trying something else that is virtually risk-free. After winning the diamond, South should lead a club to the ace and ruff a club. He then leads a trump to the queen and ruffs another club. When both op-

ponents follow suit, the slam becomes a certainty. Declarer crosses to dummy with a trump and ruffs still another club, establishing the queen as a trick. He then leads a diamond. East wins and returns a heart, but South takes the ace, ruffs a diamond and discards the queen of hearts on the queen of clubs.

In adopting this approach, South at no point relinquishes his 50 percent chance for a successful heart finesse. If the clubs turn out to be unfavorably divided, which South will discover fairly early in the play, he still has the heart finesse to fall back on.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. **4** 6 5 3 2 ♦ 8 5 3 WEST 🛧 A K 10 8 Q 8 4 3 QJ1094**SOUTH ♥**J62 The bidding South North Dble All Pass two of diamonds. Opening lead

When a player makes a takeout double of a suit as West did in this case — he announces the values for an opening bid and asks his partner to respond in one of the other three suits.

However, the responder has the option of passing the double when his hand indicates that that is the best thing to do. In effect, by passing, he overrules the doubler's request and converts the takeout double into a penalty double.

That is exactly what happened here when East decided that one diamond doubled, played by South, was probably the best contract for his side.

It is nearly always right to lead a trump when a one-level takeout double is passed by the responder, and West saw no reason to deviate from that principle. Declarer won East's nine of diamonds with the king and returned a low heart to dummy's king.

East took the ace and led the queen of trumps to South's ace. Declarer could now have saved a trick by cashing the club ace, but he not unreasonably continued with the jack of hearts, hoping to secure a heart ruff in dummy. West took the jack with the queen and cashed the king of spades, on which East played the queen. West then continued with a low spade to East's jack.

East continued the devastating defense when he drew both of South's remaining trumps and returned the nine of spades. West cashed the A-10 of spades, East discarding his one and only club, and East won the remaining tricks with his fifth trump and the 10-9 of hearts.

So South went down five — 1,400 points — as a result of East's propitious pass and the subsequent flawless defense. Had West started out by leading the K-A and another spade, instead of a trump, South might have held the loss to 500 points. West's trump lead turned out to be worth an additional 800 points.

JEFF

"If one of our fishes dies we hafta pick which way to go — burial or flushing."