Bridge

### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



## Garfield • Jim Davis





Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



I TOLD YOU TO DO!



CHRIS BROWNE

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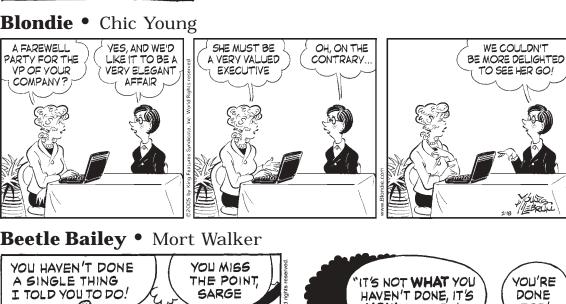
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NORTH **•** Q 7 3 ♥Q32 ♦ Q 7 **4**76532 WEST **♦** J 10 9 8 5 ♥J964 **•** 5 3 ♣J 9 SOUTH 🕈 A K ♥ A K ♦ A J 6 4 2 A K 10 8 **Test Your Play** 

This is a double-dummy problem. You are declarer in Six Notrump, and West leads the jack of spades. Your aim is to make 12 tricks, assuming best defense by East-West. As usual in double-dummy problems, you are permitted to look at all four hands.

EAST

♥ 10 8 7 5

♦ K 10 9 8

**•** 6 4 2

**♣**O 4

Cash the A-K of spades, A-K of hearts and ace of clubs. If East plays the four on the ace of clubs, you next lead the eight, forcing East to win with the queen. If East returns a spade or a heart, discard the K-10 of clubs on dummy's major-suit queens, unblocking the suit so that dummy can cash the 7-6-5 of clubs. You finish by taking a diamond finesse to produce your 12th trick.

If East drops the queen of clubs under the ace at trick five, an entirely different approach is required. You lead the jack of diamonds at trick six. If East takes the jack with the king, the queen of diamonds becomes an entry to dummy, and you score 12 tricks regardless of what East returns.

Let's suppose, therefore, that East refuses to take the jack of diamonds when you lead it. In that case, West becomes your pigeon. You cash the ace of diamonds to extract his last diamond, then lead the eight of clubs

This forces West to win with the jack (or nine, if he has retained that card) and put you in dummy with a spade or a heart. As before, you discard your K-10 of clubs on dummy's major-suit queens, cash the 7-6-5 of clubs and thereby acquire 12 tricks.

Thus, you make the contract regardless of which way the defenders twist or turn. There is no way they can escape.

Tomorrow: Optimism is sometimes rewarded.

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5 🔶	Pass	6 🔶	
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#### **Optimism Is Sometimes Rewarded**

In bridge, a player is not always punished for reaching a poor contract. Sometimes the gods might smile favorably upon him when he is overly aggressive - provided he plays well enough to earn their favor.

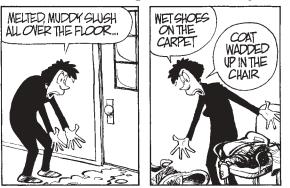


ICOULD

JUST

SARGE

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott







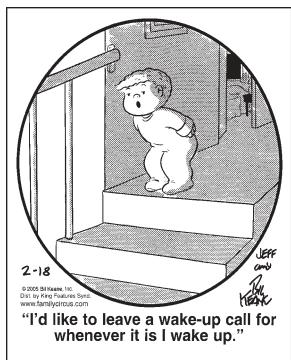


# Cryptoquip

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NDXSMXM: "XGR GNKRM	ELYXC DN RN QKWTZP
N Z L X G R G N K R - I Z P X M . " <b>Yesterday's Cryptoquip:</b> IF YOU'RE OUT LOOKING FOR VULTURES, THEN I RECKON YOU'RE ON A SCAVENGER HUNT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H	I L A P A L L O K Z C R L K A C ? <b>Yesterday's Cryptoquip:</b> FLICK THAT FEATURES RICH PEOPLE AND MACRAME ARTISTS: "THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-KNOTS." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals M

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# Family Circus • Bill Keane



Consider this deal where South got to six diamonds. It was not a good contract; the odds were about 4-to-1 against making it.

Two clubs was artificial and forcing; two hearts was ace-showing. Two notrump showed a balanced hand and denied significant values beyond the ace of hearts. South should really have settled for three notrump at this stage, but when he bid three diamonds and North leaped to five, South decided to carry on to six, since there were several hands North could have that would make the slam an odds-on favorite. Declarer actually made the slam, which makes it difficult to conduct a sermon on his bidding. But he did play the hand well and eventually was rewarded for his positive outlook.

West led a trump, and South cashed the A-K, learning he had to lose a trump trick. He was then faced with the task of escaping a spade loser, and solved the problem with the help of an elimination play.

After crossing to dummy with a heart, he tried a spade finesse, which won. He then cashed the ace of spades, A-K of clubs and A-K of hearts, West refusing to ruff. Declarer then put West on lead with a trump. As South hoped, West had only clubs left and had to return one. This allowed declarer to discard a spade from dummy as he ruffed in his hand, giving him not only the rubber but also a 750-point bonus for making a slam he would no doubt have stayed out of had he been able to see his partner's cards.



old-fashioned music in our church if they can find an organ donor."