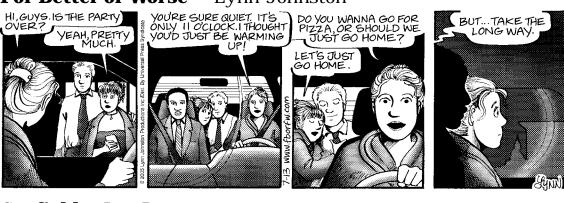
## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



#### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



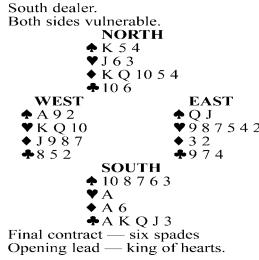
### Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

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# Bridge



### A Stunning Victory

Everyone who plays bridge has his own harrowing tale of how he and his partner managed to collapse two sure tricks into one while defending a hand. It can happen in a variety of ways, and for a variety of reasons that might seem perfectly reasonable at the time - especially if a particularly crafty declarer is at the helm.

Consider today's deal where declarer lost only one trump trick with the defenders holding A-Q-J-9-2 of trumps! The triumph - or tragedy, depending on which way you look at it - began when South got to six spades following a sequence of bids too dreadful to repeat.

West led the king of hearts, and South unhappily surveyed the dummy. Not one to give up easily, declarer concocted a scheme that at least gave him a chance to make the slam. All that was required was a very specific lie of the cards, a bit of deception and a gullible opponent - but there was no harm in trying.

Accordingly, South won the heart lead with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a low trump toward dummy, acting for all the world like a man with the singleton ace of diamonds.

West couldn't bear the thought of South's getting rid of his (presumed) heart loser on one of dummy's top diamonds, so he climbed up with the ace of spades - felling one of his partner's honors - and tried to cash the queen of hearts. South ruffed, led a spade to the king followed by a spade to the ten, and the party was over.

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### **Fine-Tuned Defense**

Defensive play requires complete and unswerving attention at all times. Lapses of concentration are a prescription for disaster. Many such setbacks can be avoided by being "at the table" at the critical moment.

Take this case from a pairs contest. At several tables, North-South wound up in five diamonds doubled after East-West had reached four spades (which would have gone down one). West invari-



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



### Sally Forth • Greg Howard







DON'T GET

AHEAD OF

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## Cryptoquip

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L J Z P J L Q B Z B I L I O J Z J. <b>Yesterday's Cryptoquip:</b> IF TWO PEOPLE ARE DEBATING THE MERITS OF THERMOSTATS, WOULD IT BE A HEATED ARGUMENT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D	L R N E M A P A P R N W A F . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A GUTSY GHOST WENT INTO A PUB BUT WAS TOLD TO LEAVE. THEY DIDN'T SERVE SPIRITS THERE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

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15 "Holy

18 Ink

21 "Bye

### Family Circus • Bill Keane



ably led the king of clubs, after which the defensive efforts diverged.

At one table, East signaled with the eight of clubs, and West continued with a low club, ruffed by South. Declarer drove out the ace of diamonds, won the spade shift with the ace, drew the missing trump and ran four hearts, discarding a spade from dummy to make the contract.

At another table, the defenders got a step closer to setting the contract, but still took second money. Here, East wisely played the deuce of clubs at trick one, asking his partner to switch to another suit, and West shifted to the three of spades, taken by dummy's ace.

This put the defenders in position to collect two more tricks, but East fell from grace when declarer next led the diamond ten from dummy. After East followed low and the ten held, South played four rounds of hearts, discarding a spade from dummy. East could take the diamond ace then or later, but that was the only trick he got.

At a third table, the defense functioned perfectly. East also played the club deuce on the first trick, and West shifted to the spade three. Declarer took dummy's ace and led a diamond, but East alertly rose with the ace and cashed the king of spades for down one.

Observe that once West shifted to the three of spades, the winning defense was easy to find. Since West could not have more than five spades the three was fourth-best - East knew declarer had a second spade. To cater to the possibility that South had started with four hearts headed by the A-Q, East made sure to take the first diamond and cash a spade before the setting trick disappeared.



my leg.'