Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample) WOULD IT KILL THEM TO GIVE US AN HMM. SPEAKING OF HALF AN HOUR JUST HOUR? THEY JUST DON'T APPRECIATE HOW HARD WE WORK! ISN'T LONG ENOUGH OF A BREAK TIME FOR MY BREAK SHORT, I GUESS

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

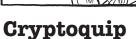




Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott







BGHCPHCJ UY JUHCJ N B

U C VFCCWV AZGEENHY YNJRIA LVFQG RHIB

NH

LIFV

QUXIBHXI QUUC. H'X BGHLP

FCR BHVIR UY HB FSS! Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COMPUTER USER HAPPENS TO LOSE AN ELECTRONIC

DOCUMENT, I SUPPOSE HE IS DE-FILED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O NE CW G HI-BDL JIHW? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M THINKING OF GOING ON A CRASH DIET SOMETIME SOON. I'M THICK AND TIRED OF IT ALL!

TIRW,

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS 36 Gearbox, 55 See to 10 — E. 1 "Ameri-Coyote for short DOWN 11 Sodium 38 Pirates Idol" 1 Unescortchloride quaff selection 39 Shock 17 Antic ed 5 Energy and -2 Buckeyes' 19 Stir 8 Cat's 40 Looks home 22 Speck 3 Forbid-23 Table doas? lascivi-12 Odin's feature ously den son 43 Zoologist practice 24 Past 4 Deep-13 Historic Jane 25 Exces-47 Vulcanitime seated sively 14 Largest 26 "Golly!" zation disresentof the coverer ment 27 Ms. 49 Familiar 5 What Longoria seven areeting 28 Trap 15 Japanese happens 50 Å step up 29 Petrol native here 16 Benevo-31 Phys-ed the ladder stays 51 Camhere lence venue 18 Clari-6 Unyield-34 Earth bridge netist sch. ing removei Benny 52 Skunk's 7 Long 35 Active 20 Smaller March defense 36 Pair 53 Duel leader 37 Fashionmap 21 U.S. 8 Hocked tool able, and soldiers 9 Unthen

54 Italian 22 A.E.S. repaired some 39 Heart opponent Solution time: 21 mins. **23** Type line? 40 Shrek, of paint e.g. 26 Decent 41 Rise 42 Solitary sort of person **43** Profit **30** ld 44 Staffer 45 French counter part city 31 Obtain 46 Pie-crust 32 Through ingredient 48 Ostrich's 33 Farewell

cousin 52

ACROSS 30 NAFTA 4 Punctu-20 Stein 1 IRS ation mark signatory or employee 33 Cheated Stiller 5 Off 4 Jam **36** Hit 6 Guns **21** Pita 37 Series of sandingredithe engine wiches ent? 7 Support 7 Raised 22 Offers a exploits group? 38 Aegean 8 Reef counter-8 Arrives island material argument 10 Dickens' **39** "My 9 Fishing 23 Burn Mr. Heep Three nets some-11 Kala-**10** 9 mm what 40 Chaps 24 Bravery mata subet al. 41 Gasoline machine 25 Staff 26 Kerosene 13 London stat gun pedestri-12 Sweater lamp DOWN ans' woes parts 1 Nursery walkway **14** Kine 28 Water **16** Dog 15 Tracking slide array tags, 2 Carson device, 29 Military

18 Siesta rassed Manuel 19 Whimper 20 Pleads Solution time: 21 mins. 21 Alumni 31 Geo-23 Kasparov's game **32** Put **25** Deli 34 "Dracula" loaves 26 Timely question 27 Scepter 35 Feed topper 28 Monk

predeces-

sor

3 Embar-

for

short

19 More, to

survey,

briefly

30 "Shake

well

before

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author

Stoker

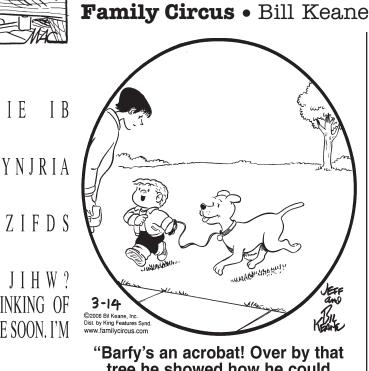
the

for ex.

sounds

17 Spooky

hogs



tree he showed how he could balance on three legs!"

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH **↑** K Q 5 **♥** A 7 2 A 10 8 7 3 2 EAST \spadesuit 10 8 7 6 4 3 96 QJ95 Q 10 6 2 **♣**KJ83 SOUTH **↑** A 9 2 **♥** Q 5 3 ♦ K 6 4 **♣**A 9 The bidding West South 1 🚓 Pass Pass Pass Pass 3 NT Opening lead — nine of hearts.

A Question of Timing

In most deals, declarer has a built-in advantage over the defenders because he sees his own hand and dummy's and so can more easily formulate a plan of attack based on the strength or weakness of the combined holdings. This natural edge held by declarer can be quickly lost, though, if he neglects to press his advantage properly.

Consider this deal where West led the nine of hearts following the auction shown. Declarer played low from dummy without giving the matter much thought, and East won with the king. East then paused to take stock of the situation.

From his viewpoint, it seemed futile to continue hearts when South was known to hold the gueen. Declarer would undoubtedly establish dummy's diamonds as soon as possible, after which he would almost surely have at least nine East therefore decided that his side's only real hope -

despite South's opening club bid - lay in the club suit. Accordingly, he switched to a low club at trick two, and declarer suddenly found himself in hot water. He ducked two clubs and won the third with the ace, but when he tested the diamonds and found them divided 3-1, he had to go down one. All told, he lost a heart, three clubs and a dia-

East's inspired defense notwithstanding, the outcome was entirely South's fault. He was asking for trouble when he ducked West's heart lead, and he got it. Both the lead and the bidding placed the king of hearts

in East's hand, so it was not necessary to protect the queen by playing low from dummy. More importantly, ducking the heart would give the defense a chance to shift to clubs. For this reason, South should have played dummy's ace at trick one and tackled diamonds immediately. This would

have yielded 10 easy tricks. By ducking the first heart, declarer gave up his natural advantage and changed it into a disadvantage. Tomorrow: Taking out insurance.

NORTH

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Both sides vulnerable.

East dealer.

A 5 4 **9**8 ◆ K 5 **♣**AQ986 3 WEST EAST **♠** 9 7 6 **♠** K 10 8 **♥**J 10 9 **♥** K 6 4 3 2 ◆ Q 9 6 4 J 8 7 3 2 🛧 K 2 SOUTH QJ32♥ A Q 5 A 10**♣**J 10 The bidding: East South Pass Pass Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Taking Out Insurance

One of the closer mathematical propositions in bridge concerns what declarer should do when he has 11 trumps in the combined hands missing the K-x

Mathematically, the percentages slightly favor a 1-1 division of the two missing cards (52 percent to 48 percent). Therefore, in the absence of indications otherwise, declarer should play the ace rather than attempt a finesse when he is faced with such a proposition. The edge in favor of the drop is very slight, but it is there

There are exceptions, however. In some hands, declarer obtains information that indicates the finesse is the preferred play, in which case he should not blindly follow the general rule. In other hands, the finesse becomes mandatory because there is a compelling reason why it should be taken. An example of this type is found in the

The bidding is not approved, but that's the way it went. West led a heart, and declarer cashed two hearts, discarding a spade from dummy. He then ruffed a heart in dummy as a preliminary move to the elimination of both red suits. South was now well on his way to assuring the contract regardless of where the king of clubs was lo-

Declarer next cashed the A-K of diamonds, completing the elimination of hearts and diamonds from both hands. He then led the jack of clubs.

When West produced a low club, South also played low from dummy. It was not important to him whether the finesse won or lost. If the jack held, the slam was in the bag, because in that case only a spade trick could be

And if the finesse lost to the singleton king, East would be compelled to return a spade, giving declarer a free finesse, or a red card, yielding a ruff-and-discard.

Tomorrow: Six plus seven equals 13.

