

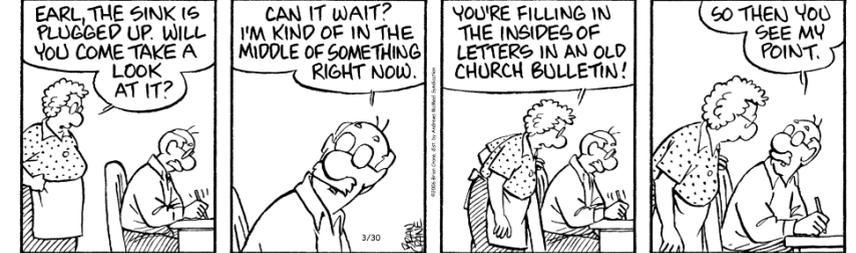
ZITS® BY JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® BY CHRIS BROWNE



FRANK AND ERNEST® BY BOB THAVES

PICKLES® BY BRIAN CRANE



BEETLE BAILEY® BY Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker

BABY BLUES® BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



THE BORN LOSER® BY ART & CHIP SANSOM

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH® BY F. LASSWELL & JOHN ROSE



HI AND LOIS® BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER & CHANCE BROWNE

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BLONDIE® BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® BY LYNN JOHNSTON



THE LOCKHORNS®

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 7 6 5 3
 ♥ 9 5 3
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ J 3

WEST
 ♠ J 8
 ♥ A K Q 7 4 2
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ A 9 2

EAST
 ♠ 4 2
 ♥ J 10 8 6
 ♦ Q J 5 4 3
 ♣ 8 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 10 9
 ♥ —
 ♦ K 7 6
 ♣ K Q 10 7 6 5

The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 ♣ Dble
 Pass 1 ♥ 2 ♣ 4 ♥
 Pass 4 ♠ 5 ♥
 5 ♠ Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — ace of hearts.
This deal occurred in the 2002 Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Las Vegas. The three-day tournament, which took its name from New York's now defunct Cavendish Club, where the contest originated, attracted 60 of the world's top pairs.

North-South were Zia Mahmood and Bob Hamman, both of whom would be on anyone's list of the world's top 10 players. The two stars — who were not a regular partnership — displayed excellent judgment in the bidding to gain 215

IMP's when compared with the results at the other 29 tables.
After Hamman's one-club opening, West, Brian Glubock, doubled for takeout, planning to bid his hearts next to show extra strength. When his partner bid one heart, however, Glubock immediately leaped to four, a two-way action designed to get his side to game if game could be made, while at the same time making it more difficult for the opponents to locate their potential spade fit.

Many players holding the South cards might have elected to defend against four hearts, but Hamman had seen this type of hand many times before. Having already shown his long club suit, he now bid four spades, asking his partner to choose between spades and clubs. The bid was intended primarily as a sacrifice against the opponents' vulnerable game but might also produce a game for his side if his partner held the right hand.

And that's exactly the way it turned out. After Glubok bid five hearts, Zia, who now had a very good idea of what his partner's hand looked like, took a stab at five spades, doubled by Glubok.

With no way to get his partner on lead for a diamond return through Hamman's king, Glubok could score only his two minor-suit aces, and the doubled game — worth 650 points — came rolling home.

Tomorrow: The foresight saga.
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 Please congratulate Dave on his new position:

LINKEDIN KEEPS ASKING ME IF I WANT TO CONNECT TO SQUIRRELS IN MY AREA!

JUMBLE
 THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OKCNK
 CWTEI
 VEECRL
 SYSGRA

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THEIR VACATION TO FLORIDA'S SOUTHERNMOST TOURIST DESTINATION WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ○○○○ - ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)
 Saturday's Jumbles: LINER COUGH BARREL ASSIGN
 Answer: Godfrey Bowen's new method for removing wool from sheep was — "SHEAR" GENIUS

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