



West dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 7 5  
♥ 8  
♦ A Q 10 9 7  
♣ A K 10 6

**WEST**  
♥ J  
♦ A J 10 9 7 6 4  
♠ 6  
♣ Q J 9 4

**EAST**  
♥ 10 6  
♦ K 5 2  
♠ 8 4 3 2  
♣ 8 7 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 9 8 4 3 2  
♥ Q 3  
♦ K J 5  
♣ 3

The bidding:  
**West** 4♥  
**North** Dble  
**East** Pass  
**South** 5♠

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

**What happens when** two players with a great deal of imagination collide with one another? Something's got to give, and it did in this hand from a tournament many years ago.

**West opened** as dealer with four hearts. It was certainly a well-timed preemptive bid, since North-South had the balance of strength. North doubled — most partnerships these days play this as takeout — and South had far too good a hand to bid a mere four spades.

**South thought** there might be a slam in spades if North had the right hand, but he had no way of

knowing whether a slam could be made, particularly since he had two losing hearts. So he consulted partner about it by jumping to five spades, and North, of course, bid six.

**West led** the ace of hearts, and as anyone can plainly see, making six spades should be no problem. But South ended up down one!

**On the ace-of-hearts** lead, East (Jack Ehrlenbach) played the king! West continued with a heart, and declarer, assuming that West had a nine-card suit, trumped with dummy's king.

**Declarer then led** the seven of spades from dummy, East playing the six. South's imagination now started working overtime. He had seen East follow to the second heart lead, which led him to wonder why East had played the king at trick one.

**South concluded** that the only explanation was that East had started with the J-10-6 of spades and was trying to develop a trump trick for himself by panicking South into ruffing the second heart with the king. So declarer finessed the seven, lost to West's singleton jack and went down one.

**We offer no** opinion about South's play, which might have turned out right, but you have to hand it to Ehrlenbach for concocting a scheme that gave South a chance to go wrong.

**Tomorrow:** First things first.  
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When the pine trees traded sarcastic remarks, the result was ---

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

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FORUM TWEAK ACCEPT DISMAL  
Answer: He didn't love the idea of buying the wood stove at first, but he — WARMED UP TO IT

**JUMBLE**

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

UNBYN  
ZRIEP  
RGEEDD  
GLIGEG

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Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

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