



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 7 6
♥ A 10 7 4 2
♦ 8 3
♣ J 10 5

WEST
♠ K 10 9
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ Q 5 4
♣ Q 7 2

EAST
♠ A 8
♥ 5
♦ A J 10 9 7 6 2
♣ 9 6 4

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♦
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond

PROFILE: BOB BEE
• BORN IN MAY
• HAS TROUBLE COMMITTING

HMM. HE'S A DEFINITE MAY BEE

SWIPE LEFT... I MEAN, SWAT LEFT

CRANE

35,084 points in his lifetime.

Crane was declarer in this deal played in the Vanderbilt Team Championship. West led a diamond to his partner's ace, and returned a diamond, ruffed by Crane.

It would be very easy to go down in four spades. If declarer had now made the natural-looking play of a low spade toward the jack, he would have lost three trump tricks as well as the diamond already lost. But Crane accomplished his mission quite easily when, at trick three, he led the queen of spades rather than a low one!

This singular thrust rendered the defense helpless. It did not matter whether East or West won the trick; in either case the defenders could not score more than two trump tricks.

Crane based his queen-of-spades play on the reasonable assumption that East — who was known to hold a long diamond suit — had the doubleton ace or king of trump, and the queen lead was specifically directed to deal with that possibility.

In the actual case, East took the queen with the ace and returned a club. Crane went up with the ace, led another trump toward the J-7, and the battle was over. He later discarded two clubs on dummy's hearts to finish with ten tricks.

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

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

AHCBT
RKNAD
LRATLE
TRFCAY

Print your answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PRANK CIGAR BALLET ISLAND
Answer: Many South American countries are home to the Andes because of how they're — ARRANGED

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