Daily Bridge Club Conspiracy theory By FRANK STEWART

Tribune Content Agency

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

"It's a conspiracy," Cy the Cynic wailed. "The word is out on what Minnie does to me. Now other people think it'll work for them.'

Minnie Bottoms, my club's senior member, wears old bifocals that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay. Cy has been Minnie's chief victim.

Cy was declarer at today's 3NT, and West led the seven of hearts. When dummy played low, East (who happened to be Ed, my club's best player) followed with the jack. The Cynic had to take his queen - for all he knew, West had led from A-K-10-7-2 - but when he finessed in diamonds next, Ed won and led the king of hearts, and West overtook and ran the hearts. Down one.

GRIN

"Minnie sent me," Ed told Cy with a grin.

Ed knew that if West's hearts were Q-10-8-7-2, the contract was unbeatable; there weren't enough points in the deck for West to have a fast entry as well. The only chance was that West had A-10-8-7-2, but Ed then had to induce Cy to take the queen at Trick One.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ▲ A K 4 ♡ Q 6 5 3 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ A Q 3. Your partner

Whole milk, almond,

BIZARRO

opens one diamond, you respond one heart, he bids two clubs and

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	SOU	K 4 6 5 3 9 6	
South 1 NT	West Pass	North 3 NT	East All Pass
Openir	ng lead —	- ♡7	
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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Waynor 18-R

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

one neart, he bids two clubs and you stall with a "fourth-suit" bid of two spades. Partner then bids three diamonds. What do you say? ANSWER: Your partner has six diamonds, four clubs and extra values. With a minimum hand, he would have rebid two diamonds. I can't imagine a hand that won't produce a slam. Bid four diamonds if it's forcing. Otherwise, bid six diamonds or 4NT. South dealer N-S vulnerable
NORTH ♠ J 6 ♡ 9 4 ◇ A J 10 8 3 ♣ K J 8 4
WESTEAST $\bigstar 952$ $\bigstar Q 10 873$ $\heartsuit A 10 872$ $\heartsuit K J$ $\circlearrowright 74$ $\diamondsuit K 52$ $\clubsuit 962$ $\divideontimes 1075$
SOUTH ▲ A K 4 ♡ Q 6 5 3 ◇ Q 9 6 ♣ A Q 3
South West North East 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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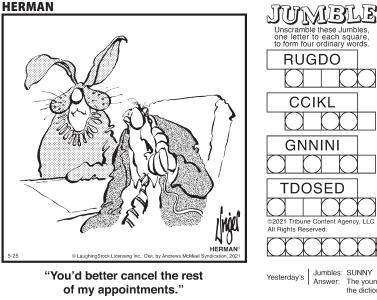
Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurel

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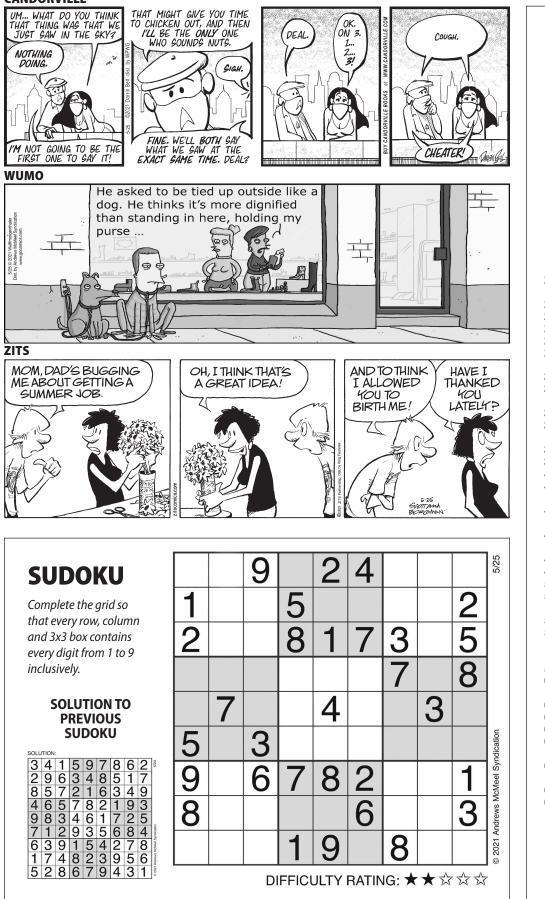
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS 4 Bloodsucker 1 Aquatic barker 5 Pasta sauce

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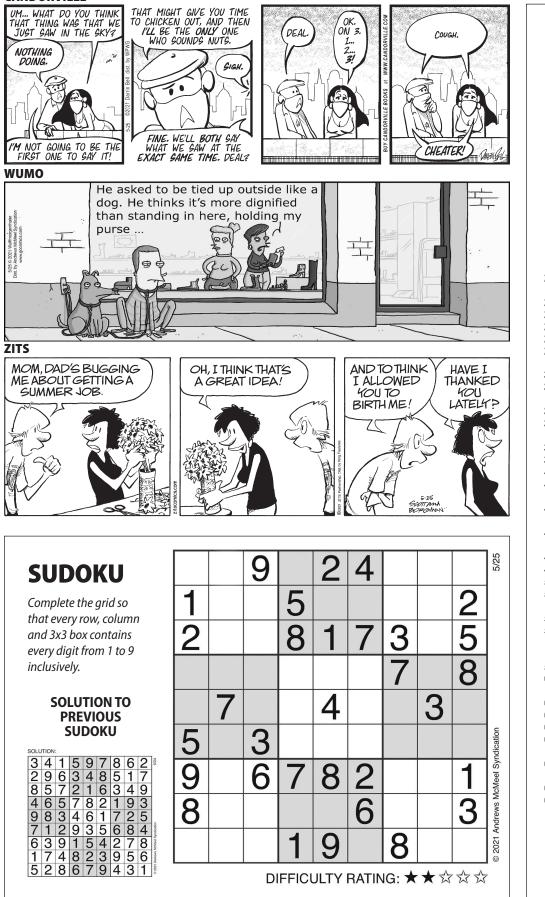
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