

winning defence
david p. gallant

The Rule of Eleven can be applied from either side of the table, not only on the opening lead but also when partner returns your suit.

NORTH

S. 10 3
H. J 10
D. A Q 7 2
C. A K 8 6 5

WEST

S. K 7 6 2
H. Q 7 2
D. 10 9 6 4 3
C. 3

BIDDING --DUPLICATE

S	N
1S	2C
2S	3D
3NT	

Favouring the unbid suit, you lead the two of hearts. Partner wins with the ace and returns the six, declarer winning with the king. How do you play to this trick?

It is inconceivable that declarer has concealed a five card heart suit in the bidding, so your partner's six must be his original fourth highest. In that case the rule of eleven tells you that declarer has no cards left higher than the six and that it is perfectly safe to unblock by playing your queen to this trick. When

declarer finesses spades you will win at once and lead the seven of hearts so that partner can take his winners.

EAST

S. 8 5
H. A 9 8 6 3
D. 8
C. Q J 9 7 2

SOUTH

S. A Q J 9 4
H. K 5 4
D. K J 5
C. 10 4

Declarer could of course, have protected his contract by ducking the second round of hearts, but in duplicate that would have been poor play. He was correct in going up with the king and trying for twelve tricks.



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Safety Plays — a review by David Gallant

By Terrence Reese and Roger Trezel: Fredrick Fell Publishers, Inc.

This book is one of a series in the Master Bridge Series. It is the first title in a series of short books by the same two authors on special aspects of play.

This book has something for everyone, from the novice to the expert alike. It does not aim to present difficult and spectacular plays to amaze and baffle the reader, but attempts to present a variety of situations that a bridge player is likely to encounter at the table every day. How many times have you and I sat down and played a seemingly cold contract and have it turn sour because of bad distribution? Cursing the

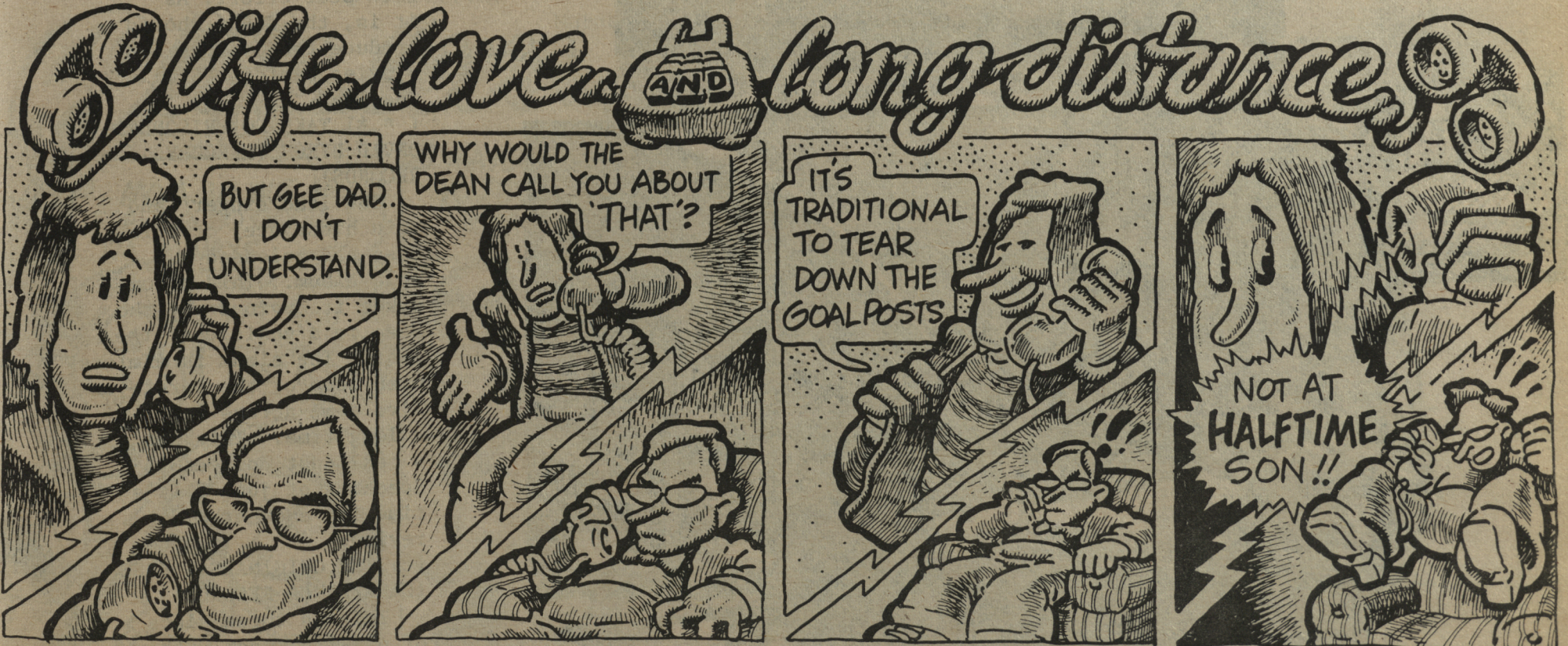
fates, we ask ourselves and others how we could have known. Sometimes we don't even notice that we could have made our contract by taking out a little insurance. Bad distribution can exist but we can cope with it if we just know how to handle our cards in order to provide for it. This is what the book tries to show us.

The book has forty-one examples with illustrative hands to make the examples more graphic. Let us just look at one example. Suppose you have this familiar combination of cards--You-A Q 10 x x: Dummy-xxx. How would you handle this combination of cards so as to be sure of losing no more than one trick in the suit? Finesse the

queen or ten, you say? No, you should lay down the ace and then lead up to the queen. It loses only when K J x x are over you in which case nothing could have been done about it anyway.

This is an excellent book as is any book authored or co-authored by Terry Reese. It is Instructive, stimulating, and thoroughly enjoyable. I highly recommend it to anyone even remotely interested in bridge.

For anyone wishing to purchase this book or any others I shall be reviewing, they should write to : Baron Bridge Books, P.O. Box 5075 Louisville, Kentucky, 40205. Special discounts are available on all orders.



Check the phone book for bargain time calling.