Missing: An Installation





Some of the work of Barbara Seigel, which will be on exhibition at the Lehman College Art Gallery from September 3 to October 26, 2002

September 3 to C

BRIDGE: Knowledge is power

JULIAN LADERMAN

ne of the first conventions new bridge players learn is Blackwood. Most tournament players use some variant of Blackwood. A popular alternative is called "Roman keycard Blackwood," where the king of the implied trump suit is treated with the same respect as the four aces. A 4NT bid asks partner about his possession of these five keycards. When using this variation of Blackwood the standard responses are as follows:

5C: 0 or 3 keycards
5D: 1 or 4 keycards

5H: 2 or 5 keycards without the queen of trump

5S: 2 or 5 keycards with the queen of trump

On the illustrated hand, North was very optimistic when he decided to investigate slam possibilities. He was extremely fortunate to learn that South had the trump queen and two of the three missing keycards. With this information he bid 6H. Actually, after the 5S response, he had no choice.

There were two potential losers: a diamond and a club. Since declarer and dummy had a total of 28 high card points and East made an opening bid, declarer realized that both the ace and queen of clubs are held by East, behind the king and jack.

NORTH

♠ K6

A J 108

A K3

♣ KJ52

WEST

109754

♣ QJ8

52

7

♦ 96

QJ 1084

♣ 7643

SOUTH

♠ A32

KQ J9643

752

♣ 10

DEALER : EAST BOTH SIDES ARE VULNERABLE

WestNorthEastSouth—1D1HPass4NTPass5S*Pass6HPassPass

* See text

Opening lead: diamond 9

Armed with this knowledge and the powerful club 10, declarer realized he held a winning club trick. After winning the diamond lead, he played two rounds of trump ending in his hand. He then led the club 10 and played the club 2 from dummy. Of

course, as expected, this trick was lost to the queen. After winning the diamond return in dummy, declarer led the club king. When East did not play the club ace, declarer confidently discarded a diamond from the South hand. If East had played the club ace, declarer would have ruffed and eventually entered dummy to throw his diamond loser on the club jack.

The play of the king of clubs with the intent of discarding a diamond if the ace does not appear is called a ruffing finesse. The information that declarer learned from East's 1D bid made it a sure thing. Even if East had not opened the bidding, and declarer had no information about which defender held the club honors, the same technique should be used in the club suit. This method has approximately a 75% chance of success. It will only fail if East holds the club queen and West holds the club ace.

A ruffing finesse usually involves two touching honors (such as, king-queen) opposite a void.

On this hand, however, it was necessary to drive out the queen with the 10 in order to create a card combination where a ruffing finesse was available. I hope you have enough bridge finesse to recognize a ruffing finesse.

Professor Julian Laderman (Math and Computer Science) is a Life Master of ACBL



BARBARA SIEGEL

"Missing" is my response to the lives lost in the attack on the World Trade Center. After September 11th, my neighborhood, which is eight blocks from the Trade Center, was soon papered with "missing" posters from people still hopeful of finding their friends and family members alive. As I encountered these images on the street, day after day, I was always struck and deeply moved by the combination of ineffable sadness and irrepressible optimism which they represented.

To make the piece, I photographed hundreds of "missing" posters over a period of many weeks and selected about 60 representing the diversity of people lost in this disaster. They come from all ethnic, economic and age groups. They are brokers, elevator operators, and firemen. This same diversity is what I value most about New York City. I then transferred the photographic images individually onto a medium of handmade paper, cloth and wax. My husband, Gary Schwartz, had just written a poem about the WTC attack in which vultures (os urubus in Portuguese) were the central metaphor. My installation (covering both the wall and the floor) is very abstractly configured to suggest both a bird—a vulture but also a phoenix—and an airplane. I've worked the text of the poem itself into the body of the installation.

For years, I've collected ex votos and Mexican retablo paintings. These small paintings with text on metal, starkly and powerfully represent incidents of suffering and redemption in the lives of ordinary people. The images of the missing people in my own piece and the installation as a whole is a form of retablo—a memorial to tragedy and loss, but also to our shared belief in the need to survive and affirm life. The exhibition will run from September 3 to October 26, 2002

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE FROM PAGE A-11

F	A	D			V	I	M		В	Е	L	A
I	V	Е	S		I	С	Y		R	A	I	D
T	О	T	О		D	Е	S		0	R	Е	S
	N	I	Е	С	Е		T	A	I	L	S	
			D	U	О		Е	L	L			
R	О	A	S	T		F	R	I		S	A	D
Y	Е	T			S	A	Y			I	R	Е
Е	R	A		L	I	Т		T	Е	P	Е	Е
			S	A	T		F	Е	D			
	В	Е	A	S	Т		I	N	G	О	T	
Н	A	L	L		Е	R	R		A	T	О	P
A	L	L	A		R	О	Е		R	I	T	A
L	Е	A	D		S	О	S			S	S	W