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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

25<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dealer : South Vul : East-West	NORTH ♠ K Q 5 ♥ A J 6 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K 9 8 5	
WEST ♠ A J 10 2 ♥ 9 4 3 2 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 4 3		EAST ♠ 9 8 7 6 4 3 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ 5 4 3 2 ♣ Void
	SOUTH ♠ Void ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K J 9 ♣ A Q J 10 7 6 2	

South	West	North	East
1 Club	Pass	3 NT	Pass
6 Club	All Pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♣

Not very scientific. North's three no trump response shows the values of a strong one no trump opening bid and South takes a reasonable flyer at six clubs, on this deal from Eddie Kantar's "Thinking Bridge" series.

"It's never much fun leading against a slam facing two strong hands. A club is the most passive lead, the ace of spades the most aggressive.

"As South, you have two possible losers, one in each red suit. Both suits offer finesse possibilities, and if you take both finesses you have a 75-percent chance of landing your contract. However, do not overlook dummy's spades. Dummy has the second- and third-ranking spades facing a void, the ideal setup for a loser-on-loser play. Draw trumps, ending in dummy, and lead the king of spades. If it is covered, ruff, and now you can discard one red-suit loser on the queen of spades and take a finesse in the other red suit for an overtrick.

"If East plays low on the king of spades, discard a heart (say). After West wins the ace of spades, you can discard a diamond on the queen of spades. This is a 100-percent play.

"Tip: There are many, many occasions where you can use a loser-on-loser play. All you need is the second- and third-ranking cards in one hand facing a void in the other. The second- and third-ranking could be the 9 8 facing a void. How's that again? Well, if four of the five top honors have already been played, the 9 8 are the second- and third-ranking cards left in the suit. And if they are facing a void, a loser-on-loser play may beckon."

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