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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

Dealer : West Vul : None	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ K 5 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ K Q 3 2 ♣ 10 6 4	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ Q 7 6 3 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ 10 ♣ A 9 8 7 3		<b>EAST</b> ♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K J 5 2
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ A 10 ♥ A J 8 2 ♦ A J 8 7 6 4 ♣ Q	

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 Siamond
1 NT	2 Diamond	3 Club	3 Heart
Pass	3 Spade	Pass	5 Diamond

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

By partnership agreement, West's one no trump showed clubs and a major suit. Even with that weapon in our arsenal, we would have preferred a takeout double since the West hand is suitable for play in any one of the three unbid suits. The rest of the auction was natural, with North's three spades suggesting three no trump as a final contract.

East's club bid persuaded West to select the ace of that suit for his opening lead and he continued with another club. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace and king of spades and then ruffed a spade high. Dummy was entered with the king of diamonds and a club was ruffed to complete the elimination of the black suits.

A trump to the queen extracted the last enemy fang, and it was time to start on hearts. Declarer led the nine and, when East followed low (covering would not help — declarer would insert the jack and arrive at the same ending), declarer ran it to West's queen.

The defender now had a choice of ways to commit suicide. A heart would be into declarer's ace-jack tenace, and a black suit would allow declarer to discard a heart from dummy while ruffing in hand.

Without a club lead, alert defense can defeat the hand. East can win the first club lead and return a heart, assuring West of two tricks in the suit while that defender still has exit cards. Or a shift by West to a trump or a spade at trick two would have the same result. Declarer does not have the entries to execute an endplay. Try it if you don't believe us.

A happy, healthy, prosperous new year to our readers everywhere.

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