

Daily Bridge Club

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Media Services

"My partner and I are both decent players," a reader writes, "but we're not meshing as a pair. Our bidding has gotten better, but when we're on defense we seem to operate on different wavelengths. How can we save our partnership?"

Preparation is essential for any aspiring partnership: World-class pairs go into battle having discussed their bidding and signaling methods for hundreds of hours. But no pair will improve unless they assess their results to see where they are losing points.

When you critique your results, put your ego aside. Two monologues do not equal a dialogue, and to accomplish anything, each player must be willing to criticize himself as well as his partner.

In today's deal, West led a club against 3NT, and South won and led a heart to dummy's nine. East took the queen and shifted to the queen of diamonds: six, seven, deuce. When he led the jack next, South guessed well to play low again. When West took the ace, South's only other loser was the ace of hearts.

Let's listen to East-West's discussion after the game:

West: "We should beat 3NT. I must overtake your queen of diamonds with the ace to get out of your way and return my low diamond. You cash two diamonds when you take the ace of hearts."

East: "I should make it easy for you. I must lead the eight of diamonds, not the queen, so you won't have a chance to go wrong."

That's a constructive and supportive postmortem, and a sign of a partnership that will succeed.

North dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH			
♠	K 7		
♥	K 9 4		
♦	5 4 3 2		
♣	Q J 9 6		
WEST			
♠	10 8 5 3		
♥	8 5		
♦	A 7		
♣	10 8 5 3 2		
EAST			
♠	J 9 6 4		
♥	A Q 3		
♦	Q J 10 8		
♣	7 4		
SOUTH			
♠	A Q 2		
♥	J 10 7 6 2		
♦	K 9 6		
♣	A K		

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ 3

A job with meaning

Stained-glass maker brings satisfaction to himself, others

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

Working in stained glass is a time-consuming process that won't make a man rich and will leave his hands marred with nicks and cuts, judging from one expert.

So what drove Bob Zakas, a career salesman with no educational background in the arts, to quit his job 11 years ago and open a stained-glass window studio in Hixson?

"When I was working as a salesman, the only problem I had at the end of the day was that I had nothing tangible to say that I accomplished something," he explained. "What did I do? Talk somebody into buying a refrigerator? Whoopee. There's no tangible reward there."

"There's a paycheck — a good paycheck — but you know, when you back up at the end of the day, it's just another job. This job, you back up at the end of the day, and you've got something that means something to you and means something to someone else."

Mr. Zakas said he used to be in the business of selling people appliances, but now he sells them atmosphere. His works add privacy to bathrooms, spice to store-rooms and peace to retirement homes.

Judging by his heavily calloused hands, it becomes apparent stained-glass artistry is a trial and error craft. Learning to be careful around the shards doesn't take long, he said, but becoming familiar with the intricacies of the craft is a drawn-out process.

"There's some things you have to learn how to do because there are certain things you can't do with glass," he said. "There are certain ways to cut certain shapes, and if I told you I wanted you to cut out a particular curve and didn't show you how, you'd go through 100 pieces before you ever got it done once."

About 85 percent of Mr. Zakas' works of art are original, commissioned pieces that take about 6-8 weeks to complete, but occasionally he'll be called upon to restore the luster to a piece of history.

A year and a half ago, he was commissioned to rebuild the broken portals of the First Congregational Church



Stained-glass artist Bob Zakas works on a window at his studio.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT CLARK



Alayna Kyle arranges pieces of a window from the First Congregational Church on M.L. King Boulevard.



Bob Zakas holds one of the completed stained-glass windows from the First Congregational Church.

on M.L. King Boulevard, a project Mr. Zakas and his assistant, Alayna Kyle, have been working on since the pieces arrived two months

ago. Restoration projects are few and far between, and are usually individual pieces, not entire buildings, he said. Far

Stained-glass windows built like prismatic puzzles

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

The process of crafting a stained-glass window begins with a sketch, generally a small thumbnail, said Bob Zakas, a stained-glass artist based in Hixson.

Once the design is finalized, it is expanded to fit its final dimensions, creating what looks like a dress pattern with areas numbered or color-coded for later reference.

Large squares of colored glass must be cut to shape using a wheel-head cutting tool that looks like a fountain pen. Running the cutter along the glass produces a grinding, popping sound like static as it scratches the glass.

Tapping along the scored area causes the fracture to expand, creating a "run" that will allow the glass to break cleanly along a line.

After the segment is separated, the crafter uses a grinder to smooth its edges. The artist then affixes the piece over the proper spot in the pattern using horseshoe nails tapped along the edge to secure it in place.

Long, pliable pieces of lead alloy are used as structural support. The crafter cuts the metal using spring-loaded pliers and bends it to the curves of the pieces. After all the pieces are matched to the design and secured by the metal supports, the artist solders the joints.

As a final measure, putty is applied beneath the lead on the back of the piece to fill in any gaps, add rigidity and waterproof the piece.

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more common are requests to spice up a home addition or add color to a bathroom. But even these don't come often enough, he said.

"This is a very, very tough way to make a living," he said. "It takes a long time to build up to where there's a constant workflow because

there's not a lot of call for it.

"You can put the biggest ad you want in the phone book, and it isn't going to do you a bit of good unless there's somebody out there who appreciates that art and wants it."

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REVIEW

Missouri rock group on verge of becoming a buzz band

POP MATTERS.COM

This week's PopMatters Picks from the pop-o-sphere:

1. Ha Ha Tonka (Artist of the Week) — One of the best new rock bands of the year, Springfield, Mo., Ha Ha Tonka are only one impressive CMJ showing and a few critical raves away from being a buzz band. Think: Drive-by Truckers or the Hold Steady, though Ha Ha Tonka sound only a touch like the former and almost nothing like the latter, aside from a flair for regional specificity. Their debut, "Buckle," is clever but never smug about it, melodic yet pleasingly rough around the edges, reasonably diverse and cohesive, and smart enough not to wear out its welcome. — Josh Timmermann

2. "The Savages" (director Tamara Jenkins) (Early Warning Critical Fave) — Director Tamara Jenkins returns in tip-top shape with her newest offering "The Savages," a film screening at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival that shows her in a new light as a reputable auteur. The intricacies of a fractured family's dynamics played out over the two hours in a poignant, often hilarious way, as the cast richly explores the mysteries of what binds a family together and how these relationships become strained in situations of extreme

duress. — Matt Mazur
3. "The Plain Janes" (comic book) — "The Plain Janes" spins a story of outsider-dom with affecting charm and poignancy, thoughtfully confronting the emotional costs of terrorism without becoming a humorless polemic. It reminds us that the present is, as ever, full of grim challenges eager to seduce us into shutting the world out and locking ourselves up from it. — Jon Kirby
4. "South Park: The Complete Tenth Season" (DVD) — As Season 10 showed, anything has the potential to embarrass as well as entertain. In a society growing more conformist and confounding everyday, "South Park" stands as a beacon of belittling light. Anyone who is blinded by its glare deserves to have such critical illumination focused on them. It's the only way to see the truth, no matter how tasteless, or terrific. — Bill Gibron

5. Kanye West: "Graduation" (CD) — West has streamlined his sound in some ways, scaling back on the excess, and diversified it in others. The music is mostly just as layered as last time, and that's a pleasure. If his last record conveyed a sense of striving for greatness, then on this latest effort, West

comes off as content with his stature. The implication of many of the tracks is that he no longer needs to strive for success; he's made it. — Dave Heaton

6. "Offside" (director Jafar Panahi) (DVD) — "Offside" is the latest film from Jafar Panahi, and once again, it displays his deft touch in making a statement without shoving it in front of the viewer. His technique is far enough from subversive that the Iranian government doesn't give a second thought to enforcing outright bans on his movies. How does Panahi pull off the trick of not making us feel like our intelligence is being insulted every time he makes a point? He makes it personal, and he makes it "real." — Mike Schiller

7. "Les Enfants Terribles" (director Jean-Pierre Melville) (DVD) — This classic film flickers with greatness, as the characters' creative energies deflect and adhere. The soundtrack, Bach's Concerto for Four Pianos and Vivaldi's Concerto Grosso, is one of the early, ironic juxtapositions of refined classical music set against the characters' less than refined behavior and circumstances. It also emphasizes the timelessness of the action this story could be set in the '20s or the '50s—and

the character's delusions of mythical immortality.

Michael Buening
8. Various Artists: Vee-Jay: The Definitive Collection (CD box set) — To say this new deluxe collection is an education — not only into the label's history, but also into the growth of American popular music — is an understatement, as the roughly-chronological set reveals how the label played a part in the development of multiple genres. It's especially interesting to hear the smooth sounds of doo-wop glide into equally smooth R&B and southern soul. — Andrew Gilstrap

9. "Ten Canoes" (director Rolf de Heer) (film) — It's a familiar story revolving around desire and jealousy, fear of otherness and self-affirming judgments. The movie, which won a Special Jury Prize at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, is touted as the first in an Australian Aboriginal language. The question of choice is central to the gloriously wide and lush "Ten Canoes." As thoughtful and self-reflective and conscious of history as the tribesmen appear to be, they make choices that can be wrong and irrational, sophisticated and cyclical. — Cynthia Fuhs

10. Josh Ritter: "The

Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter" (CD) — Josh Ritter is absolutely a musical chameleon, drawing on the essence of a host of major musical forces past and present, to the point where it has often been difficult to discern the man himself beneath layers of Cohen, McCartney, and most of all Dylan. Below the surface on Ritter's latest CD, there is plenty of his own wit as well as confidence and vision and it captures an artist making a deliberate stab at real growth, and largely succeeding. — Michael Metivier

blog



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Puzzle Answers

New York Times answers for today's puzzle

BANJO	WHAT	KANJI	JAGR
EBSEN	EIRE	DROOL	ALAI
EBERT	ASTAR	LING	SBORN
RACIBO	SE	EL	KABRIS
RESUME	TELEVISION	STARS	FINIS
SQUID	DINKLING	DRYER	
TUVALU	ION	DINO	AAA
DIED	MILITARY	COUPLING	
STAGS	MTN	PILE	HASTE
WIT	SIP	EP	CHAPLIN
WITH	HALD	ELTING	RESPECT
AMITABH	LALIT	LUXE	
NONCE	INRE	GOD	STACY
DUCKLING	AND	COVER	ALOE
ATTY	NOOR	AW	EELING
RIISER	TOWND	UMPLING	
SILL	RENT	WINE	STARS
POINT	TA	ONE	DEEPS
UNDER	LING	ARREST	OZONE
RIDE	LATEN	BETA	DUCE
NAVY	SINERT	IMAX	ESTER

Sunday Puzzler answers for today's puzzle

MADAM	RURAL	RAPID	BAISTE
OLLIVE	ANISE	ERATO	UPPER
LINED	TEPID	TENET	STOPE
ACOE	TEAR	BALE	WISH
RESUME	TELEVISION	STARS	FINIS
FORGET	PADRE	ELF	
FLOOR	UNCLE	TATLED	ABCS
LIP	BELL	HARE	KATE
ALBERT	THARE	LORE	GINA
PERIMETER	NEAT	NITROGEN	SCOPE
SLATE	YEAR	CLUB	BAU
ERISE	TRIO	LEAD	ELUS
ALB	SHAV	SCOW	SPAL
DIS	SEVEL	ANON	HOROS
OTTO	EDAM	EROS	RIB
BEEN	GRAB	MAUT	TIC
ERISE	TRIO	LEAD	ELUS
SOU	ALAMO	WITNER	
RAH	DIEN	SHOUTING	AWNING
ABT	ETON	TROD	HAY
GOVERN	TORANT	SEATIS	ABODIE
EVENIS	ROUGE	CARET	STINGE
DENSE	ENTER	ASTRO	POSED

TV Crossword answers for today's puzzle

RICK	TESS	BOY
IRON	ALIT	ODE
GAME	NASA	NIL
	MERYL	STREEP
AZALEA	YEAH	
MENSA	SMILE	
END	NOR	
NOOSE	ALVIN	
ONT	CREASE	
KATIE	HOLMES	
ITO	REVA	VIDA
SON	GREY	EONS
SPY	YIENS	SNAP

Sunday puzzles are on Page F6