

BRIDGE FOR DUMMIES  
by Lee and Steve Winkelman

*Lee and Steve Winkelman write a regular bridge column for this periodical. Occasionally the column has something to do with Bridge.*

Pssst! Hurry! Read this quick. He'll be back soon.

"Who?" What do you mean "who?" Lee!... No, No, No, I'm Steve. He's Lee. He just ran down the street to get some more wine cooler. So I've got to finish this before he returns.

"Why?" What do you mean "why?" He likes wine cooler -- you know, it's cool, refreshing, and ...

Oh, you mean why do I need to finish before he gets back. Well, I want to let you readers know the truth about my brother Lee. He's got everyone fooled. They call us "the premier, under-thirty, brother-team writers of humorous bridge columns (at least in the Northeast)" Hah! The truth is: I'm the brother, and he's the team writer. Sure, we work together on everything. He dictates; I type. I come up with a funny idea, he prevents the use of it. We always do what he wants.

Let me give you a for instance. Take the title of this column. I wanted it to be called:

BRIDGE FOR IDIOTS  
by STEVE and lee Winkelman

I told him we should put our names in reverse alphabetical order. That's how everyone does it. Peanut Butter comes before Jelly, Costello before Abbott, and Marx before Brothers (not to mention Joyce before Brothers. But that's a different story.) I pointed out that Omar Sharif's name comes before Charles Goren's. But did Lee listen? No. He bullied me into accepting his title.

And even when we were young, he took advantage of me. We were religious kids, so we played a lot of religious games. But when we played, I was always the Christians, and he was the lions, I was always St. Sebastian tied to the tree, and Lee got to shoot the rubber-tipped arrows at me.

Once, when Lee was using superglue and twine to attach me to a homemade crucifix, I asked Ol' Pontius Pilate why I always had to be Jesus.

"It's

(I know what you're thinking: "Sure, he 'doubts the veracity' of a statement. Pretty fine vocabulary for a second grader." Well, bridge column kibbitzers, you can be as sarcastic as you like, while I lean back in my plush chair, rest my head against my clasped hands, and enjoy the history-rewriting prerogatives of the first-class bridge columnist.)

Another time, he told me that there was a fifty/fifty chance that skylab would fall on me ("Either it will or it won't. Fifty/fifty."). When he teased me about wearing a skylab crash helmet, I doubted his veracity again.

Lee was a bully then, and he's a bully today.

You want to know what I really think? I think Lee doesn't even care about bridge. I think he cares about the power, sex, good drugs, and wine cooler that come along with writing a bridge column more than he cares about the pure beauty of the game itself.

I've had just about enough of it. I'm the brains behind this operation. It's time I stood up for myself. When Lee gets back I'm going to tell him what I think. When he gets back, I'm going to...

Uh oh, here he comes. Where can I hide my skylab crash helmet before he teases me again? Do me a favor, and forget I said any of this. He gets annoyed so easily. I'd hate to have him think I'm ungrateful. We'll just pretend this whole conversation never happened. OK?

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Dear Reader:

Sometimes we learn of the crass commercial or political use of our respected position as the premier under 30, brother-team writers of humorous bridge columns (at least in the Northeast)<sup>TM</sup>. The article below describes the attempt of an obscure semi-professional musician to capitalize on our reputation. This article in no way represents our beliefs. Until we read this article, we had never heard of Mr. Davies. Disregard any claims of political endorsements by us.

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Eddie Davies Announces Candidacy for "The Boss"  
Receives Nod From Winkelman Brothers

A.P., New Jersey - Today at a rally, Eddie Davies announced his candidacy to unseat and succeed incumbent Bruce Springsteen as "The Boss." Citing widespread grumbling about infrequent albums, Mr. Davies pummeled the absent incumbent.

"All of his songs sound the same! All the lyrics are the same! People throughout this great country of ours are wondering if Bruce Springsteen has what it takes to be "The Boss."

Although neutral observers acknowledge a growing backlash against Mr. Springsteen, they also argue that a campaign to remove him will be extremely difficult. For evidence, they point to the constituencies that the incumbent already has locked up. He has consistently courted the "drive all night" constituency, and their support is likely to remain firm. As is the support of mass murderers (he garnered their support on the Nebraska album), petty criminals (in such songs as "Jungleland"), lifers ("Jackson Cage") and arsonists ("...can't start a fire without a spark" as well as "Fire").

However, Robert Seager, the campaign manager of "The Workers will Elect Eddie Davies for Boss" (T.W.E.E.D. for Boss) countered that Mr. Davies, unlike Mr. Springsteen, wants to be "The Boss" for all the people, not just special interests. Mr. Davies sounded this theme in his speech today:

"I want to reach out to people who the incumbent has ignored! The little people who are the backbone of this great country: the worker on the line, the truck driver criss-crossing the highways of America, the embattled family farmer, and the heroic wine cooler manufacturer. I want to reach people who like to

drive only part of the night and then find a clean motel to stay in!

"If I am elected, I promise to be "The Boss" for all the people!"

Also, in a separate incident today, Mr. Davies received the surprise endorsement of bridge columnists Lee and Steve Winkelman. Although the experts believe that even this coveted endorsement will not help Mr. Davies, Mr. Seager was obviously buoyant that his candidate had received the go-ahead nod from the brother pair.

"As the premier, under 30, brother-team writers of humorous bridge columns (at least in the Northeast)™, this endorsement was clearly important to Bruce. We stole it from under his nose."

Mr. Davies, when asked how he garnered this endorsement, responded that as the new ideas candidate, he was clearly the preferred choice of bridge players. He added:

"If I receive the support of the bridge playing community, my first album after I am elected will feature a song about playing bridge all night.

"Also, my opponent is know for playing 3 to 4 hour concerts. If I am elected, I promise to play 4 to 5 hour concerts.

"And lastly, my saxophone player, Robert Jackson, know as 'the really huge man,' is bigger than my opponents saxophone player, Clarence Clemens, who is know as only 'the Big Man'."

After hearing of the Winkelman endorsement, one source close to Mr. Springsteen was reported to have said, "Huh?" Another source also has been quoted as having said, "Winkel?...who?" These reports have not been confirmed.

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