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36849. *Choosing A Sheltered Middle Path.*

We say that a point $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is sheltered by a continuum $S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ if x does not belong to the unbounded component of $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus S$. Suppose that points a and b are the endpoints of each of three arcs A_0 , A_1 and A_2 contained in \mathbb{R}^2 . We prove that there is an arc $B \subset A_0 \cup A_1 \cup A_2$ with its endpoints a and b such that each point of B is sheltered by the union of each two of the arcs A_0 , A_1 and A_2 . (Received February 25, 2004)