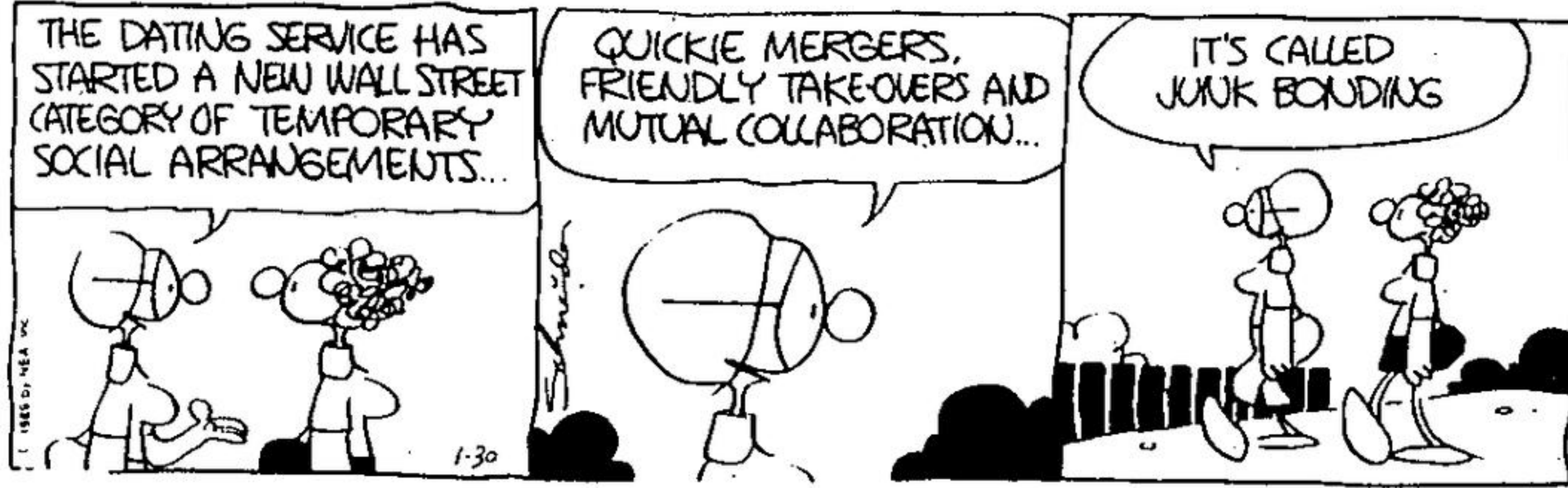


EK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



BUGS BUNNY® by Warner Bros.



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli



ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom



# Comic Page

## ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

## BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



## Your Birthday

Jan. 26, 1989

You may place greater emphasis in the year ahead on acquiring knowledge pertaining to self-improvement. Worthwhile outlets will be found to utilize what you learn.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** At the last minute today, you might make a switch in your plans that could be less effective for you than your original ideas. Be emphatic, not impulsive. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Someone you've been depending upon to be of assistance to you in a current involvement might suddenly withdraw the offer owing to circumstances over which this person has no control.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Where your career is concerned today it's best not to use an intermediary to relay information for you to others, especially if what you have to say is important.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** If you are having work or service performed for you today, be very explicit regarding what you want done. Don't give the assignee too much liberty to alter your instructions.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** There is a possibility that everything might not go as smoothly as anticipated today. Be prepared for the unexpected and ready to move with shifting circumstances.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Someone you are presently involved with will lose respect for you if you renege on your promises or commitments. Don't agree to anything to which you know you can't comply.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Even though an associate may do something you dislike today, don't take it upon yourself to embarrass this person through criticism in front of others. Have your say in private.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Outside pressures and the urgency to get things done quickly might lead you to take some chances in a business situation that you normally wouldn't. Be careful.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** In order to be successful and effective today, you must be consistent. If you worked out a good game plan, don't deviate from it when you meet a little resistance.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** When it comes to keeping secrets today, it might not be your strong suit. It's not that you'll be a gossip, it's just that you could be too loose with your words.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Before accepting a business suggestion offered by a friend today, quiz this person thoroughly to be sure that it is feasible from personal experiences.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Your possibilities for fulfilling your material objectives look encouraging today. However, there is a chance you might do something which does not serve your best interests and will lessen your gains.

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**NORTH** 1-25-89  
 ♦ 7 5 2  
 ♥ A 10 8 4 2  
 ♣ Q 10 8 4  
 ♠ 5

**WEST** ♦ Q J 10 8  
 ♥ Q 6  
 ♣ 9 5  
 ♠ K J 10 7 4

**EAST** ♦ K 9 6 3  
 ♥ K J 9 5 3  
 ♣ 6 2  
 ♠ Q 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♦ A 4  
 ♥ 7  
 ♣ A K J 7 3  
 ♠ A 9 8 6 2

Vulnerable: North-South  
 Dealer: South

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1 ♥   | Pass | 1-♦   |
| Pass | 2 ♦   | Pass | 2 ♣   |
| Pass | 4 ♣   | Pass | 3 ♠   |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass | 5 ♦   |

Opening lead: ♦ Q

## There's no excuse

By James Jacoby

"Darn!" exclaimed South. "I knew I should have bid a slam." So he won the ace of spades, played a heart to dummy's ace and ruffed a heart. Then he played the club ace and ruffed a club. Next he ruffed another heart with the seven of diamonds. Surprise! West overruffed with the nine of diamonds and returned a diamond. Now the 12 tricks that South thought were in the bag dwindled to 10.

Declarer's responsibility is to ensure making his contract if possible. Here unlucky distribution could always have wrecked his chances. What if the second heart was overruffed, or even the second club when that suit was first ruffed in dummy? But once declarer scored one ruff with a low trump in his hand and another with a low trump in dummy, he had no excuse for going set. All of dummy's remaining hearts can be ruffed with the A-K-J of diamonds, and declarer's third and fourth clubs with dummy's Q-10 of diamonds. Then the last club can be ruffed with dummy's diamond eight. Of course the defenders will eventually come in with their trump nine, but declarer will still have 11 tricks and his contract.

James Jacoby's books "Jacoby on Bridge" and "Jacoby on Card Games" (written with his father, the late Oswald Jacoby) are now available at bookstores. Both are published by Pharos Books. © 1989, NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: K equals M.

TYQWMV WE KTNP-HPXWFFP  
 ... WB JAG KTNP HPXWFFP  
 RPXX PMAGVL TGUWPMYPE  
 KTNP HPXWFFP QAA -  
 DTEAM SAHTSUE.

SOLUTION: "Acting is make-believe too." — Jason Robards.  
 well enough, audiences make believe too. ... If you make believe