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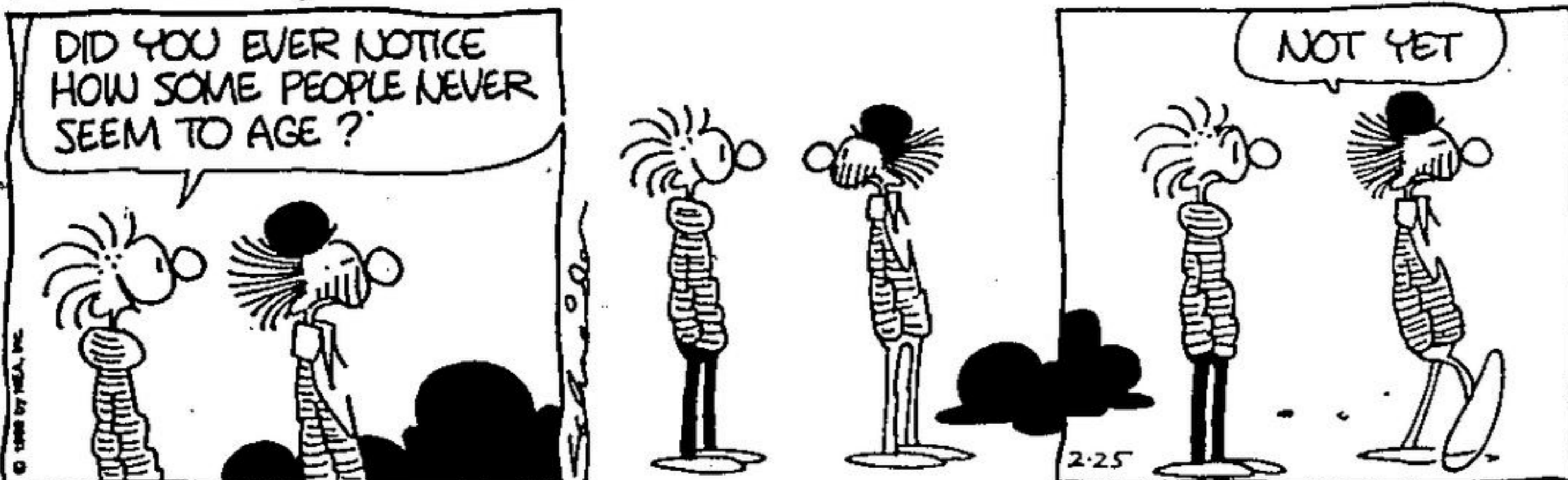
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Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH



BRIDGE



Your Birthday

Feb. 23, 1989

Exceptional opportunities might be in the offing for you in the year ahead, but unless each one is assessed and acted upon in a pragmatic, realistic fashion, they may count for little.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If possible today try not to request special favors from friends, because even pals who are customarily helpful might not be in a compliant mood. 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.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Try not to get yourself involved in situations today where your success is predicated upon the whims and support of others. There is a possibility that you and they will not be in sync.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In your haste to accomplish things today there's a chance you'll operate in a slipshod fashion or ignore obvious details, and thereby lessen your effectiveness and productivity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you feel inclined to take risks today, make sure they're in proper proportion to what you hope to gain. Don't bet a dollar just to win a dime back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your mate might be a trifle difficult to please today and it will be up to you to try to acquiesce. Keep trying even if your initial efforts are not appreciated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your patience and tolerance might be at low levels today, especially in co-worker situations. Don't get too huffy, because they may be equally displeased with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be extremely careful regarding the ways you manage your resources today, because there is a possibility that if you make a mistake, you will compound it rather than correct it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your chances for overcoming difficulties today are rather "iffy." This could be primarily due to your lack of tenacity and follow through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try not to anticipate negative developments today. It's extremely likely that most of the things about which you're worried will never take place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be optimistic and positive today, but keep your expectations within reasonable bounds. If you are hoping to derive a harvest from a field you've never known, you might be disappointed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your self-interests may be very pronounced today and you might have to deal with people who feel the same. If this is true, it could end up in a no-win situation for everyone involved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Usually you have the courage of your convictions, but today even if you get reassurance from people whose advice you trust, you might still have too many self-doubts to venture into the unknown.

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NORTH 2-22-89

♦ 8 6 4 3
♥ K 9
♦ K 6 5
♦ J 10 8 4

WEST
♦ A K Q 10 9
♥ A 7 6 5
♦ 10 7
♦ 5 3

EAST
♦ 7 2
♥ 3 2
♦ J 9 3 2
♦ Q 9 7 6 2

SOUTH
♦ J 5
♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ A Q 8 4
♦ A K

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
2 ♣	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: ♦ K

Try, try again

By James Jacoby

West's two-spade bid was risky opposite a silent partner, but it did push the opponents to the three-level. With some length in the opponents' heart suit, West was happy to initiate a forcing defense by playing three rounds of spades. South ruffed and played a heart to dummy's king, then a heart back to his queen and West's ace. West led another spade. Declarer ruffed and hopefully played another high trump, but the suit did not split. West was left with the master trump and was able to ruff in and cash a spade to defeat the contract.

If the contract had been four hearts, declarer's line of play could not be criticized. However, with the obligation to take only nine tricks, declarer had an alternative approach. What if declarer ruffs the third spade and plays A-K-Q of diamonds? Now if West ruffs and plays another spade, South can ruff, cash the A-K of clubs and then ruff his losing diamond in dummy. Alas, this won't work because West will simply ruff the third diamond and then play ace and a heart, leaving declarer with a loser.

So let's try it another way. Let South ruff the third spade, cash the A-K of clubs, play A-K of diamonds and then lead dummy's last diamond, playing low from his hand. If the defenders now play ace and a trump, declarer will unblock from dummy, pick up the trumps and be left with the winning diamond queen. If the defenders try anything else, declarer will be able to make a trick by ruffing his good queen of diamonds in dummy. It's an unusual play, but it works.

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.

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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: I equals F.

Q U C J R X L N F E U L Z M L L M Q
W M Y U N J X U M E G - I C F X T M Y U G
Q C N . Q U K C N T J Z C R P .
E U U T C R M R R C .

SOLUTION: "We at Chrysler borrow money the old-fashioned way. We pay it back." — Lee Iacocca