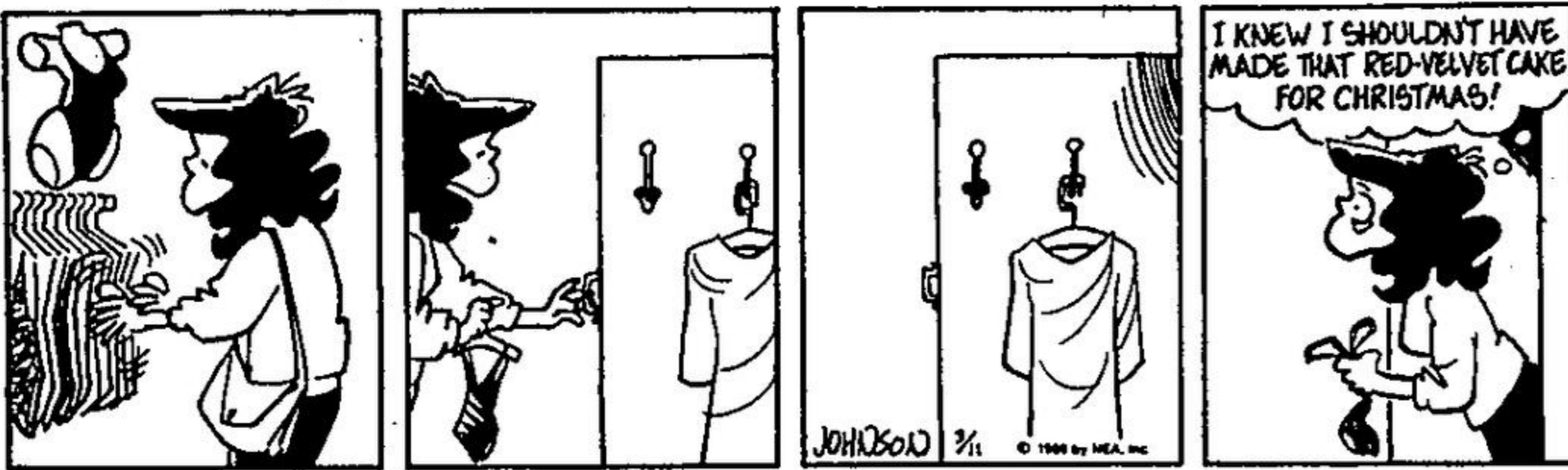


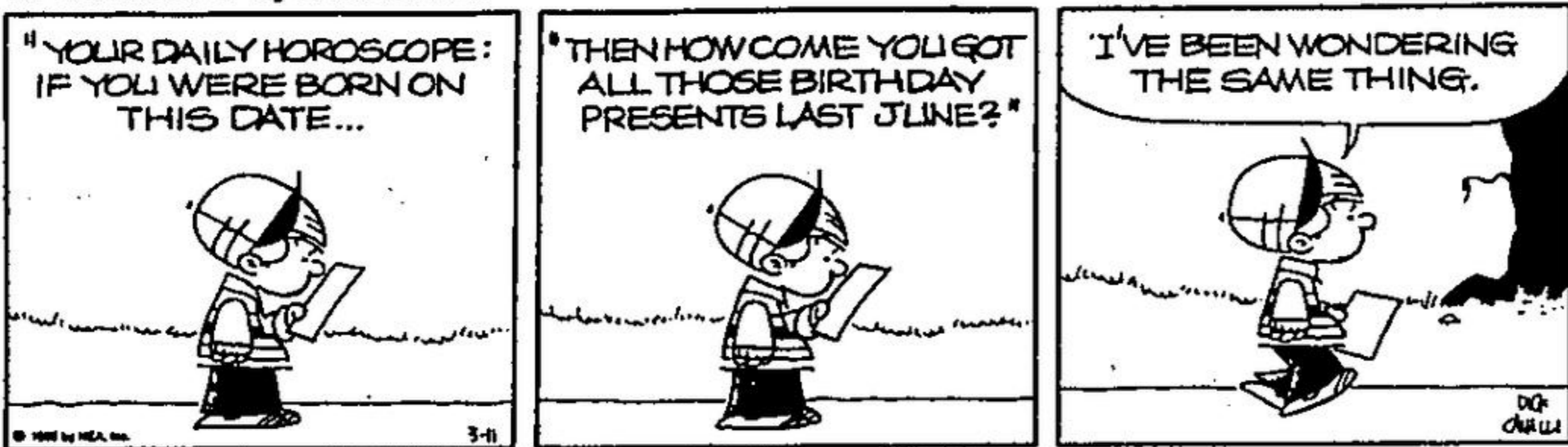
BUGS BUNNY® by Warner Bros.



ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



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Comic Page

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Variations on a theme

By James Jacoby

We have recently been examining cases in which it is right to avoid taking a finesse or to postpone it until the appropriate time. Today's deal has a slightly different theme, that of counting tricks needed to make your contract and then taking the best play to make the required number of tricks. When South opened two no-trump, North knew he was going to play a slam, but he bid three clubs (the Stayman convention) to see if South had a four-card spade suit. After South's three hearts, North simply bid six no-trump. His 13 high-card points opposite 20 or 21 in South's hand would certainly provide a good play for 12 tricks. Unfortunately North failed to consider that South might mangle the play of the hand.

Declarer won the ace of diamonds, quickly played four rounds of spades, discarding a diamond, and then played ace of hearts and a heart to the jack. West won the queen of hearts; East, who was left with the 10-9 of hearts, later took the setting trick. Declarer's line of play would be correct only if the contract had been seven no-trump. Since he needed only 12 tricks, it was right to first play the king and ace of hearts and then lead up to the jack. In this deal, the queen would drop, and the jack would become declarer's 12th trick. This play sacrifices the chance to make all the tricks when hearts are 3-3 and East holds the queen, but it increases the chances of making 12 tricks because it guards against West holding specifically Q-x.

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.

Your Birthday

March 9, 1989

Don't despair if your financial affairs appear to improve rather slowly in the year ahead. You are now in an upward trend that will gain momentum and begin to accelerate quicker than you think.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You're presently in a cycle where good things could happen for you through people you know socially. You might see some concrete evidence of this today. 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) In situations today involving old friends, let your compassionate instinct overrule your self-serving impulses. What you give or do now will have a direct bearing on future happenings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Someone you like, but had a recent difference with, is very eager to start mending fences. However, it will be up to you to make the initial moves. Do so today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A career development that didn't work out too well for you recently can be rectified and put back on track today. Do not resurrect the reasons for its failure or attempt to blame another.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try to subdue your personal feelings in order to placate your mate today. If peace exists between you, both will have a much more rewarding day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If a co-worker does something worthy of praise today, be certain you acknowledge it. Pats on the back from you are important and it will help the association.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you may have dealings with someone about whom you had a preconceived, negative opinion. As you get to know this person better, you'll be glad you didn't write this person off without a trial.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Under convivial conditions today, you may find yourself in the company of one who can help your career. Use it as an opening to make your ambitions known to this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today you might receive some news that could initially disappoint you. However, after you've thought it through, you'll realize it is bright, not bleak.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You could be rather fortunate today in matters that have a direct effect upon your material well being. This may be because Lady Luck could be greasing the skids for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) In situations where firmness is required today, be staunch, but do not be overbearing. Be sure to cloak the mail fist in a velvet glove.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You might be called upon today to do a favor for a friend that may cost you a bit out of pocket. Consider the expense and investment in the good will it will generate.

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NORTH 3-8-89
 ♠ K 10 8 2
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ K 6 4

WEST
 ♠ 9 4 3
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ J 10 9 8
 ♣ 10 8 3 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 6 5
 ♥ 10 9 6 5
 ♦ Q 3 2
 ♣ J 9 7

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J
 ♥ K J 7 4
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ A Q 5

Vulnerable: Both
 Dealer: South

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 6 NT | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: ♦ J

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: Q equals W.

'CFH SJIA QGA CS LGPH
 G LGJ CYZMCQSYCFA DM CS
 CYZMC FDL. — FHJYA I.
 MCDLMSJ.

SOLUTION: "The only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him." — Henry L. Stimson.