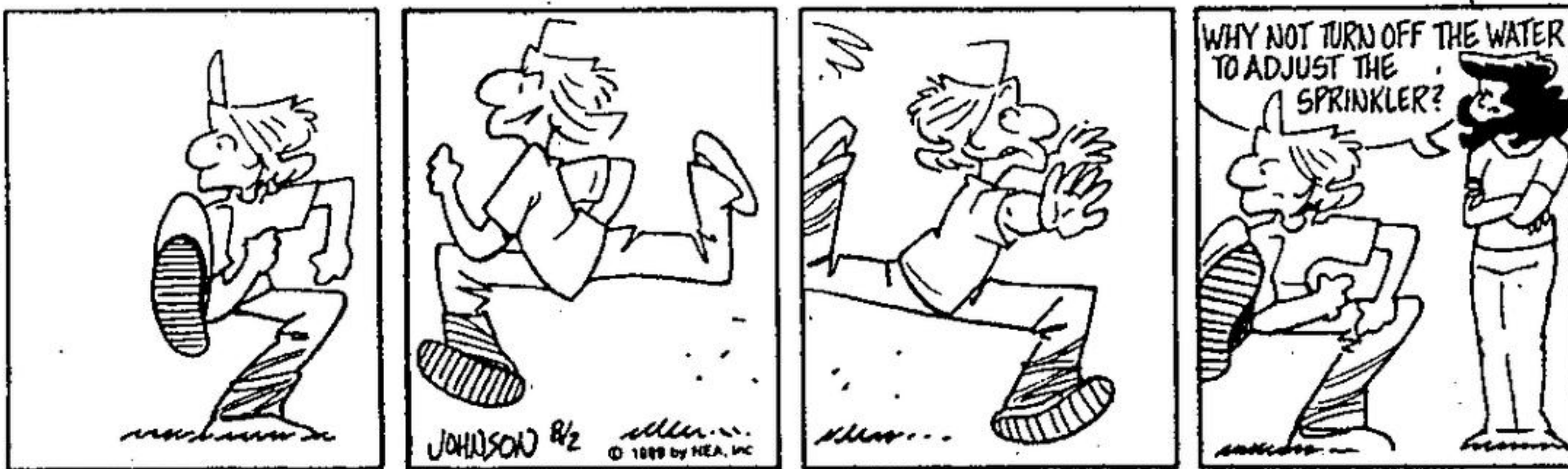
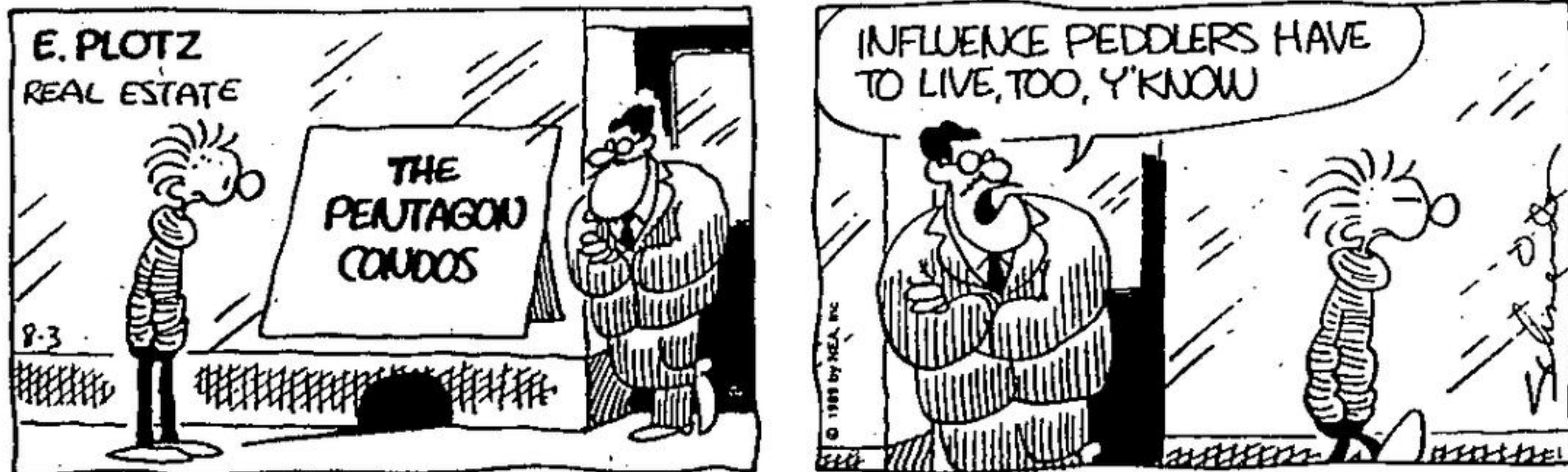


Comic Page

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ASTRO-GRAPH



BRIDGE



Your Birthday

July 27, 1989

Your conditions should be favorable for you in the year ahead, but this area is not where you are likely to place your emphasis. Your greatest enjoyment will come from the fulfillment of non-worldly objectives.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't be too loose lipped at a social gathering today regarding secrets of your trade. What you reveal could find its way back to competitors who'll use it against you. 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.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Any thoughtful deeds you do today should be kept between you and the people you help. Beating your own drum will only serve to tone down your noble purposes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) New ventures should be analyzed thoroughly today before you write any checks. You're likely to be brilliant and resourceful today but not necessarily in business.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In a collective venture today, don't assign the inferior role to yourself. Undue modesty could prove to be counterproductive for both you and your cohort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your efforts to magnify the virtues and minimize the faults of your companions today will bring harmony to most of your relationships. Unfortunately, there may be one where this tactic won't apply.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Business ventures look encouraging for you today, provided you don't do anything risky. Be doubly prudent and play everything close to your vest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) People outside of your household will find you charismatic and a fun guy to be around today, but if they were to poll your family, the results may be entirely different.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Without anyone looking over your shoulder, you'll be industrious, productive and effective today. Kibitzers or critics, however, could have a negative effect on your performance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Favors others bestow on you today should be accepted with gracious gratitude. People who will treat you kindly will do so because they like you, not to make you feel obligated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In areas of small consequence, you might bungle things a trifle today. However, in situations where the stakes are meaningful, you'll perform like a champion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) An acquaintance who likes to take pot shots at others may fire a few missiles in your direction today. Such efforts will be as ineffective as a popgun trying to knock out a tank.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A likable friend who has a tough time prying open her purse when the check is due might be subjected to ridicule today when others compare your generous nature to hers.

NORTH 8-4-89			
♦ K J 8 7 2			
♥ J 5 4			
♠ A J 8			
♣ J 6			
WEST			
♦ Q 9 6 4			
♥ 6			
♠ 10 5 4 3			
♣ K 4 3 2			
EAST			
♦ A 10 5 3			
♥ A 9 2			
♠ 2			
♣ A Q 9 8 7			
SOUTH			
♦ - - - -			
♥ K Q 10 8 7 3			
♠ K Q 9 7 6			
♣ 10 5			
Vulnerable: North-South Dealer: East			
South	West	North	East
1♥	2♠	2♥	1♠
4♥	All pass		3♠
Opening lead: ♠ 2			

Ruff prevention

By James Jacoby

Willy Nilly was lost in admiration. "What a nice play!" he exclaimed, even though the defender's play had just cost him a game contract. Willy had bid well, overcalling with one heart and then, after his partner's raise, carrying on to game on the basis of his two-suiter. He correctly figured that either red ace in partner's hand would give him an excellent play for 10 tricks. The play by East was not that difficult. He knew from the lead of the club deuce that his partner had only four clubs. If West held the club king, it seemed probable to East that he could pick up an extra defensive trick by getting a diamond ruff. So he returned the diamond deuce at the second trick. Willy Nilly won in dummy, played a heart back to his king and led a second heart. East took the ace, played a club to West's king and got his ruff.

Willy missed an unusual play that would have countered the plans of the defenders. Since it is obvious that East is trying for a diamond ruff, declarer must strive to prevent West from gaining the lead. If East's opening bid included both major-suit aces, that can be accomplished. When Willy won the diamond in dummy, he should have led the king of spades. East would cover with the ace, and Willy would discard his other club. The defense would now be helpless to score more than three tricks.

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.

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: H equals D.

'ALPU XYHSUPUSGI
GI LTXPI WPUY
DYVTS DYM MG
XTJL JGTDPFY PM
MUYEESIF SIUG P
JGNH CPUL? -
J.M. NYASM.

-C.S. Lewis
SOLUTION: "What meditation on human fate requires so much courage as stepping into a cold bath?"