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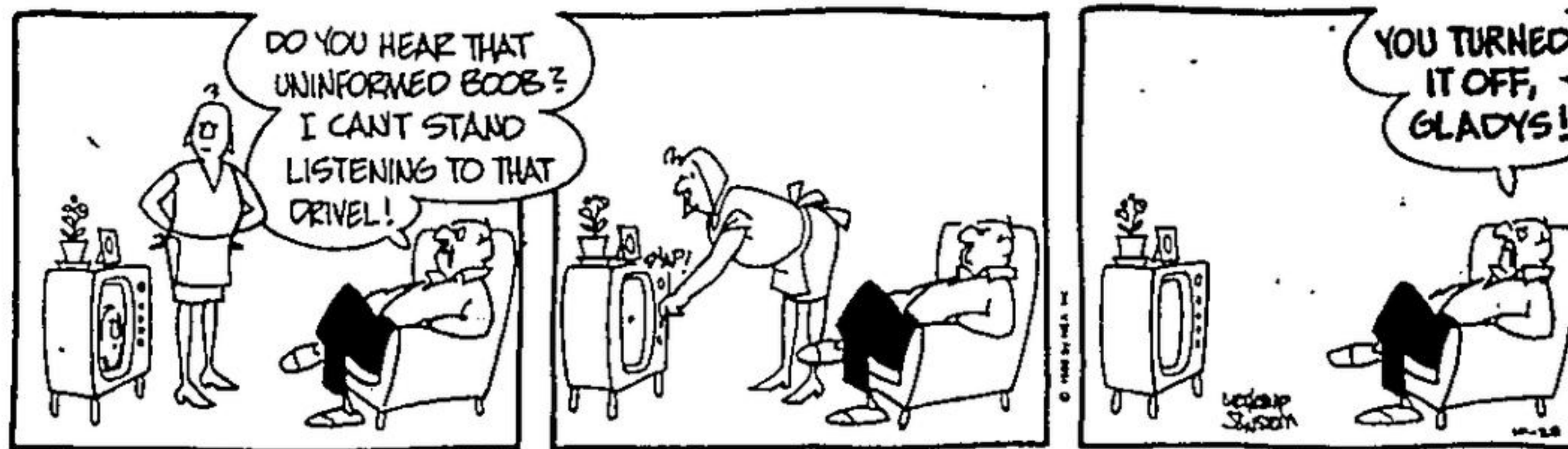
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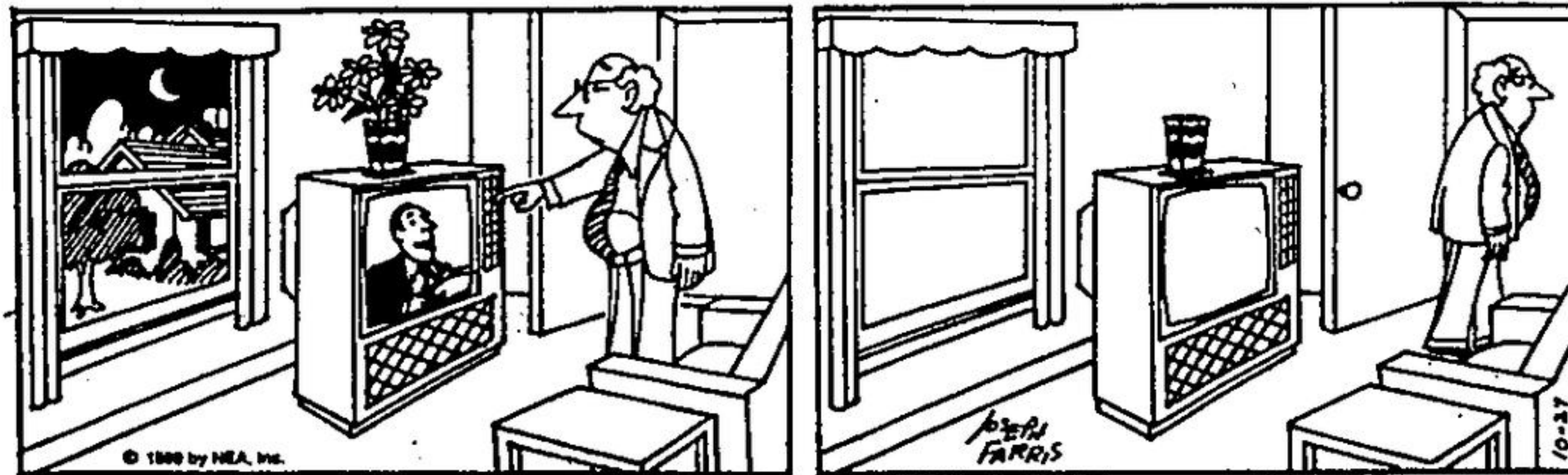
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Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE

JAMES JACOBY

Your Birthday

You'll make more rapid progress in the year ahead if you share the good that befalls you with people who have been helpful. No matter what you'll give away, you'll always get more back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Even advice from well-intentioned friends is not likely to be well received by you today, especially if their comments pertain to your domestic affairs. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to keep in mind today that you are not the only one among your contemporaries who is capable of coming up with clever ideas. Your pals will resent your lack of appreciation for their thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be cautious today regarding involvements where it appears you only have to put in a little money to get something big going. Your hopes could be predicated upon wishful thinking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Partnership arrangements won't work too well at this time if there is a lack of candor in the alliance. Each party must be totally truthful with the other.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) There is someone you know rather well who is never satisfied regardless of how much you do. This person is likely to be slamming a fist on the complaint desk again today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It's important you do not malign a mutual friend in front of others today. If you put this person down, your listeners will start to wonder what you've been saying behind their backs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're capable of achieving critical objectives today, but you might offend others in the process. Try not to leave angry associates in your wake.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your sources of information today might not be as accurate or valid as they usually are. To be on the safe side, don't base important judgments on hearsay.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Occasionally old obligations have a way of rearing their ugly heads at inconvenient times. Today several you've been trying to keep submerged may wiggle their way to the surface.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) One-to-one relationships might be a bit difficult for you to manage today. The faults you find in your companions may be a reflection of your own inadequacies.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) When duty calls, strive to respond promptly today, because responsibilities you fail to attend to will worsen with neglect. Don't let things pile up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In your social involvements today you might not display your usual gracious qualities. People with whom you usually have a good rapport may be the ones who annoy you the most.

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NORTH 10-21-89

♦ J 7 4
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A K J 9 4
♦ 10 5

WEST
♥ Q 9 8
♥ J 9 5
♦ Q 10 5 3
♦ K Q J

EAST
♦ 5
♥ K 10 7 4 3 2
♦ 6
♦ 8 8 6 3 2

SOUTH
♦ A K 10 6 3 2
♥ A
♦ 8 7 2
♦ A 7 4

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	All pass		

Opening lead: ♦ K

Desperation play

By James Jacoby

Was this such a bad slam? Without a club lead, even with West having a trump trick, all that would be needed is a diamond split with the queen held by West. However, the club opening lead created a serious problem. If the queen of spades had come down, the contract would depend only upon favorable diamonds. But West held the queen of spades for a sure trick and had already set up a club trick for the defense. What now?

Often the secret of succeeding in seemingly impossible contracts is for declarer to make certain assumptions — that a particular distribution of cards exists that will allow him to make the contract. Such is the case here. After the king of clubs lead, when the queen of spades does not fall, declarer has but one chance. He has to hope that West holds four diamonds. Declarer wins the day by playing a diamond to dummy's ace and then a heart back to his ace. Next the eight of diamonds is played. When West plays low, declarer also plays low from dummy. It is true that declarer risks going down three tricks if East wins the 10 of diamonds (club to West's jack, queen of spades, and then another club winner for West). But that extra loss is more than compensated for by the gain when the needed lie of the cards exists. When East shows out on the second diamond trick, another diamond is played to the jack in dummy, and then the ace and king of diamonds allow declarer to discard his losing clubs and make the slam.

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: R equals C.

TY UBKLUFFTYV
EMOU, QU ZUEMYV
CWMYV JXU
AYGUOUEMKUG
RMAYJLTUF.
FCAE ZUEEMQ.

among the undeveloped countries. — Saul Bellow