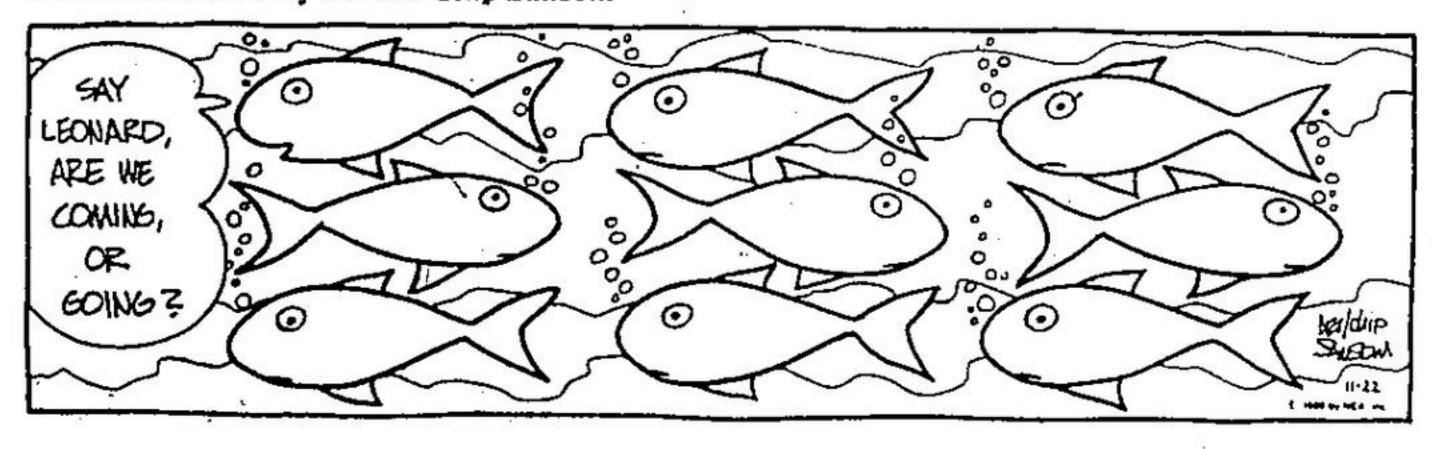
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr I'M SHOCKED...HOW CAN YOU... MY SON... HEIR TO A LONG LINE OF SAVAGE CARNIVORES... WIND OUT OVER AN ITSY SPLINTER IN THE FINGER..? FINGER..? FINGER..?



BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli







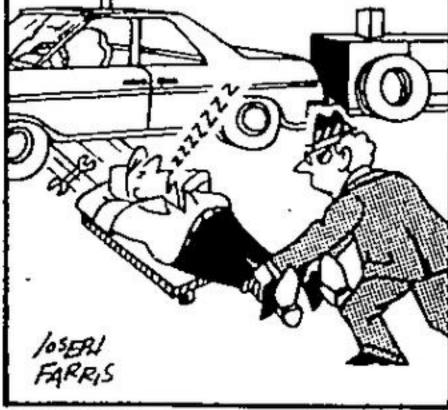
FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



PHIPPS™ by Joseph Farris







ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

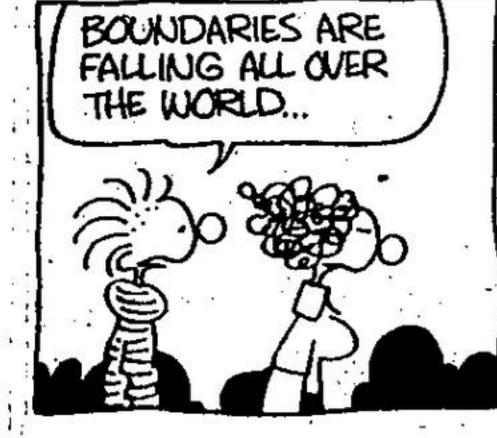








EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



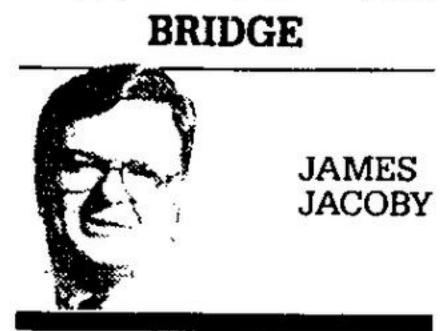




Comic Outlook

ASTRO-GRAPH





Constructive relationships will be established in the year ahead with several people you'll meet through your work or career. These associations will also help enhance your social standing.

scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You could wear out your welcome rather quickly today if you're too assertive with your friends. Pleasing, not pushing, should be your mode of behavior. Scorpio, treat yourself to a birthday gift.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you do not do things in accordance with your high standards today you might have an ambiguous experience where you'll win and lose at the same time. The loss could have the most impact.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) People who come on too strong today are likely to irritate you more than usual and there's a chance you'll respond in kind. Strive to avoid confrontations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Misunderstandings could develop today in a joint arrangement where there is something of value at stake. Both parties may have to make some unwelcomed adjustments.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Although you're apt to analyze situations with reasonable care today, you might still make bad judgments owing to preconceived opinions. Be open-minded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Even if asked today, think twice before getting in the middle of a sticky problem of two pals. This situation could be twisted around to make you look like the heavy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try to skirt issues today you know from experience automatically puts you and your mate at opposite poles. If you both lock horns, things could get nasty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Companions will be willing to lend you a helping hand today, provided you request them to do so in a polite manner. If you are demanding, you'll be left on your own.

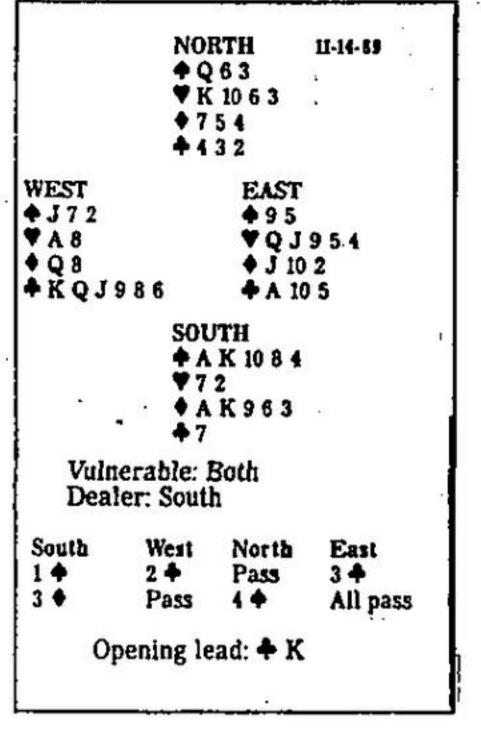
CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do lots of comparison shopping today if you are thinking about purchasing a costly item. Impulsive buying could deprive you of your best deal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be extremely careful today that you do not step on the toes of others in order to achieve your objectives. If you are not considerate, someone may put their foot out and trip you up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is one of those days when your sharp, critical faculties may be working overtime. Unfortunately, however, what you see in others may be only their faults and not their virtues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Take a breather from commercial concerns to-day and try to involve yourself in some of the other great things life has to offer. There's more to living than trying to earn a buck.

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A lesson in timing

By James Jacoby

One of the ways to beat a contract is to shorten the declarer's trumps by forcing him to ruff. Eventually declarer will run out of trumps before he has done everything needed to make his contract. Even when you cannot reduce declarer's trumps to fewer than yours, forcing him to ruff can still be effective.

In today's deal, South played in four spades after North jumped to game, compensating for his earlier pussyfooting. Clubs were led and continued. Declarer ruffed, then played A-K and a diamond. East won the trick as West discarded a heart. Declarer ruffed the club return and played a heart. West won the ace and played still another club. Declarer ruffed low in dummy, East overruffed with the nine, and South won in his hand with the trump 10. He now had nothing better to do, if he wished to make the contract, than play A-K of spades and hope both defenders would follow, Alas, West was left with the lone trump and two more good clubs, so declarer was down three.

Declarer played with too much abandon. He should time things better. After ruffing the second club, he does better to play a low diamond. The defenders will play another club. He ruffs and then plays a heart toward dummy's king. West can win and play another club if he likes, but South can take the ruff in his hand, cash A-K of spades, then get to dummy with the heart king to draw the last trump. He can then take the remaining tricks with his A-K-9 of diamonds.

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 cive: Y equals D.

NUBIG XI TZSGC
TZ IGEWXJG. SKGI
XI CTSKXCQ IT
YNCQGETBI ST NC
NBSKTE NI

IXVGCJG.

Samuel Johnson.

SOLUTION: "Abuse is often of service. There