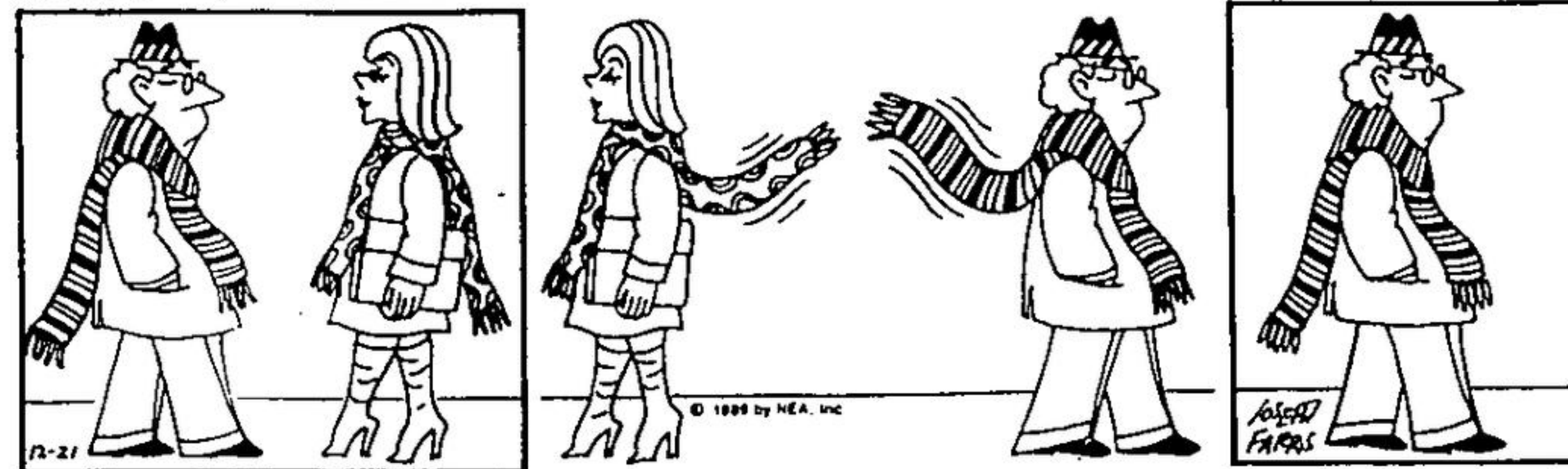


FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



PHIPPS™ by Joseph Farris



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli



EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Your Birthday

Your possibilities for success in your endeavors look good for the year ahead, provided you can suppress your impatience. Be content with steady progress instead of trying to get to the top of the heap in one jump.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Schedule your outside activities thoughtfully today or else they might turn out to be both time and money wasters. Try to establish an order of priority. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This can be a successful day for you, provided you don't do things in a piecemeal fashion. Coordinate your efforts so that your forces aren't spread too thinly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't say anything about a friend today that you wouldn't directly say to his/her face, because any unkind comments you make are likely to be reported to the target of your remarks.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Think twice before giving friends tips today that you feel could make or save them money. If your information is faulty, they might try to hold you accountable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The opinions of others are important, but your own views have merit as well. Don't attempt to please companions today at the cost of subduing your own better judgment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Assistants or co-workers will pull away from you today if you're overly critical of their efforts. Guard against making comments that could make them feel inferior or unappreciated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're likely to keep things under control today where your larger expenditures are concerned, but it could be the small dollars and dime stuff that reeks havoc on your budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you might be subjected to a series of minor frustrations and, instead of dealing with them and dismissing them from your mind, you might bring your troubles home and take them out on the family.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Double standards could cause others to lose respect for you today. Don't tell another not to do something a certain way and then go ahead and do it yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It's an admirable attribute to be the first one who grabs for the check. Today, however, you might be saddled with a companion who doesn't practice this gesture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Even though others will be trying, you might prove to be a difficult person to please today. If your friends lose patience with you, they could take an opposite approach.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Your salesmanship will not be very effective today if you're inclined to belabor your points. Don't beat about the bush, make your presentation simple, clear and concise.

NORTH 12-20-89			
♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2
♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2	♦ J 6 3 2
♦ J 10 7 4	♦ J 10 7 4	♦ J 10 7 4	♦ J 10 7 4
WEST			
♦ A K Q 9 8 5	♦ A K Q 9 8 5	♦ A K Q 9 8 5	♦ A K Q 9 8 5
♦ A	♦ A	♦ A	♦ A
♦ 8 7 4	♦ 8 7 4	♦ 8 7 4	♦ 8 7 4
♦ 9 3 2	♦ 9 3 2	♦ 9 3 2	♦ 9 3 2
EAST			
♦ 10 4	♦ 10 4	♦ 10 4	♦ 10 4
♦ J 10 9 8	♦ J 10 9 8	♦ J 10 9 8	♦ J 10 9 8
♦ Q 10 5	♦ Q 10 5	♦ Q 10 5	♦ Q 10 5
♦ Q 8 6 5	♦ Q 8 6 5	♦ Q 8 6 5	♦ Q 8 6 5
SOUTH			
♦ 7	♦ 7	♦ 7	♦ 7
♦ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K	♦ A K	♦ A K	♦ A K
♦ A K	♦ A K	♦ A K	♦ A K
Vulnerable: East-West Dealer: South			
South 1♥	West 2♦	North Pass	East Pass
4♥	All pass		
Opening lead: ♦ K			

Caution required

By James Jacoby

I know South's heart spots aren't very good, but he does have eight cards in the suit. For my money, it's worth opening a strong two-bid, just to make sure of eventually getting to game. The result would still be the same — West would bid spades and South would jump to four hearts, ending the auction.

Everyone knows how Willy Nilly would play the hand. He would ruff the second spade and lay down the queen of hearts. West would win the ace. Later East would take two more tricks with the long hearts, and the contract would be set. Why would Careful Charlie make the contract?

Charlie would correctly reason that with any 3-2 heart division he would lose only two heart tricks. He would also see that on most of the 4-1 heart splits there would be no way to avoid losing three trump tricks. However, if the ace of hearts just happened to be singleton, he could win the day by first playing a low heart out of his hand. So he would do just that and score up his contract.

Playing a low heart first also wins with another combination. Suppose West holds A-9-8 of hearts and East holds J-10 doubleton. If declarer plays a high heart, West takes the ace and plays another spade, which East ruffs with a heart honor. But if South first leads a low heart, East must win with either the jack or the 10, and there is no trump promotion available.

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: J equals M.

M D M T A M B
O P B F O J O U X S O F E M O
B S O N L X W O E W U O
D E F I O E T A O Z W M B O
B S O A O Z W L M F
B S O X E D B O T D O O U
— A L C M A U X T Q S

— David Lynch
SOLUTION: "I find it extremely heroic the way people forge on despite the despair they often feel."