

BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



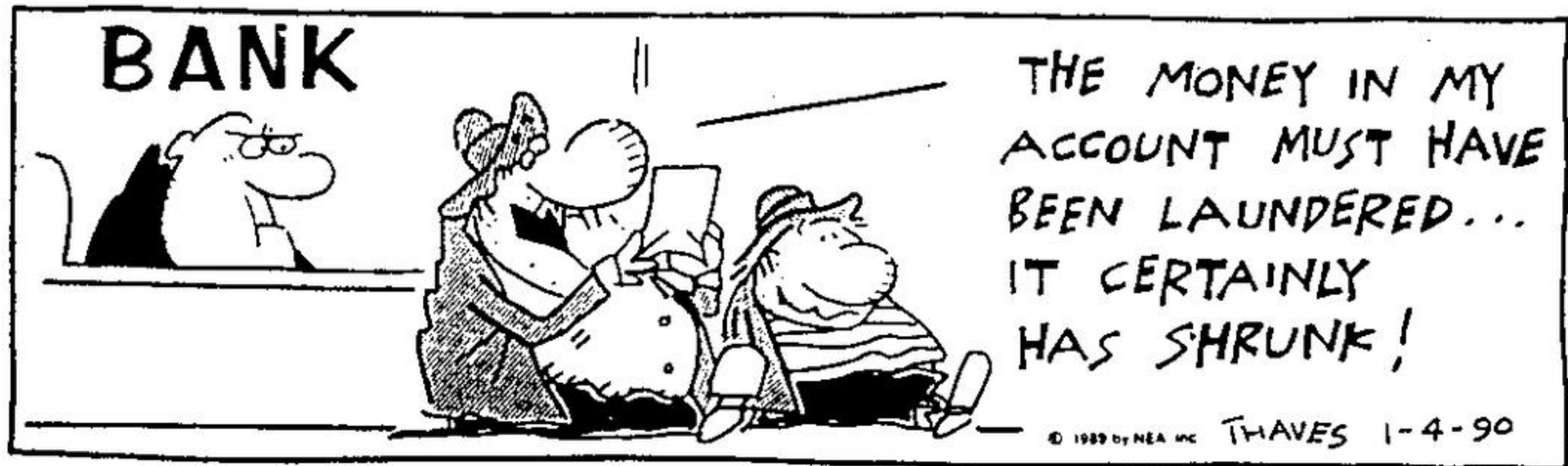
ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



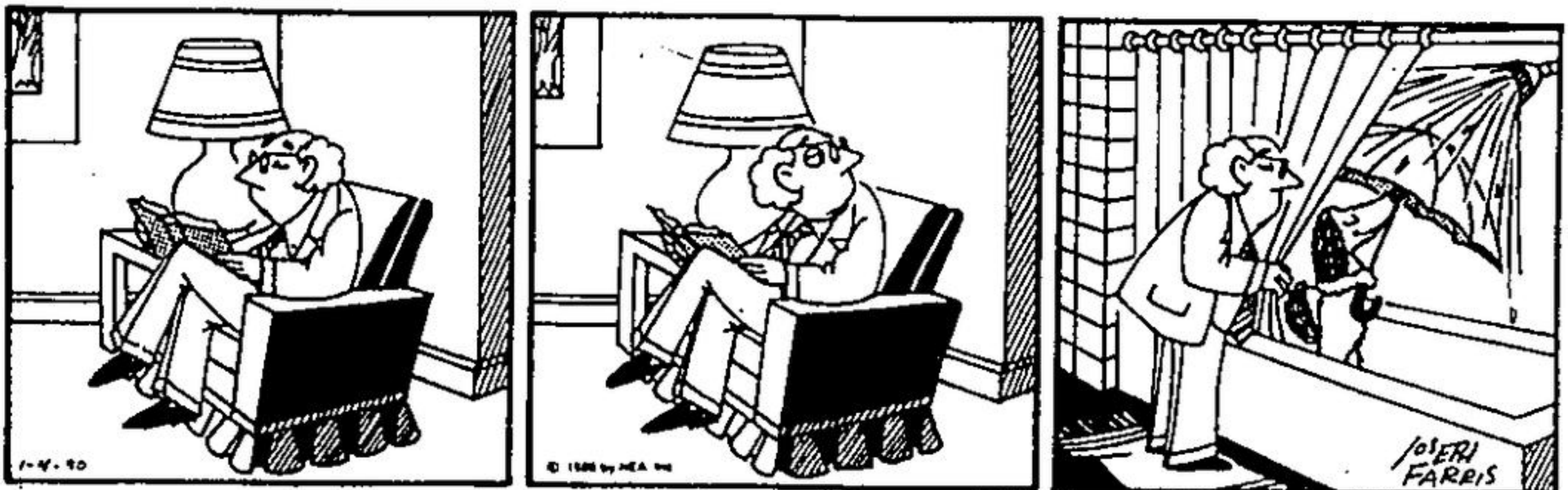
ECK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



PHIPPS™ by Joseph Farris



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli



Comic Page

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

NORTH 1-3-90
 ♦ J 7 6 4
 ♥ Q 6 4 2
 ♠ A 7 2
 ♣ 6 3

WEST
 ♦ Q 5
 ♥ J 7 5
 ♠ K J 5 4
 ♣ Q J 8 2

EAST
 ♦ K
 ♥ A 10 3
 ♠ Q 10 9 6 3
 ♣ K 9 7 5

SOUTH
 ♦ A 10 9 8 3 2
 ♥ K 9 8
 ♠ 8
 ♣ A 10 4

Vulnerable: North-South
 Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
Pass	3♦	3♠	1♦
4♦	All pass		Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 4

Your Birthday

Jan. 4, 1990

Interesting alterations may be in the offing for you in the year ahead. Situations that were previously negative could now be turned into something positive and hopeful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Companions will respond towards you in the same manner you treat them today. If you begin pointing out their frailties, they'll show you areas where you're not so perfect either. 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.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You're not likely to work too well under pressure today, so don't let important matters slide until the last minute. If you're not on top of things, they'll get on top of you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A friend of yours who is a pretty good manipulator might try to operate in a way today that will make you feel responsible for him/her. Don't be taken in.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Subdue your opinions today and make an effort to go along with the will of the majority. Even if your options are better, others won't appreciate your aggressiveness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Persons with whom you associate today will have a strong influence over your outlook and attitude. If they are negative thinkers, you are likely to slip into that mode as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Some undesirable changes may be imposed upon you today which you'll have strong inclinations to resist. This could be counterproductive, so try to make the most of the hand you are dealt.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In a matter where allies are required use your best judgment to determine how much true support they can really offer. Don't waste time on ineffective alliances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You must be extremely careful today as to whom you delegate critical assignments. For the sake of expediency you might select persons who cannot cut the mustard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Sticking your nose into a situation where it doesn't belong today could turn out to be a big miscalculation. It could penalize you socially as well as monetarily.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Family issues could be the most problematical ones with which you'll have to deal today. If you see storm signals within your household, do all you can to help quiet the winds of discontent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) There are indications you might not have too many accomplishments about which to boast today. This is because you're apt to scatter yourself too thin and try to do more than you can manage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Usually almsgiving plays an insignificant role in your generous nature, but today this trait may dominate in ways that could tarnish your image.

The heart suit holds the key

By James Jacoby

When you bid a close game, you hope that all your high cards are working. If nothing is wasted, 10 tricks will often come rolling in. Unfortunately declarer wasted his effort by trying for a swindle play rather than for a favorable distribution of cards. West led a diamond. Declarer rose with dummy's ace and immediately led the jack of spades from dummy. He hoped that East would cover the jack with the doubleton king or queen, thus crashing his partner's lone honor under the ace. No such luck. Declarer now led a club. West won the eight, cashed the queen of spades and exited with a diamond. Eventually the defense took two heart tricks to set the contract.

The correct play offers good chances for success. Win the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Then lead a low club. If the defenders play another club, win the ace and ruff a club. Ruff dummy's last diamond and then play ace and a spade. West will now be on lead. Rather than give a sluff and a ruff, West must lead a heart. Of course if you are looking at all the cards, it is easy for declarer to make two heart tricks, but West might cause South to go wrong by leading the jack of hearts. If declarer decides that West holds J-10 of hearts, he will play low from dummy, and East will later make two tricks with the A-10. It is more likely that West will lead the heart five, and now declarer should have no trouble holding his heart losers to one trick.

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 N.

DK D FGV CS
 IDNH LA IDKH
 GWGDJ, D'V LGPH
 CFH MGLH
 LDMCGPHM, SJIA
 MSSJHY.
 CGIIZIGF UGJPFHGV.

SOLUTION: "If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner." — Tallulah Bankhead