

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



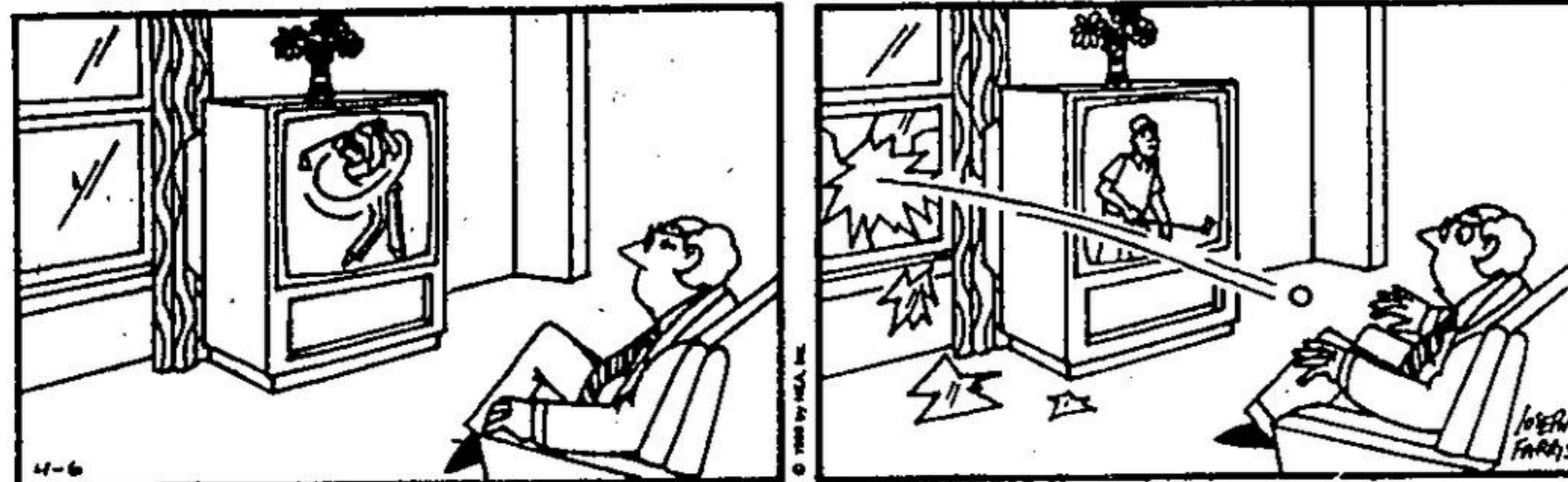
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Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Your Birthday

April 5, 1990

Conditions in general in the year ahead should be more comfortable than they have been in the recent past. Just because things will be improving, however, should not be used as an excuse to be wasteful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's commendable to be able to say nice things about our friends, but be very careful you don't attempt to flatter the underserving today. Insincerity will be readily perceived. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll be well aware of what you should be doing today where your career is concerned, but there is a chance you might not expend the necessary effort to achieve your goals. Don't drag your feet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be optimistic regarding the outcome of events today, but try to see things as they are and not as you wish they were. If you're a dreamer instead of a doer, you're likely to fall short.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you're involved in a situation today where there is something to be shared, don't expect more than you deserve, because you could be disappointed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you have to team up with someone today in order to achieve a common objective, be sure to select a partner who can make a contribution and is not just your "yes-man."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Under certain conditions today, there is a possibility you might be inclined to make promises you'll later find hard to keep just because you do not want to hurt another's feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Members of the opposite gender will find you attractive today, but not necessarily as appealing as a manipulator may make you think. Keep your guard up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Someone on whom you've been counting may prove to be a severe disappointment to you today. The impact can be considerably lessened if you make an allowance for this person's frailties.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) There is a possibility you may be a trifle flirtatious today and you could unwittingly flash some signals to the wrong person. Be very careful where you cast your roving eye.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may not be too shrewd a shopper today, especially if you are looking for bargains pertaining to merchandise about which you know little. Remember the old adage, "Buyer beware!"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you want to delay making decisions in matters that solely affect you, that's one thing, but if you procrastinate in situations that affect others, you'll be doing them a disservice.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Be helpful to others where you can today, but don't let someone who can easily take care of him/herself dump problems on you. Be a pal, but not a "patsy."

NORTH 4-4-90	
♦ 73	
♥ J 72	
♦ A Q J 43	
♠ K 85	
WEST	
♦ 10 9 6 4 2	
♥ K 6	
♦ 10 9 6 5	
♠ J 9	
EAST	
♦ Q 85	
♥ Q 10 8 5	
♦ K 8	
♠ Q 10 7 4	
SOUTH	
♦ A K J	
♥ A 9 4 3	
♦ 7 2	
♠ A 6 3 2	
Vulnerable: Both	
Dealer: South	
South 1 NT	West Pass
North 3 NT	East All pass
Opening lead: ♦ 4	

Both sides have a chance

By James Jacoby

Here is a deal where, depending upon the choice of plays, both defender and declarer have a chance to shine, but not at the same time. Let's first try defender East. After South opens with a strong no-trump and is raised to three, West leads a spade. When declarer wins and plays a diamond to the jack, it is natural for East to win the king and return a spade. Too bad. Declarer wins, plays on more diamonds and gives up a trick to West, but still has control of the hand.

What if East simply plays low on the first diamond, letting dummy's jack win the trick? South will surely return to his hand to try another diamond finesse. East now takes the king, and declarer is no longer able to set up a long diamond trick, so the contract is set.

You can say that declarer could have gone up with the ace the second time diamonds were led, but that assumes that the declarer could see through the backs of the cards. However, X-ray vision is not necessary for declarer to make a play that will guard against any but the most bizarre distribution in the diamond suit. Let him simply win the first spade and play a low diamond from both his hand and the dummy. Of course the defense wins the trick, but now South can play a second diamond to the jack. East will win, but dummy's diamonds will be good, and the club king will be the entry to get to them. Declarer sacrifices a possible overtrick or two to give himself the best chance for guaranteeing nine 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 Pharo 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: Q equals Z.

' C X L W V X P R X V O ' W
 V A R T W U G K V M K U V .
 W Z V G ' X V R C Z M U V
 U M W M H K V M K U V
 W X G L O F W M S V
 M O V K V X P M O .
 H . P T M W W
 H L W Q F V X R U N .

SOLUTION: "Writers aren't exactly people. They're a whole lot of people trying to be one person." — F. Scott Fitzgerald.