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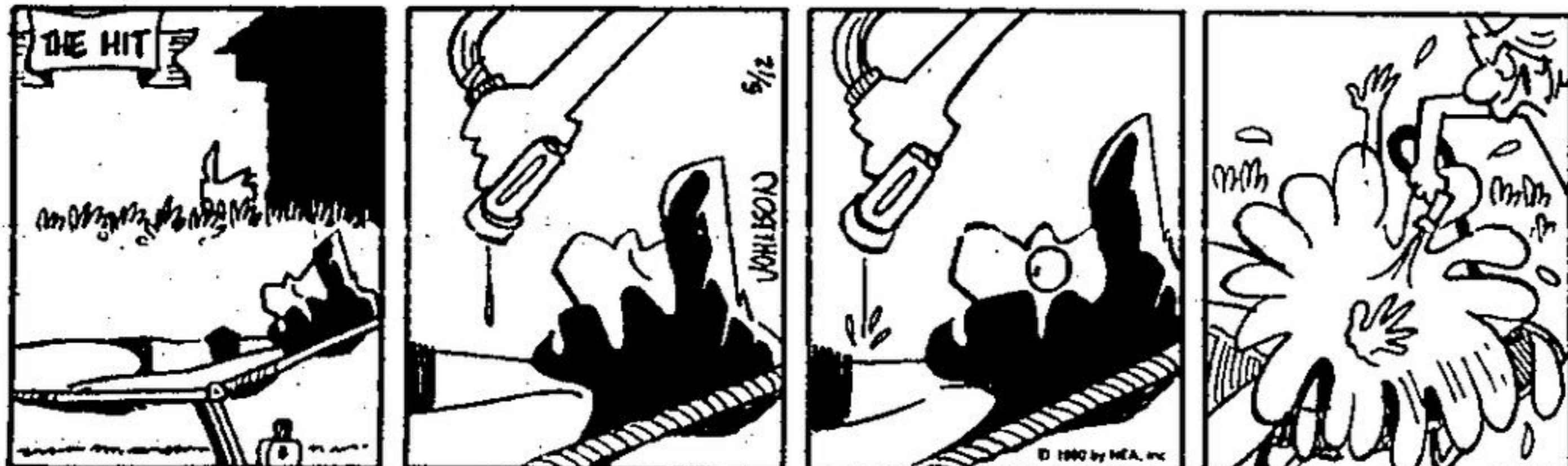
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Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Your Birthday

May 10, 1990

Unique circumstance may develop in the year ahead that could lead to something profitable. They might involve a person you have known but with whom you were never tied in previously.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your key to success today could be your ability to ascertain the true needs of others. You'll be able to diagnose their wants and know how to fulfill them as well. 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.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Even though you usually strive to be logical where judgments are concerned, your intuitive perceptions could be the ones on which you should rely today. Don't discount your hunches.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your best ideas today might be the ones that appear to be far out to your friends. However if you take time to explain them thoroughly, they'll appreciate their merits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) An unexpected development may arise today where you're forced to take a calculated risk where your career is concerned. Go for it, but only if you're certain it's worth it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One way to turn a new acquaintance into a friend is to entertain this person on a one-to-one basis today. Your new pal will appreciate the attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A matter that is of substantial importance to you should not be left unresolved today. Focus your efforts and energies on bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If you have to negotiate something of value today, make your best offer up front. However, do it without weakening or giving away what you have in reserve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The payment for any work or services you're offering today should be agreed upon before starting. Solidify the deal with a satisfactory advance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Strive to appraise people and situations objectively today. The more you are able to separate emotion from reason, the more accurate you'll be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Pay particular attention to details today, particularly in an arrangement you're anxious to wrap up. Small points you ignore now could become important later.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Events might not go exactly as you planned them today and some last minute adjustments may be required. However, your second script will be much better than your first one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Associates might not be perceptive enough to appreciate your progressive idea today, especially those that have commercial applications. Trust your own judgment.

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

Test your defense

By James Jacoby

Here is another defensive hand involving an assumption necessary to defeat a game contract. If you want to test yourself, cover the South and West hands and plan your defense after West's opening lead. Since West's queen of diamonds denies possession of the king, the chances of taking four tricks seem poor, but East should still try his best. It may well be that West does not hold the cards necessary to defeat four hearts, but it is still your obligation to picture a minimum opening bid in the South hand and then develop the proper strategy for taking four tricks. Well?

If you led a low club back at the second trick, give yourself an A-plus for astute defensive imagination. More often than not, declarer will hold the club queen, in which case there is no defense against the contract. But when South holds a ragged opening of 11 high-card points, the defense must be on the mark.

The defense becomes much more difficult when the opening lead is a low diamond rather than the queen from Q-J-10. Now it may be enough to simply return a diamond. (Whenever West holds the king, he will make a shift through the A-J-3 of clubs.) Here there is a chance for the defense only if West holds the club queen and the spade ace. If West holds the heart ace, declarer may be able to play three rounds of spades, shedding a club to still make the contract.

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. © 1990, 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: C equals K.

S F J G J V U E K
 U N X F S F V E L M U M
 B K E L D V J X J K R
 T K G C J I X J D S K E J
 S F M S H K N P M G J
 E K S U S M G S .
 X F M G B J U
 W M N P J B M V G J

SOLUTION: "There is no such thing as a long piece of work, except one that you dare not start."
 Charles Baudelaire.