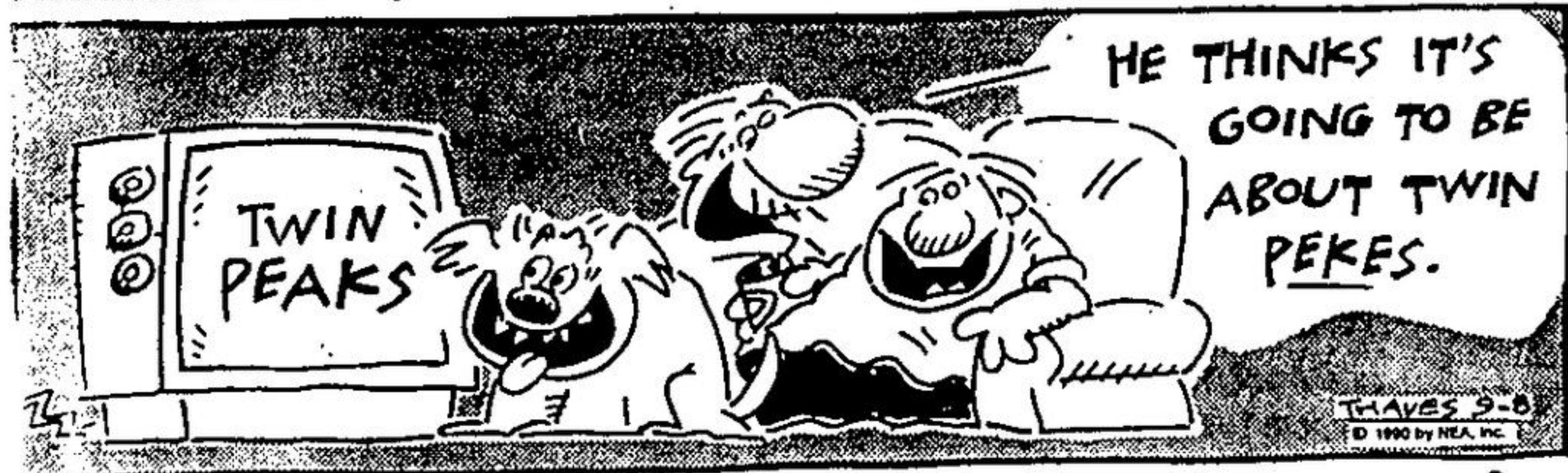


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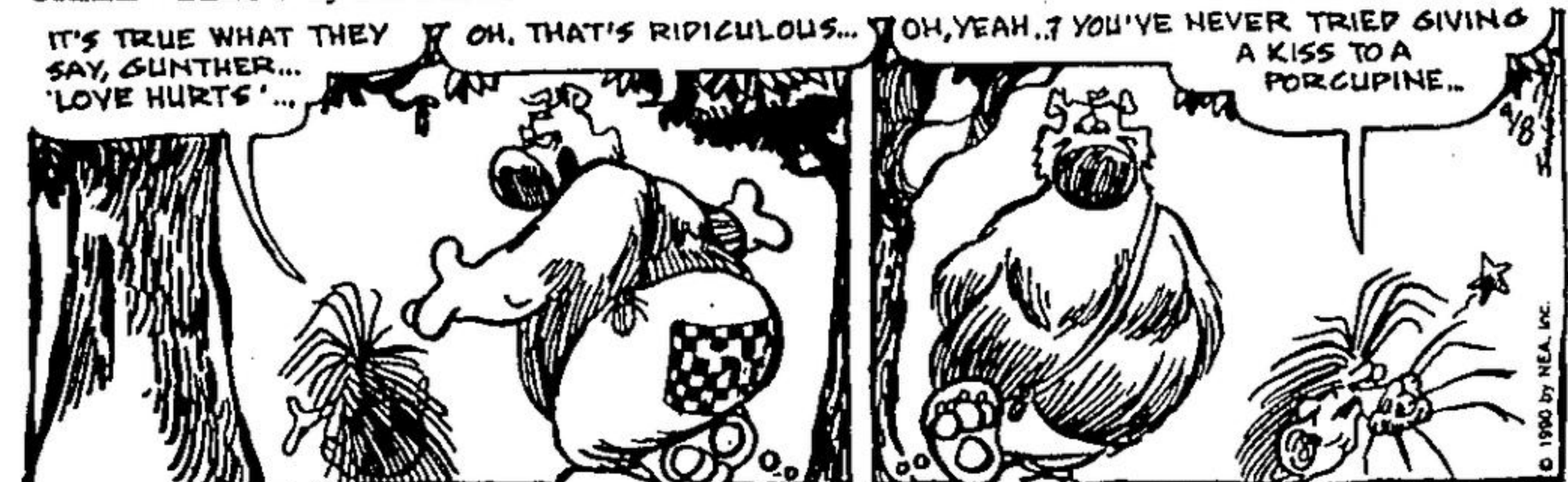
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BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Your Birthday

Sept. 5, 1990

In the year ahead be alert for an unusual venture where you'll be able to transform something outmoded into a profitable endeavor. It will be in your area of expertise.

NORTH 9-5-90
 ♦ K 2
 ♥ K 9 6 4 3
 ♦ 10 6 3
 ♠ A 6 4

WEST
 ♦ Q J 10 5 4
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 9 5
 ♠ K J 5 3 2

EAST
 ♦ 9 8 7 3
 ♥ J 7
 ♦ J 8 7 4 2
 ♠ 10 7

SOUTH
 ♦ A 6
 ♥ A Q 10 8 5
 ♦ A K Q
 ♠ Q 9 8

Vulnerable: North-South
 Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

*Jacoby transfer
 Opening lead: ♠ Q

Getting it right

By James Jacoby

One advantage to transfer bidding in response to no-trump is that often the responder can get a feel for the quality of opener's trump support. So when North transferred to hearts after South had opened two no-trump, the jump to four hearts made it easy for North to go to slam. But the mirror-image spade holdings made 12 tricks uncertain. If North had one more spade or one fewer club, the slam would be automatic.

Declarer won the ace of spades and played three rounds of trumps. (An extra round of trumps can sometimes get a helpful discard from a defender.) West discarded a spade and a low club; East let a low diamond go. South cashed A-K-Q of diamonds and then cashed dummy's king of spades. Now what?

In a vacuum it's right to play club ace and a club to the queen. You win whenever East holds the club king; you also win when West holds the doubleton king of clubs. (After winning the king, he would have to give a sluff and a ruff.) But West had shown up with only one heart and two diamonds. Declarer did not think a doubleton club king possible. This time South got it right. He played a low club from dummy. When East played the seven, declarer put in the eight. West won the jack and had to lead away from the club king so the slam was made.

Note well that East should play low smoothly even when he holds the king of clubs. That can cause a declarer to go wrong, even though expert declarers think they can read a defender in such cases.

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.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do not demean opportunities that appear to promise only small rewards today, because they can be transformed into something larger. One of your breaks might come from what another has cast aside. Virgo, treat yourself to a birthday gift.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Conditions in general appear promising for you today, primarily because of your abilities to overcome difficulties. You can accomplish the results you envision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't let an associate slip in and try to assume control today of an arrangement you're better equipped to manage. It could prove undesirable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your innate business acumen could be the asset that will put you in the profit column today. You'll be adroit at watching both the pennies and the dollars.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others will find the example you set is the proper one to follow today, because you'll take your responsibilities seriously. This will encourage them to conduct themselves similarly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be compassionate and charitable when dealing with persons today who are less fortunate than you are. However, also be practical regarding the extent to which you are able to help.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't be surprised today if friends are inclined to lean on you when they have problems with which they can't cope. They picked the right person, because you'll know how to resolve things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll have a slight edge over your adversaries in competitive developments today. However, your margin for success is rather thin, so don't push your luck too far.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It could prove beneficial at this time to reestablish communications with an old friend who presently resides in a distant location. Something mutually advantageous might result.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your possibilities for achieving your objectives are likely to be better now than they will be tomorrow. Don't shelve important matters that could be easily taken care of today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Pay heed to your mate's suggestions today if a decision has to be rendered regarding a matter of mutual concern. Your mate could have clearer perspectives than you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Something in which you're presently involved with another has promising potential, but both parties must be patient, because the anticipated rewards could be slow in coming. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

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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 clue: A equals K.

' R F R B
 R D C I B B R Y V G F I
 G M X I Z R Q V R M U
 W M V G B B F O G E G R B
 C V G M F Z I P S I E A
 F I Q I . - X G E I D G
 A . X G E I D G .

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "It is impossible to enjoy idling unless there is plenty of work to do." - Jerome K. Jerome.