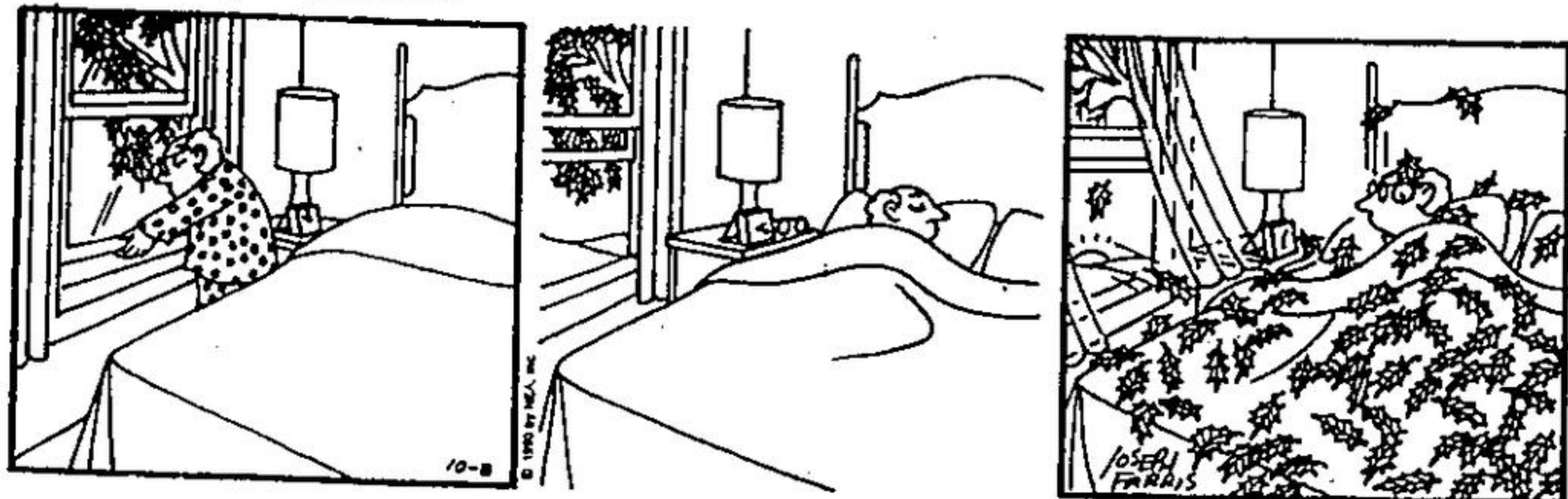


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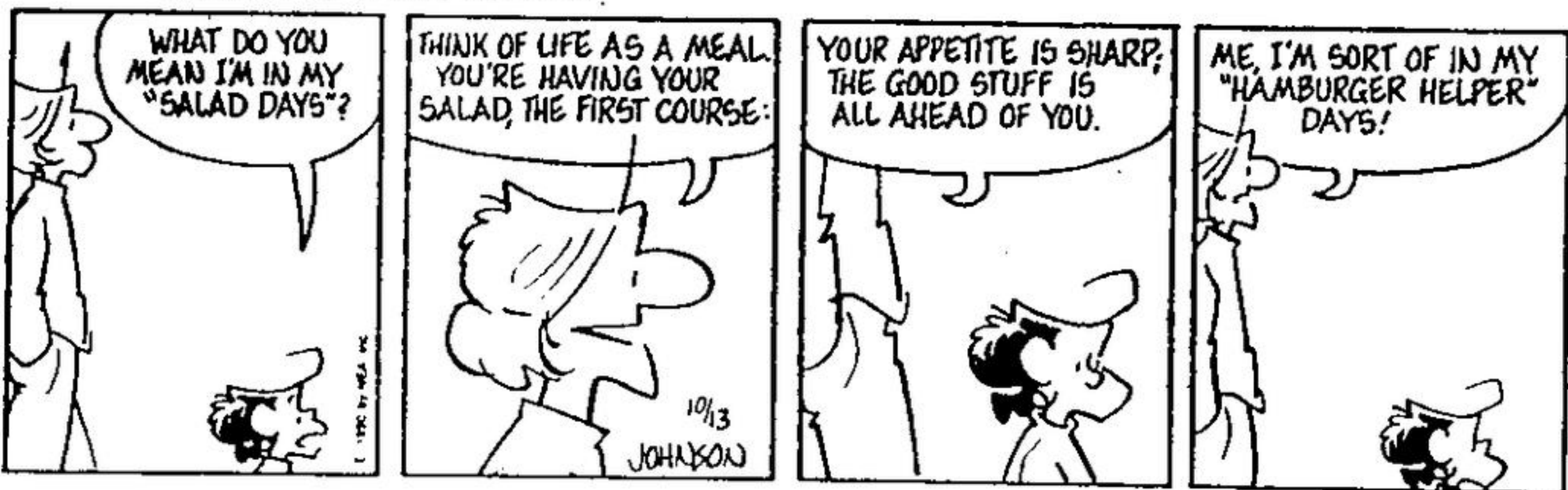
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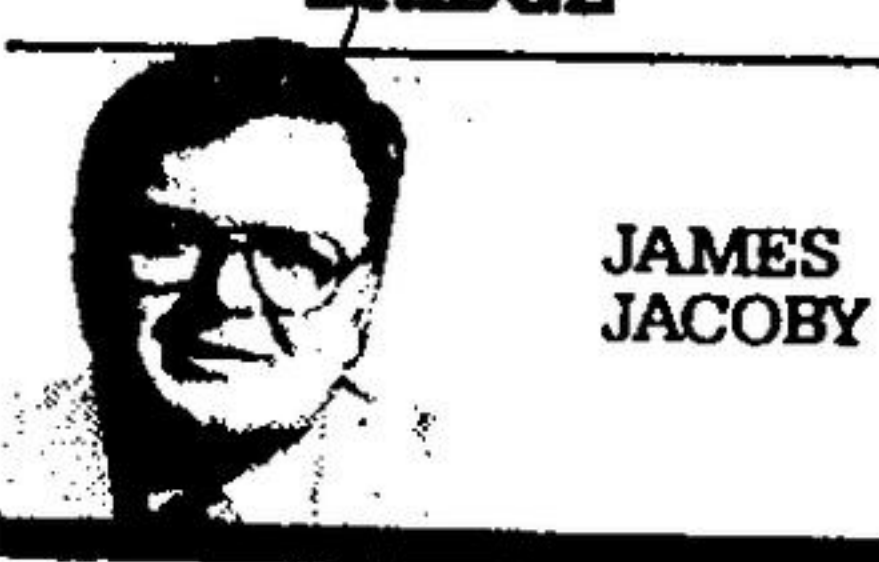
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ASTRO-GRAPH



BRIDGE



Your Birthday

Oct. 10, 1990

A number of critical changes could be in the offing for you in the year ahead, because you'll be desirous of breaking off old, unproductive patterns as well as disengaging yourself from troublesome acquaintances. The transition will be good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Important objectives are achievable today, but you might have to pull out all of the stops to gain your aims. This is not a day for the weak hearted or wishy-washy to try to make their mark in the world. Libra, treat yourself to a birthday gift.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It could turn out to be an exercise in futility if you try to make peace between dissenting factions today. In fact, if you're not careful you might end up the target for hostility from both sides.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) There is a possibility you might prematurely try to alter or adjust something in which you're involved today. Poor timing could make the matter worse, not better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your credo today should be, "What is good for the majority is also good for me," because only those things that take into consideration everybody's needs will work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) People who are usually supportive of your plans or programs might assume an adversarial stance today. To be on the safe side, count only on yourself and not others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This is one of those days when you might be judged by the company you keep. Be very selective of companions and choose only those who will enhance your image, not tarnish it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you overreact emotionally to problems today, it could cause you to behave in a self-defeating manner. Maintain control by focusing your thoughts outside of yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When you initially size up situations today you are likely to do so from a negative perspective. A poor attitude will cause others to shy away from you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Heavier demands than usual might be placed upon your purse today, so if you do not want to become immersed in red ink, manage your resources with great care.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If others do not appear to be willing to cooperate with you today, it could be due to the example you establish. Watch for critical signals and make adjustments if necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is one of those days when it might be advisable to keep your mouth shut. Be open and frank if you must, but only with people who won't condemn you for your comments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In your group involvements today take into consideration the desires and needs of others. If you attempt to manipulate them to serve your ends, you could be the one who may suffer.

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

Optimism prevails

By James Jacoby

Declarer's smooth play, combined with a difficult decision for a defender, created a favorable result for South in today's deal. Although some might not open the North hand (only 11 working high-card points), it looks right to me. South pushed a little when he bid over the two-heart raise. North drew from a wellspring of optimism when he jumped to four hearts.

When South won the ace of diamonds, he realized that there would not be enough tricks if he played straightforwardly by drawing three rounds of trumps. The defenders would continue diamonds and eventually make two diamond tricks, two clubs and a spade. So at trick two declarer played the nine of clubs — four from West, small from dummy, and the king from East. Perhaps East should have read West's club four as the top of a doubleton, but he was worried that West might have held J-8-4 and mistakenly failed to cover the nine-spot. So he switched to the king of spades. Declarer now won dummy's ace, drew trumps and continued with the jack of clubs. All the defenders could do was take two club tricks and a spade.

At the other table North passed originally. He later made a takeout double, but South only competed as high as two hearts, and West was allowed to play and make three diamonds. Perhaps this makes a case for weak opening bids when the rebids are easy.

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.

KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

