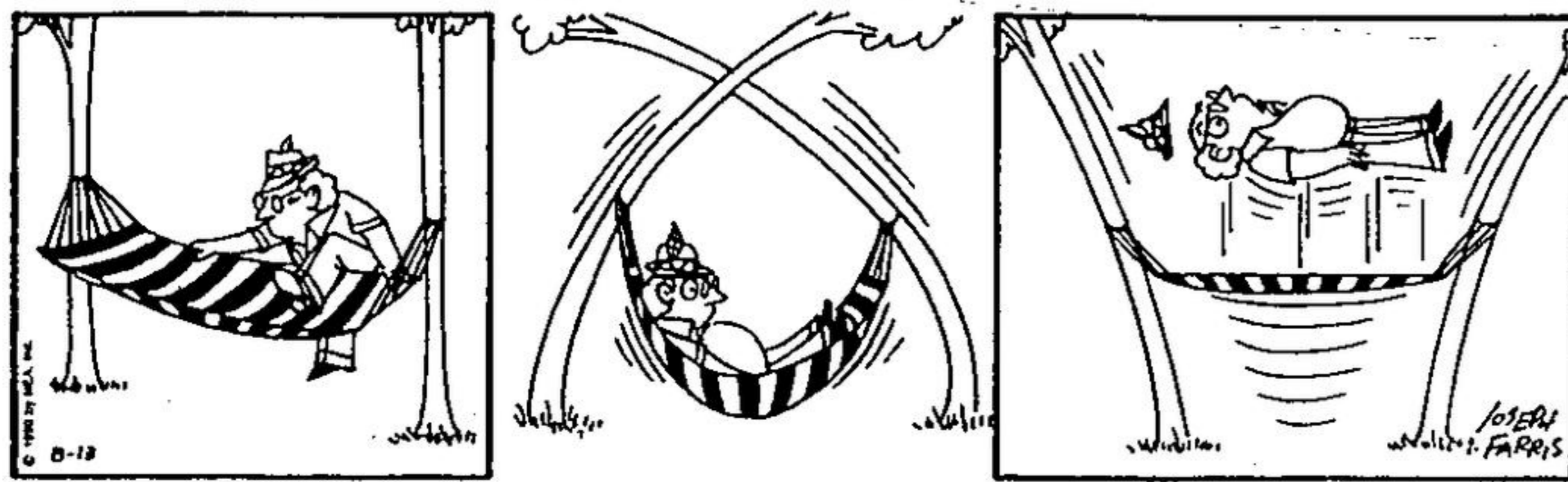
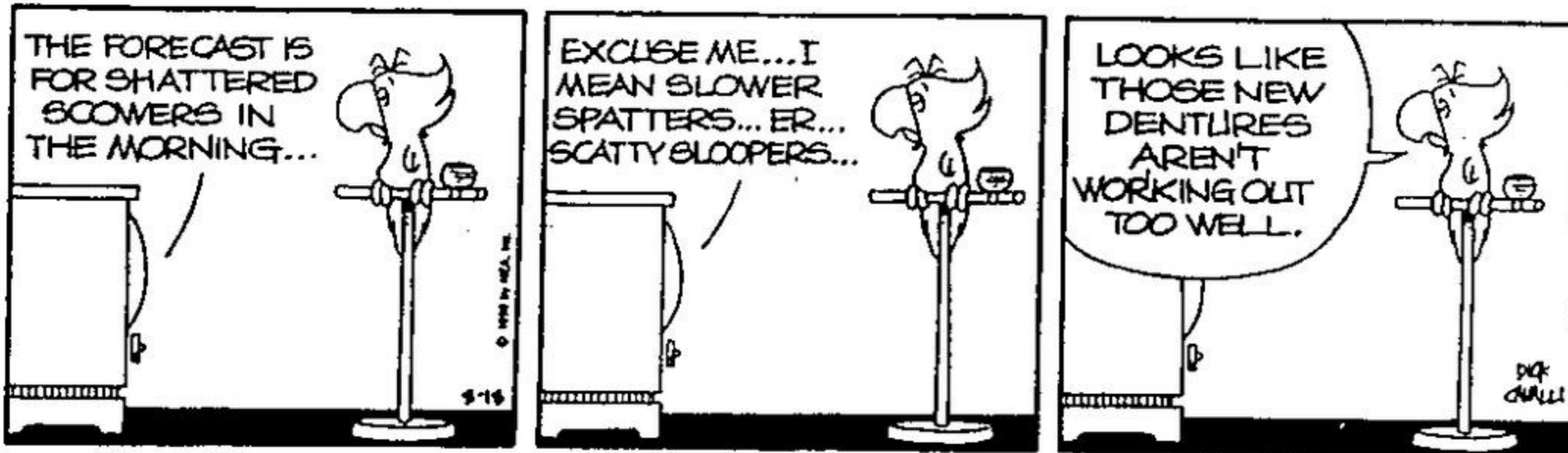


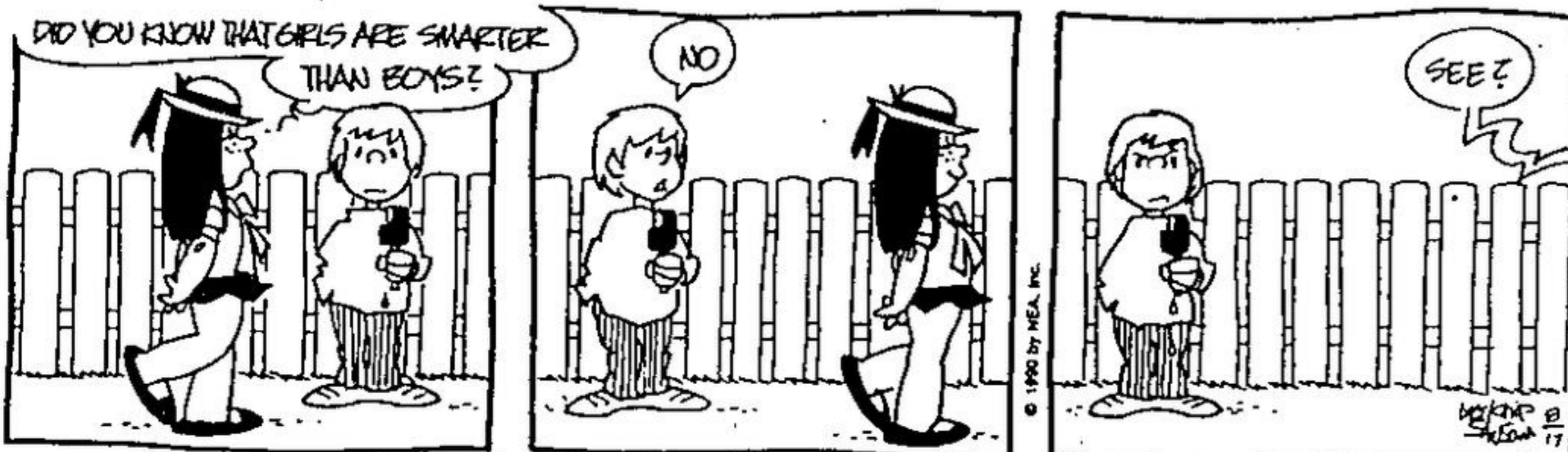
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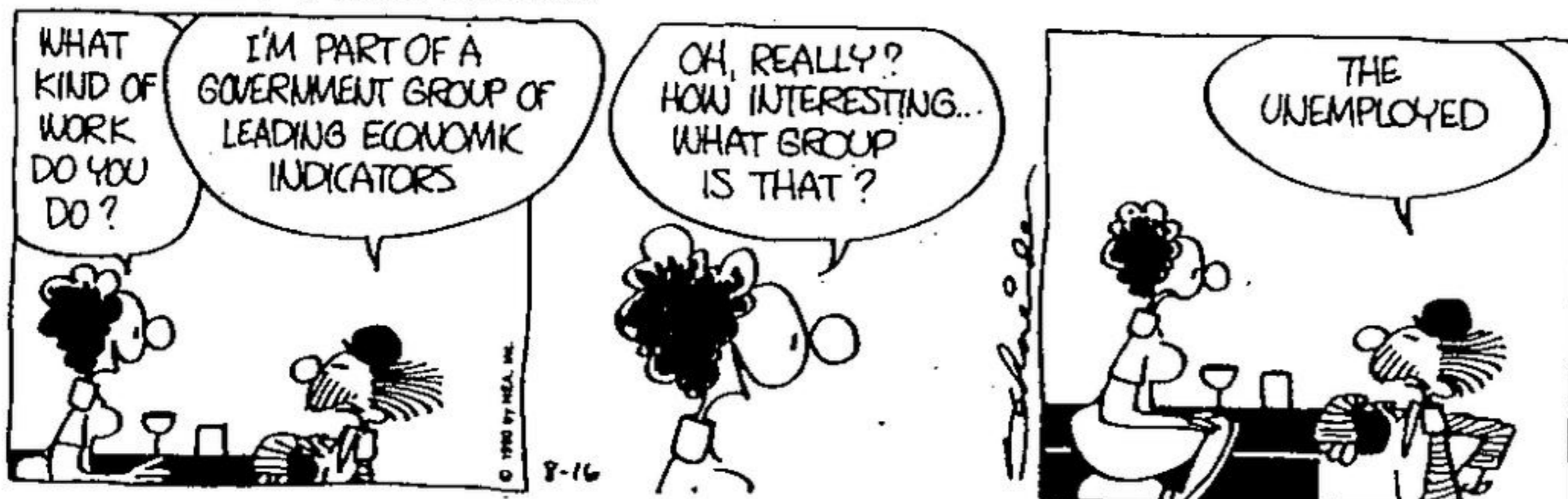
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BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY

Your Birthday

Oct. 17, 1990

The year ahead can be a very rewarding one for you materially, provided you finish that which you start. Don't try to balance several enterprises in the air simultaneously. Focus on the best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll valiantly defend that which you believe to be right today, but make certain, however, you take into consideration other people's viewpoints and not just your own. Libra, treat yourself to a birthday gift.

Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Even though your powers to probe, research and detect will be sharp today, you might still be too negative to take full advantage of what your investigations uncover.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If a friend who assisted you in the past requests a favor from you today, go out of your way to help this person, even if you have to incur expenses in doing so.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your problems won't be centered on your inability to achieve your objectives today, because attaining goals will come rather easy for you. The hard part will be knowing what to do with your victories.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Being open-minded and friendly today is well and good, yet it would be wise to be cautious regarding who you take into your confidence. Someone you least suspect might betray you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It might prove very wise to stay out of the business affairs of friends today and to keep them out of yours. Each could throw a monkey wrench into the other's commercial machinery.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A partnership arrangement can be productive today, provided you and your counterpart are both on the same wavelength. A harmony of purpose is a must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your monetary prospects look reasonably encouraging today, but there is a possibility you might not capitalize on things to your maximum advantage. Don't get careless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Desirable results will be achieved today in situations you personally direct, but the same might not be true in developments where you have to share your authority with another.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Methods and procedures that are effective for you might not work equally well for your associates. Don't do things to please them, make your primary concern getting the job done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It might be a trifle difficult for you to concentrate on your mundane assignments today, because your energies may be geared to active friends who are bent upon having fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In order to advance your personal interest today, it might be necessary for you to be a bit bolder and more assertive than usual. However, what works in the world of commerce won't play socially.

NORTH 10-17-90
 ♦ A 7
 ♥ A K J 10 3
 ♦ A K 8 3 2
 ♣ K

WEST J 10 9 8 2
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ J 9 6
 ♣ 6 4 2

EAST ♦ Q 3
 ♥ Q 9 8 6
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ J 10 9 5

SOUTH
 ♦ K 6 5 4
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ A Q 8 7 3

Vulnerable: Neither
 Dealer: West

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|----------|-------|------|
| 3 ♣ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♣ | Pass |
| 5 NT | Pass | 6 ♣ | Pass |
| 6 NT | All pass | | |

Opening lead: ♣ J

Don't be fooled by success

By James Jacoby

Experienced players know that an initial successful finesse is not an iron-clad guarantee that the finesse will succeed the second time around. Just as a declarer can make a holdup play, so too can a defender. But blithely letting declarer win that trick requires cool nerve when the contract is a slam.

Today's South worked his way into six no-trump after North had opened with a strong artificial two clubs. The opening lead was the jack of spades. Declarer won the king in his hand and played a low heart to the jack in dummy. East followed low. So declarer cashed dummy's king of clubs, came to his hand with the queen of diamonds and played A-Q of clubs, throwing diamonds from the dummy. Sure, the diamonds might be splitting 3-3, but the heart finesse was already proven, right? Now another heart was played to dummy's 10. Devious East took the queen and cashed his now good jack of clubs to set the slam.

Easy to see now, but probably declarer should not have been victimized by this ruse. If he continues with A-K of hearts after his finesse to dummy's jack has won the trick, he loses a trick only when West started with four hearts to the queen. And he avoids the disaster of going set in a contract that always should make.

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

