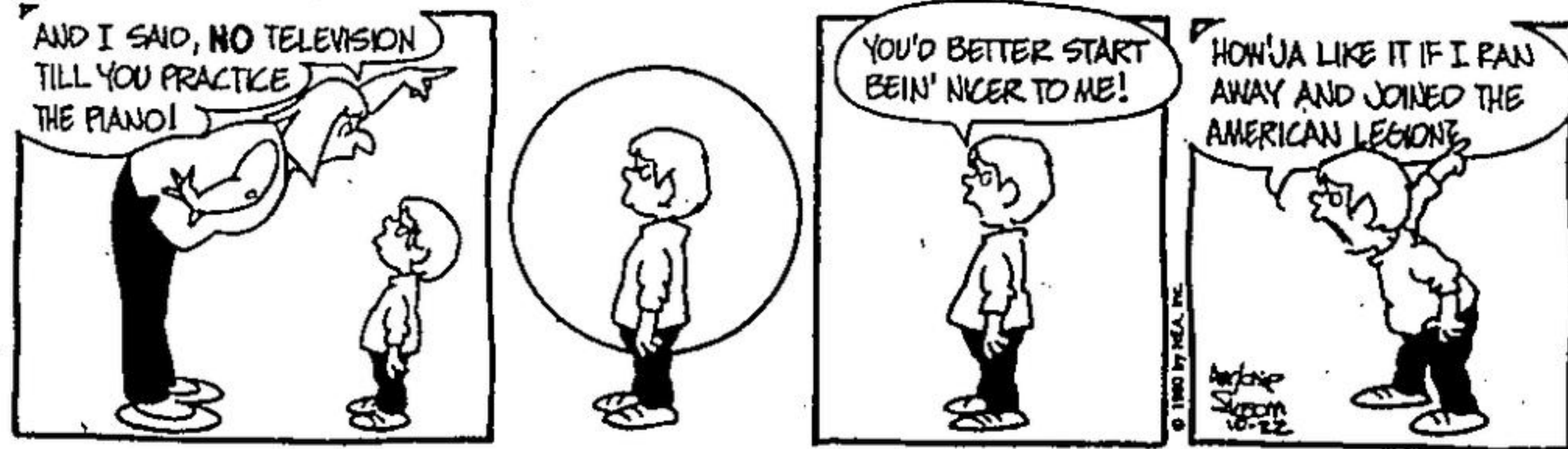


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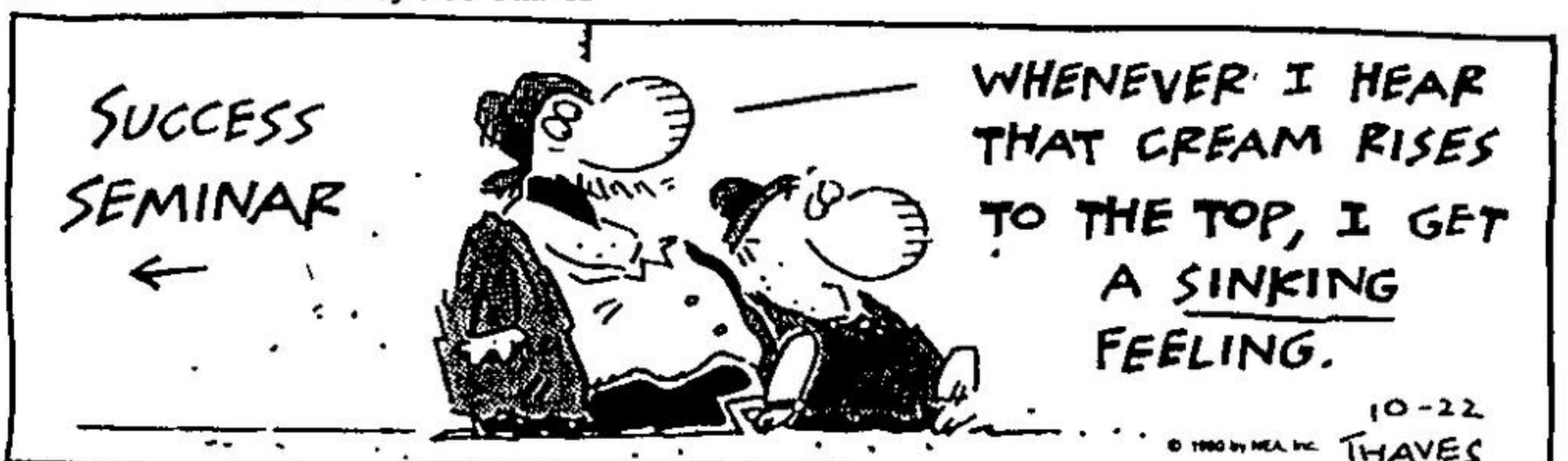
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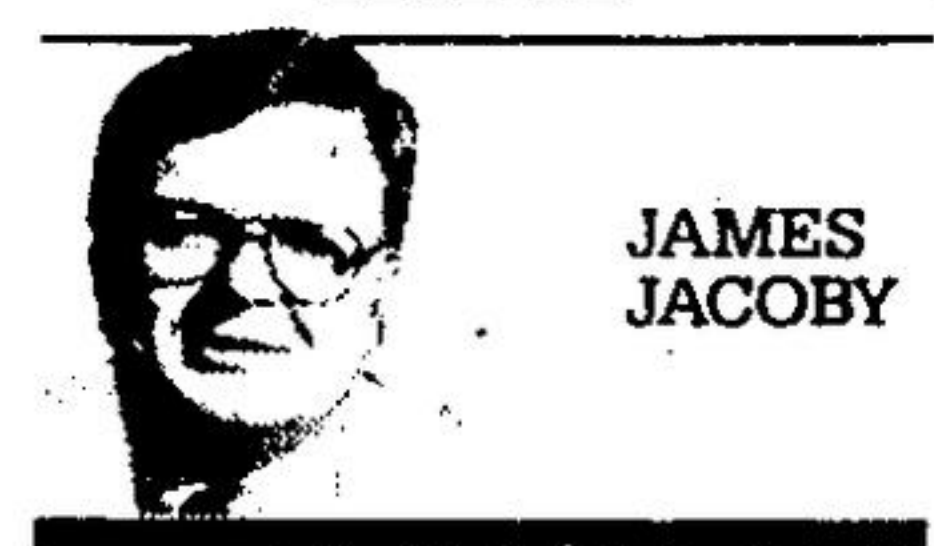


ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Wednesday, Oct. 24, 1990

The urge to travel and acquire knowledge from personal experiences will be a pronounced facet of your personality in the year ahead. It is extremely likely you'll find avenues for expressing your urges.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today you are likely to be a rather fast thinker and the first ideas you get are apt to be your best ones. Try to put your thoughts to productive uses. Scorpio, 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.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The possibilities of today being a profitable one for you look encouraging. What you might gain, however, could be brought about through a strange chain of events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Strive to be an initiator today instead of just a person hanging back in the rear ranks. Even your peers will sense you belong at the head of the parade.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You should be able to evaluate situations quite accurately today, because the judgments you reach will be predicted upon your deductive reasoning as well as your intuitive perceptions.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You're in a good cycle for meeting new people, so instead of visiting familiar haunts, go to places that are different today. A contact could be established.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't give up on your objectives too hastily today. Events could take a surprising turn and after a brief lull, you might suddenly find victory within your reach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today you might be the recipient of some unusual but constructive information. It could fit very neatly into plans you've already formulated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Something advantageous in the commercial sense may develop for you today through a person with whom you're rather friendly. It will be worthy of further investigation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might have an opportunity today to sway a new ally to a cause you've been endorsing. It's an individual who has been resistant thus far.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Put on your thinking cap at work today. Ingenious ideas you develop will help you chalk up points with authority figures. Two impressive concepts may emerge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Social happenings which aren't prearranged or too structured could be the ones that turn out to be the most fun today. Hang loose and let come what may.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Play something enjoyable and different for your family today, either in the foods you serve or by inviting friends over you know they'll enjoy.

NORTH 10-24-90
♦ Q 10 7 5 3
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ K
♦ A 9 2

WEST ♦ K 9 8 6
♥ 8
♦ 4 3 2
♦ K 10 8 5 3

EAST ♦ J 4 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ J 10 9 8 6
♦ 6 4

SOUTH
♦ A
♥ A 10 9 5 2
♦ A Q 7 5
♦ Q J 7

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All pass

*heart support and singleton diamond

Opening lead: ♦ 4

Which finesse? Try neither

By James Jacoby

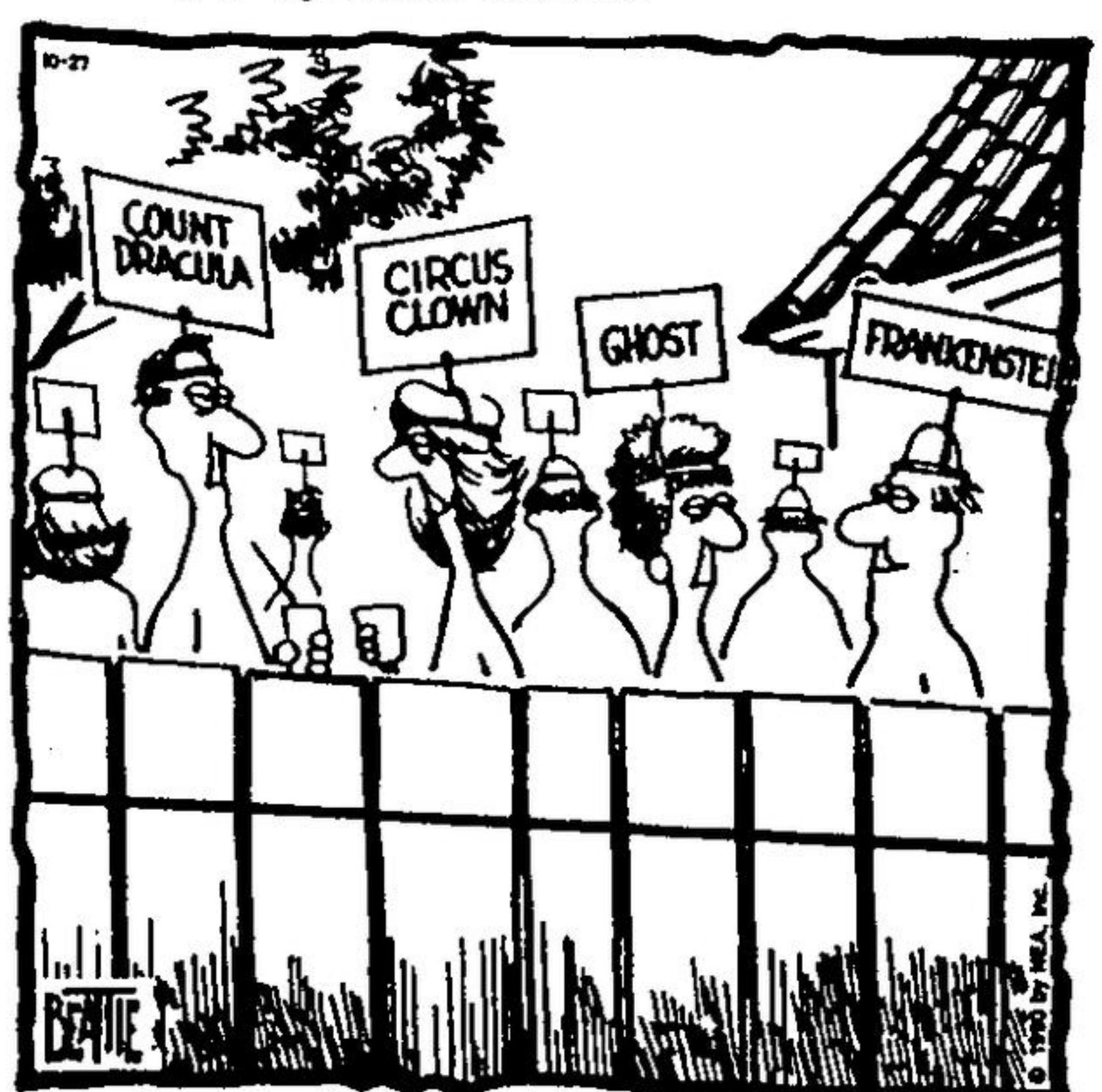
In the playoff for the Women's Knockout Team Championship last July, the eventual winners had a big pickup when they reached a good slam not bid at the other table. When South opened one heart, North's four-diamond response showed a strong hand with four-card heart support plus a singleton diamond. The deal took place in the evening morning after a full day of intense competition. So South simply bid six hearts, taking her chances.

Today's bidding diagram suggests a more logical sequence. Since it is possible from South's point of view that North might have a good hand without a club control, it is more prudent if South feels her way toward slam. So four spades would show the ace, North would cue-bid the club ace, South would exhibit even further interest by showing the diamond ace, and North could now bid the slam.

Although both the club and the heart finesses are on, declarer can ensure her slam contract by ignoring both finesses and playing for a crossruff. South wins dummy's diamond king, plays a spade back to her ace and cashes A-Q of diamonds, pitching clubs from dummy. Then come a club to dummy's ace and a spade ruff, followed by the queen of clubs. Even if West does not cover, it will be ruffed low in dummy. Another spade can be ruffed with South's five-spot. The jack and queen of hearts can then be used to ruff declarer's remaining club and diamond, and since South is left with A-10-9 of hearts, the only possible loser would be to the king of hearts.

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.

SNAFU® by Bruce Beattie



Halloween party at a nudist colony.