

CONTACT BRIDGE BY STEVEN BECKER

The Moment of Truth

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ J 6
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ A 10 8 5

WEST
♠ J 7 3 2
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ 9
♣ J 9 6 2

EAST
♠ K Q 9
♥ K 9 4 3
♦ J 10 6 4
♣ 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6
♥ A 8 7
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ K Q 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Indeed, with any luck at all, you'll wind up with an overtrick. But when you lead a low diamond to the queen and another back to the ace, West discards a spade, and making the contract is now far from certain.

The outcome boils down to scoring four club tricks, so you cash the K-Q of clubs and lead your last club, on which West plays the nine.

This brings you to the moment of truth. If West has the jack, you should play dummy's ten; if East has the jack, you should play the ace. Decisions of this kind are seldom a tossup; there is nearly always a reason for favoring one play over the other. This case is no exception, as there is a good clue to lean on.

It all goes back to West's opening lead. Presumably, West would have led from a five-card suit if he had one. His lead of the heart deuce indicated a four-card suit, and this was confirmed by East's return of the three, showing that he also had four hearts.

Once it is conceded that West doesn't have a five-card suit, it follows that his original distribution was 4-4-1-4 (since he showed out on the second diamond lead). Finessing the ten of clubs therefore becomes the right play.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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SPORTS SLEUTH

MLB MINOR LEAGUE CITIES IN FLORIDA

U W U R P N K C I F G D B A Z

X V S J A C K S O N V I L L E

Q O M K I G E R C C A D Y O W

D D U S Q P T N L J O N H C F

A U N E C M A A T O S A R A S

Y P N A Y T I C T N A L P S A

X V M E L U J U P I T E R N N

S B R A D E N T O N Q K P E F

N S M K T I D V I E R A J P O

H F E C B Z N O D N A L R O R

Y X V H C A E B A N O T Y A D

Wednesday's unlisted clue: LONDON

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Thursday's unlisted clue hint: LARGEST PLANET
- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Bradenton | Dunedin | Orlando | Sarasota |
| Cocoa | Fort Myers | Pensacola | Tampa |
| Daytona Beach | Jacksonville | Plant City | Viera |
| Deland | Lakeland | Sanford | |
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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

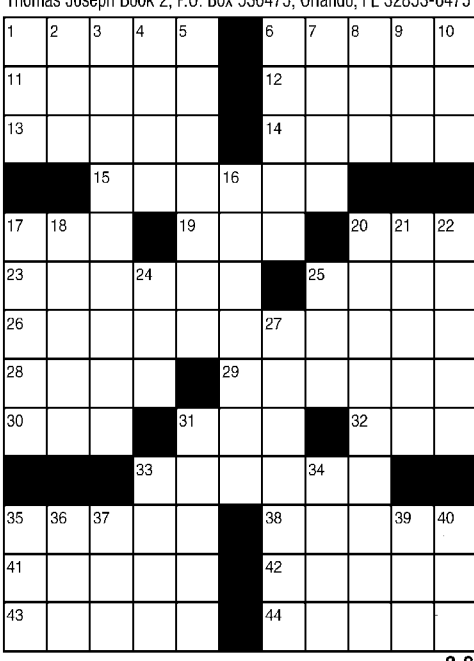
- ACROSS** 44 Town official
1 Country dances
6 Indy racer
11 Bewildered
12 Merge
13 Aspect
14 Ran easily
15 Up
17 Wing
19 Tear
20 Central
23 Installing sets and lighting, in the theater
25 Replacer of 33-Across
26 Put into words
28 New driver, often
29 Excursion
30 Wrap up
31 Hot-dog holder
32 Sheltered side
33 Former Spanish coin
35 Irritate
38 Carries
41 Ticket category
42 Strata
43 Barn-storming feats
- DOWN**
1 Brit. fliers
2 Seventh Greek letter
3 Shot up
4 Wolfish look
5 Mocking
6 Minty quaff
7 Shortly, in poems
8 Wee drink on the Seine
9 Clarinetist Lewis
10 Winding
11 Gladden
18 "Two Women" star
20 Mangled
21 Dunne of films
22 Avoid
24 Racket bite
25 Have a shaped window
31 Borscht base
33 Juicer byproduct
34 Drudgery
35 Crony
36 Groom's answer
37 Status — bards
40 Georgia, once: Abbr.



Yesterday's answer

- 18 "Two Women" star
20 Mangled
21 Dunne of films
22 Avoid
24 Racket bite
25 Have a shaped window
31 Borscht base
33 Juicer byproduct
34 Drudgery
35 Crony
36 Groom's answer
37 Status — bards
40 Georgia, once: Abbr.

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3-8

SU|do|KU

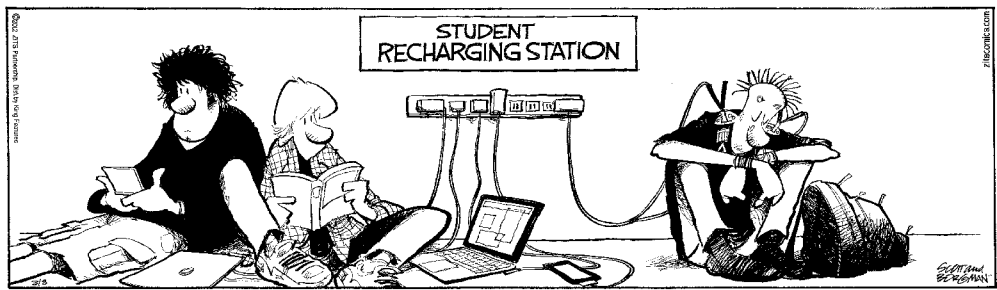
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Level: Beginner

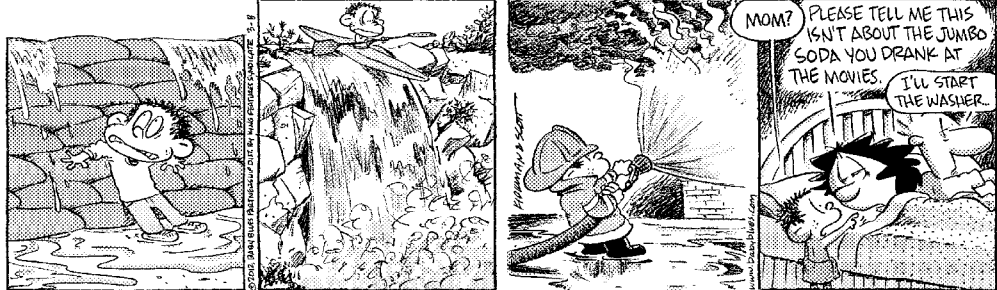
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



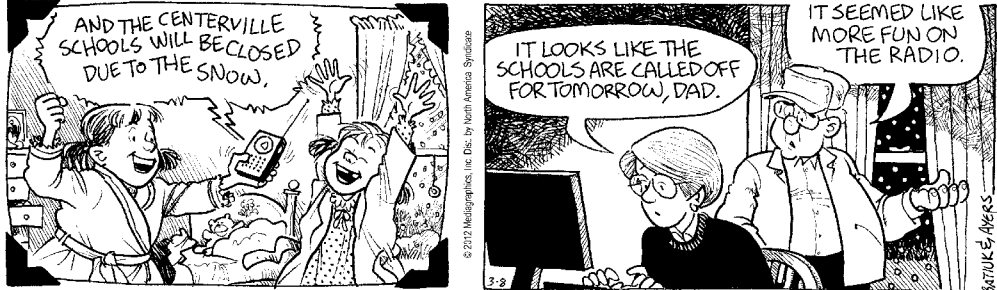
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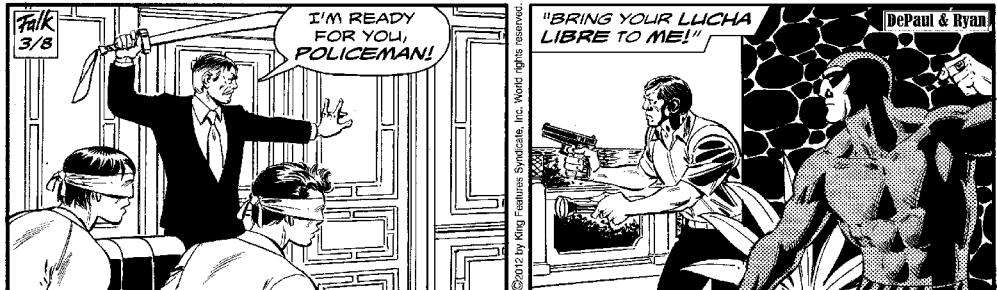
Baby Blues



Crankshaft



The Phantom



Dustin



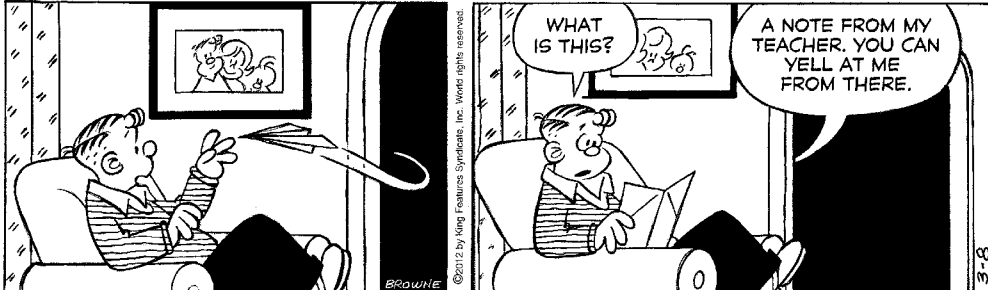
Pickles



Blondie



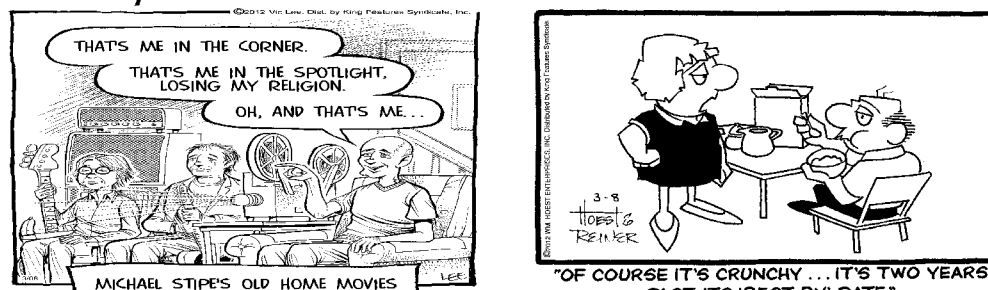
Hi & Lois



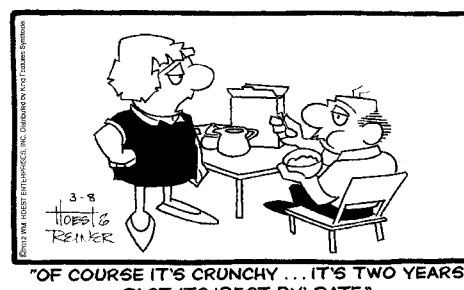
Beetle Bailey



Pardon My Planet



Lockhorns



HOROSCOPE
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 8, 2012:
This year you waver between your feelings and your intellect — two very prominent inner voices. You will learn to integrate them or choose which one you want to lean toward. Relationships prove to be very exciting. If you are attached, the two of you have issues to work through. The good news is that your attraction to each other remains high, which will give the process a boost. If you are single, you are a magnet to the opposite sex. You could date many different people or one special person; it is your call. **LIBRA** wants to relate closely.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You could be stressed out from pressure at work. You are handling too many different situations, and you need to distance yourself. You juggle your feelings with your obligations. This attempt to balance your life could be difficult at best. Tonight: Listen to a suggestion.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Let your creativity soar, and you will be capable of turning a losing situation into a winning one. A friend plays a major role in what is about to take place. Understand how important it is to keep some facts to yourself. You will see different results. Tonight: Put your feet up.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You might be ready to try another approach or do something differently. Impulsiveness pushes you down the right path. Communication is off, so trying to

convince another person of the rightness of your ways could be a problem. Tonight: Have more fun.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You are likely to say exactly what you are thinking, and others are likely to respond accordingly. You might not be sure what to do. Keep communication flowing; otherwise, you could feel stuck. Juggle news, feelings and any other information you think you need to share. Tonight: Head home while singing an ode to the Full Moon.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Use special caution with a financial matter. You could be very drawn and tired of juggling funds and/or sharing your innate talents. Pressure builds if you are not careful. Tonight: Talk yourself through discomfort.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You are all personality and then some. You also could feel as if you have pushed way too hard, and you find others to be constantly challenging. Know when to say you have had enough. Establish limits for how much you want to give. Tonight: Your treat.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Use the afternoon to review some details and make sure everything is as it should be. You could be more on target about a personal matter than you realize. In the next few days, you will see how very right you are. Tonight: As you like it.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Use the daytime hours to the max. You could be surprised by what you make possible. Meetings and alliances with others could be strategic and essential. You might

be pressured to make an uncomfortable emotional choice. Tonight: Vanish.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Take a long-overdue stand. You could feel pressured to maintain a steady pace. Your personal life might be in direct opposition to what must be done. Try to integrate the differences. Zero in on what you want. Tonight: Focus on your goals.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance to get more information. Seek out different opinions. You could feel torn between two choices. Reflect and decide what it is that you want, and/or which way you should go. Tonight: In the limelight.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Deal directly with others. A partner and several associates respond more positively on a one-on-one basis. You easily could be overspending and need to rein yourself in. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Let your mind wander.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Defer to others, and understand what is happening within a relationship. You need to allow others to walk in your footsteps. They will change their tune very quickly after they assume a responsibility or two that you previously had shouldered. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.
BORN TODAY
Actress Lynn Redgrave (1943), actor Freddie Prinze Jr. (1976), musician Mick Dolenz (1945)

ANSWER BOX

9	2	6	7	8	1	9	8	2
4	9	8	2	9	2	6	8	1
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MLB MINOR LEAGUE CITIES IN FLORIDA

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