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BY JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



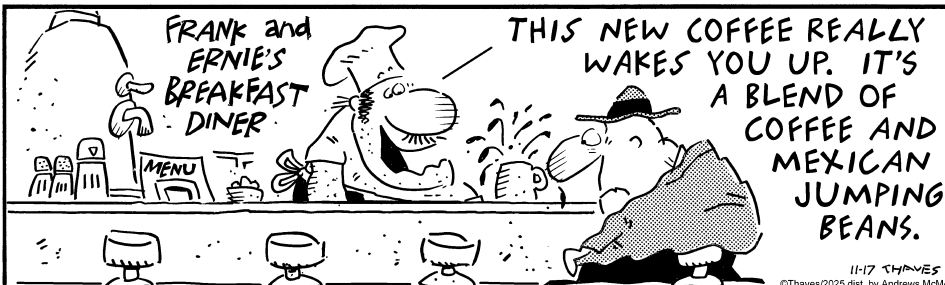
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BY CHRIS BROWNE



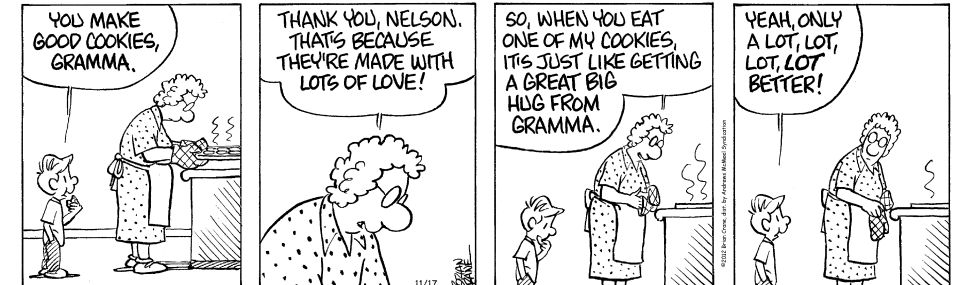
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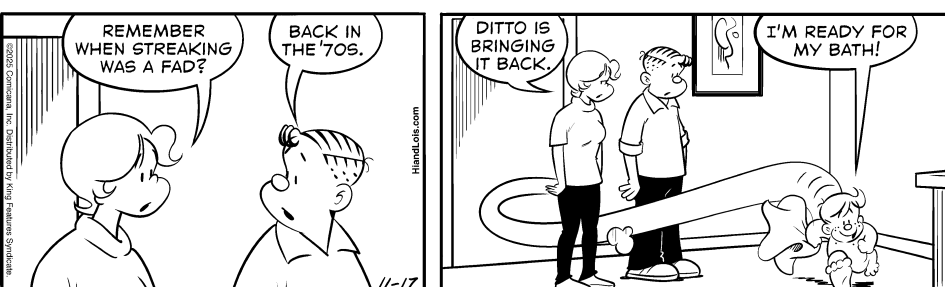
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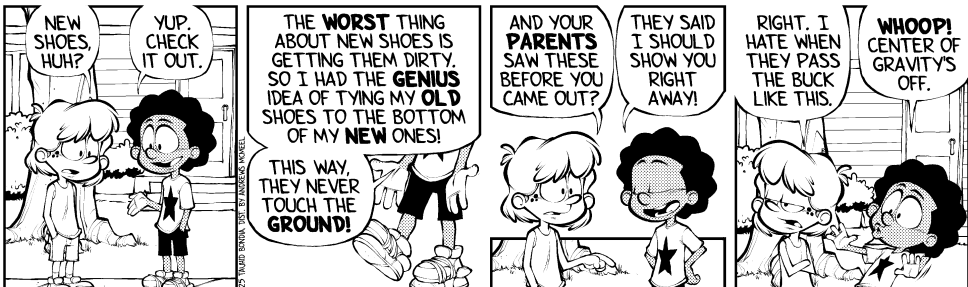
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North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 9 2
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 10 7 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ A 2

EAST
♠ J 6
♥ A 9
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 10 9 6 5 3

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣* 3 ♣ Pass Pass
Dble Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠

*two or more clubs
Opening lead — ace of clubs.

This deal occurred in the final of the 2025 Vanderbilt Teams. South was Marty Fleischer, captain of the winning team.

Fleischer was off to a good start when West led the ace of clubs, the suit East had preempted in. When East played the club queen on the ace, West shifted to a low heart,

dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East then returned the nine of hearts to dummy's king.

Despite the helpful opening club lead, it appeared that South was still certain to lose a heart and a diamond for down one. But Fleischer found the way to make one of the losers disappear, and there was nothing the defenders could do about it.

After winning the heart return, declarer drew the opposing trumps, cashed the diamond ace, crossed to the king of clubs and led a diamond. When West followed low, Fleischer played the nine, losing to East's queen. Since East had no more diamonds or hearts, he had to return a club, allowing South to discard a heart from one hand while ruffing in the other, and the contract was home.

Note that it would not have helped either defender to play their diamonds any differently, as declarer could counter any move they made in an attempt to mislead him.

At the other table, North wound up as declarer in four spades and finished down two after West led the club queen, resulting in a 13-IMP gain for the Fleischer team.

“Why can’t I get the new clothes sometimes and let Billy wear my hand-me-ups?”

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Saturday's Jumbles: ACUTE PLANK
Answer: He threw four interceptions but didn't — PASS THE BUCK

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FSUHL
CNIEM
BWLOEB
ADNIDC

Today's Guest JUMBLER is **JONATHAN LEMON** artist for ALLEY OOP

WHEN THE CAVEMAN, ALLEY OOP, GETS HUNGRY, HE MAKES HIMSELF A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)
BANISH SCRIPT