

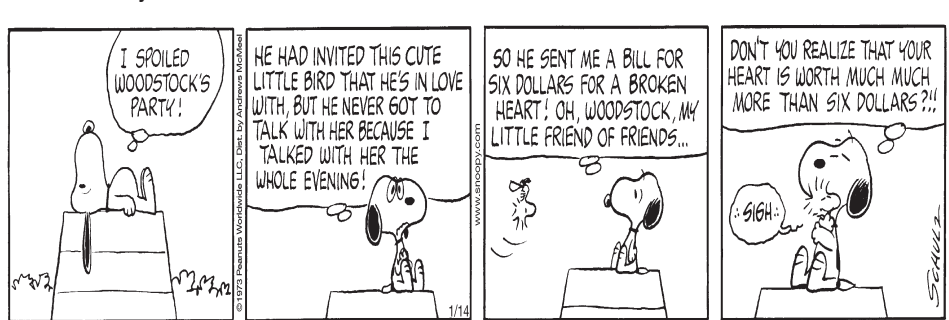
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



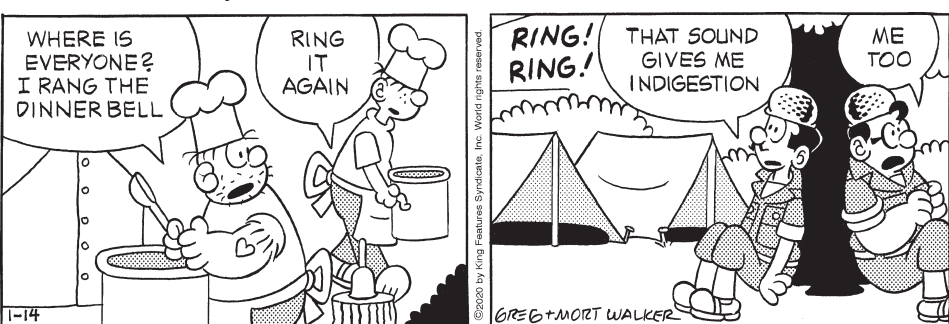
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



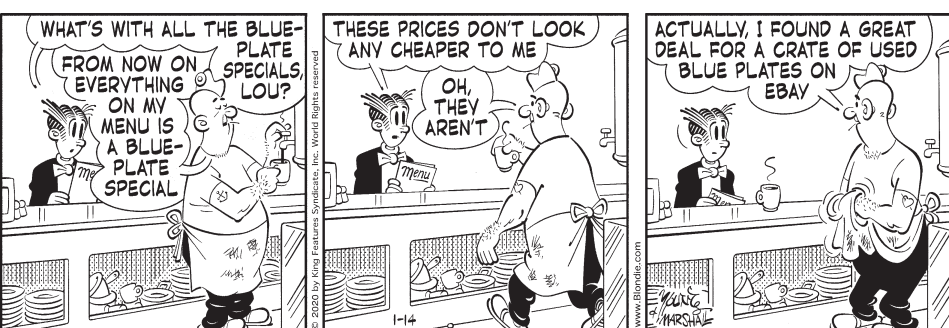
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



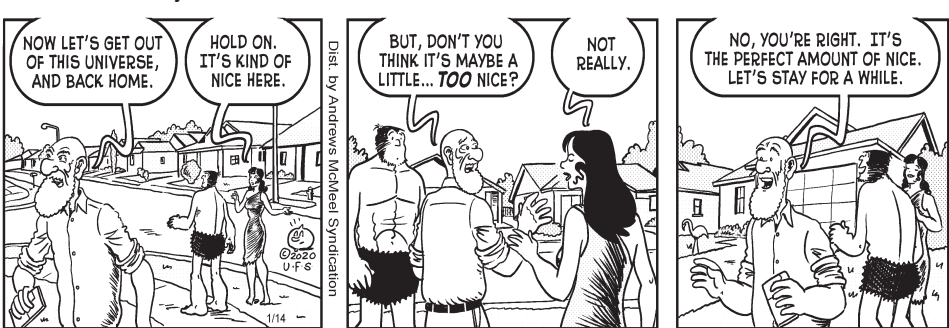
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



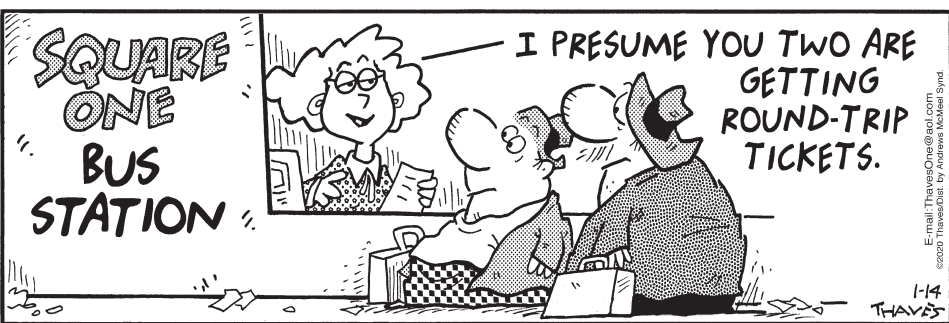
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Flower-to-be
- 4 PC owner
- 8 Jungfrau
- 11 Tempe inst.
- 12 Wander
- 13 Small combo
- 14 Sweet roll
- 15 Helm position
- 16 Busy place
- 17 Esoteric
- 19 Southern st. locale
- 21 Cuzco
- 22 Apron tops
- 25 Coveted awards
- 29 Drag along
- 31 Work units
- 34 Zoologists' mouths
- 35 Lawman Wyatt
- 36 Leafy green
- 37 Resin
- 38 One-time Queens ballpark
- 39 Id companion
- 40 Politician pickers

42 Ms.

- Watson
- 44 Bumblers
- 47 Ms. Hagen
- 49 Happy
- 51 Pith
- 54 Water-filled trench
- 56 "Yecch!"
- 57 Yen
- 58 Sea eagle
- 59 Philosopher
- tzu
- 60 Even so
- 61 More than want
- 62 No-seats sign

DOWN

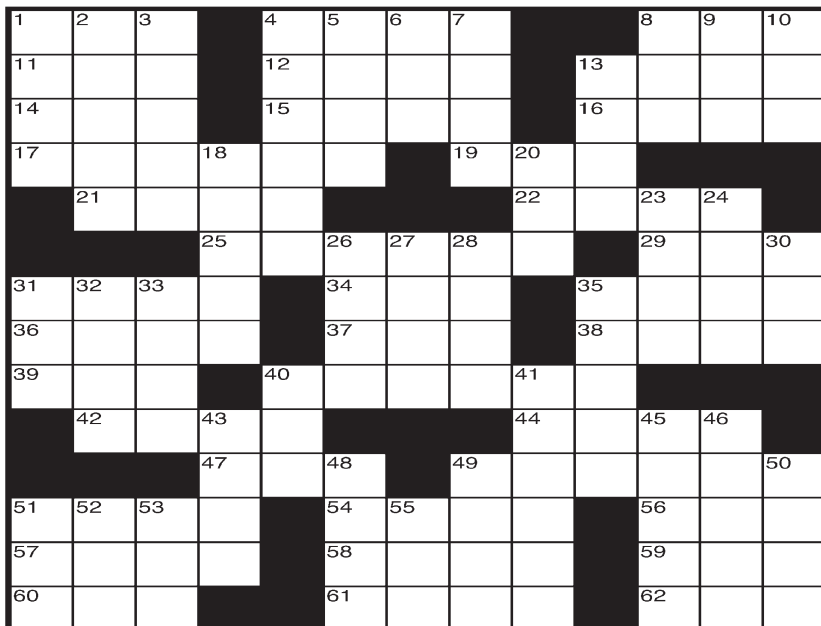
- 1 Ali
- 2 Seize the throne
- 3 Dummy
- 4 Planet next to Saturn
- 5 Foot part
- 6 Festive night
- 7 Coral habitat
- 8 "Exodus" character
- 9 54, to Flavius

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 10 "The Tell-Tale Heart" penner
- 13 Bangkok native
- 18 Developed
- 20 Flour sack abbr.
- 23 Lacking vivacity
- 24 Confidence
- 26 Nebr. neighbor
- 27 Smell
- 28 Speedway competition
- 30 College stat
- 31 Make ends meet
- 32 Frenzy
- 33 Latch onto

- 35 Piece of prose
- 40 Tank
- 41 Cheered
- 43 Type of swan
- 45 Referees' calls
- 46 Coffee additive
- 48 Revival shout
- 49 Miss Marple of whodunits
- 50 Wave away
- 51 Mr. Lombardo
- 52 Eur. country
- 53 PFC boss
- 55 Bauxite or galena



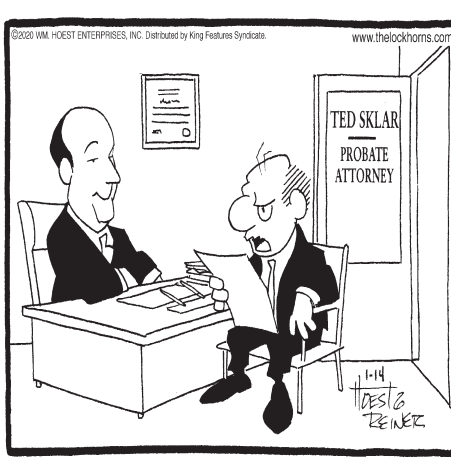
1-14 © 2020 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Thank heavens! Now we don't have to go to the goofy karaoke party on Saturday!"

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



"SO MUCH FOR FREE WILL."

Astrograph

Your Birthday
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
 Prepare to fight hard if you want to get ahead. Deal with obstacles head-on. Sort out your differences with anyone who could put a damper on your success. Positive change is within reach, but you are the one who will have to instigate it. Your goals can be reached!
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Less fuss will help you get things done. Put one foot in front of the other until you reach your destination. Financial gain is heading your way.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Personal change will boost your morale and confidence. Fitness, health and a proper diet will help you improve your quality of life.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Take on responsibility and show everyone what you are capable of doing. Dealing with other people's jobs or problems will give you leverage when you need a favor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Don't jump to conclusions or make assumptions that will get you into trouble. Nothing will be as it appears. It's time to sit back and let others come to you.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Push the boundaries, set big goals and exceed your expectations. Today is about discipline, hard work and proving what you can do. A personal change will prompt romance.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Refuse to let the words or actions of others stand in your way. Handle an emotional matter very delicately. You will be amazed by how much you can learn if you listen.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Do your own thing and enjoy what transpires. Take a unique approach to how you handle money, your health and contractual negotiations. Romance is in the stars.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Take the responses you get from others to heart. Defend your principles, but be open-minded enough to allow others to follow their own beliefs.

Getting along will require work and compromise.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take control and do whatever is necessary to improve your life. A change will lead to new opportunities. Don't fear letting go of something that is no longer working for you.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Outside pressure shouldn't daunt you or make you conform to someone else's dream. If you don't like what you see or hear, remove yourself from the situation that is causing you grief.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Handle money matters like an expert. Invest in your skills, talents and ideas. If you keep your feet planted firmly on the ground, you will make the right decisions. Romance is encouraged.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Refuse to let restlessness lead to unnecessary changes. Initiate reform and look for a solution. Remain calm and discuss your options with people who share your concerns.

Bridge

North 01-14-20
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ 9 4 2
 ♦ A K 9 8 5 2
 ♣ 6 2

West East
 ♠ 8 5 2 ♠ 10 9 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 7 6 3 ♥ A 8
 ♦ 7 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ K 10 8 5 ♣ Q 7 4

South
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ J 10 4
 ♣ A J 9 3

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: Both

South West North East
 INT Pass 3NT All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 6

COUNT WINNERS AND ANALYZE OPTIONS
 Alexis Carrel, who was a French surgeon and biologist awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1912 for pioneering vascular suturing techniques, said, "All great men are gifted with intuition. They know, without reasoning or analysis, what they need to know."
 Many great bridge players know, without reasoning or analysis, what they need to do. They can "feel" where the missing cards are located. But for most of us, we should count winners & losers, & analyze the various possible lines of play.
 In today's deal, South is in 3 no-trump. West leads a 4th-highest heart 6; East wins with the ace & returns the heart 8. What should declarer do now?
 With a long minor, no singleton, no void & no thoughts about a slam, raise 1

no-trump to 3 no-trump. South starts with 7 top tricks: 3 spades, 1 heart (given the first trick), 2 diamonds & 1 club. If the diamond queen is singleton or doubleton, there are overtricks in declarer's future. But what if East has queen-third or -fourth? That doesn't look troubling, but South must be careful.
 Suppose he finesse the heart jack at trick 2. Here, West might shift to a low club at trick 3, setting up 5 tricks for the defenders: 2 hearts, 1 diamond & 2 clubs.
 What happens if South wins the second trick & runs the diamond jack?
 Then the contract is safe. If East wins with the diamond queen & can return another heart, declarer will lose only 3 hearts & 1 diamond. Here, East will take the diamond & shift to a low club, but South wins with his ace & claims an overtrick.