

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



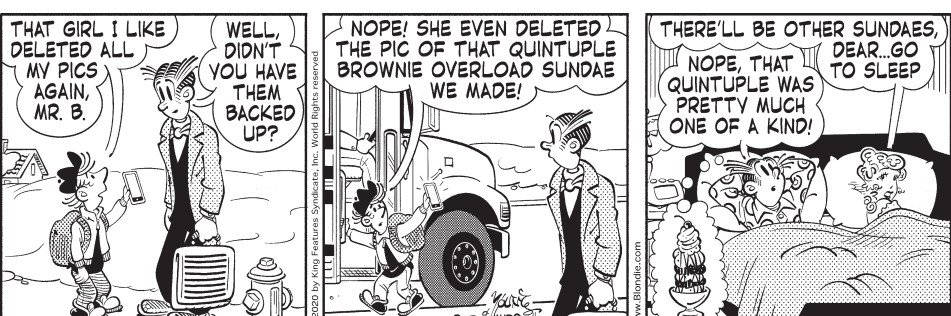
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



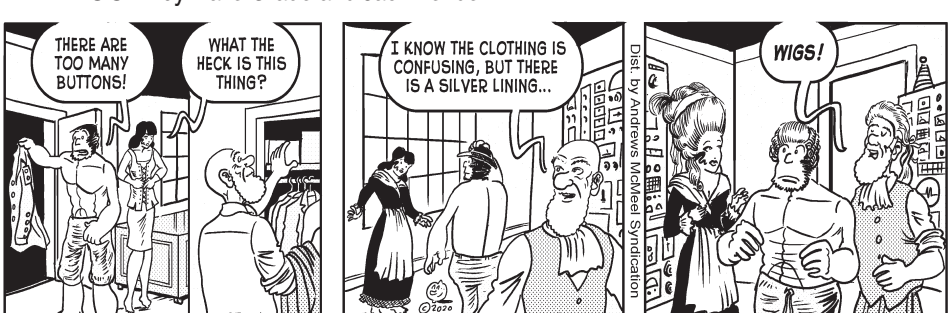
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



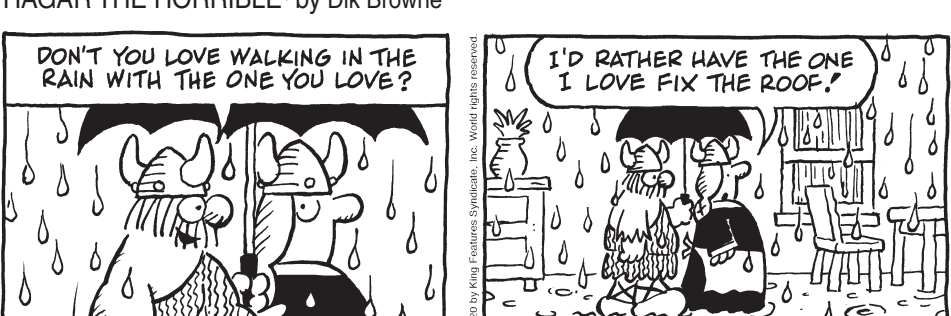
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 "Star Trek" weapon

7 Tea party city

13 Enjoy a memory

14 Galvanize

15 Banishes

16 Sports division

17 HBO alternative

18 — -eared bunny

19 Top NCO

22 Eureka!

24 Gossip tidbit

28 — -Magnon man

29 Brood

30 Columnist — Bombeck

31 Tear

32 Civil War general

33 Neck annoyance

34 Sonic prefix

36 Med. plan

38 Lawyer's charge

DOWN

1 Opposite of post-

2 Jinx

3 Husband of Fatima

4 River deposit

5 Flush with

6 Work with antiques

7 Vote

8 Layered cookie

39 Beat a retreat

40 Icy precipitation

41 Grass skirt accessory

42 — shui

43 Startled cries

44 NY hours

45 Rx writers org.

47 Brief time

50 Stroller

53 Diviner

57 Nest builders

58 Biased

59 Building exterior

60 Wobble

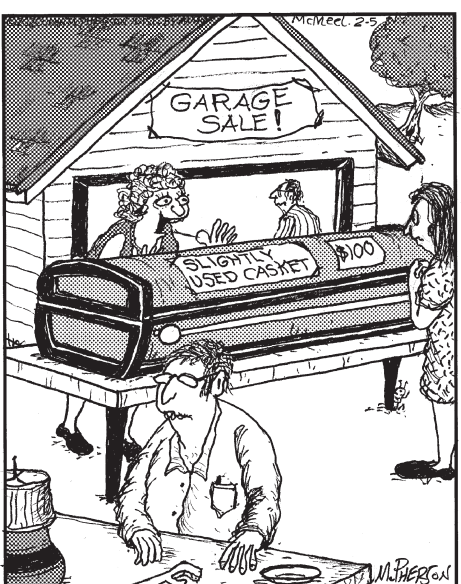
Answer to Previous Puzzle

N	U	B				N	E	T	S		A	L	E		
A	F	R				E	R	A	S			L	O	D	E
S	O	U				H	E	W	N						
A	S	T	E	R						T	I	D	A	L	
			C	U	E			A	R	E					
A	M	A	H			D	E	C	I	D	E	D			
T	A	R	O			I	L	E		X	I				
M	A	I				T	A	T		D	A	N	A		
			M	A	R	C	O	N	I		O	M	E	N	
						O	U	R		C	O	N			
A	B	B	O	T						W	A	S	P	S	
F	L	A	K			F	A	U	N		R	A	E		
T	E	R	I			A	N	T	E		T	I	A		
			U	K	E		D	Y	E	D		A	R	M	

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12
13							14					
15							16					
			17				18					
19	20	21			22	23			24	25	26	27
28				29					30			
31				32				33				
34			35			36	37			38		
39					40					41		
42					43					44		
			45	46			47	48	49			
50	51	52					53			54	55	56
57							58					
59							60					

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Your Birthday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Embrace balance. Adapt to what's going on around you. Trust in your intuition and ability to do what's best for yourself. Waiting for someone else to make the first move will set you back. Take pride in the choices you make and follow through with your decisions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Get fit, be active and embrace life. Engage in whatever stimulates your mind, body and soul. Stop dreaming and live in the moment. You can make a difference.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Emotional pleas will fall on deaf ears. Open up to suggestions and control your anger. Emotional distress will lead to poor choices. Focus on volunteering, keeping busy and being kind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Put your energy to good use. Don't neglect what should be a top priority. Do your best to avoid demanding people and to

offset criticism. Be proud of your accomplishments, and don't give up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- You'll have plenty of choices and opportunities. Consider what will bring you joy and satisfaction, and will spark your imagination. Expand your interests and friendships. Romance will enhance your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Emotional tension will surface if you don't keep busy. Tighten your schedule and fit in as much as possible. The less time you have to talk, the easier it will be to avoid discord.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Look for a way to use your creative skills to get ahead. Let the people you love know how much you care. A kind word or gesture will improve relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Engage in mental or physical travel. Exploring what's available to you will encourage you to work harder and longer to reach your goal. Partnerships look promising.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Try not to jump to conclusions about matters concerning your

mate or other family members. Caution will be necessary to avoid minor mishaps, accidents or arguments. Unity, peace and love should be your goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Strive to acquire knowledge through traveling, taking courses or spending time with someone who motivates you. You'll be admired for your quick wit, lending a shine to your reputation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Your intuition won't let you down. Spend time developing something creative that excites you. Present your ideas and how you want to proceed. Romance is in the stars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Actions speak louder than words. Don't leave yourself open for criticism. Focus on fulfilling your promises and taking better care of your health and emotional well-being.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Do what's right for everyone involved. Take any opportunity that comes your way to step into a leadership role. A relationship will enhance your life.

Bridge

North				02-05-20
♠ A K 9 8 7 6				
♥ —				
♦ 10 7 5 4 3				
♣ K 3				
West		East		
♠ A Q		♥ J 3 2		
♥ A Q J 10 7 6 5 4 2		♠ K 9 8 3		
♦ —		♦ Q		
♣ Q 9 6		♣ J 8 7 4 2		
South				
♠ 10 5 4				
♥ —				
♦ A K J 9 8 6 2				
♣ A 10 5				
Dealer: North				
Vulnerable: East-West				
South	West	North	East	
		1♠	Pass	
2♦	4♥	6♦	Pass	
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ??				

ONE AUCTION BEGAT TWO OPENING LEADS

Frank A. Clark, creator of a single-panel cartoon called "The Country Parson," wrote, "If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

On a fair number of bridge deals, the opening lead is clear-cut. But sometimes it is not so straightforward; there are obstacles for the defender who starts trick one.

In today's deal, look only at the West hand and the auction. What card should West choose against seven diamonds?

Yesterday, we had a deal in which East had 10 diamonds. Today, East-West have all 13 hearts, which was not easy to realize. The deal occurred during last year's European Champions Cup. It was originally described by Jos Jacobs from the Netherlands.

Surprisingly, in the match between Israel and Monaco, the auction was identical at both tables. When North had enough to jump to six diamonds, South understandably thought his hand was worth seven.

What did West lead?

In the open room, Ilan Bareket from Israel chose the heart ace, which conceded a fatal ruff-and-sluff. The declarer ruffed on the board & sluffed a spade from his hand. South then claimed, explaining that he would draw the missing trump and ruff his club loser on the board.

In the closed room, Michal Klukowski did much better, choosing the spade queen. Now declarer had to lose a spade trick, & Monaco gained 16 international match points.

Maybe Bareket suggested that, despite the vulnerability, his partner should have bid six hearts over six diamonds.