



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



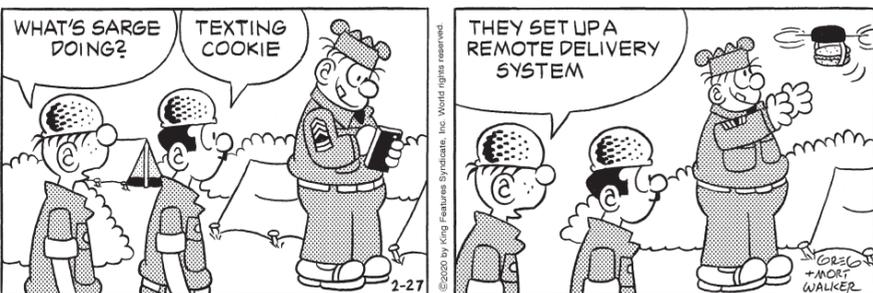
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



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



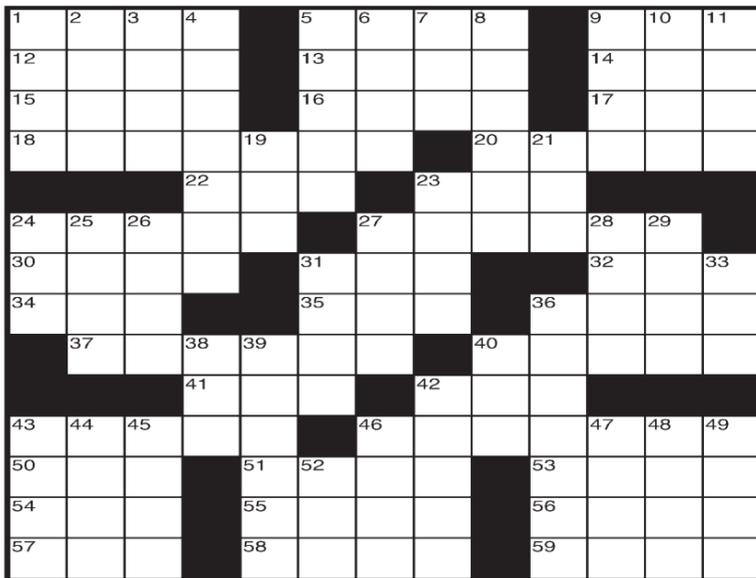
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Walt Kelly strip
  - 5 Folk dance shoe
  - 9 Cot or crib
  - 12 Poles' connector
  - 13 Clock hand
  - 14 Navajo foe
  - 15 Exam
  - 16 Jot
  - 17 Tie up the phone
  - 18 Contest hopeful
  - 20 Preference
  - 22 Potato st.
  - 23 Ms. Farrow of films
  - 24 Brake parts
  - 27 Dog-tired
  - 30 Yikes! (hyph.)
  - 31 Runway sight
  - 32 Gullet
  - 34 Benedictine title
  - 35 Crawling insect
  - 36 Carpet choice
  - 37 Let
  - 40 Goose-bumpy
- DOWN**
- 1 Elegant spread
  - 2 Draft animals
  - 3 Primary point
  - 4 Largest bird
  - 5 Pagoda's land
  - 6 Plunder

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 7 Ump's yell
- 8 Free
- 9 Purchases
- 10 Oregon, to Yves
- 11 Hockey feint
- 19 Classified section
- 21 Pleased sigh
- 23 Stray dog
- 24 Fizzle
- 25 Flapjack chain
- 26 Several
- 27 Aptitude
- 28 Arab VIP
- 29 "Soft Watches" artist
- 31 Clink or cooler
- 33 Quite tiny
- 36 Lead shot
- 38 Sweater letter
- 39 Tear
- 40 Snaky fish
- 42 Sticky
- 43 NYC theater award
- 44 — and void
- 45 Peeves
- 46 Type option
- 47 Dreaded czar
- 48 First-century Roman emperor
- 49 Nibble
- 52 Chafe



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Refuse to let someone else dictate what you do next. Do what's best for you and pursue your dreams.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Pay more attention to your personal life, health and what you can do to improve things. Romance is on the rise, and spending more time with someone you love will enhance your life.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Be careful what you wish for. Don't push yourself too hard or take on too much. Moderation will be in your best interest. Make intelligent decisions.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You'll be in a generous mood. It's fun to entertain others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. A loss is likely if you are frivolous or careless.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Add last-minute details that will give you the edge you are looking for when presenting what you have to offer. A positive change is within reach.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- A disagreement will have a lasting effect. It's best to keep the peace and get along with your peers. Romance should be a priority.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Social activity, pleasure trips or personal changes should be on your agenda. Someone you meet will make you think about new possibilities. Consider starting a new venture.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't criticize others about their way of doing things. Roll up your shirtsleeves and do your part. You will gain allies if you are amicable. Romance is favored.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Make practical changes and don't look back. Taking action will be more rewarding than sitting still and accomplishing nothing. Avoid getting into a debate with a loved one.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- A little charm, a personal makeover and a healthy routine will help prepare you for what's to come. Don't let others' actions stop you from pursuing what's best for you.

Bridge

North 02-27-20

♠ Q

♥ K J 9 7

♦ A Q J 10 9

♣ 6 5 3

West East

♠ 8 7 2 ♠ A 10 5 3

♥ Q 6 4 ♥ 5 2

♦ 5 4 ♦ 8 7 6 3 2

♣ 10 9 8 7 2 ♣ A K

South

♠ K J 9 6 4

♥ A 10 8 3

♦ K

♣ Q J 4

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: Neither

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass

2♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 10

GATHER INTELLIGENCE BEFORE DECIDING

The Duke of Wellington was discussing war, but with a small change we can make an equally valid point about bridge: All the business of bridge is to endeavor to find out what you don't know by what you do. In other words, as you play out a deal, you learn more about the opponents' hands & should use this information. Against four hearts, West led the club 10. East won the first trick with the ace, cashed the club king (the accepted way of showing a doubleton) & exited with a diamond. With a guaranteed spade loser, declarer had to find the trump queen to make his contract. Assuming West had 5 clubs to East's two, there were 11 empty spaces in East's hand for the heart queen, but only eight in West's hand. However, those

11-to-8 odds weren't good enough for South. He wanted to find out more about the distribution before committing himself. Judging that West would have led a singleton diamond if he had one, declarer overtook the diamond king with spade's ace & discarded his club queen on the diamond queen. Now came the spade queen from the board. East won with the ace and returned a diamond. South ruffed with the heart ace, cashed the spade king, discarding dummy's club loser, then led the heart 8 & ran it. When it won, he repeated the heart finesse, drew West's last trump and claimed. Why was South so confident about the hearts? Because East had passed as dealer and had already shown up with 11 points: the club ace-king and spade ace. He couldn't hold a queen as well.