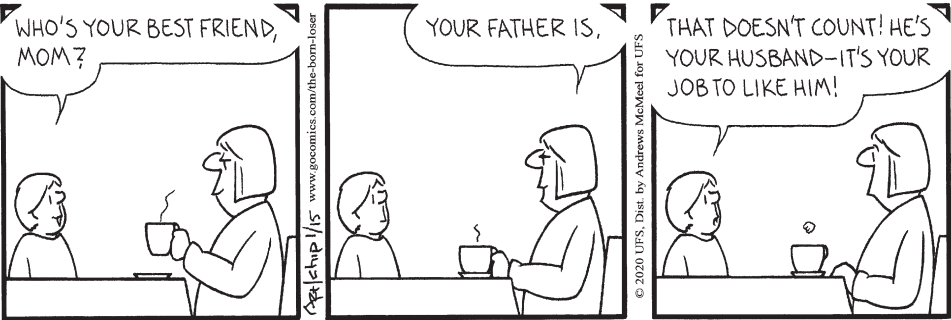
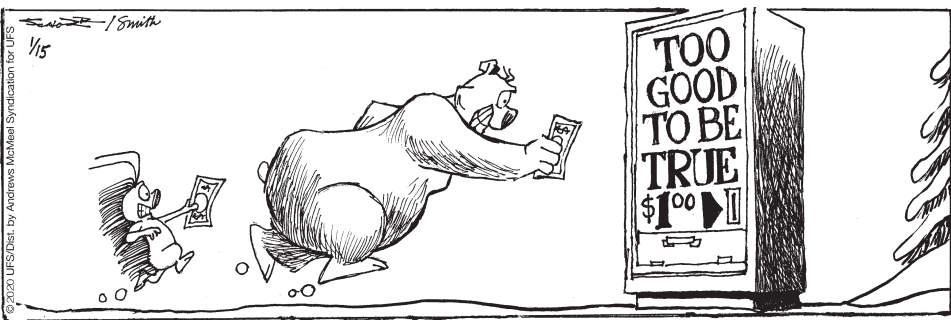




THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



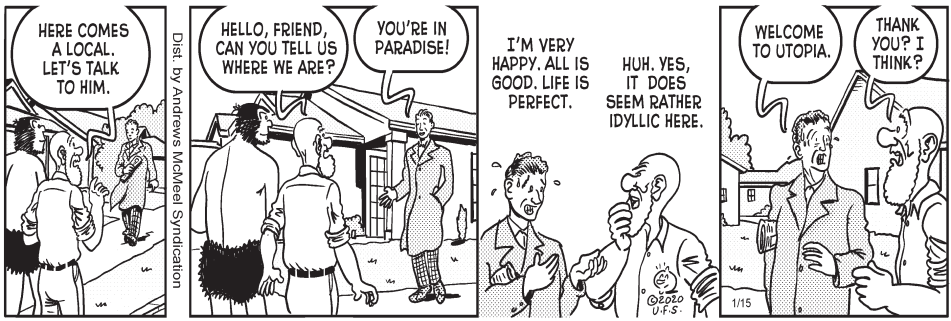
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



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 Relocation pro  
6 Jessica of "Murder, She Wrote"  
12 Singer Frankie —  
14 German city  
15 Canal site  
16 Rise and shine  
17 Ore. neighbor  
18 Tax form ID  
19 Crumple  
21 Andy Capp's quaff  
23 Kimono fastener  
26 Affirmative  
27 Reporter's query  
28 Cut of meat  
30 Long sigh  
31 Summer Games org.  
32 Space station view  
33 Trudges along

35 Novelist — Follett

- 37 Swimsuit piece  
38 Thong  
39 And, for Wolfgang  
40 Immeasurable time  
41 Border  
42 Decide on  
43 Store info  
44 Identify, slangily  
46 Ben & Jerry rival  
48 Charm  
51 Smelled awful  
55 Chocolate dessert  
56 Next year's alumnus  
57 Damaged by hail  
58 Easy mark

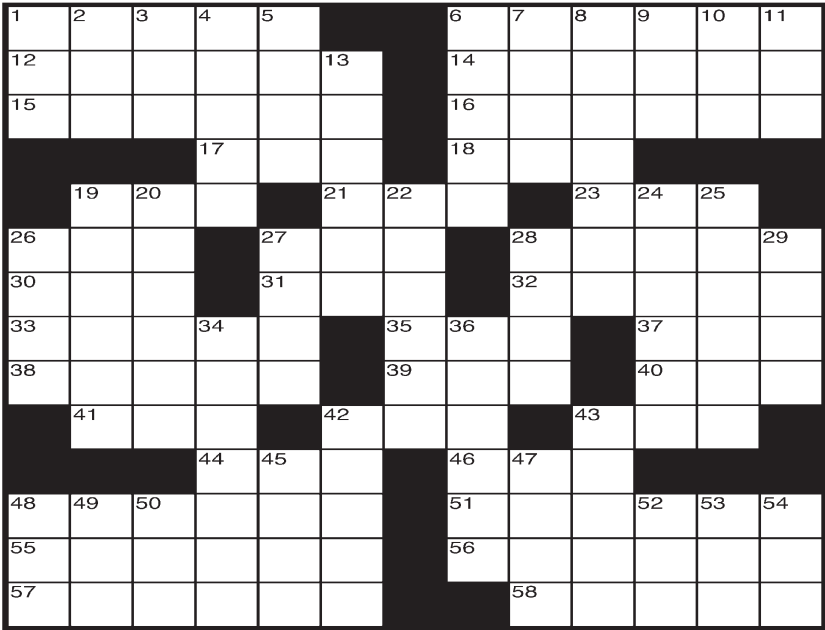
DOWN

- 1 Travel guide  
2 Eggs, in biology  
3 Panel truck  
4 Spiral-horned antelope  
5 Trevi Fountain site

Answer to Previous Puzzle



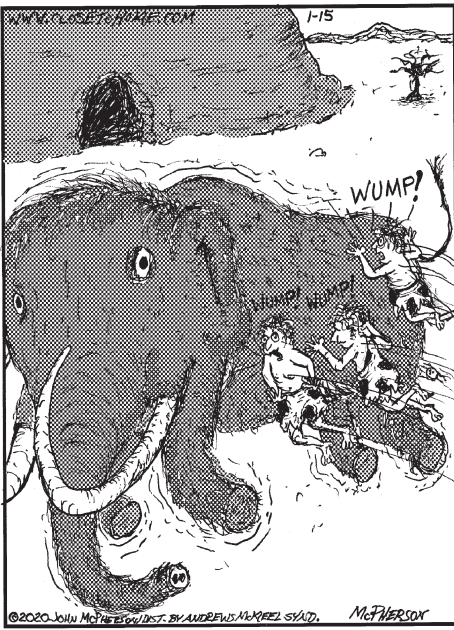
- 6 Degrade  
7 Today's paper  
8 Trail treat  
9 Forest grazer  
10 Perjure oneself  
11 Miller or Sheridan  
13 Hogan dweller (Var.)  
19 Fortune  
20 On solid ground  
22 Local jail  
24 Figaro's job  
25 Speech openers  
26 Shrill barks  
27 Trace of smoke  
28 Manage for oneself  
29 Kublai —  
34 Soggiest  
36 Goes in  
42 Eyed impolitely  
43 Scavenging animal  
45 Alleviate  
47 Go off the — end  
48 Fuse word  
49 South Seas staple  
50 Place  
52 Tool set  
53 Aurora, to Plato  
54 Like the Sahara



1-15

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



"NO, THAT DRESS DOESN'T MAKE YOU LOOK FAT... BUT IT DOES MAKE THE ROOM LOOK SMALLER."

The predecessor to cow-tipping.

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

MY KINGDOM FOR A SEVEN-SPOT

John Wesley, an 18th-century English preacher, said, "Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago."

Do cartoonists or bridge columnists recycle every seven years? Some, probably.

In this deal, though, a 7 plays a star role. How does the play go in 4 hearts by South?

The bidding followed a predictable course. However, some Norths would respond 3 hearts, a pre-emptive jump in competition showing 4 trumps & a weak hand.

Looking at matters from declarer's point of view, he seemed to have only 3 losers: 1 spade & 2 diamonds. However, West found a resourceful defense.

He led the diamond ace &

cashed the diamond king, East playing high-low to show his doubleton. From the point count, it was unlikely that East had an honor card that could take a trick. Instead, West set his eye on a trump winner.

At trick 3, West cashed the spade ace. Then he led a low diamond. East, a fine fellow, ruffed with the heart 7, which effected an uppercut. South overruffed with the queen, but West collected a trump trick.

Note two things. First, West did well not to lead the diamond queen at trick 4. When you want partner to ruff, lead a loser, not a winner. Second, on this deal it was not necessary to cash the spade ace first. But if South had 1=5=2=5 distribution, and West led the third diamond without cashing the spade ace, when East ruffed, declarer could have discarded his spade, making a loser-on-loser play.