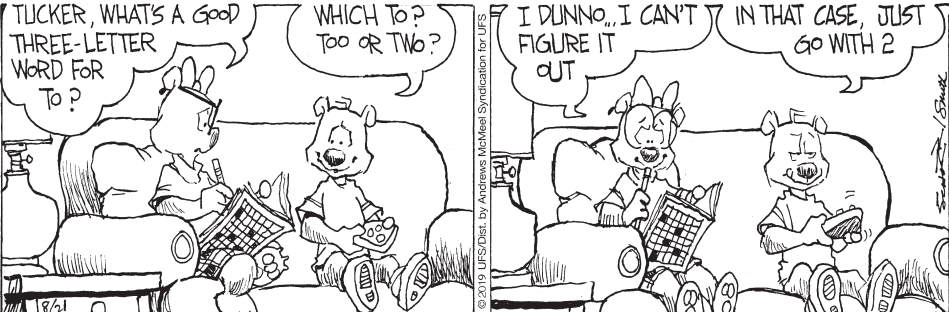


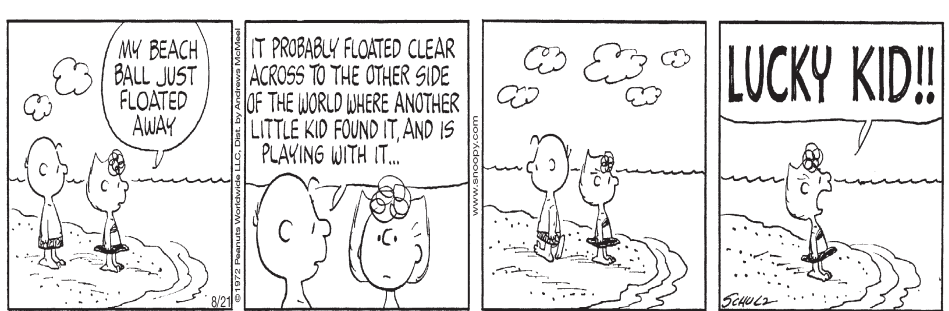
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



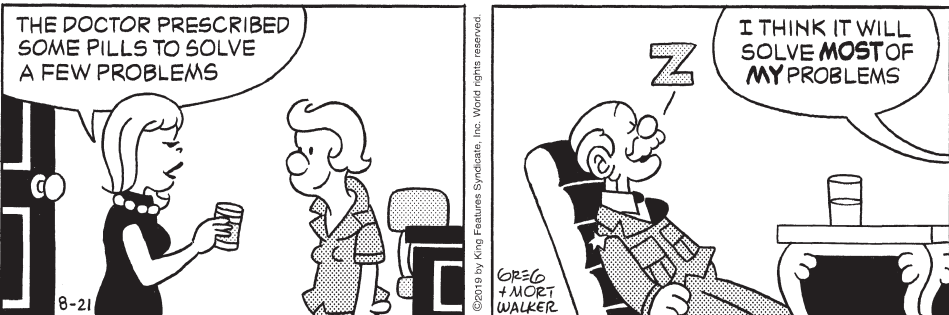
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



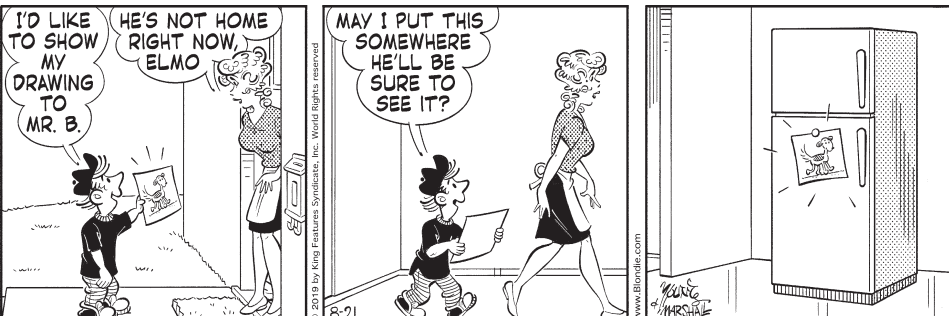
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



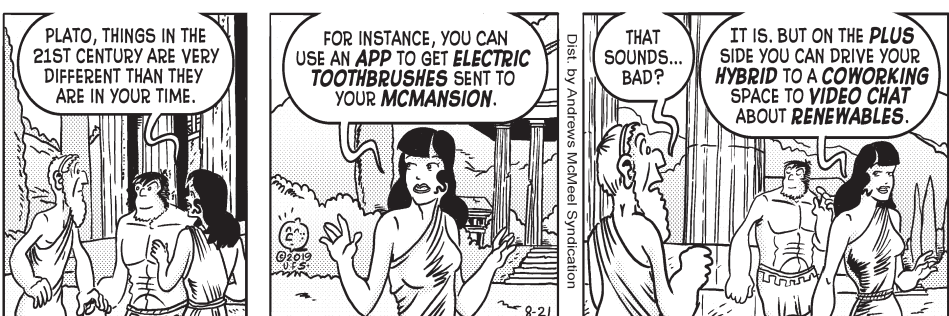
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Nightspot
5 Wee circle
8 Each and every
11 Vision-related
13 You — here
14 Diner staple
15 Grind, as teeth
16 Abel, to Eve
17 Under-stand
18 Toe-stubber's cry
20 Use steel wool
22 Ruling group
24 Not him
25 — Bon Jovi
26 Like souffles
28 Deadly snakes
32 Wise bird
33 Where Anna taught
34 Island near Java
35 Rode the banister

- 37 One, to Helmut
39 However
40 Is, to Pedro
41 Cold spell
42 Cassowary kin
43 Permit
45 Dishonest ones
47 Move slowly
50 Small land mass
51 Grazing area
52 Well-worn
54 Japanese port
58 Psyche components
59 Imitate a dove
60 Errand runner
61 "The Raven" poet
62 Bard prince
63 Wheels for nanny

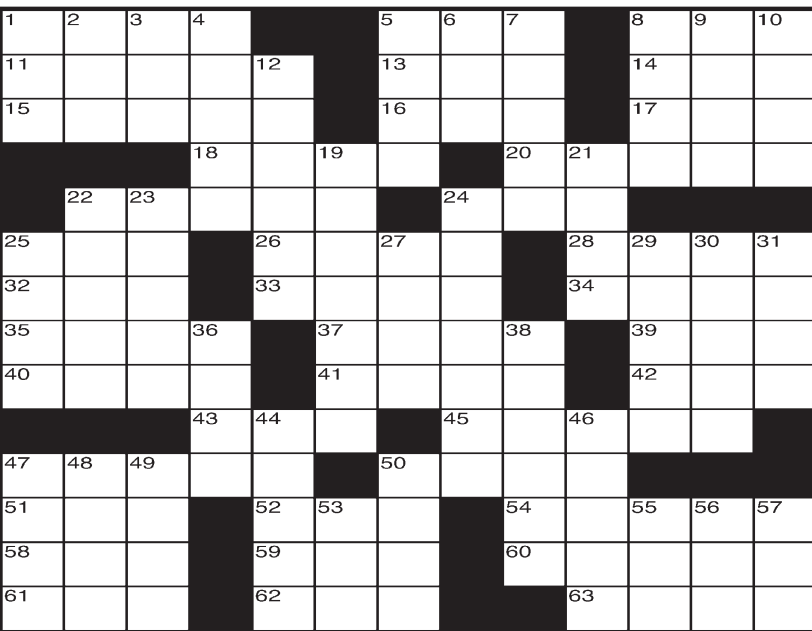
DOWN

- 1 Gear tooth
2 Hosp. staffer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	R	A	B		C	A	P		S	M	U	T
O	H	I	O		O	A	R		M	A	N	E
C	O	M	A	N	C	H	E		O	R	C	A
			R	O			V	I	G	I	L	S
P	E	P	S	I		P	A	C		N	E	E
E	G	O		R	A	I	L	E	D			
R	A	N	D		R	A	E		U	L	N	A
E	D	E	N		A	N	N		B	O	O	T
			A	S	C	O	T	S		B	R	O
B	R	A		E	H	S		C	H	O	M	P
R	A	G	L	A	N		B	A				
I	D	E	A		I	N		U	N	D	A	T
M	I	N	D				D	E	R		R	I
S	I	T	E		S	T			A	R	E	A

- 3 Ms. Hagen
4 Yellow-stone sight
5 Pizazz
6 Gold, in Mexico
7 Edgy
8 Lhasa —
9 Stead
10 Wolfish look
12 Sloping troughs
19 Shrewdest
21 Grouch
22 Lower jaws
23 Dark
24 Pew adjuncts
25 Tenor — Carreras
27 Build up
29 Cavalry weapon
- 30 Some fruit trees
31 In — (as found)
36 Carnegie or Evans
38 Novel closer
44 Memorable time
46 Fable author
47 Film segment
48 Give a fresh look
49 Soothe
50 Archaeologist's find
53 Mauna —
55 Libya's loc.
56 Big parrot
57 Starfish part



8-21

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"We piped in countless hours of Vivaldi and Mozart while she was in my womb, but all she'll play is 'Honky Tonk Women.'"

Astrograph



Your Birthday

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019

If you take a practical approach to life, you will bypass emotional traps. Set standards that suit your budget and are conducive to helping you achieve what's important. Nothing happens overnight, but with a slow, steady pace forward, you will live up to your expectations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- If you want something done, do it yourself. The feeling of accomplishment will be extremely satisfying. The only one you truly have to please is yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A mental, physical or emotional journey will lead to a positive change. Pick up a new skill, socialize with people who share your concerns and do things your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Handle the people close to you with care. The words you choose will affect the response you get. Positive change requires understanding and compromise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Follow through on your commitments to avoid backlash. The way you handle your responsibilities will affect the way people treat you. If you care about someone, make it known.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You'll be given choices. Some will be enticing, but will probably have strings attached, and others will be challenging but worthwhile. Be smart, practical and honest with yourself and others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Embrace change. Be the one to make things happen. Do your homework and forge ahead with optimism and a sound plan. A joint venture looks promising. Romance is encouraged.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Think matters through before you take action. Emotionally charged impulsiveness will lead to mistakes and regret. Stay focused on what's best for you. Keep the peace.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't ruin a good idea or plan by expanding too quickly. Sticking to a budget and growing a solid foundation are

avored. A personal change looks inviting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Make plans and get involved in events that interest you. A former acquaintance or certain memory will make you question your motives. Trust in yourself, not in what someone tells you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- What you need and what you want may not coincide. Look at every aspect of a situation and make decisions based on your physical, emotional and financial capabilities. Know your limits and boundaries.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Honesty is the best policy. A lifestyle change is in order. Deal openly with a loved one. Secrets will be revealed by someone you least expect. Build trust.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Get involved in something meaningful. Whether it's forming a partnership, a new position or an act of assistance to someone you care about, doing something that makes a difference will leave you feeling good.

Bridge

North				08-21-19
♠ J				
♥ K Q 10 7				
♦ 10 9 7 4				
♣ A J 3 2				
West		East		
♠ A Q 7 4 2		♠ 10 9 3		
♥ 9		♥ A 3		
♦ K Q 3		♦ J 6 5		
♣ Q 9 8 4		♣ K 10 7 6 5		
South				
♠ K 8 6 5				
♥ J 8 6 5 4 2				
♦ A 8 2				
♣ —				
Dealer: West				
Vulnerable: Both				
South	West	North	East	
1♠		Dbl.	2♣	
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♥ 9				

THEIR BIDDING HELPS YOUR DECLARER PLAY

Michelangelo said, "A man paints with his brains and not with his hands."

A bridge player bids, declares and defends with his brains, influenced by the cards in his hands.

In today's deal, South is in four hearts. What is West's most thoughtful lead? If he makes the unusual choice of his singleton trump, and East wins with his ace and returns his remaining heart, how should South picture the deal and the play?

West's lethal lead is the diamond king. Since South cannot get to the dummy to discard a diamond on the club ace, he must lose one spade, one heart and two diamonds.

After the defense of two rounds of trumps, declarer has seven top tricks: one club, one

diamond & five hearts. He can ruff two spades on the board, but he also needs to establish a spade trick for his 10th winner. From the bidding, South knows West has five spades and East three. Also, West is certain to have the spade ace, both for his opening bid (given that East has the heart ace and probably a club honor) and because he did not lead a spade.

Declarer should win the second trick on the board and run the spade jack. It loses to West's queen, and the diamond king comes back. South wins & leads the spade king, ruffing away West's ace and bringing down East's nine. Declarer discards a diamond on the club ace, ruffs a club and ruffs the spade six, happy to see the 10 appear from East because the eight is now South's 10th trick.

Make use of those valuable spot-cards.