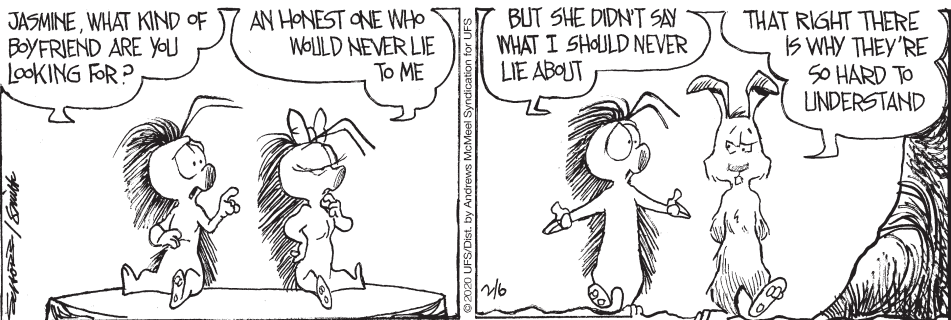


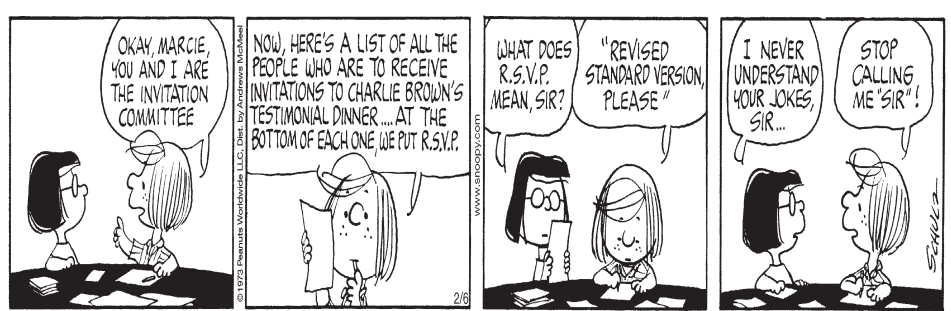
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



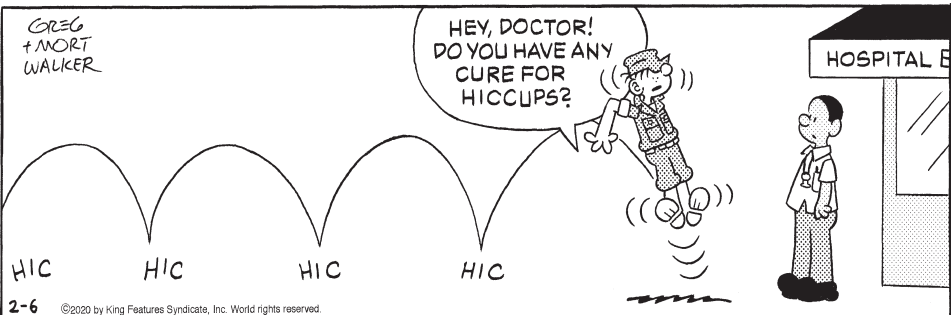
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



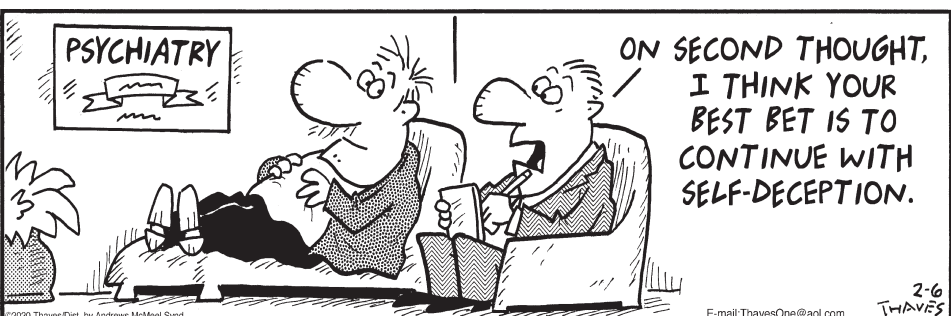
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



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 Knew somehow
5 To-do list entries
10 Leave stranded
12 Readily trained
13 Fly
14 Egg dish
15 Agreement
16 Winery feature
18 Guitarist — Paul
19 Racetrack near Miami
23 Tank filler
26 Rx givers
27 Cupola
30 Straw hat
32 Licorice flavoring
34 Sea World orca
35 Airline employees
36 Tell imaginative tales
37 Tribute in verse
38 Skip stones
39 Thaw
42 Son of Val and Aleta

45 Recede gradually

- 46 Ax handle
50 Rock band crew member
53 Whiteboard need
55 Side
56 Lookout
57 Vacation spot
58 Potato jacket

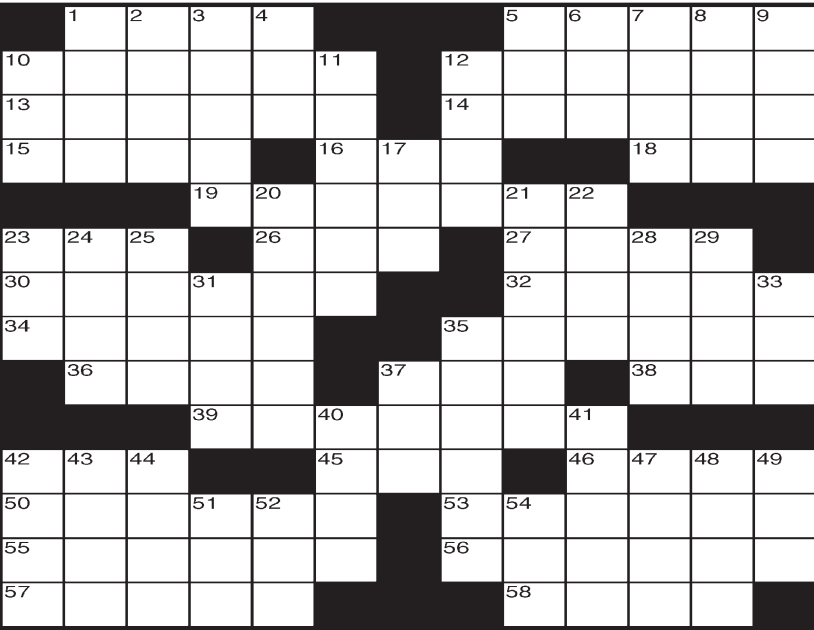
DOWN

- 1 Kind of bean
2 Severeid of the news
3 Not at all willing
4 Sandbox enjoyer
5 Brokaw of the news
6 High card
7 Threshold
8 Swiss painter Paul —
9 Stage backgrounds
10 Navigation aid

Answer to Previous Puzzle

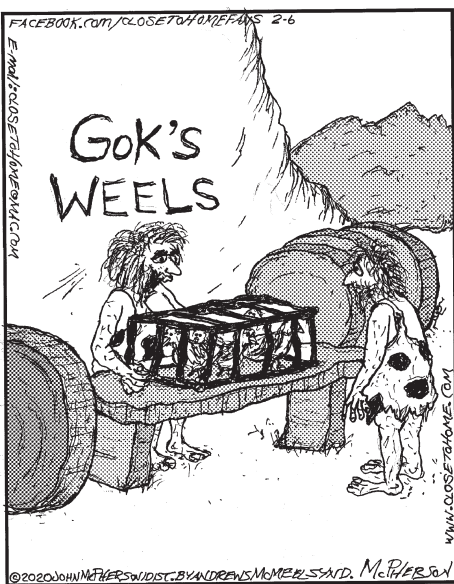


- 11 Carson City's state
12 Lavish attention
17 Pacino and Hirt
20 Not susceptible
21 Truisms
22 Make sharper
23 Navigation aid
24 Contented murmurs
25 Parka closer
28 Intellect
29 This, to Pedro
31 Among
33 Clairvoyance
35 Mud bricks
37 Moon or planet
40 Yard contents
41 Express gratitude
42 Haik wearer
43 Stood up
44 Bay Area valley
47 — spumante
48 Bracken
49 Undertake
51 Last mo.
52 Fritz, to himself
54 Home tel.



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

Explore your options, express your opinions and follow through with your plans. It's time to embrace the world and contribute what you have to offer. Exercise your right to stand up for what you believe in and for what you want to happen. Chase what you want and strive to succeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You can become what and who you want to be by taking action. Alter your way of thinking, if necessary, or change the way you present yourself to the world. Choose your destiny.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't reveal personal secrets. Listen more and talk less. If you show interest in others and are willing to help the underdog, you will gain ground. Self-improvement and romance are encouraged.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Take care of domestic issues. Alter your surroundings to suit

your needs. Host an event or pitch in and help someone you care about or want to impress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- A positive attitude will help you advance. If you are willing to adapt, you will make substantial gains. Make a change for the right reasons, not to prove a point.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't be too open about your feelings or wants. You are best off waiting until you know where you stand before you reveal your thoughts and intentions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Intimacy will improve your life and a relationship with someone special. Concentrate on getting along with others, not on trying to outdo someone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Investment opportunities may not be as they appear. Take your time and part only with money you can afford to lose. Put more time and effort into fitness, diet and improved health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Professional endeavors should be your focus. Pay attention to

the people who are essential to improving your personal and professional plans. Stay calm, keep the peace and listen carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Your achievements will affect the way others respond to you. Do what's right. Taking a path that complements what you do best will lead to the success you wish for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Destinations that provide a cultural shift will be eye-opening. Engage in events or pastimes that brought you joy in the past. New friendships look promising.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Pleasure trips that provide excitement and adventure will entice you. Don't get so wrapped up that you lose sight of your safety. Maintaining physical, emotional and mental balance will be necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- What you pursue will lead to a deep connection with someone who will broaden your outlook. Your contributions will result in additional popularity and respect.

Bridge

North		02-06-20	
♠ 10 5 4			
♥ —			
♦ A K J 9 8 6 2			
♣ A 10 5			
West		East	
♠ J 3 2		♥ Q	
♥ K 9 8 3		♦ A Q J 10 7 6 5 4 2	
♦ Q		♣ —	
♠ J 8 7 4 2		♥ Q 9 6	
South			
♠ A K 9 8 7 6			
♥ —			
♦ 10 7 5 4 3			
♣ K 3			
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: East-West			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	3♦	4♥
5♥	Dbl.	Redbl.	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	All Pass
Opening lead: ??			

ONE DEAL BEGAT TWO CONTRACTS

Lewis Carroll claimed, "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backward."

Not always! If your memory works backward to yesterday, you will recognize this deal, although it has been rotated to make South the declarer.

Yesterday, North was in 7 diamonds. At one table, East led the heart ace, conceding a ruff-&sluff on which declarer's spade loser evaporated. At the other table, East led the spade queen, which defeated the grand slam.

Today, South is in six spades. How does that contract fare?

We are looking at the 2019 European Champions Cup match between England and Greece. In the open room, the auction duplicated yesterday's, reaching 7 diamonds. Michael Bell led the spade queen to defeat the grand.

In this auction, Alexander

Allfrey's 3-diamond response was an echo from the past, showing a good hand with spades & diamonds. 5 hearts & redouble showed 1st- and 2nd-round controls in hearts. Then, when Andy Robson (South) passed over East's six-heart sacrifice, he was inviting his partner to bid higher. So, assuming his partner had good trumps, North went on to 6 spades.

After West led a club, declarer won with his king, cashed his top trumps & claimed his contract exactly.

As you have no doubt noticed, West's lethal lead was his singleton diamond queen, which East would have ruffed with his singleton spade queen. West also gets a trump trick.

No doubt West suggested that his partner should have doubled the final contract, Lightner, to ask for an unusual lead, which is usually the first suit bid by the dummy.