

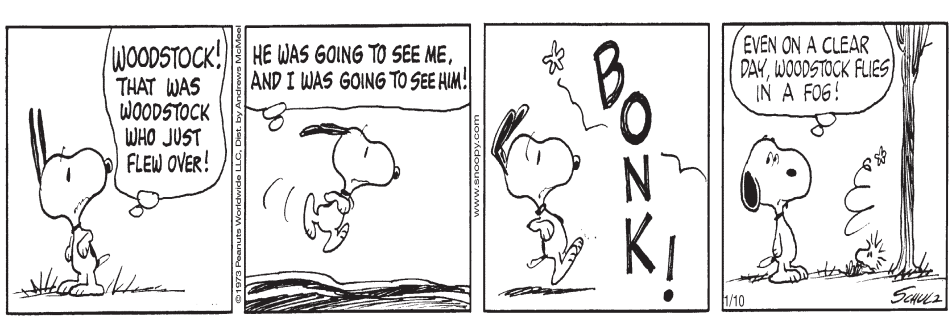
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



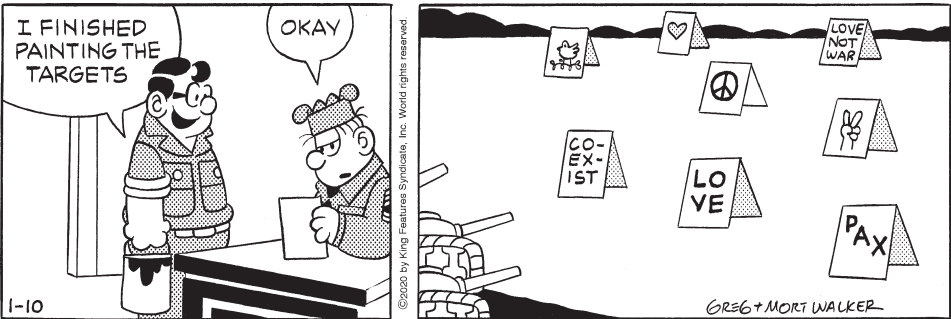
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



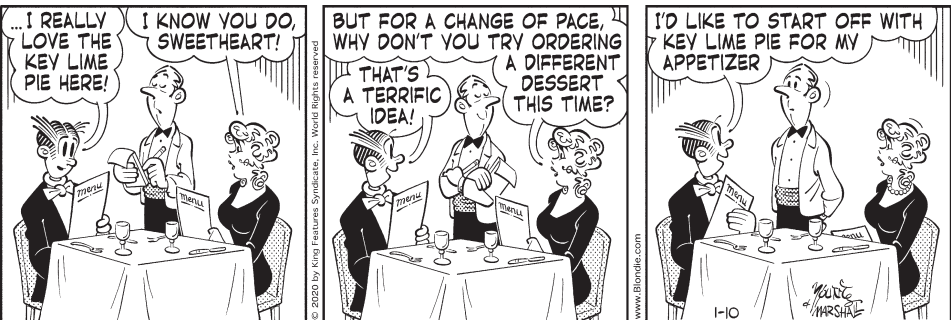
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



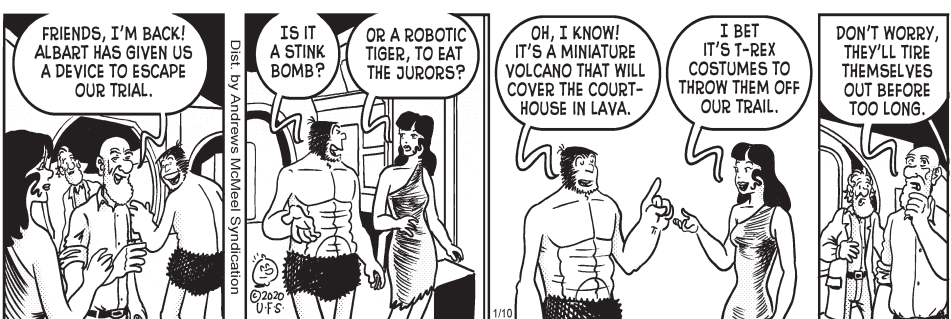
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



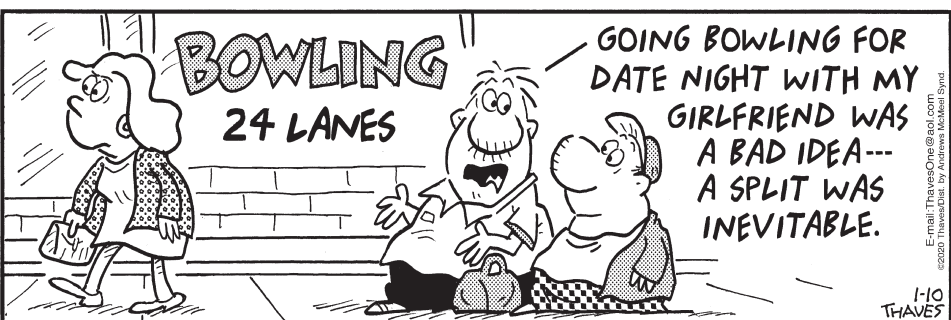
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



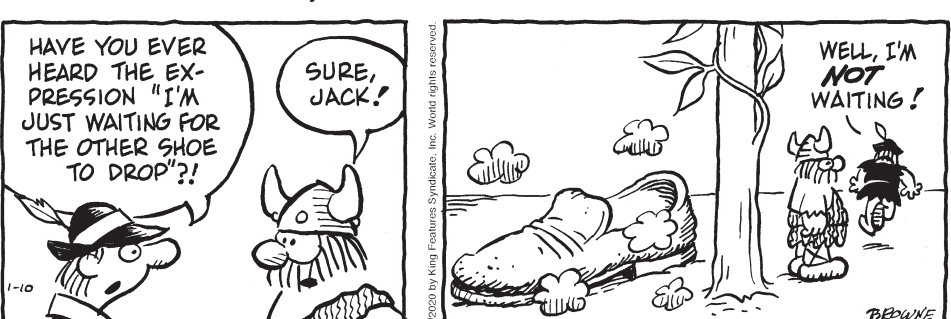
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Type of market

5 That senora

8 Nefertiti's god

12 Clavicle

13 Golfer's benchmark

14 Stadium roof

15 Stork cousin

16 Fluke

18 Dumpster output

20 Princess Leia's love

21 Bro's sibling

22 Strength

25 Capp and Jolson

28 Part of a.m.

29 Taiga animals

33 Back down

35 Follow, as a gumshoe

36 Kentucky fort

37 Chewing gum base

39 Footfall

40 Ready to pick

**DOWN**

1 "Most Wanted" org.

2 Gray wolf

3 Phillips University town

4 Early moralist

5 Clean air org.

6 Drawer freshener

**42 Zippy the Pinhead's word**

**43 Generally**

**46 Estuary**

**49 In the past**

**50 Profound**

**53 Kind of stork**

**56 Stadium level**

**58 Survey chart**

**59 Writer — Buscaglia**

**60 Sky bear**

**61 Prefix for "trillion"**

**62 Ben & Jerry rival**

**63 Seeger or Sampras**

Answer to Previous Puzzle



**7 Esoteric**

**8 Say more**

**9 Bunion sites**

**10 Prefix for directional**

**11 Party fabrics**

**17 Co.**

**19 Speckled horse**

**23 Explosive letters**

**24 Himalayan legend**

**25 Clumsy boats**

**26 Advanced, as cash**

**27 Wild plum**

**30 Delicate**

**31 About 2.2 pounds**

**32 Lots and lots**

**34 Montreal player**

**37 1040 pro**

**38 Kept back**

**40 Feast**

**41 Wrinkle-free**

**44 Tank**

**45 Pause**

**46 Spellbound**

**47 Inactive**

**48 Not shut**

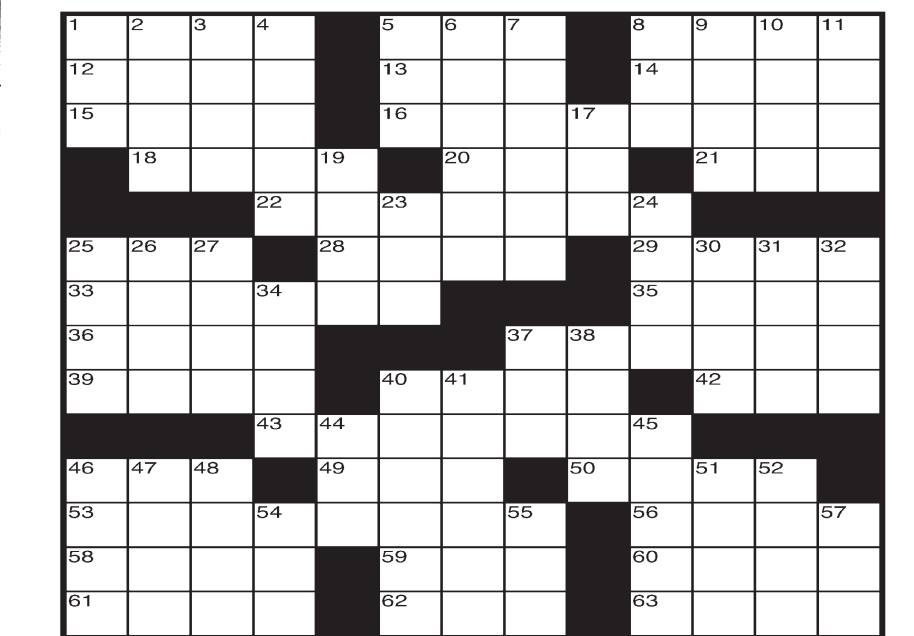
**51 Ireland**

**52 Nuisance**

**54 Ms. Hagen**

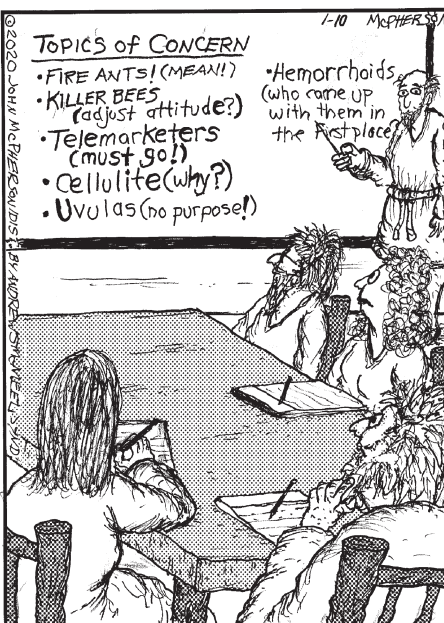
**55 Plaything**

**57 "Norma —"**



CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



At Heaven's Quality Control Department.

Astrograph

**Your Birthday**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020**

You'll have plenty to work with this year if you follow your heart and trust and believe in your capabilities. Partnerships will be heightened and can help you reach your goals. Share your feelings, find out where you stand and make a move.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Make new plans. Discuss your options and desires. Sharing with a loved one will bring you closer together and will help you reach your goal, to boot.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Refuse to get tangled up in someone else's affairs. Put more emphasis on personal improvement, relaxation and quality time with loved ones. Exercise is encouraged.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Do something novel. Experience is the spice of life, and doing something unique will spark your imagination and encourage you to make positive changes.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Finish what you start. Leave no room for error or criticism, keep your emotions in check, don't argue a moot point and focus on your appearance, love and romance.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- Push to get things done your way. Be willing to put in the time, offer incentives and forgo any useless situation. Discipline and hard work will pay off.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- A little finagling will go a long way. If you use your intellect and charisma, you will entice others to pitch in and help. Plan something special for a loved one.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Take control, speak up and follow through with your plans. A passionate presentation will make it difficult for anyone to turn you down. A positive change is heading your way.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Put your health, appearance and personal goals first. Refuse to let others' actions slow you down. Tunnel vision and discipline will help you excel.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- What you do for others will be recognized. The difference you make will speak volumes about what you are capable of doing. If you make a personal change, the compliments you receive will boost your ego.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take your time, wait and see what everyone else is going to do and make your move with precision and foresight. Haste will lead to a regrettable mistake. Make personal growth your priority.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Be ready to embrace change. Discuss your options, see who is heading in the same direction and form a coalition with the people who can help you the most.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't take someone's word, as verification will be necessary if you want to avoid making a mistake. Put your energy into something gratifying. Physical activity will ease stress.

Bridge

North 01-10-20

♠ A K 9 8 7 6

♥ —

♦ 10 7 5 4 3

♣ K 3

West East

♠ 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

2♦ 1♠ Pass Pass

7♦ 4♥ 6♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: ??

IF THEY FLY HIGH, USE A PARACHUTE

Margaret Mead, who was a cultural anthropologist, said, "Life in the 20th century is like a parachute jump: You have to get it right the first time."

At the bridge table, when you are on opening lead, a fair percentage of the time, you have to get it right the first time. To test yourself on today's deal, cover the North, East & South hands. North opens 1 spade, East passes, South responds 2 diamonds, you (West) overcall 4 hearts, North jumps to 6 diamonds, & South raises to 7 diamonds! What would you lead?

This deal occurred in last year's European Champions Cup in Bucharest. It was described by Jos Jacobs from the Netherlands. In the match between Monaco and Israel, the same auction occurred at both tables.

The Israeli West led the heart ace. This conceded a ruff-and-sluff on which declarer's spade loser disappeared. At the other table, Michal Klukowski was West. He knew there were voids flying around at this nose-bleed level. What was his safest lead? The spade queen. As you can see, this defeated the grand slam, South having an unavoidable spade loser. (A club would have also worked.)

In the match between England & Greece, the Greeks went down in seven diamonds after the same auction when Mike Bell led the spade queen. At the other table, North ended in six spades. When East led a club, the contract made. Should West have made a Lightner Double? If he had, would East have led his singleton diamond queen? Note that West ruffs that, and East also gets a trump trick.