

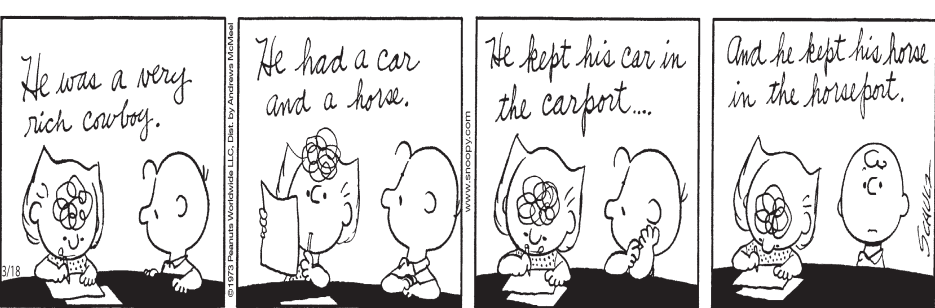
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



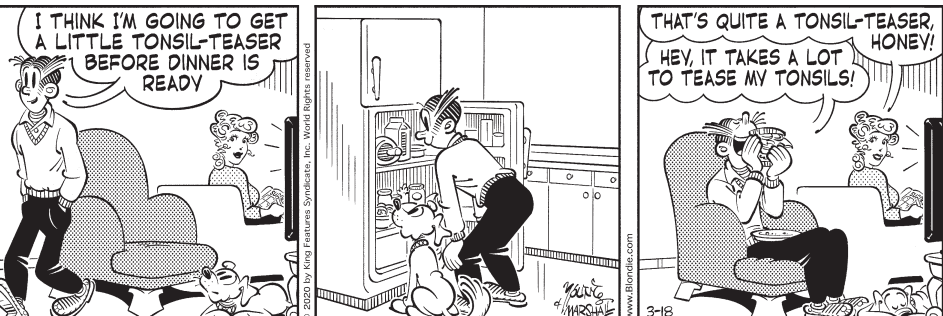
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



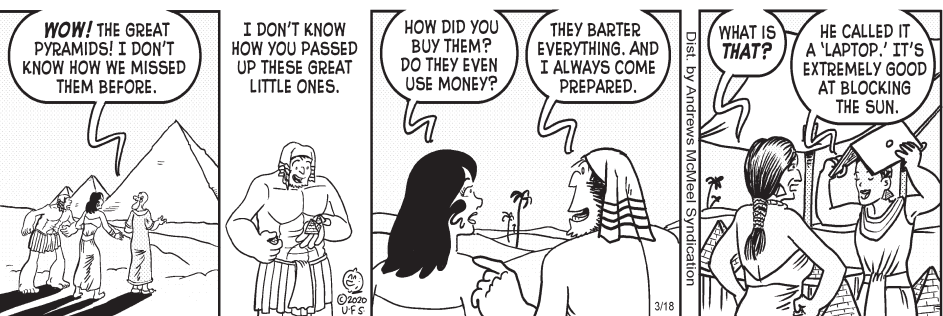
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



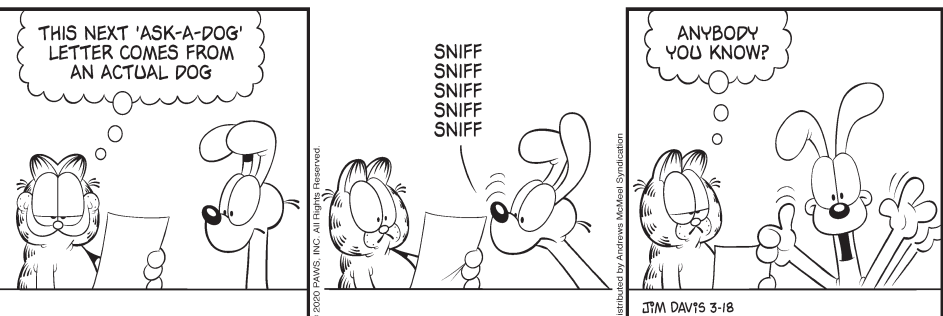
FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Avarice  
6 Injury result  
10 Excuse  
12 Put up shingles  
14 "Anchors —!"  
15 Texas border town (2 wds.)  
16 Tabby  
18 Country addr.  
19 "Naked Maja" artist  
21 Floor model  
23 Tear  
24 Eggs  
26 Nitpicks  
29 Jackie's tycoon  
30 Apprehend  
32 Superman alias  
34 Sicilian spouter  
36 Malt beverage  
37 Drowse (off)  
38 Zeus' wife  
40 Give — go  
42 Form 1040 sender

**DOWN**

1 Student stat  
2 Chilly and damp  
3 Before  
4 Give spiritual instruction  
5 Mark a page (hyph.)  
6 Somber  
7 Speeder's nemesis  
8 Not very close  
9 Finest

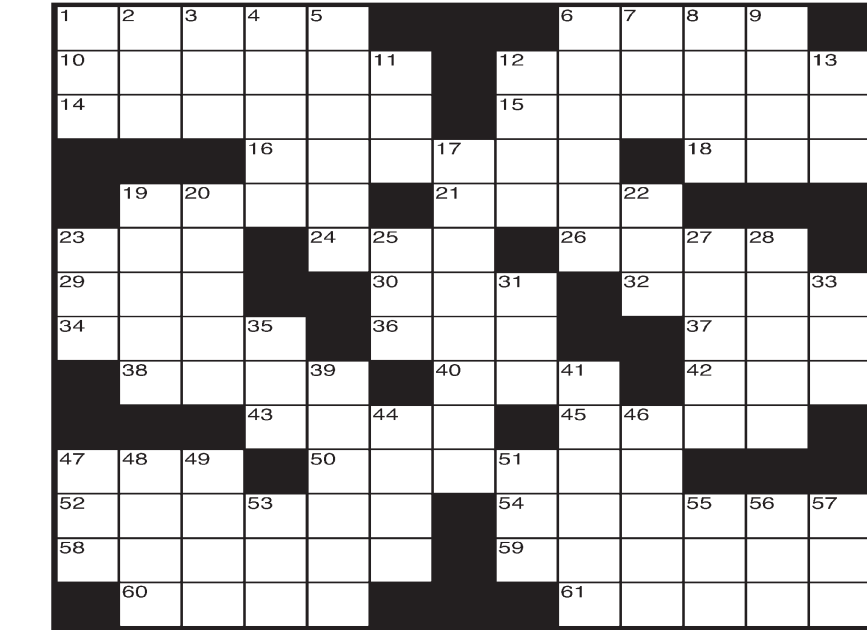
**43 Large casks**  
**45 Skedaddle**  
**47 Morass**  
**50 Shark tagalong**  
**52 "Anyone home?" (hyph.)**  
**54 Prominent**  
**58 Bullish trend**  
**59 — del Fuego**  
**60 One-time Mets stadium**  
**61 Sink unclogger**

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

|        |        |      |
|--------|--------|------|
| KEY    | OAR    | SUIT |
| ETA    | COAL   | THOR |
| POP    | ERNE   | ROTE |
| INSULT | ALOHA  | S    |
| MOA    | FIN    |      |
| SLEPT  | PINGED |      |
| EONS   | POET   | XI   |
| ALI    | KERR   | RAMS |
| ADHERE | COMET  |      |
| YEP    | ALL    |      |
| BEFELL | GILDED |      |
| AVON   | EIRE   | ICY  |
| LENA   | XMEN   | SHE  |
| ENDS   | PET    | COD  |

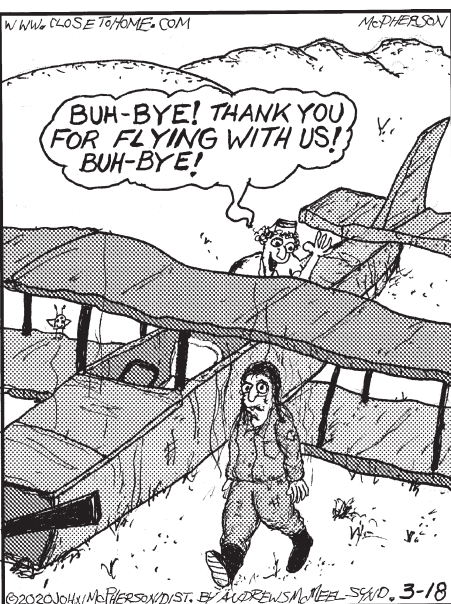
**11 Stanley Cup org.**  
**12 Ms. Russo**  
**13 Fawn parent**  
**17 High-minded-ness**  
**19 Circumference**  
**20 Reckon**  
**22 Furniture wood**  
**23 "Norma —"**  
**25 Stop —**  
**27 Magic lamp occupant**  
**28 Sleep noisily**  
**31 Gamble**  
**33 QB aims**  
**35 Kind of critic**

**39 Dawn goddess**  
**41 Faint-hearted**  
**44 Gas for a sign**  
**46 Weaker, as an excuse**  
**47 Utah inst.**  
**48 Klutz's cry**  
**49 Roman Empire invader**  
**51 Frequently**  
**53 Graduation of color**  
**55 Mouths, in biology**  
**56 40-cup brewer**  
**57 — Paulo, Brazil**



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Few historians know that the Wright Brothers had a flight attendant aboard their first flights.

## Astrograph

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020**

Times are changing, and you must think about changing with them. Stay in the loop and make yourself available for meetings, decisions and general strategizing. Don't wait for things to happen; take charge.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Use the element of surprise when launching your plans, and you'll have a more significant impact on the people you are trying to impress or persuade to join your cause.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Control will be required if you want to get things done. Refuse to let anyone back you into a corner or dump responsibilities that don't belong to you in your lap.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- A new idea, plan or hobby will encourage you to change your routine. Be open to suggestions and willing to collaborate and make personal improvements that boost your confidence.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Try something new because it's what you want, not because someone else is pressuring you to do so. You'll make a bad choice if you act on an assumption. Listen and observe.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Focus on friendship, family and the things you enjoy doing most. Use your creative talents. Stick to the truth when it comes to expressing your feelings. Don't mislead someone.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- When in doubt, sit tight. Time is on your side. A snap decision will cause more confusion and uncertainty. Rethink your strategy and make a personal adjustment.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You'll have an eye-opening experience. A change of heart will help you make a clear-cut decision that will improve your life. Don't worry about what might happen. Do something that lowers your stress.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Acceptance is in your best interest. Once you know where you stand, you will be able to make headway. Short trips,

business meetings and conferences will be entertaining and informative.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- If you share your thoughts and see who is interested in the same things you are, you will be able to bring about a positive change. Romance is in the stars.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Flush out any problems before you present what you want to pursue. If you underestimate the extent of a job, you will face criticism. Someone you least expect will lead you astray.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Take control and follow your heart. A personal change will give you an excellent opportunity to explore new territory. Share your feelings with a loved one. Romance is featured.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You may crave adventure and greater diversity in your life, but first you have to take care of business and make sure everything is stable and secure. Be prepared to commit.

## Bridge

North 03-18-20

♠ A J 7 3  
♥ —  
♦ A K Q 7 6  
♣ 9 8 6 3

West East

♥ K 2 ♠ Q 10 6  
♠ A J 8 6 3 ♥ K 9 5 4 2  
♦ 5 ♦ 10 9 4 3  
♣ K Q J 10 2 ♣ 4

South

♠ 9 8 5 4  
♥ Q 10 7  
♦ J 8 2  
♣ A 7 5

Dealer: North  
Vulnerable: Neither

South West North East

1♠ 2NT 4♠ Pass  
All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

**SECOND HAND LOW OR HIGH ON DEFENSE?**

Several decades ago, Tom Lehrer wrote many amusing songs. During one of his shows he commented, "It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year." Maybe Lehrer found this harder to bear than anyone realized, for almost as quickly as he came into showbiz, he returned to the world of mathematics.

If Lehrer had been an ardent bridge player, he would have known when to play high & when to play low. Another person who knows the difference is Frenchman Claude Vigneron. This deal occurred during an interclub match in the Marne Valley.

West's bid of two no-trump showed at least 5-5 in hearts & clubs. It is surprising that East didn't sacrifice in five hearts.

Perhaps she was hoping to receive a couple of club ruffs to defeat four spades.

Vigneron led the club king. Declarer won with the ace and played a low trump. His plan was to duck this to East, win the return (East was known to have started with a singleton club), cash the spade ace & play on diamonds. He would have lost just three tricks: 2 spades & either a heart or a club at the end.

However, Vigneron threw a tuning-fork into the works: He put up the spade king.

If declarer had ducked, West would have cashed two club tricks. So dummy's spade ace was played. Declarer continued with a low spade from the dummy, but now East won with the 10 & cashed the queen. This left dummy with just one trump & declarer with only 9 tricks.

Sack the songwriter who wrote the lyric "second hand low."