



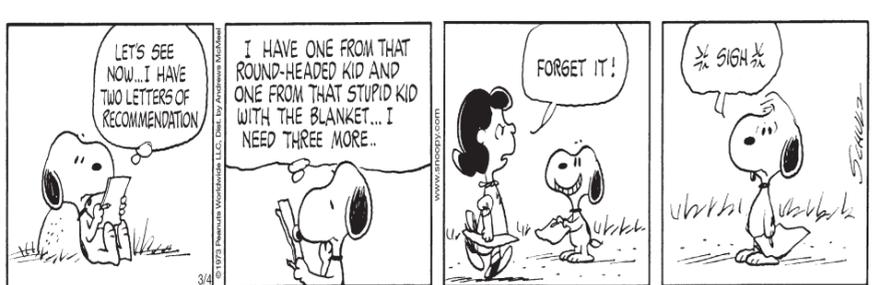
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



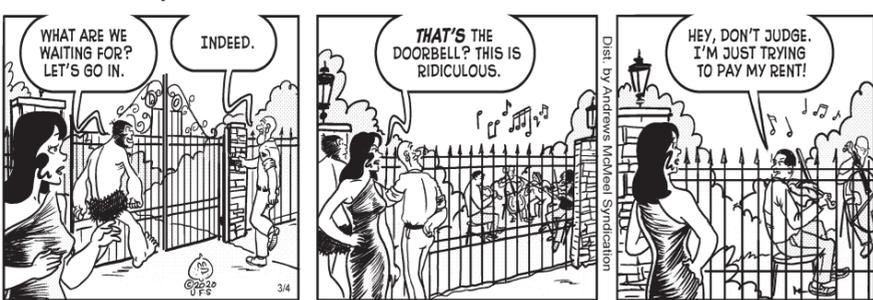
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



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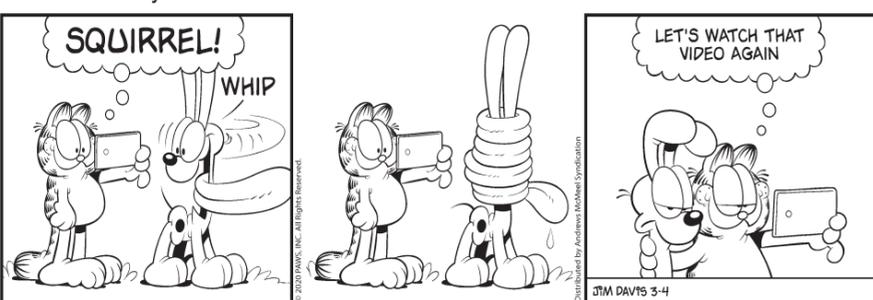
FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



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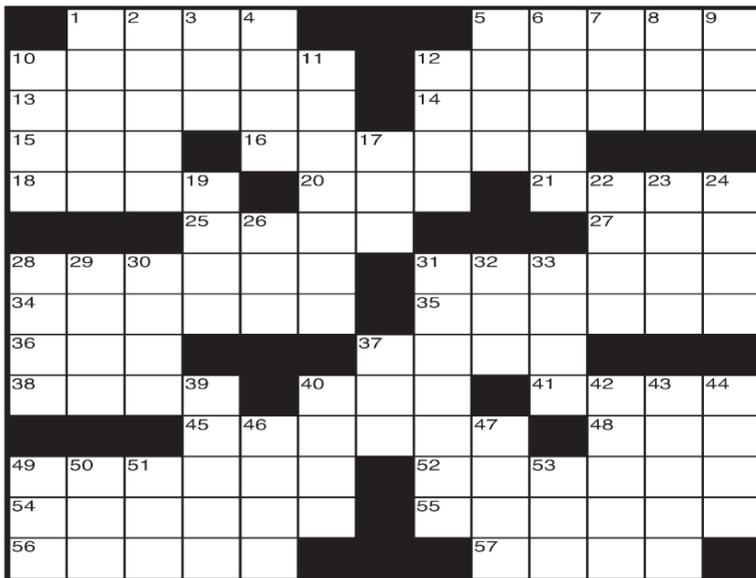
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Skirt slit
  - 5 Don Diego masked
  - 10 Accumulate (2 wds.)
  - 12 Make bubbly
  - 13 Spine-crested lizard
  - 14 Dryer companion
  - 15 Scotland Yard div.
  - 16 Moonshot mission
  - 18 Frequent "SNL" host — Baldwin
  - 20 Fabric meas.
  - 21 Monster's loch
  - 25 Trevi Fountain coins, once
  - 27 Rug texture
  - 28 Honda rival
  - 31 Home-grown ruminants
  - 34 Andes ruminants
  - 35 Stayed
  - 36 Ms. Jillian
- DOWN**
- 1 Watch
  - 2 Slip past
  - 3 Teachers' org.
  - 4 Salad fish
  - 5 Strong fervor
  - 6 Director — Welles
  - 7 Go team!
  - 8 Hwy.
  - 9 Above, to a bard
  - 10 Typewriter type

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 11 Scroll material
- 12 Hole-making tools
- 17 Poetic tribute
- 19 Chowder tidbit
- 22 Sooner city
- 23 Keep
- 24 Stepped on the gas
- 26 Keogh relative
- 28 Meatloaf serving
- 29 Longest arm bone
- 30 Loud sound
- 31 Mischievous
- 32 Situp targets
- 33 Polynesian carving
- 37 Do lacework
- 39 Make jump
- 40 Region
- 42 Pushpins
- 43 Fishing spot
- 44 Go to earth
- 46 Grocery shopper's reference
- 47 Latin 101 word
- 49 Sighs of distress
- 50 — choy
- 51 — kwon do
- 53 Literary compilation



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Before the Heimlich maneuver, choking victims were treated with the hapless and often ineffective 'Borkelman maneuver.'

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

ing -- do what needs to be done. Be honest and move forward.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Look for life's little pleasures and do something to ease stress and bring you comfort and joy. If you travel to a place you've never been before, it will prove enlightening.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Positive thoughts will open doors to better alternatives. A personal change will help you realize what you have to offer. Don't let your health suffer due to bad habits.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Refuse to let a small yet annoying situation get the better of you. Take time to assess whatever situation you face rationally and proceed to make a positive move.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Stand behind your word and use the power of persuasion to get others on board your train. A partnership will end up having more to offer than you imagined.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Expect the unexpected and make adjustments as you progress. Adaptability will be a prerequisite of success. Don't let your emotions interfere with your decisions or productivity.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take care of all the things you've been putting off. Don't hesitate to ask for favors or call in debts. If you look closely, you will discover something you didn't know.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Keep your life simple. Don't let troublesome situations or people get to you. Spend time taking care of business instead of blaming others for whatever doesn't go your way.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Concentrate on the job assigned to you. A partnership will form if you are open to it. An opportunity, new direction and an open mind will change your life.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Make adjustments to the way you do things. Work harder and handle your cash more efficiently. Now's the time to make big decisions. Romance is featured.

Bridge

North 03-04-20  
 ♠ A 2  
 ♥ 8 3  
 ♦ 9 4 2  
 ♣ A 10 9 8 5 4

West  
 ♠ 10 4  
 ♥ A J 9 7 6 2  
 ♦ J 8 3  
 ♣ 7 6

East  
 ♠ J 9 8 7 6  
 ♥ 10 5  
 ♦ Q 10 7 6  
 ♣ K 3

South  
 ♠ K Q 5 3  
 ♥ K Q 4  
 ♦ A K 5  
 ♣ Q J 2

Dealer: South  
 Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East  
 2NT Pass 3NT All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 7

TAKE YOUR TIME AT THE FIRST TRICK

Being a founding father of the Ailurophile Society, the cliché I dislike the most is, "There's more than one way to skin a cat." But the concept -- and the concept alone -- may be applied to many bridge deals.

Take today's, for example. How should South have planned the play in 3 no-trump after West led the heart seven, and East put in the 10?

South's opening bid of two no-trump showed a good 20 to a poor 22 points. (I am not fond of the modern 20-21. That means you either force to game with a balanced 24 points or have 2 clubs - 2 diamonds - 2 no-trump show 22-24 points, which is an uncomfortably wide range.)

Three declarers played the contract. The first won trick one with the heart king and immediately finessed the club queen. However, East won with the king and returned his last heart: down two.

The second declarer saw that he did not need the club finesse. After winning the first trick, he led the club queen (to tempt a cover) but put up dummy's ace when West played low. The king didn't drop, so he led a second club. Nonetheless, the result was the same: down two.

The third declarer used the Rule of 11. Subtracting the value of the card led (seven) from 11, he knew there were four cards higher than the 7 in the other three hands, & he had seen all of them. Therefore, West had several heart tricks ready to run if East got on play. To try to stop this from happening, South played his heart 4 at trick 1. With the hearts 6-2, he could no longer go down.

The moral is: Paws (sic!) at trick one.