FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® by Lynn Johnston









THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson

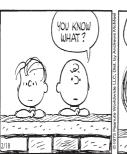


GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr





PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz









BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker





BLONDIE® by Dean Young







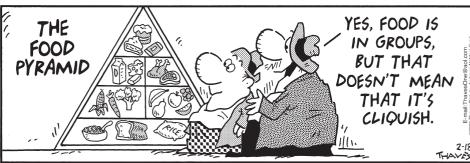




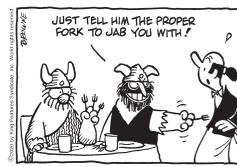




FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves











NEA Crossword Puzzle

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13 Sunblock

23 Jacques'

pals 24 Ship's

floor

26 Light tan

27 Conceited

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28 Online

tool

9 Antenna

HEAT H AWMAKE

ACROSS 1 Tiny speck

- Tpks.
- 8 Billiards stick 11 Give it
- 12 QED part
- 13 Stiff and
- sore
- 14 Quick lunch
- 15 lbsen
- heroine 16 Biography
- 17 Part of SWAK
- 19 Where Ipanema is
- 21 Foundry
- refuse
- 22 Learn
- about 25 Vexes
- 29 Gibson of
- **'Lethal** Weapon"
- 31 Lagers 34 Hired
- vehicle 35 Paycheck abbr.
- 36 More than
- serious 37 Narrow
- 38 Queries
- 39 Zig and -

2-18

- inlet
- need 59 Sawbuck

40 Fabled

42 Force

to flee

a blister 49 Poems

51 Tijuana tot

54 Kyrgyzstan

56 Education-

range

al org.

44 Made a

47 Cause

lumberjack

hole-in-one

- 57 Worshipped image 58 Jockey's
- 60 Hastv
- escape 61 Firecracker
- sound 62 Soph.

and jr.

- **DOWN Smidgens** Looks at
- impertinently
- 3 Demólish 4 Break a
- 5 Marched
- along
- 7 Rigel, e.g.
- 6 Hoop site

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- site 30 Vegas 31 Woodshaving
- 32 Yarn spinner

A L S L A B X C A M H U M A N E

33 Consequently 35 Elaborate

NOV

L I O T P E N D I

- 40 Heat meas. 41 Exclaiming over
- 18 Not get renewed 20 April 15 org. 43 Mountains or river
 - 45 Meaning-
 - less 46 Advise
 - against
 - 48 Zinger 49 Drizzle 50 Lacking
 - 51 None
 - 52 Mont.
 - neighbor de 53
 - plume 55 Grassy field

1	2	3		4	5	6	7			8	9	10
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51	52	53			54	55				56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



JUST TELL ME YOUR GOSSIP, LORETTA ... I AM NOT SIGNING A NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT."

Your

Put your emotional energy to work. Too much idle time will

and keep moving forward as

improving your lifestyle. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Be secretive about your pro-

of trying to change others.

Expect to encounter disagree-

listen to what others have to

say. Make decisions and choic-

North

♦ 74

South

♠ A 9 5 4

♥ Q 8 3

♦ AKQ

♣ J 10 9

West North

Opening lead: 🕭 8

Dealer: South Vulnerable: Neither

> Pass 2

Pass

653

♠ Q J 10 2

♥ Å K J 10

East

¥ 4

♦ J85

♣ A K Q 7 4

East

Dbl.

All Pass

♠ K 7 6 3

02-18-20

within reach.

♥ 9 7 6 5 2

8 2

South 1NT

2♠

♦ 10 9 6 3 2

Birthday

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'Could you hit the button for the bowels of the Earth, please?'

<u>Astrograph</u>

moderation in all facets of life. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) --

Expand your interests, try something new and be open to TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 learning and gaining experience. The people you encounter will change the way you lead to frustration and anger. If think and do things. Embrace you have a strategy in place

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -the year progresses, you will Don't believe everything you benefit from the changes you hear. Someone will lead you put into play. Concentrate on on or interfere with your progress. Stick to what you do best and finish what you start, regardless of what others do.

fessional intentions. Col-**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) leagues may mislead you if Speak up, say what's on you are credulous. Spend your mind and present what you have to offer. Efficiency will more time on personal goals and self-improvement instead pay off and attract the type of people you want on your PIŚCES (Feb. 20-March 20) team

 Let your imagination wander, LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) --Refuse to let an unexpected and you will find a way to adjust to a situation that isn't change daunt you. Pay closer going as planned. A move will attention to fitness, health, diet pay off, and a financial gain is and personal gains, and focus less on what others are doing. ARIES (March 21-April 19) --

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) --If you want something, go after ments. Reserve judgment and it. You'll accomplish your goals if you take the path of least

es based on facts. Exercise resistance. Educational pursuits and networking functions are favored. Be health conscious

> LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -Assess your current personal situation and consider the best way to make improvements. A change may not be wanted, but it may be necessary. Protect your health, home and happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be ready and willing to listen and discuss your plans. The results will encourage expansion, opportunity and creative, potentially lucrative partner ships. Your intuition will help you make wise choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Keep your thoughts and plans secret. The less information you offer others, the better. A change at home will be advantageous if you don't overdo it. Stick to a budget.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you do something nice for someone, it will make you feel good. Attitude is everything, and offering positive input will lead to favorable changes. A financial gain looks promising.

<u>Bridge</u>

AFTER THE LEAD, CHECK THE POINTS

it is far better to follow well than to lead indifferently."
That is a good tip for bridge

players. If partner suggests

response, West will probably lead the diamond 10 against four spades. Then declarer will probably take his 3 diamond winners to pitch a club from the board, play a heart to the ace and run the spade queen. When the finesse works, South

hearts and 3 diamonds.
What happens, though, when
West leads the club eight in

diamond deuce. Now East should check the high-card points. Dummy has 11, he has 13 and declarer promised 15-17. That leaves at most one for West, but East has seen all four jacks. Since West has no points, red-suit switch is pointless. Whenever you have taken all possible side-suit tricks, concede

a ruff-and-sluff. East must lead a fourth club. If partner has either the spade eight or nine, his ruff will effect an uppercut. Dummy overruffs, but East will now collect a trump trick by covering either remaining honor when it is led from the board. Note also that it doesn't help South to ruff the fourth club with his spade nine. East will still score a trump trick.

If I may paraphrase the Bard:

count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering the high-card points.

John G. Vance, an English clergyman, wrote, "Remember

opening lead to you, it will usually be right to trust him. In this deal, if East does not double North's 2-club Stayman

will take 11 tricks: 4 spades, 4

answer to his partner's double? East takes 3 tricks in the suit, West discarding a discouraging