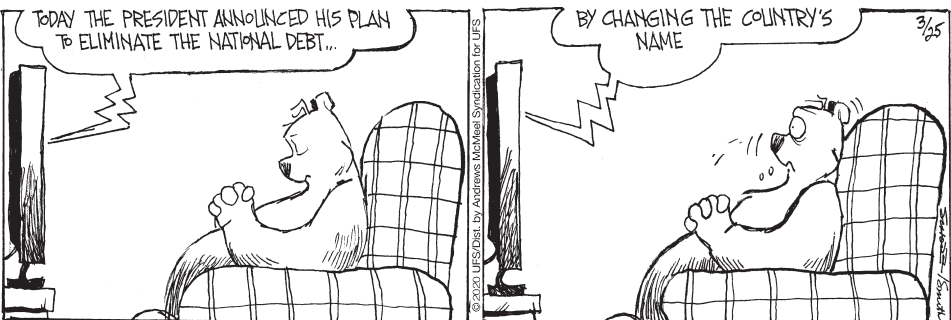


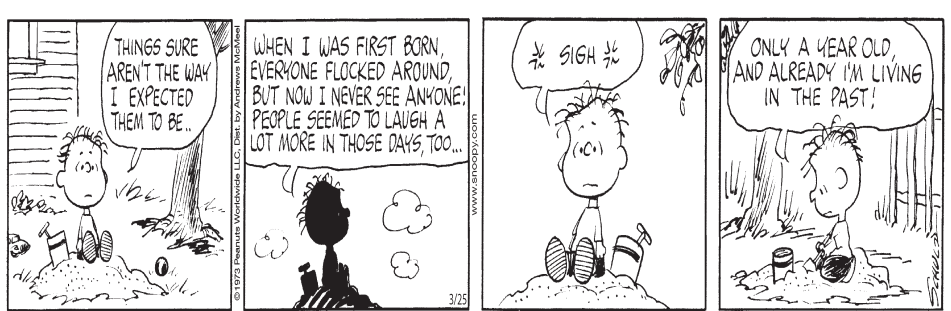
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



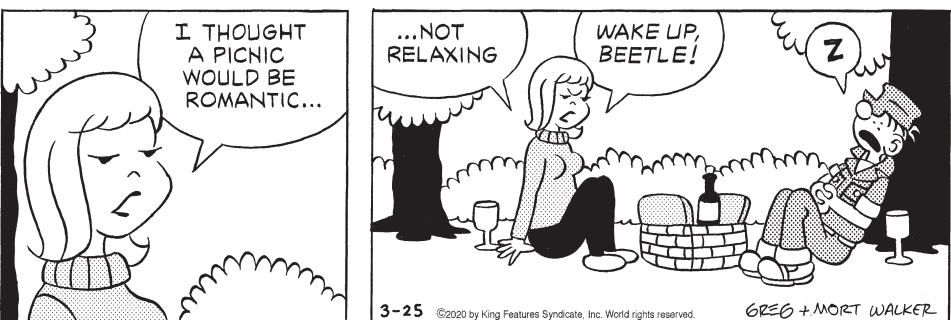
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



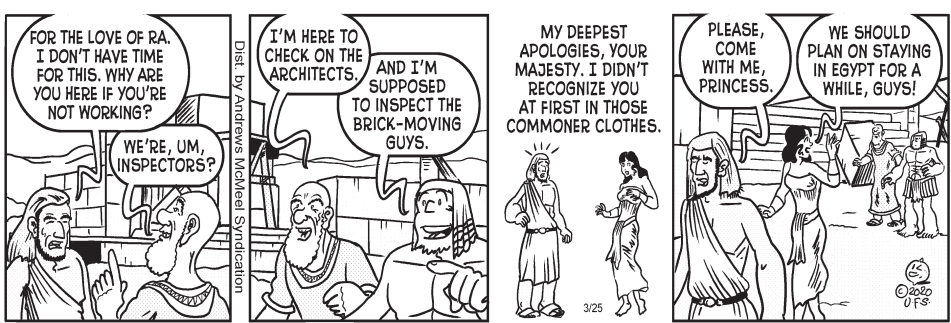
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



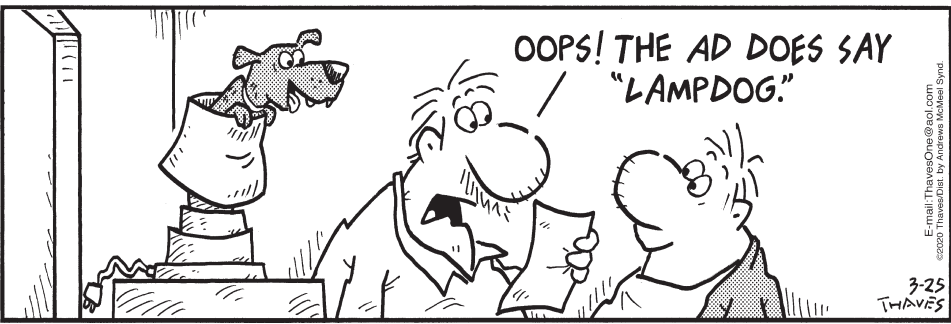
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



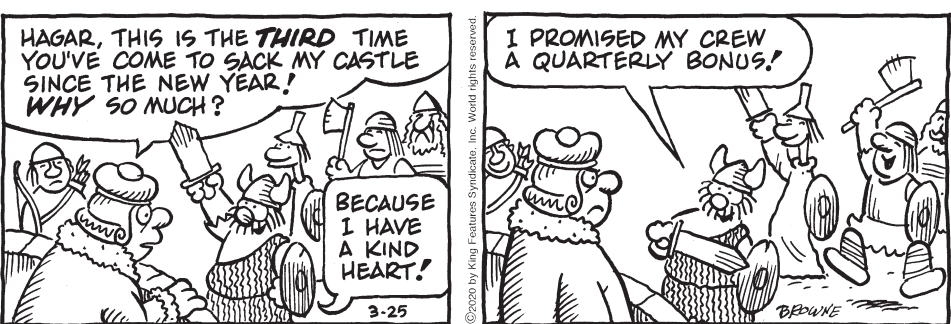
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Computer language

7 Evaluate

13 Steep gulch

14 Summer top

15 Tear gas target

16 Vinegar bottles

17 Weather-vane dir.

18 "She Done — Wrong"

19 Undergrad degs.

22 Mekong native

24 Two of a kind

28 Mdse. bars

29 Stoic founder

30 Ms. Thompson of films

31 Health resort

32 Sharp turn

33 Expert

34 Avis rival

36 — Angeles

38 Halloween creature

39 Per

40 Office fill-in

41 Andy Capp's quaff

42 Multitude

43 Umbrage

44 Crestfallen

45 Oz. or tsp.

47 Once around the track

50 Without scruple

53 Constructs

57 Coleman lantern part

58 Oolong brewer

59 Outlaw pursuers

60 Military greeting

DOWN

1 Golf score

2 Jackie's tycoon

3 Sellout letters

4 Camp beds

5 Certain votes

6 Rhine nymph

7 Reaction to pollen

8 Rani's wear

9 Slouched

10 Dog days in Dijon

11 Treat fractures

12 Almost-grads

19 Shrubbery

20 Attractive quality

21 In short supply

23 Fishing enthusiast

25 One-celled animals (Var.)

26 Old Chevy model

27 Informed on

29 Snore, in cartoons

33 Horned viper

35 Hinders

37 Egg dishes

40 Names

46 Uncle or grandpa

48 General vicinity

49 Bell sound

50 Current meas.

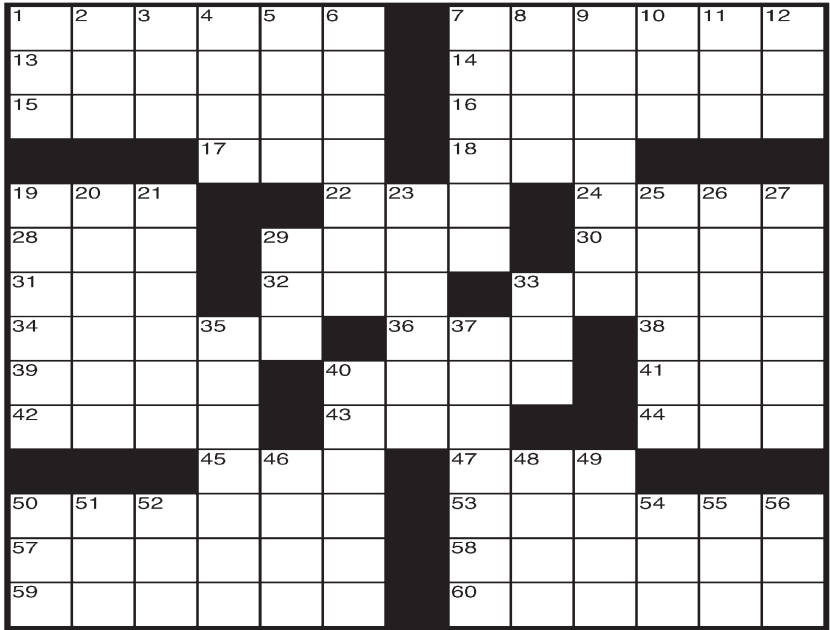
51 Kind of jacket

52 Add- — (extr.)

54 Chip in a cellphone

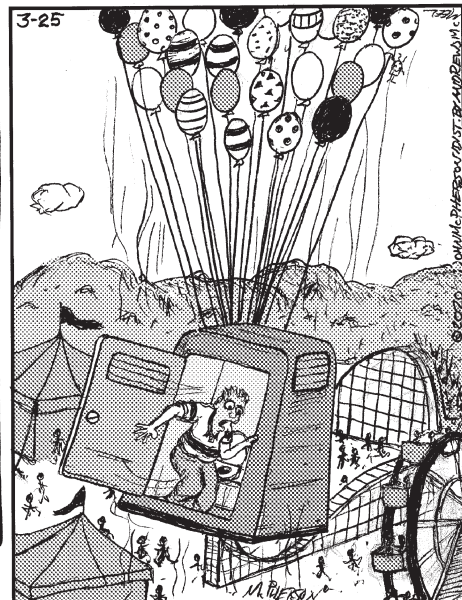
55 Little one

56 Fem. saint



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

because you are trying to accommodate everyone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Your memory won't let you down. The lessons of experience, coupled with a unique approach to getting things done, will help you excel. A romantic gesture will brighten your day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't limit what you can do by taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Choose how you spend your time and use your talents carefully. Learn from experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A last-minute change of plans will lead to an unexpected gain. Join forces with someone who has as much to offer as you. Don't ignore a professional opportunity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Use your imagination, fine-tune your ideas and make your move. Think big, but don't go overbudget. Be willing to bargain for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- An attitude adjustment will give you the boost you need. Someone who wants to team up with you will point out a talent or skill you didn't realize you possess.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Be aware of false advertising. Not everyone will be honest or honor their promises. Stick close to home and to the people you know you can trust.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Don't act on an assumption, or you will end up paying the price. If you connect with people who share your mindset, you'll be able to bring about change that will make a difference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Dig up an old project and give it a face-lift. Approaching an old idea with a fresh attitude will lead to a prosperous venture. Someone who falls outside your age range will provide insight.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Acceptance will be the key to getting ahead. Size up what's going on around you and use whatever you can to your advantage. It's time to take the lead.

Your Birthday

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

Look for solutions. Taking on too much or letting others take advantage of you will lead to disappointment and disgruntlement. Size up your situation and make plans that will help you engineer a way to move from a difficult spot to a place that excites you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You'll get further if you are kind. Someone may irritate you, but if you respond with a positive attitude and sound suggestions, you will avoid a senseless argument.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Make calls, do research and close deals. Don't rely on someone else to take care of your affairs. If you want to change, make it happen. Take responsibility for your life and happiness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Refuse to give in to someone pressuring you. Avoid being taken for granted. Don't let frustration and anger mount

Bridge

North 03-25-20

♠ Q J 2

♥ 8 6 5 3 2

♦ A J

♣ 6 4 3

West

♠ 7 4

♥ K J 10 7

♦ K 8 3

♣ J 10 9 5

East

♠ 9 8

♥ 9 4

♦ Q 9 7 6 4 2

♣ 8 7 2

South

♠ A K 10 6 5 3

♥ A Q

♦ 10 5

♣ A K Q

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East

2♣ Pass 2NT Pass

3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

5♣ Pass 5♦ Pass

6♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♠ J

TAKE YOUR BRAIN WHERE IT IS NEEDED

Robert McNamara, a former Secretary of Defense, said, "Brains are like hearts -- they go where they are appreciated."

Think about today's deal. West led the club jack against South's contract of six spades. What should declarer have done? As a side issue, what was West's more-effective lead?

After South opened with a strong, artificial & forcing two clubs, North responded two no-trump, describing a balanced hand with at least 8 high-card points. Normally, North would have shown his 5-card suit, especially a major, but he did not like its weakness. After spades were agreed, there were two control-bids and a jump to slam.

South had 11 top tricks: six spades, one heart, one diamond and three clubs. He put his

brain to work on the heart suit. Should he take the heart finesse or play to establish a long heart?

The finesse was a 50% shot. Playing to establish a long heart winner required a 3-3 or 4-2 split, a probability of 84%. The brain knew what to do.

Declarer took the first trick and cashed the spade ace. If that suit had been 4-0, he would have needed the heart finesse. But when both opponents followed, South played the heart ace and queen. West took the trick and shifted to a diamond. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart high, played a spade to the jack, ruffed another heart, returned to the board with a trump and cashed the heart 8, discarding his last diamond.

A diamond lead would have defeated the slam. East wished he had doubled five diamonds