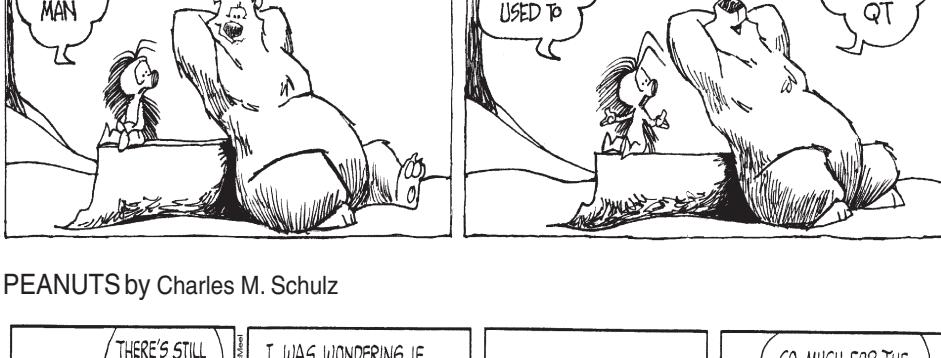


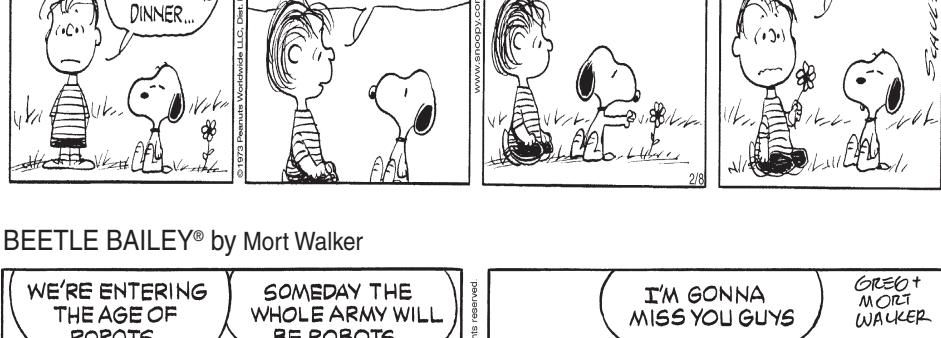
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



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 Straight line  
4 Absent-minded murmur  
7 Just around the corner  
11 Eden exile  
12 Vehicle  
13 Wheel support  
14 Gentle bear  
15 Scurry sideways  
16 Ran  
17 Camelot royal  
19 Gene Autry movie  
21 "Little Women" name  
22 Pinball no-no  
23 Pigeonhole  
26 Pan's opposite  
28 Lemon drink  
29 "Da" opposite  
31 Rani's husband  
35 Brit's poky

## DOWN

1 Singer — McEntire  
2 Not sunnyside up  
3 Traveled  
4 Make haste  
5 Ms. Hagen  
6 Vagrant  
13 Wheel support  
14 Absent-minded murmur  
15 Scurry sideways  
16 Ran  
17 Camelot royal  
19 Gene Autry movie  
21 "Little Women" name  
22 Pinball no-no  
23 Pigeonhole  
26 Pan's opposite  
28 Lemon drink  
29 "Da" opposite  
31 Rani's husband  
35 Brit's poky

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



34 Vote in favor  
36 Cosmetic buys  
38 Bits of holly  
41 One-time Giant Mel —  
43 — Alamos  
44 "The Duke" of Hollywood  
45 Ohio city  
46 Pie serving group  
50 Ad  
51 Bronte governess  
52 Ding  
53 Liquid meas.  
55 Toupee, slangily



2-8

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



In the midst of their third date, Karen suddenly realized that everything Kurt said was a lyric from a song.

## Astrograph

achieve your long-term goals.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- An optimistic attitude will help you get your way. If you offer kindness and affection to those you love, what you receive in return will be heartwarming. A contribution will be enlightening.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Work quietly behind the scenes and stay out of trouble. Getting involved in a spat will not serve you, your relationships with others or your reputation well. Be grateful for what you have.

**ANQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You can make positive changes at home if you do the work yourself. Updating your domestic gadgets will make your chores more manageable, leaving you more free time to enjoy family and friends.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Romantic encounters will surface while traveling, learning or volunteering your time and services. Be selective and careful not to mislead someone. Honesty will be in your best interest.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Invest more time and money in yourself and the lifestyle you want to pursue. Working alongside a loved one will help you

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- High energy channeled shrewdly will lead to accomplishment. Make personal changes to the way you live. Focus on your health and easing stress. A positive change will give you a new lease on life.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Don't believe everything you

hear. Look at possibilities and make adjustments to suit your needs. You will do well if you concentrate on organization, detail and precision.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- A move, change of environment or meeting with people who share your beliefs will encourage you to try something new. Join a group that can provide you with mental stimulation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Romance should be a priority, along with adventure, discussing intentions and making plans. Your communication skills will be enhanced, aiding your ability to be persuasive, charming and successful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 22) -- Live up to your responsibilities. Physical fitness will be rewarding, and pampering will ease your stress. Book some time at your local spa, or indulge in something that relaxes you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Host an event. Entertaining will put you in an excellent position to enlist the help and support of others. Don't forget to include a loved one. Romance should be a priority.

## Bridge

TAKE YOUR TIME TO FIND THE ANSWER

Terry Pratchett, an Englishman who, inter alia, authored 41 fantasy novels about Discworld, wrote, "A marriage is always made up of two people who are prepared to swear that only the other one snores."

That doesn't have anything specific to do with today's deal, but I think it is amusing. Some players metaphorically snore at the table, just bidding and playing by rote, rather than analyzing the deal and trying to find the right line of play or defense.

In this deal, how can West defeat three hearts after leading the spade ace: four, 10, two?

The auction was interesting. After West opened one spade, North had a minimum 2-level overcall, but he did have opening strength, and bridge is a bidder's game. South had a

minimum for his two-heart advance. West's 2-spade rebid promised at least a 6-card suit.

North supported with support. South happily passed, knowing that if four hearts were good, his partner would have bid it.

West continued with the spade king at trick two: eight, diamond three, seven. Then he paused. How did he view the prospects?

West, knowing that his partner had started with a singleton spade and scant high-card values, could see four winners: three spades and one heart. But where was number five?

West shifted to his singleton club at trick three. South won in his hand and played a low trump, but West took the trick with his ace and continued with his low spade. East ruffed and gave his partner a club ruff to defeat the contract.

North 02-08-20  
♦ 9 8 4  
♥ K Q 6  
♦ 7 2  
♣ A K 9 6 5  
West ♠ A K Q J 5 3  
East ♠ 10  
♥ A 4  
♦ 7 3 2  
♦ Q 10 6 5  
♦ J 9 8 3  
♣ 2  
♣ J 10 8 7 4  
South ♠ 7 6 2  
♥ J 10 9 8 5  
♦ A K 4  
♣ Q 3  
Dealer: South  
Vulnerable: North-South  
South West North East  
Pass 1♠ 2♣ Pass  
2♦ 2♠ 3♥ All Pass  
Opening lead: ♠ A