

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



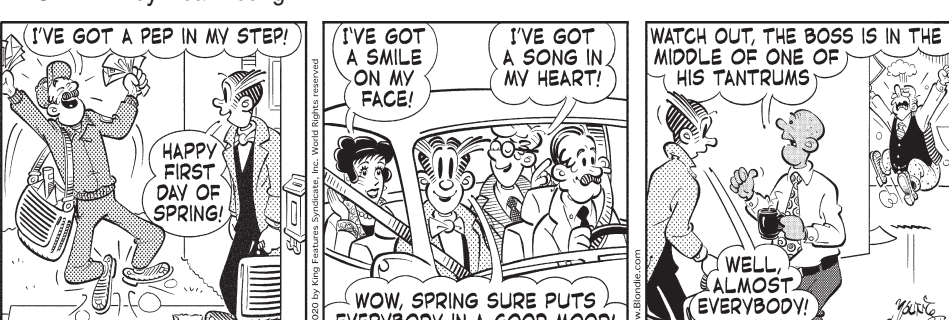
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



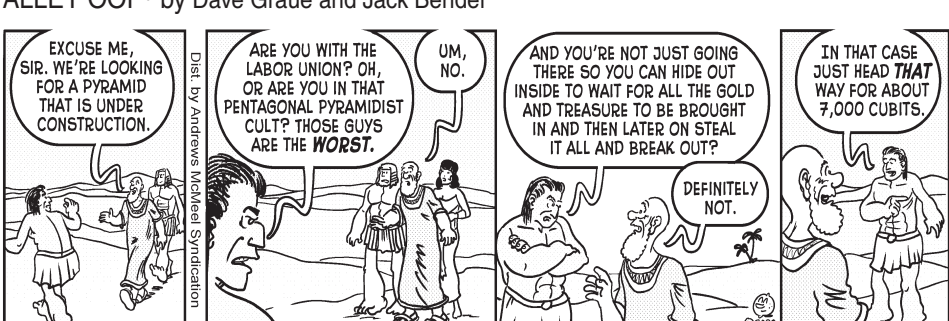
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



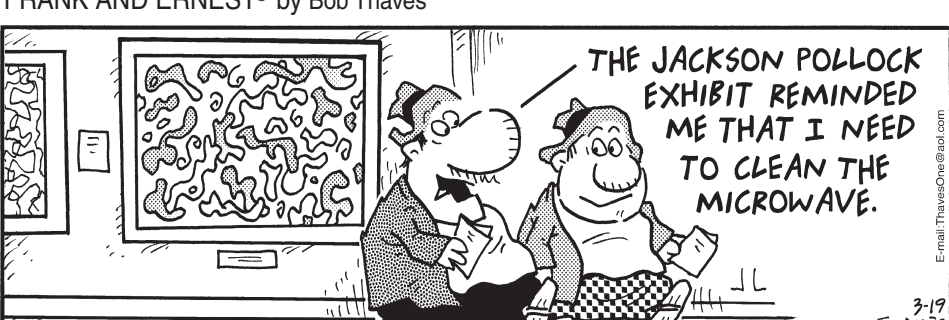
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



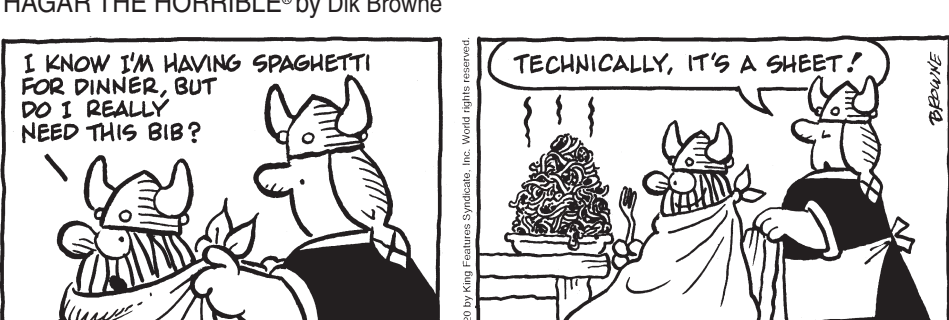
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Conniving
- 4 Supplement
- 7 Spy org.
- 10 "The Bells" poet
- 11 Siren, e.g.
- 13 Flow back
- 14 Play section
- 15 Composure
- 16 Ad —
- 17 Safari sights
- 19 Tortilla dip
- 21 Politico — Landon
- 22 Tattered cloth
- 23 Easy mark
- 26 Oats holder (2 wds.)
- 30 Is off base
- 31 Overly
- 32 Van Gogh medium
- 33 Kind of system
- 34 Moist
- 35 Cipher
- 36 Funny — Diller
- 39 "Wonder —"
- 40 — on a limb

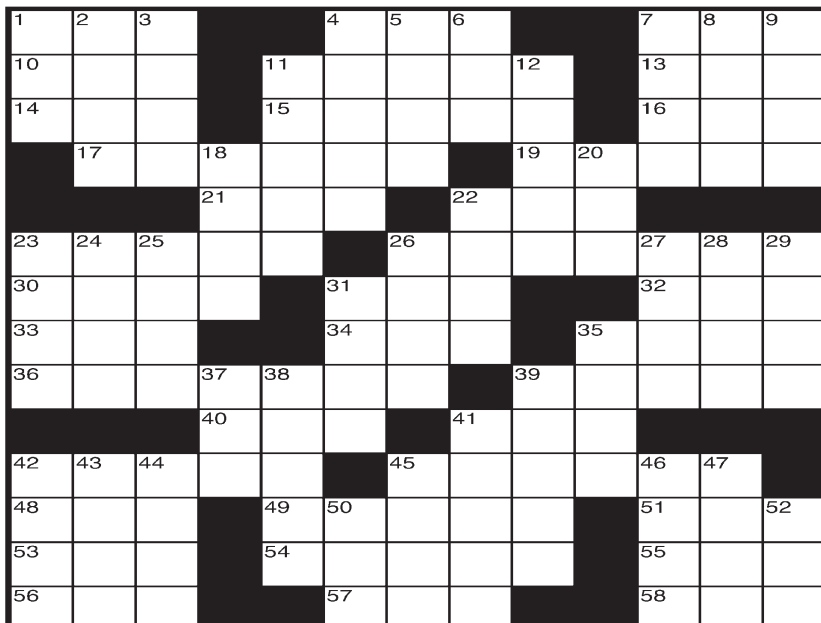
DOWN

- 1 Health club
- 2 Nessie's hangout
- 3 Abominable Snowman
- 4 Cool in manner
- 5 Lectern's place
- 6 AMA members
- 7 Small room
- 8 Sacred bird of Egypt
- 9 Mr. Eban
- 41 Put-on
- 42 Pursuit
- 45 Fracas
- 48 German conjunction
- 49 Expel
- 51 Badges and such
- 53 Had some lunch
- 54 After
- 55 By way of
- 56 Hither and —
- 57 Ms. Zetterling
- 58 Hedge shrub

Answer to Previous Puzzle

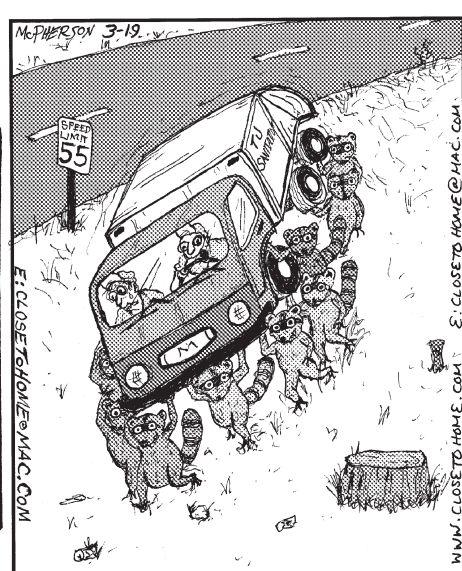


- 11 Try for a job
- 12 Southwest scenery
- 18 Not flunk
- 20 Get older
- 22 Carrot or beet
- 23 Steal a glance
- 24 Graceful entryway
- 25 Priam was its king
- 26 Proposal killers
- 27 Cannon roar
- 28 Verdi's princess
- 29 Hidden valley
- 31 Kid
- 35 Machine teeth
- 37 Spanish article
- 38 Pear-shaped instruments
- 39 Squander
- 41 Handbag logo
- 42 Dock
- 43 Golden Rule word
- 44 Shangri-la
- 45 Singer — Turner
- 46 Roman historian
- 47 McClurg of sitcoms
- 50 Spirit
- 52 Got a load of



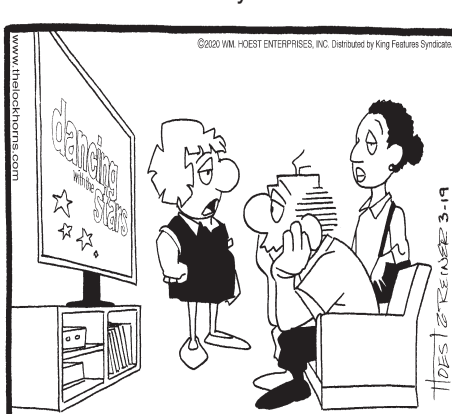
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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Something tells me our 'Sanitation Crew of the Year' award just went out the window!"

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



"LEROY IS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THEM TO FEATURE POLE DANCERS."

Astrograph

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
 Take a deep breath and plunge forward. You will have more opportunities than you anticipate. Keep an open mind and be ready to make your move. A change in your financial or professional situation will turn in your favor and encourage you to push ahead. Persistence will be an asset.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Intelligence coupled with insight will lead you to the winner's circle. Use your imagination to come up with a plan that will help you outsmart anyone who challenges you.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Helping others is admirable, but at what expense, is the question. Know when you have done enough, and back away before someone takes you for granted. Protect your reputation.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Forget about what isn't going your way and focus on what is. Taking the path of

least resistance will lead to gains that you won't want to miss. Romance is featured.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Use charm to dodge a negative narrative. As long as you are honest, you will be able to outmaneuver others. You'll have regrets if you lend or borrow money or possessions.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Check personal documents and make the necessary adjustments. If you offer to help someone who could use your expertise and advice, you will be given something unexpected and valuable in return.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- A clash is likely to take place if you address a sensitive issue with someone who doesn't share your opinion. You'll do better if you focus on a cause you believe in.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Extra time and effort will lead to substantial gains. A partnership with someone like-minded will motivate you to do more. A challenging opportunity will lead to more responsibility and a higher income.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take on a creative project that

you find stimulating. Use your talent and skills to make personal improvements. Someone from a different cultural background will inspire you.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Avoid emotional disputes. Focus on what's essential and finish what you start. Refuse to let anyone back you into a corner. A personal change is in your best interest.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You may feel like having some fun, but don't go overboard or associate with excessive or deceptive people. Say no to temptation and yes to a healthy lifestyle.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Make the changes that will help you achieve your financial and professional goals. Discuss your long-term plans with a loved one. An unexpected gift, offer or proposal is heading your way.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- If you offer to help someone, you will start your day off right. Your kindness and generosity will bring about a positive turn of events. Honesty and integrity will pay off.

Bridge

North 03-19-20
 ♠ K Q 3
 ♥ A K 7 2
 ♦ 10 4 3
 ♣ A 6 5

West East
 ♠ 6 2 ♠ 9 5
 ♥ 9 5 4 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ A Q 8 2 ♦ J 9 7 6
 ♣ K Q 10 2 ♣ 9 8 7 4

South
 ♠ A J 10 8 7 4
 ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ J 3

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: Both

South West North East
 2♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

THE GYMNASISTICS OF AVOIDANCE
 "The Goon Show" was very popular in England, especially with Prince Charles. Michael Bentine, Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers wrote bizarre comedy sketches and two-liners. For example: "Good morning -- my name is Neddly Seagoon." "What a memory you have!" To write their material required zany mental gymnastics. Some bridge deals need a more logical form of the same. You assume a bad lie of the opposing cards & have to find the best way to vault over it and land safely on the mat -- as in this deal.

How should South play in 4 spades after West leads the club king?
 Over South's weak two-bid, North might have bid 3 no-trump, but understandably went with the nine-card fit.
 If East has the diamond ace,

the contract will be safe. So declarer should assume that West holds that critical card. Clearly, South must fight to keep East off the lead.
 Declarer should start by ducking the first trick. Maybe West will continue with a low club to his jack. Or he might switch to a diamond. But let's assume he plays a trump.
 Now South does best to win in hand, lead the club jack and, when West produces the queen, duck again in the dummy.
 Suppose West plays another trump. Declarer wins on the board and cashes the club ace, discarding a low heart from hand. He continues with three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last in hand. Have they broken 3-3? If so, South has a discard for his low diamond. If not, he must hope, finally, that East has the diamond ace.
 On any other line of play, declarer trips and falls.