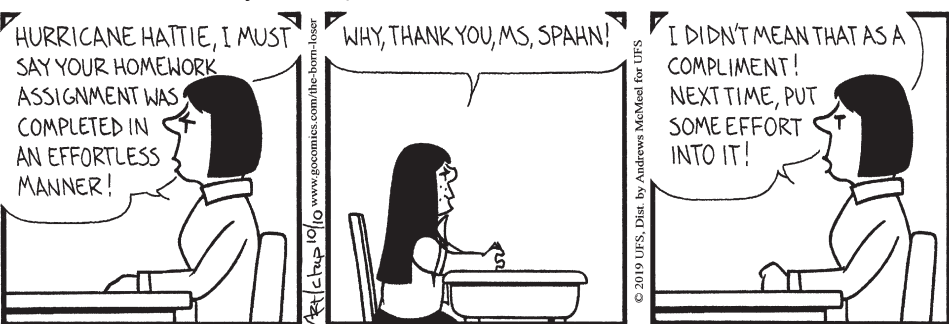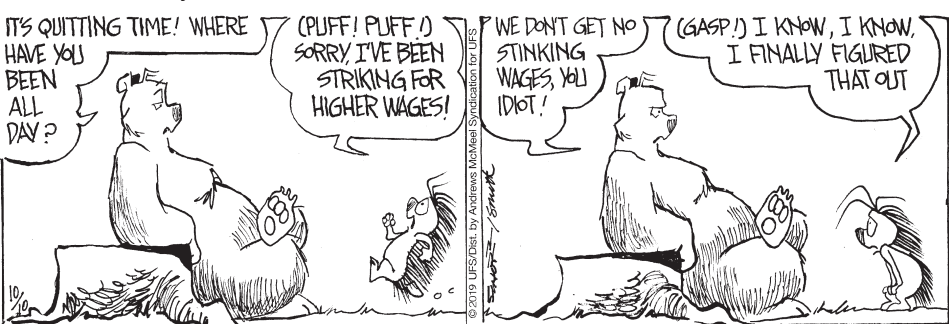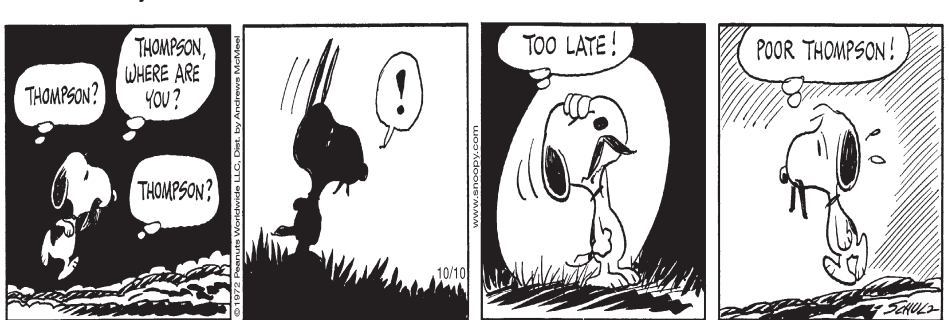# FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® by Lynn Johnston
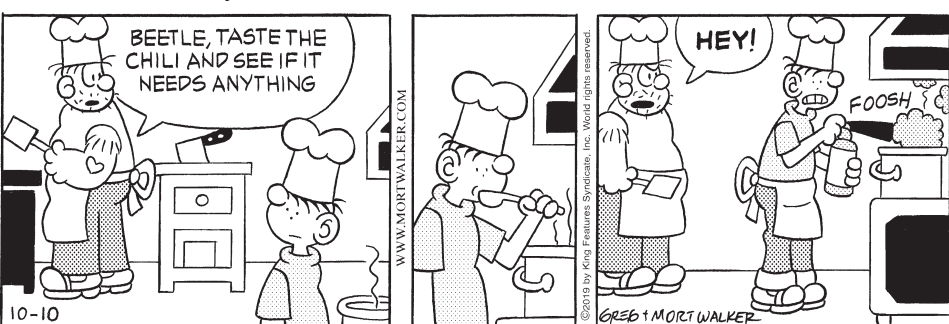
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson

GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr

PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

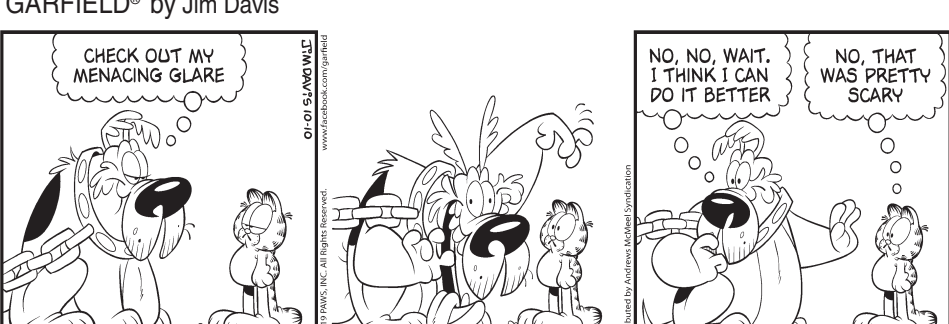# BLONDIE® by Dean Young

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 Gator cousins
6 Blank
11 Chewy candy
12 Kind of wire
13 Crabby
14 Brings up
15 Rationed out
16 Twins, e.g.
17 Plug away
19 Kittens' cries
23 Large cask
26 Lohengrin's love
28 Spring month in Paris
29 Fighting fish
31 Sporty fabric
33 Promises
34 Brown and simmer
35 Take advantage of
36 Employ
39 Deli order
40 Ms. Garr
42 Egg on
44 Actress Tyne —
46 Maxim
51 Artemis' twin
54 Coloring need
55 Texas border town
56 Be present
57 Plant life
58 Aspect

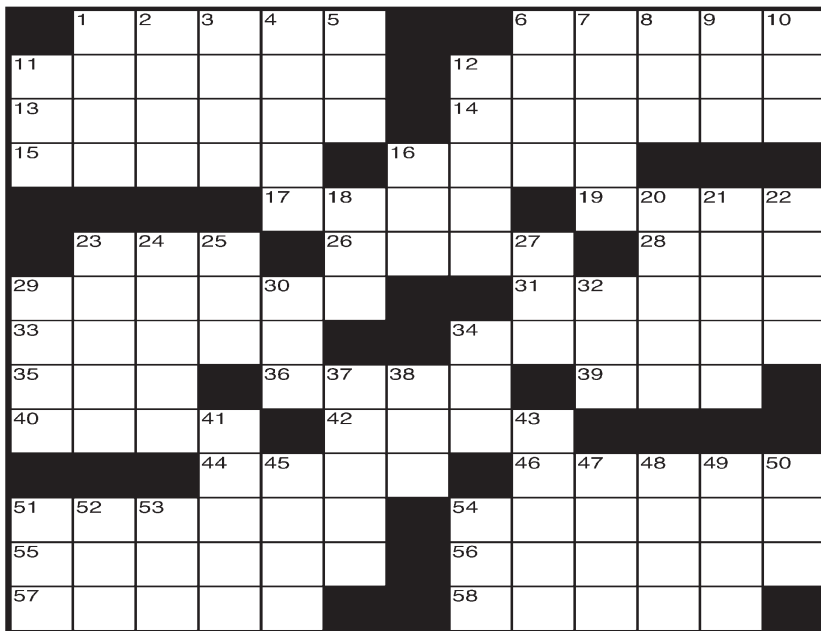### DOWN
1 Prepare an apple
2 Undersized pup
3 Curved molding
4 King and queen
5 Farm enclosure
6 Swedish import
7 Light refractor
8 Crunch targets
9 So-so grade
10 Bradley and Sneed
11 Name, to Pierre
12 Admirals' jails
16 Sun, in Mazatlan
18 French article
20 Spam, maybe
21 Cummerbund's place
22 Flank
23 Pick on
24 Sigh or murmur
25 Ultimate degree
27 IRS time
29 Ring event
30 Embers, finally
32 Test tube site
34 Ms. Arthur
37 Ice hut
38 Singer — Orbison
41 Lazybones
43 — Vader
45 Swit co-star
47 Numbers to crunch
48 Pro votes
49 Home run descriptor
50 Come to a conclusion
51 Chatty alien
52 Close friend
53 Gold, in Mexico
54 Gown go-with

Answer to Previous Puzzle
CAPP EGRET
ZODIAC UNRIPE
APACHE LEADED
GEMS DOT FEE
YEARN
NOOSE FAILED
YODEL PORES
CHIRP PANEL
SNEERS EMERY
DOSED
TOT IN A OFFS
AERIAL REGRET
FACETS PHRASE
TRADE SENT

10-10   © 2019 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest

"I'M TEXTING LORETTA AGAIN TO TELL HER TO STOP EMAILING ME EVERY FIVE MINUTES."

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson

GO RODNEY!

Rodney Vark attempts to be the first person to cross the Atlantic via zip line.

Astrograph

Bridge

A SUIT COMBINATION THAT IS DECEPTIVE

Peter De Vries, who was a novelist and editor, wrote, "The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination, but the combination is locked up in the safe."

I felt a bit like that after checking the right way to play the club suit in today's deal. If you needed three tricks, what would you do?

North might have opened the bidding with two aces and one king, but when he passed, and partner opened one no-trump, he used Stayman before jumping to game.

West, even though he knew four hearts were coming down in the dummy, had no reason to worry, given his strong sequence.

As declarer, I could see 6 top tricks: two spades, two hearts & two clubs. Two more winners were readily available from the diamonds, but what about trick nine? The opening lead strongly suggested that the hearts were not splitting 3-3. So what about clubs?

If the six missing cards were splitting 3-3, everything would work. If East had four including an honor, there was no chance. But what if West had four? What would East's doubleton be? There were four possible low-doubletons, but six honor-doubletons. So I cashed the club ace, crossed to the club king (happy to see the queen appear) and led a third round toward dummy's 10. Now I lost only two hearts, one diamond and one club.

I was feeling happy, but when I consulted the literature I found that it is better to cash the king, then play low to dummy's 10 -- why?

I suppose this allows for West's having five clubs.

North   10-10-19
♠ K 6
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A 10 5 4

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

South
♠ A 8 5 3
♥ K 6 2
♦ K Q J
♣ K 7 2

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q