

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



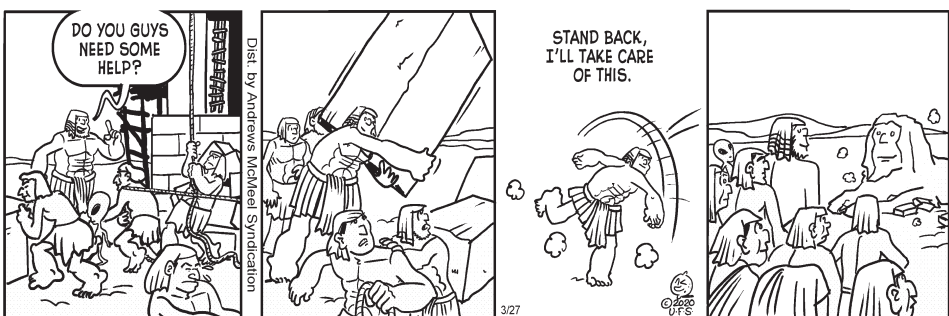
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



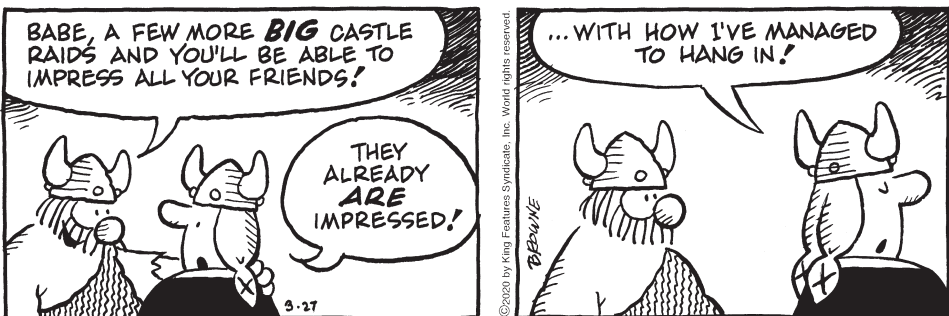
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



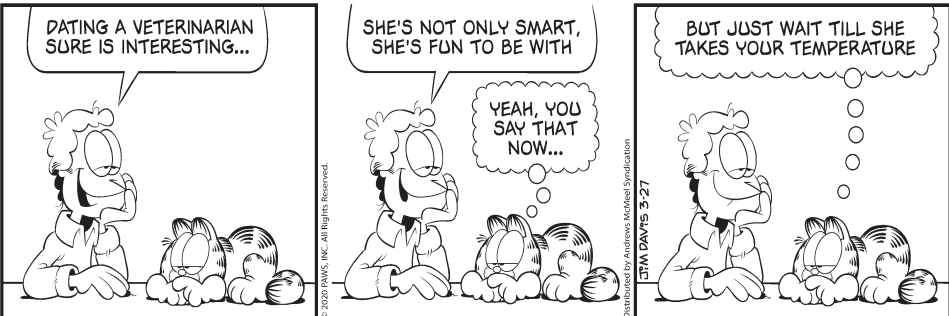
FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Obscure  
5 JAMA readers  
8 Night crawler  
12 Meditative discipline  
13 Fair-hiring letters  
14 Water, in Tijuana  
15 Building extensions  
16 Balance sheet pro  
17 Face cover  
18 Brand of spandex  
20 Strut with pride  
22 — Wieder-sehen  
23 Chestnut case  
24 Stroll  
27 Horticultural art  
30 Geese formation  
31 Logging tool  
32 Not prepaid, for short  
34 That, to Juanita

**DOWN**

1 So long!  
2 Lounge about  
3 Not pretty  
4 Mischief-maker

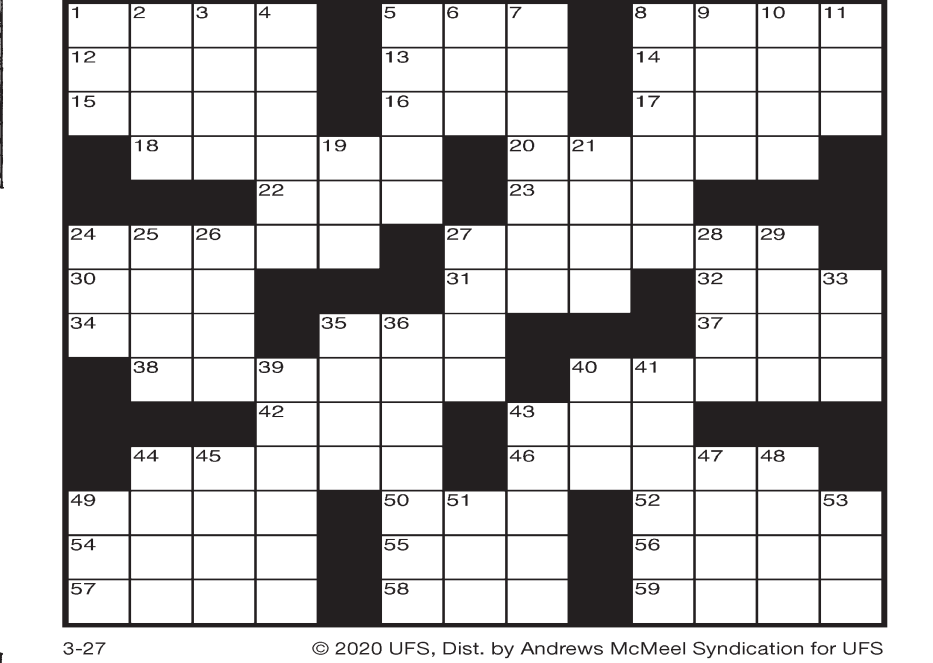
**35 Sweater sizes**  
37 Mire  
38 Team cheer  
40 Thorax  
42 Rowboat need  
43 Taro root paste  
44 Where Tripoli is  
46 Returnable bottle  
49 Wise one  
50 In vogue  
52 Orange skin  
54 Scroll cabinets  
55 Snake River loc.  
56 Air France hub  
57 Second to none  
58 Ocean dweller  
59 Closeout

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

C	H	I	L	L				I	S	L	E	T					
L	E	V	I	E	D			A	R	G	Y	L	E				
O	R	A	N	G	E			M	A	T	R	I	X				
G	E	N	E		F	I	B		T	E	A	T					
				R	A	I	N	O	U	T							
A	R	C		M	E	D			M	A	V	S					
M	E	L	T	E	D				P	O	A	C	H				
Y	E	A	R	N					T	I	S	S	U	E			
				D	Y	E	D		M	I	R	E	D	Y			
								E	S	T	A	T	E	S			
C	A	R						Y	E	T		W	I	S	E		
U	S	E	D									E	V	A	D	E	D
B	E	F	O	R	E							R	O	L	L	E	D
E	A	S	E	L								W	E	E	D	Y	

5 Type of coffee  
6 Sales-person  
7 Orator's perch  
8 Falter  
9 Type of arch  
10 Destroy  
11 Bad, for Yves  
19 Paris street  
21 Viking letter  
24 Wide st.  
25 Webbing  
26 Swain  
27 Blowout  
28 Highest point  
29 Cash substitutes

33 Insect killer  
35 Fracture photo (hyph.)  
36 Town in oaters  
39 Vigorous  
40 Web suffix  
41 Zoo heavy-weights  
43 Bicycle part  
44 Decoy  
45 Irritates  
47 Prefix for "trillion"  
48 Bellow  
49 Chatter  
51 Sonnet cousin  
53 Soap ingredient

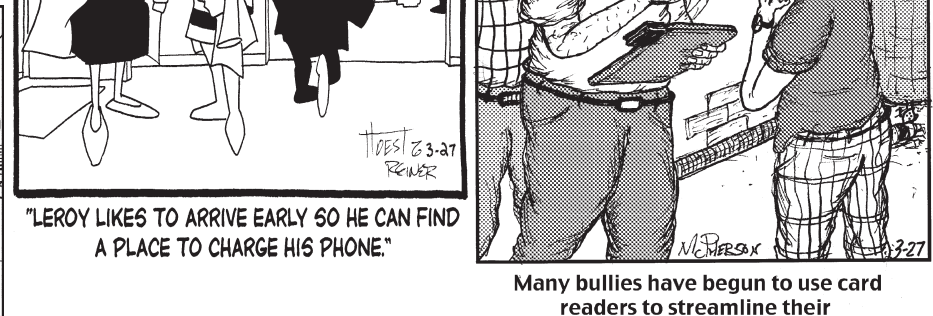


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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

**Your Birthday**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**

You are overdue for a change. Take a moment to consider how you see your life unfolding and what you need to do to follow the path that you find most inviting. Let your heart be your barometer and your imagination be your canvas. Use your skills diversely to excel.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Aggressive action won't get you what you want, but having the willpower to turn your idea into a reality will lead to a better future.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- Do what's right and you will make a difference. Don't labor over what you cannot achieve when it's what you can do that counts. Plan a romantic evening with a loved one.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Your power of persuasion will work on some, but not on everyone. Expect to face opposition if you can't back up what you are asking for with facts and incentives.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- An inevitable change will turn out better than anticipated. Don't waste time; take advantage of an opportunity to explore what's transpired. A financial gain is heading your way.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Sign up for something you love doing or look for an experience that will help you better understand someone you like. Compromise, and you'll be surprised what you get in return.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- If you follow your instincts, you will find your way to the top. Embrace change to find something or someone that enriches your life. A joint venture will shake things up.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Look at every angle before you make a decision. Avoid getting involved in someone's melodrama. Discipline and hard work will help you achieve something you've been putting off doing.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- You'll have an exciting thought that will help you expand on a creative project you left unfinished. The time is right to explore, try new things and adopt a lifestyle change.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You'll face opposition if you are pushy or you can't back up your statements with facts. Don't pass along second-hand information or exaggerate if you want to avoid backlash.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- An adjustment you make at home will have long-term effects. Invest time and money into something that will bring you closer to the people you love.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Take care of your responsibilities. Don't let others' actions upset you. A change someone makes may not be to your liking, but carry on and don't let it ruin your plans.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Take control, do your own thing and show everyone what you have to offer. Share your feelings and intentions with a loved one and find out where you stand.

**Bridge**

**THE NECESSARY AND UNWANTED HONOR**

The British comedy team of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise used a two-liner based on the honors awarded biannually by the Queen.

"My name is Colonel Napoleon Davenport, DSO, MC, OBE."

"That's a funny way to spell 'Davenport.'"

In yesterday's column, East made an unexpected second-hand-high honor-card play. In today's deal, there might be an eye-opening honor-card play, or declarer might have a chance for an unusual coup. Can you see both? South is in 4 spades. What happens if West leads either the spade king or the club jack?

In the auction, North has a middling game-invitational limit raise. Five trumps and a respectable four-card side suit are good; 2 queen-doubletons

are bad. But in a noncompetitive auction do not jump to four spades, mentioning the Law of Total Tricks, when you have so many points.

If West leads a top spade, East should discard the heart ace! Wake up partner with an honorable signal. Yes, East could play the jack, which would presumably work, but the ace is much clearer ... and much more fun.

What happens after the club-jack lead?

South has a decision to make. If the spades are 1-1, he can play a trump. But if the spades are 2-0, that risks instant defeat. His only chance is to play on diamonds, hoping the defender with both trumps has at least 3 diamonds. Or, if the trumps are 1-1, the diamonds are 3-3. Then, on the last diamond, declarer can discard a heart loser. He concedes only 2 spades & 1 heart.

North 03-27-20

♠ J 10 7 3 2  
♥ Q 4  
♦ A J 9 6  
♣ Q 5

West East

♠ A K ♥ —  
♥ 10 6 5 3 ♦ A K J 9 8  
♦ 7 5 2 ♦ 10 4 3  
♠ J 10 9 8 ♣ 7 6 4 3 2

South

♠ Q 9 8 6 5 4  
♥ 7 2  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ A K

Dealer: South  
Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East

1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass  
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♠ A or ♣ J