

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



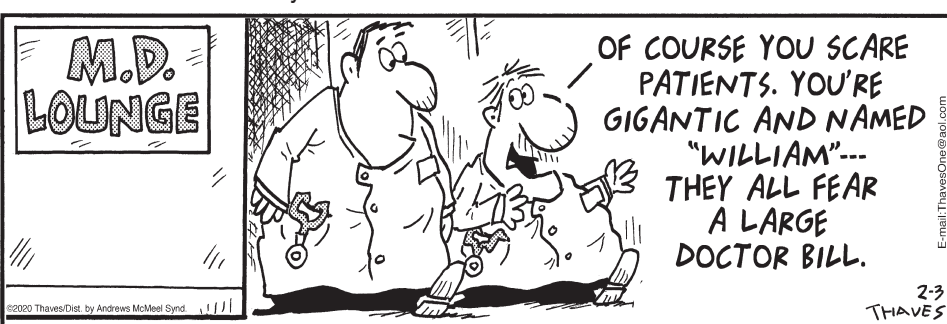
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Caribou kin
- 4 Crafty
- 7 Youngster
- 10 Itch
- 11 Twitter
- 13 Finish a cake
- 14 Kind of trip
- 15 Give an address
- 16 That woman
- 17 Followed orders
- 19 Spud
- 21 Modern
- 22 Game piece
- 23 Preside
- 26 Malady
- 30 Chieftain
- 31 Musical scale note
- 32 Princess perturber
- 33 Chest-beater
- 34 Have a mortgage
- 35 Count (on)
- 36 Border river
- 39 Feudal estates
- 40 Filbert

41 Place (abbr.)

- 42 Foretell
- 45 Beat the rap
- 48 Hosp. staffer
- 49 Taken — (startled)
- 51 RV haven
- 53 — glance
- 54 Fries and slaw
- 55 Constantly, to Poe
- 56 Leave wide-eyed
- 57 Danson or Kennedy
- 58 Title of respect, in India

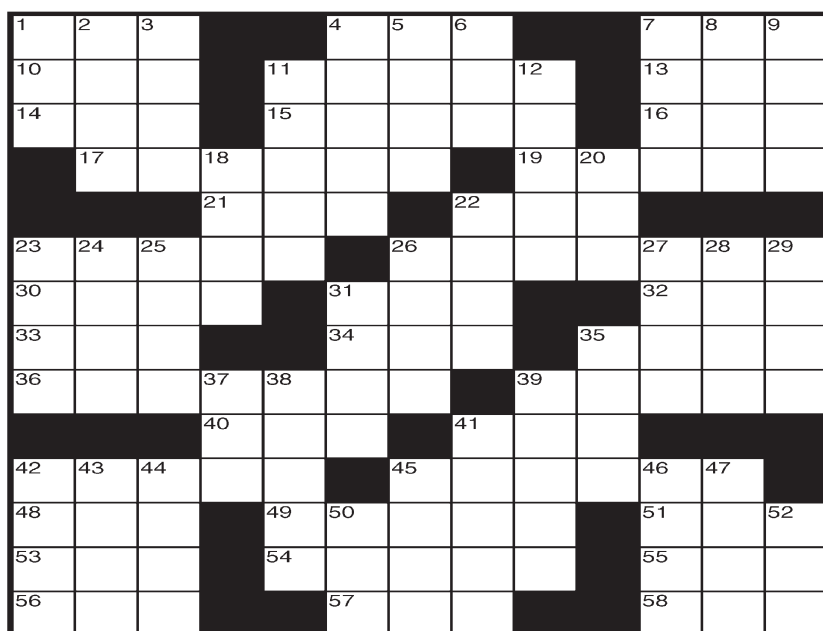
DOWN

- 1 Observe
- 2 Construction toy
- 3 Drawer part
- 4 Mouselike animal
- 5 Conduct
- 6 So far
- 7 Roster
- 8 Pang
- 9 Woodlands grazer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

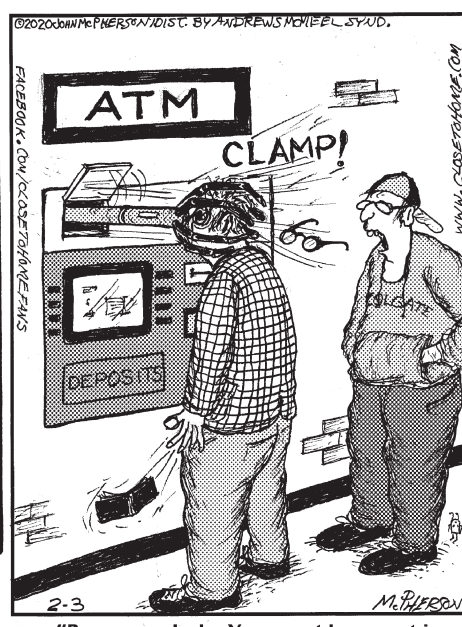


- 11 More demure
- 12 Peony part
- 18 Writer — Bagnold
- 20 First name in advice
- 22 Mme.'s daughter
- 23 Plaid wearers
- 24 Kachina maker
- 25 Field of study
- 26 The Hawkeyes
- 27 Fencer's weapon
- 28 Type of interest
- 29 Responds
- 31 Type of Stack
- 35 Stack of wood
- 37 Veld grazer
- 38 Halos
- 39 Mom and Pop
- 41 Drew together
- 42 — into itself
- 43 — speed
- 44 What mice do
- 45 Play in the kiddie pool
- 46 Really skimps
- 47 Mover and shaker
- 50 Crumb
- 52 "Exodus" name



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Share your good fortune with someone special.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Overreacting will not be the way to go. Take a step back and put your emotional energy into something constructive. A creative endeavor will help ease stress and get you back on track.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Be careful. Delays or problems while traveling are likely, along with misunderstandings and injury if you are impulsive or careless. Slow down, don't believe everything you hear and take better care of yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't lend or borrow money or possessions. Offer suggestions if someone tries to enlist your help. What you do emotionally and physically for someone will be of greater value than financial assistance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Home improvement projects will cost more than anticipated. Try to stay within budget and stick to the facts and figures when dealing with contractors or workers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) --

Enjoy the company of people who share your beliefs or interests. Taking business trips, engaging in interviews or reconnecting with a former co-worker will be informative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Live within your means. Extravagance will get you in trouble with someone who shares your expenses. If you discuss plans openly, sound advice will be forthcoming. Romance is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take the path that intrigues you the most. Don't settle for something that doesn't live up to your standards. Listen to someone who supports your lifestyle and plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Take better care of your emotional and physical well-being. Listen to what others have to say, but don't make a move without getting the facts firsthand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Do not lend or borrow money or possessions. Walk away from situations that annoy you. Offer assistance to people you know are willing to work as hard as you.

Bridge

North 02-03-20
 ♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ K Q 10 6 5 3

West
 ♠ Q 4
 ♥ 10 8 7 3
 ♦ 10 8 6 4
 ♠ A 7 2

East
 ♠ 3
 ♥ Q 6 5 4
 ♦ K Q J 3 2
 ♠ J 9 4

South
 ♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
 ♥ A K J 2
 ♦ 9 5
 ♠ 8

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: Neither

South West North East
 1♠ Pass ??

Opening lead: ♦ 4

HOW WOULD YOU PLAN THE AUCTION?
 C.C. Wei was a Chinese shipping magnate who invented the Precision Club bidding system. He used to say that you learn a lot more by listening than by talking.

That is true, but sometimes providing information works better than receiving it. This can apply with a bridge hand. Should you describe it & allow partner to choose the final contract, or should you let partner describe his hand before picking the resting place?

That decision must be taken by North in today's deal. Look only at the North hand. South opens one spade. After West passes, what would be your plan?

This decision was faced by 16 robots at Bridge Base Online. All 16 made the same response: four hearts. This was a splinter bid, showing at least four-card

spade support, game-going values or more and a singleton (or void) in hearts. That was fine as it went, but when South rebid four spades, what should North have done next?

At the time, 15 passed. The 16th continued with 4 no-trump, Roman Key Card Blackwood. South showed two key cards (here, two aces) and the spade queen (because he knew of a combined 10-card or better fit). North raised to six spades.

After a diamond lead, declarer drew trumps, discarded dummy's remaining diamond on the 2nd high heart and played a club. South lost only to that ace.

I think it is much better for North to respond 2 no-trump, the Jacoby Forcing Raise. After South rebids 3 clubs (showing a singleton or void there), North control-bids 3 diamonds, South control-bids 3 hearts, and then North can launch RKCB.