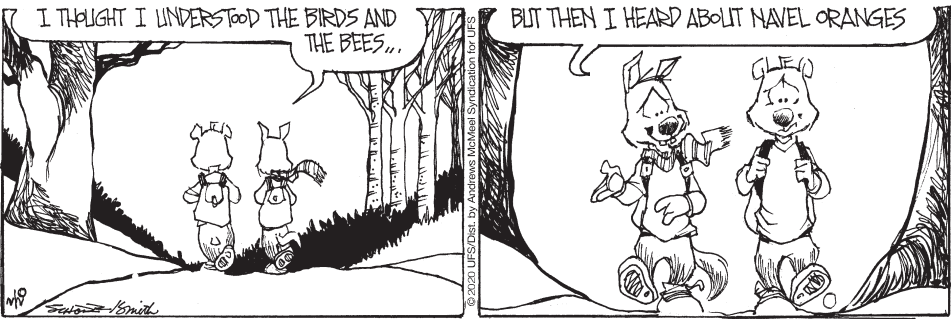




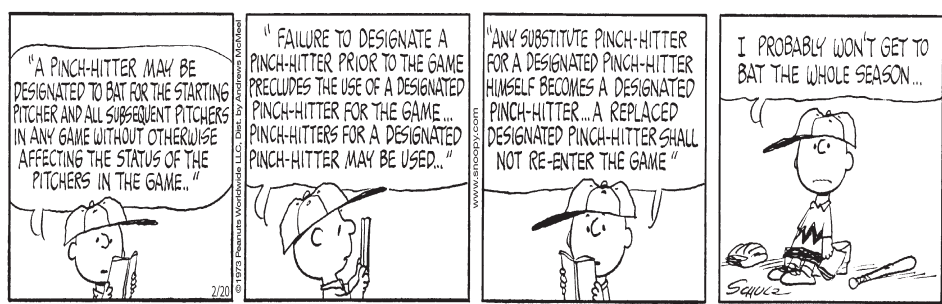
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



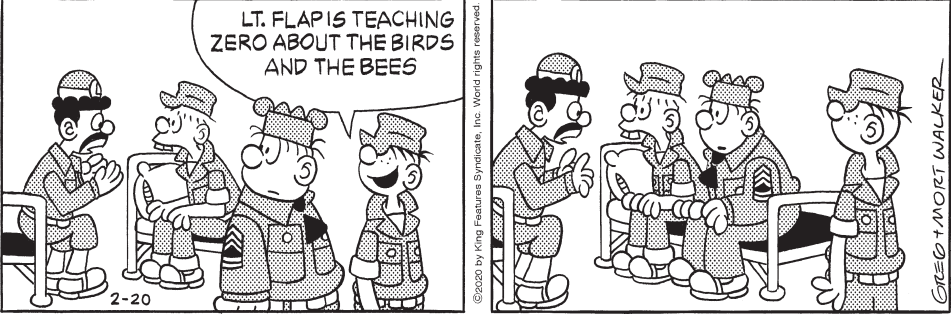
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



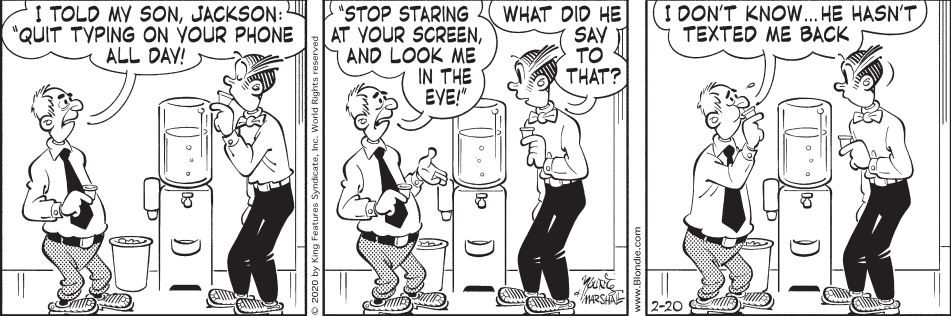
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



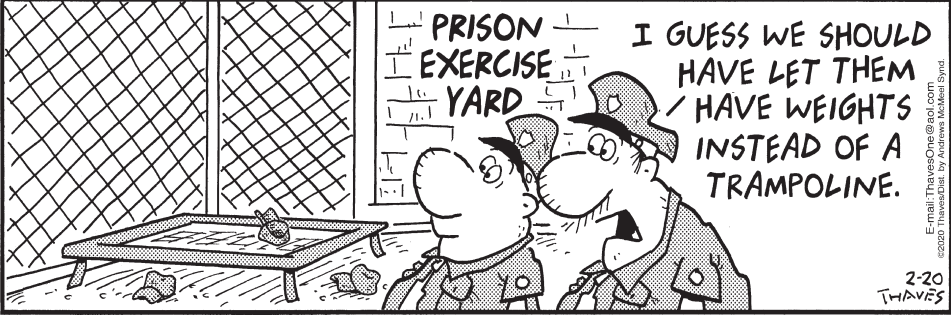
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



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 Record
4 Pod
7 Belfry dweller
10 Tall bird
11 WWW addresses
13 Rounded roof
14 Court evidence, maybe
15 Sir's companion
16 Omigosh!
17 Stalemate
19 Building extensions
20 Tempe inst.
21 Stand up
23 Mr. Uris of "Topaz"
26 Second showing
28 Moon, in verse
29 Princess Di's niece
30 Snow shelter
34 Arrogance
36 Guitarist — Wood

- 38 Zippy the Pinhead's cry
39 State Farm competitor
41 D.C. figures
42 Rustle
44 Sorority letter
46 Full extent
47 Relieved
51 Indianapolis griddler
52 Middy
53 Hearty laugh
55 Bohemian
56 Karate move
57 Sports "zebra"
58 Yves' nose
59 Aurora locale
60 List ender

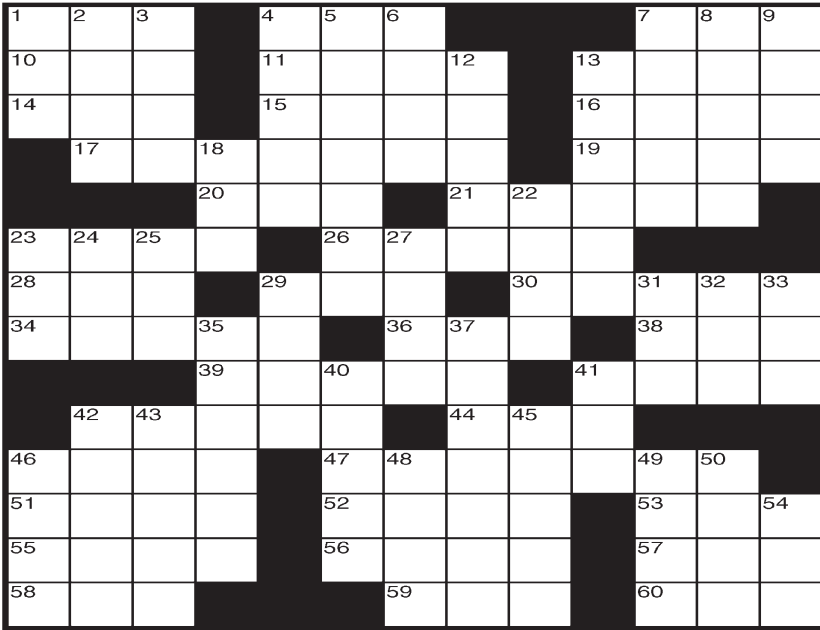
DOWN

- 1 Was ahead
2 All, in combos
3 Largest of the Marianas
4 Mountain lions
5 Deletion

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 6 Sad cry
7 Fixes potatoes
8 Plenty
9 Golf pegs
12 Campaign tactic
13 Tinting
18 Poor review
22 Make a mess
23 Prune
24 Mess up
25 Osaka sash
27 Merit
29 Hive occupants
31 Drain cleaner
32 Alley —
33 Startled cries
35 Delicate
37 Rowboat device
40 Part of TGIF
41 Trigger's rider
42 Mushroom-to-be
43 Ballroom dance
45 Sneezer's need
46 Survey
48 "— & Clark"
49 Fictional governess
50 Two voices
54 Col. Sanders' place



2-20

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph



Your Birthday

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

What are you waiting for? Step up to the plate and hit the ball out of the park. You've got what it takes to push your way to the top, so don't be lazy, or you may miss out on something fabulous. Live your dream and have an adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- A change of attitude regarding your health and fitness will help you restore energy and enthusiasm, as well as improve your appearance. Work hard and be confident in your skills.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Don't expect anything in return for your efforts. Offer only what you are comfortable giving to others. If you are too accommodating, someone will take advantage of you. Aim to please yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Get involved in something that interests you. What you learn will be helpful when you want to make a vocational move. An

unexpected opportunity is heading your way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- A co-worker or colleague will let you down. Leave nothing to chance or at the mercy of someone else's discretion. Don't let compliments go to your head or allow anyone to interfere with your efficiency.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Spend time with people who bring out the best in you. Sharing ideas, skills and experience will give you a sense of belonging, and good work relationships will develop.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Follow your heart and do what comes naturally. Update your skills, image or long-term plans. A romantic gesture will change the dynamics of a relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Experience new surroundings, get to know people from different backgrounds and pursue knowledge that will revitalize your desire to pursue a lifelong goal. Youngsters and seniors will offer unexpected insight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Spend less time with negative people and more time pursu-

ing personal goals. A make-over will give you the boost you need to regain confidence and a larger perspective. Romance is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Consistency will be required if you want to make an impression on someone. Work in conjunction with others for best results. Add comfort and convenience to your living space.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Digest what's going on around you and be careful who and what you believe. Spend less time socializing and more time at home relaxing and taking care of your personal needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- An unusual opportunity will develop if you get in touch with someone from your past. The way you make and handle money will change the way you live.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Reflect and consider your options before you respond to someone. Time is on your side. Pay attention to detail and to the effects of your words or actions.

Bridge

North		02-20-20	
♠ 6 3			
♥ A Q 4			
♦ 7 5 2			
♣ K J 10 9 8			
West		East	
♠ 5 2		♠ Q J 10 9 8	
♥ J 10 9 7 6		♥ 5 2	
♦ 4 3		♦ A K Q J 10	
♣ 7 6 4 3		♣ 2	
		South	
		♠ A K 7 4	
		♥ K 8 3	
		♦ 9 8 6	
		♣ A Q 5	
Dealer: East			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl.!
Opening lead: ??			

HOW TO MAKE PARTNER DO THE UNUSUAL

Niccolo Machiavelli wrote, "There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

So true. Last week, we looked at fourth-suit game-forcing. It was first proposed by Londoner Norman Squire in his book "The Theory of Bidding," which was published in 1957. Impressively, what he wrote then is still the accepted theory today.

This deal features a double that causes debate even among experts. East opens one spade, South overcalls one no-trump, West passes, North raises to 3 no-trump, and East doubles. What does that double mean?

It cannot be for takeout; it must be for penalty. But which suit is it asking West to lead?

I have read books and articles where the authors say that it insists on a spade lead. But, with all due respect, that is crazy!

What is West going to lead against 3 no-trump undoubted?

Right -- a spade. Even if he has a nice-looking long suit like his hearts in this deal, he has no entry to get in and cash any winners he might be able to establish. East has their points, so West will lead his partner's suit.

East's double must be asking for the lead of a different suit. East has winners ready to cash if West can find the right suit. So, what should West lead?

Given West's diamond shortage, that is his percentage choice. Note that here it turns three no-trump plus one (after a spade or heart lead) into three no-trump minus one.