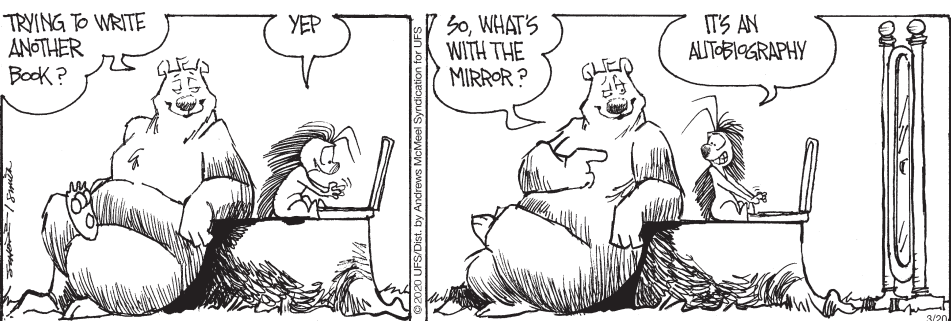


THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



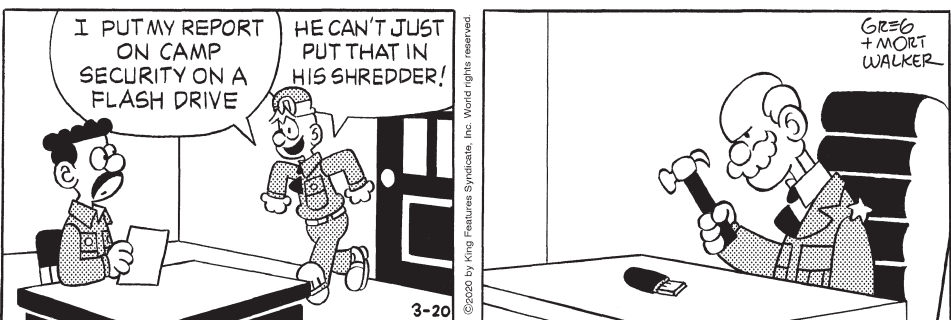
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



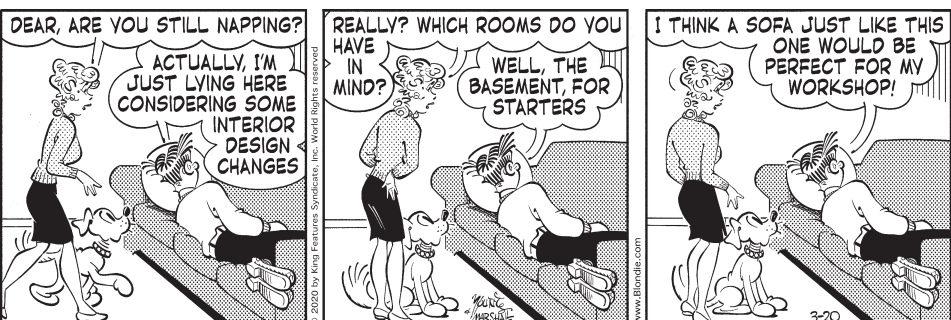
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



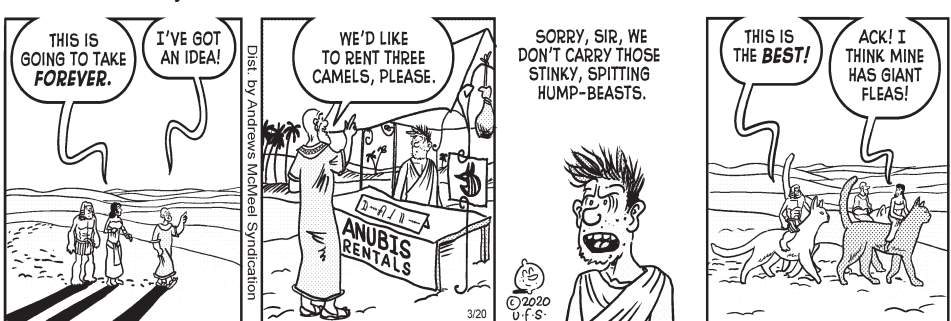
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



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



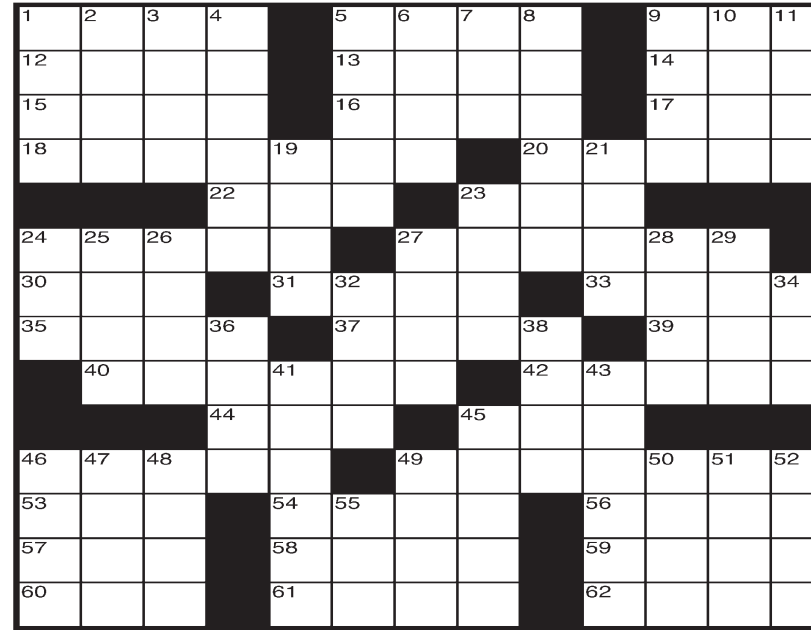
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Footfall
 - 5 CEO, often
 - 9 Merriment
 - 12 Caribbean island
 - 13 Manhattan river
 - 14 Ms. Hagen
 - 15 Nefertiti's god
 - 16 Willy or Shamu
 - 17 Hebrew letter
 - 18 Ordinary
 - 20 Web-footed birds
 - 22 Pacino and Unser
 - 23 Ex-soldier, for short
 - 24 Hobby shop wood
 - 27 Shade-loving plants
 - 30 Anger
 - 31 Megastar
 - 33 Writer — Rice
 - 35 Seedy joint
 - 37 Regretted
 - 39 Not their
 - 40 Caustic comeback
 - 42 Ladder parts
- DOWN**
- 1 Defraud
 - 2 Dance wear
 - 3 Poet's black
 - 4 Bamboo munchers
 - 5 Toilers
 - 6 Hard to come by
 - 7 PC bailout key
 - 8 Platforms
 - 9 Sulk angrily

Answer to Previous Puzzle

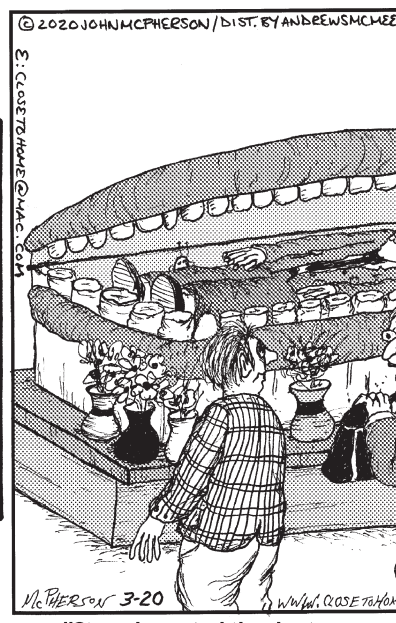


- 10 Sporty vehicles
- 11 Cognomen
- 19 Asian range
- 21 James or Kett
- 23 Mouse cousin
- 24 Auction action
- 25 Grand Canyon st.
- 26 Strauss of jeans
- 27 Class period
- 28 By and by
- 29 Tucked in
- 32 Attracted
- 34 Hesitant speaker's insertions
- 36 Covetousness
- 38 Beat soundly
- 41 Rumors, often
- 43 Disquiet
- 45 Playing cards
- 46 Data unit
- 47 Not fake
- 48 Debate side
- 49 Obnoxious
- 50 Ottoman title
- 51 Roulette color
- 52 Recipe amts.
- 55 Tire pressure meas.



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Your Birthday
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020
 You can accomplish plenty this year if you stay focused and refuse to let emotional matters interfere with your productivity or financial affairs. Put a solid plan in place to avoid confusion and uncertainty. If something goes wrong, reevaluate and make necessary adjustments.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Listen more and say less. If you give someone too much personal information, they will use it against you. Let your intuition lead the way when dealing with sensitive issues.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Take a closer look at an offer and what you have to do, and find a way to adapt your skills to fit the goal you have in mind. Present what you have to offer with finesse.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A problem with a loved one will add to your responsibilities. Use good judgment -- if something doesn't sound cor-
 ward. A look at different locations and opportunities will inspire you to make a change.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Spend time with people who are enthusiastic about the same things you are. Love is prevalent, but it can also be daunting if you are feeling uncertain. Shopping will lead to a great buy.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You won't be able to please everyone, so take care of yourself first. Consider partnering with someone who is trying to do something similar to you personally or professionally.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Avoid a controversial topic with friends or relatives. Remain neutral and concentrate on what you can achieve. Being productive will bring higher rewards. Romance is favored.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Emotions will be close to the surface. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into doing something that you don't feel good about. You don't have to impress anyone, so be true to you.

Bridge

THE DANGERS IN A TEACHING DEAL
 Teaching inexperienced bridge players is a haphazard occupation. It is good to see their progress, but they are extraordinary at finding strange twists in deals that look so straightforward to the more experienced eye.
 I received an unexpected surprise from this deal.
 In the auction, despite West's overall, North's three-spade response was a game-invitational limit raise. South plowed on to game.
 West leads the diamond king. The first point is that East should play the jack. Unless this is from shortage, it guarantees holding the 10 as well. True, here there is some chance of East's having a singleton or doubleton diamond, but it's not likely.
 Declarer, wishing to avoid a heart lead from East, should
 duck his ace. South wins the diamond continuation, enters dummy with a club and takes a spade finesse. In a moment, he draws the last trump, discards a heart loser on the fourth club and makes his game.
 If South wins trick one with the diamond ace, he should go down. When West gets in with the spade king, he underleads his diamond queen to East's 10. Now the heart queen through declarer generates four tricks for the defense.
 Both these possibilities occurred in my class. However, at one table South introduced a variation I hadn't considered. After winning trick one with the diamond ace, she led a low spade from hand.
 West, thinking his partner must have the spade ace, played low. Suddenly no spade loser, suddenly an overtrick! Out of the hands ...

North 03-20-20
 ♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ 7 6 4
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A K J 2

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

South
 ♠ A 8 7 6 4 3
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ Q 10 9

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East
 1♠ 2♦ 3♠ Pass
 4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♦ K