



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



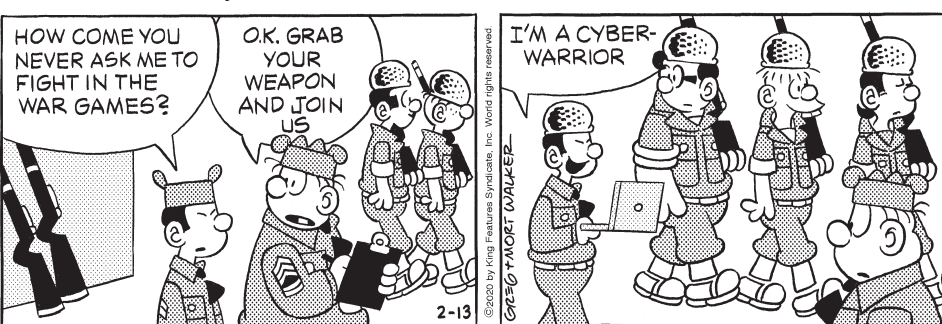
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



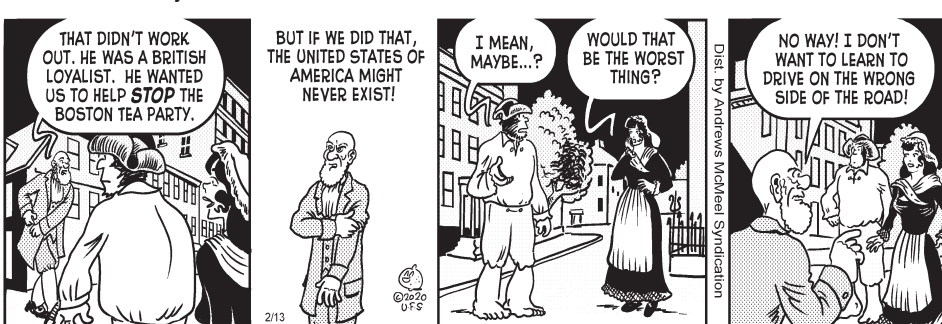
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



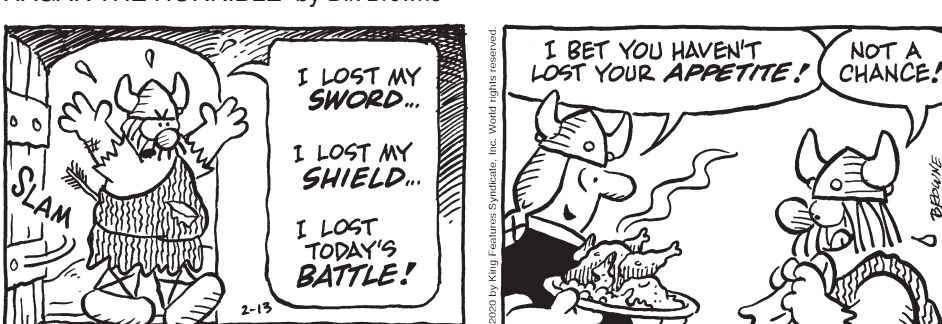
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



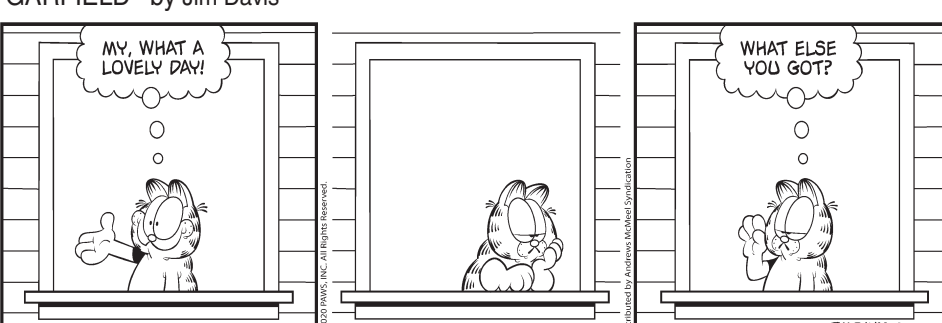
FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

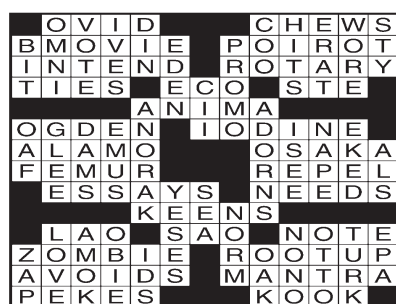
- 1 Move like lava
- 5 That guy's
- 8 Keep — on
- 12 Makes haste
- 13 Drink suffix
- 14 Mr. Sikorsky
- 15 Grabbed
- 17 Small lumps
- 18 "Fish Magic" artist
- 19 Marbles
- 21 Sense organ
- 23 Ben & Jerry rival
- 24 Maiden
- 27 Black playing card
- 31 Like some cats
- 32 Writer — Bagnold
- 34 New Age singer
- 35 Two-piece cookie
- 37 Ounce fraction
- 39 Beauty salon item

- 40 Remains undecided
- 42 Made level
- 44 Urge
- 46 Dog days in Dijon
- 47 Get equal billing (hyph.)
- 50 "WNBA Tuesday" aier
- 53 Woe is me!
- 54 Golf hazard (2 wds.)
- 57 Lo-cal stopper
- 58 Round of thread
- 59 Bits of thread
- 60 Flower
- 61 Evergreen
- 62 They're often inflated

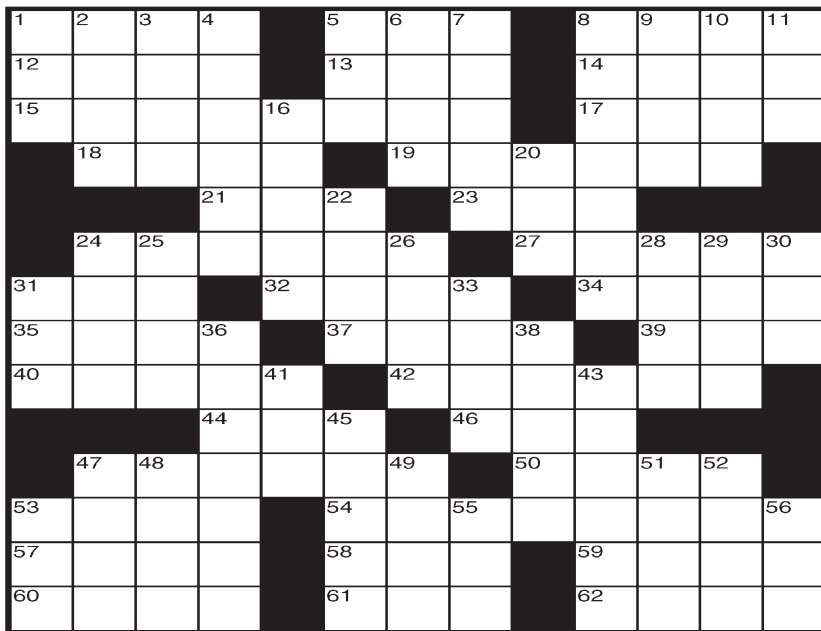
DOWN

- 1 Mild interjections
- 2 Sound piggish
- 3 Enthusiasm
- 4 High regard
- 5 Villain's cry
- 6 Notion

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 7 Papyrus is one
- 8 Antique photograph
- 9 Fit of shivering
- 10 Cuts short
- 11 Almost-grads
- 16 Halt
- 20 Mag fillers
- 22 Tear to bits
- 24 Be bold
- 25 Pharaoh's god
- 26 Trevi Fountain coins once
- 28 Murray or Rice
- 29 Did batik
- 30 Have a bite
- 31 Popinjay
- 33 Jazz great — Brubeck
- 36 Epic journey
- 38 Rationed out
- 41 Use hair rollers
- 43 Snuggle
- 45 Abominable
- 47 Ad award
- 48 Equine fodder
- 49 Tidy the lawn
- 51 Goody-goody
- 52 Metric prefix
- 53 Mont Blanc
- 55 Right away
- 56 Qt. fractions



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



In just five seconds, Kelly's chances of being asked to the prom went down the tubes.

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

lifestyle will be mandatory if you want to excel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Make a change because it's what someone else wants. Use your intelligence and do your best to help those who face uncertainty or difficult times.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Keep moving. Channel your energy into something that will encourage fitness, creativity and positive change. Romance is on the rise and will enhance your life. Be careful whom you trust with personal information.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Express your plans and intentions and make changes based on the response you receive. A lot can change if you are willing to compromise. If you strive for equality, good things will transpire.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't feel that you must make a change because someone else does. Look at your options, concentrate on personal growth and physical improvements, and surround yourself with like-minded people.

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

A change will give you the boost needed to stimulate your mind and push you in a direction that will inspire you to do your own thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Stop worrying about what everyone else is doing and pay closer attention to things that make you happy. Put your energy into a project that shows profit potential.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Make attention to detail a priority. Your creative input will impress your peers. Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you. Help a cause that you care about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Put your energy into something that matters to you. A promising partnership, physical improvement or investment opportunity is within reach. Leave nothing to chance, and success will follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you keep an open mind, you'll be offered information that can change your life. Personal growth that leads to better health, less stress and greater freedom is possible.

Bridge

IF HE DECLINES, FORCE HIM ANYWAY

When did the routine, "After you," "No, after you," start?

The earliest reference I can find is Alphonse and Gaston, two Frenchmen who bowed deeply and never got anything done because each waited for the other. Forty years later, the theme was adopted by Warner Bros.' Goofy Gophers, Mac and Tosh.

Today's deal made me think of that. How should South play in four spades after West leads the trump jack, and East plays the queen?

In the auction, South's 1-spade rebid showed 4 spades and was forcing for 1 round, not to game. If instead South had jumped to 2 spades, that would have been fourth-suit game-forcing & denied holding 4 spades.

Over 1 spade, North jumped to game with a hand worth 18

support points (16 high-card points & 2 shortage points for the singleton) & having only 5 losers (1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond & 2 clubs -- you look at only the first 3 cards in each suit).

Perhaps your first thought is to ruff dummy's club losers in your hand. The play goes: spade king, club ace, club ruff, heart to dummy, club ruff, heart to dummy, club ruff with your last trump, diamond king. But East wins with his ace and returns a heart, West ruffing your ace. Now you have 4 losers: 2 spades, 1 heart (dummy's 6) & 1 diamond.

It is better to establish your diamond suit. At trick two, lead dummy's diamond. And if East ducks (good defense), you say, "No, after you," by leading another diamond & discarding a heart or club from the board. You will lose only two trumps and the diamond ace.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|--|
| North | | 02-13-20 | |
| ♠ A K 5 2 | | | |
| ♥ K Q 6 3 | | | |
| ♦ 7 | | | |
| ♣ A 8 4 3 | | | |
| West | | East | |
| ♠ J 10 9 8 | | ♥ J 10 9 8 | |
| ♥ 5 4 | | ♦ A 8 5 4 2 | |
| ♦ 6 3 | | ♣ Q 9 2 | |
| ♠ K J 10 7 6 | | | |
| South | | | |
| ♠ 7 6 4 3 | | | |
| ♥ A 7 2 | | | |
| ♦ K Q J 10 9 | | | |
| ♣ 5 | | | |
| Dealer: North | | | |
| Vulnerable: East-West | | | |
| South | | West | |
| 1♦ | | Pass | |
| 1♠ | | Pass | |
| | | Pass | |
| | | All Pass | |
| Opening lead: ♠ J | | | |