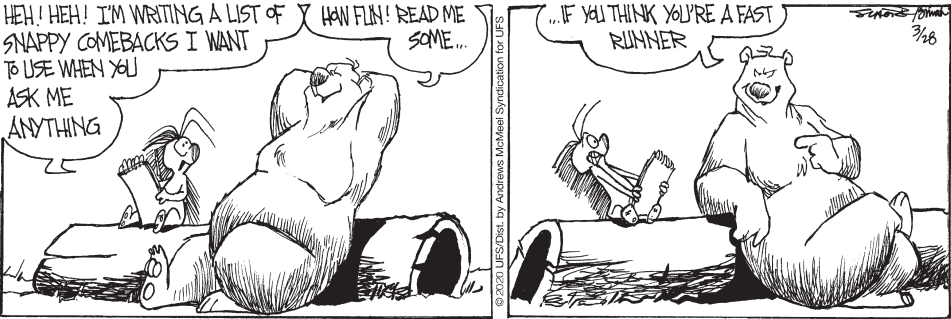


THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



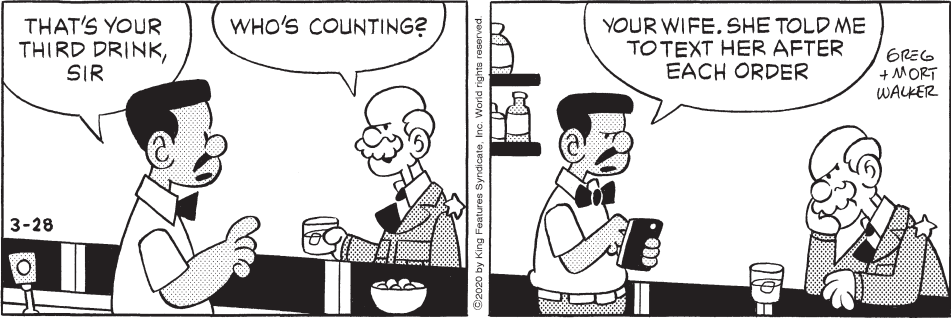
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



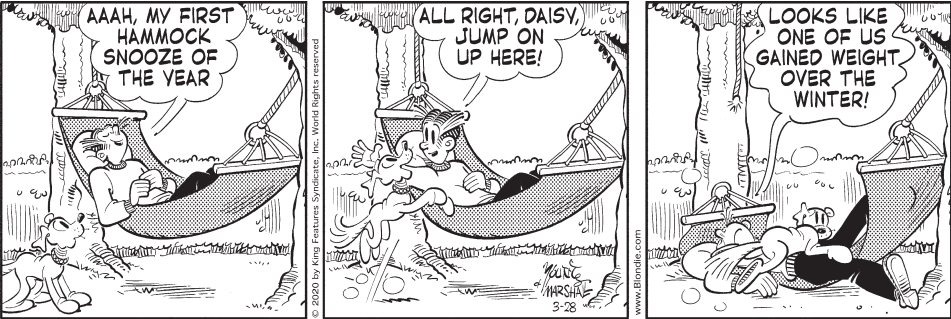
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BEEBLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



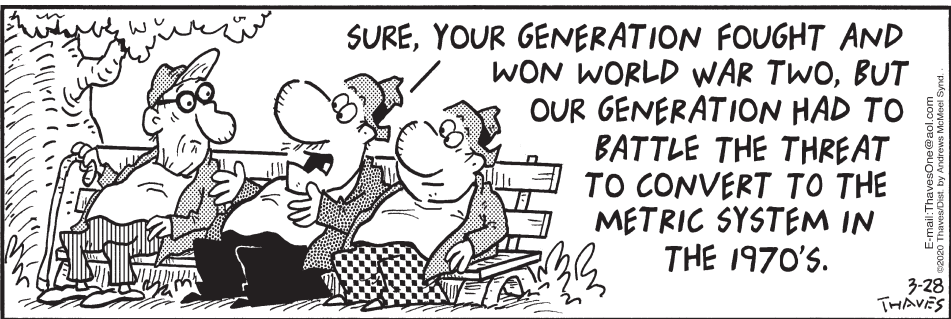
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



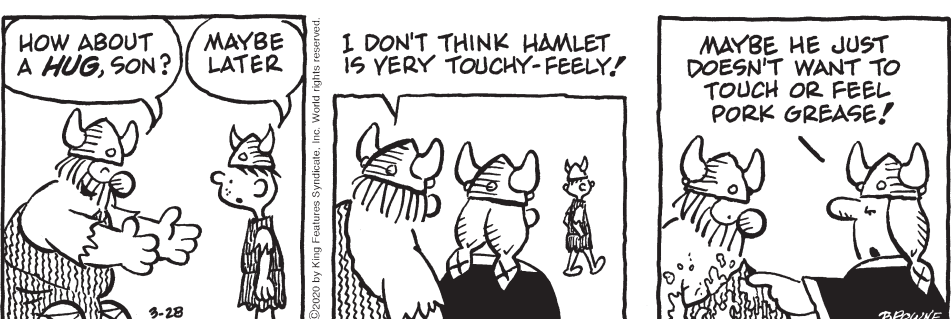
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 German physicist
- 4 Lao-Tzu's "way"
- 7 Snazzy
- 11 Grass skirt go-with
- 12 Em, to Dorothy
- 13 Himalayan monk
- 14 Help out
- 15 Louver
- 16 "WNBA Tuesday" broadcaster
- 17 Ruffles
- 19 Talk pompously
- 21 Princess Di's niece
- 22 Pecan shape
- 23 Ms. Witherspoon
- 26 Overfed
- 28 Age
- 29 Tablet
- 31 Bona fide
- 35 Action word
- 37 — pro quo
- 39 Puppy cry
- 40 Vaulted recess
- 42 Asserts
- 44 Feeling

46 Exclamation of disgust

- 47 Hounds' trails
- 49 Messy
- 53 Muse of history
- 54 Versifier
- 56 Sign before Virgo
- 57 Stratford's river
- 58 Count (on)
- 59 Fall behind
- 60 Family members
- 61 Mo. multiples
- 62 Herr in Madras

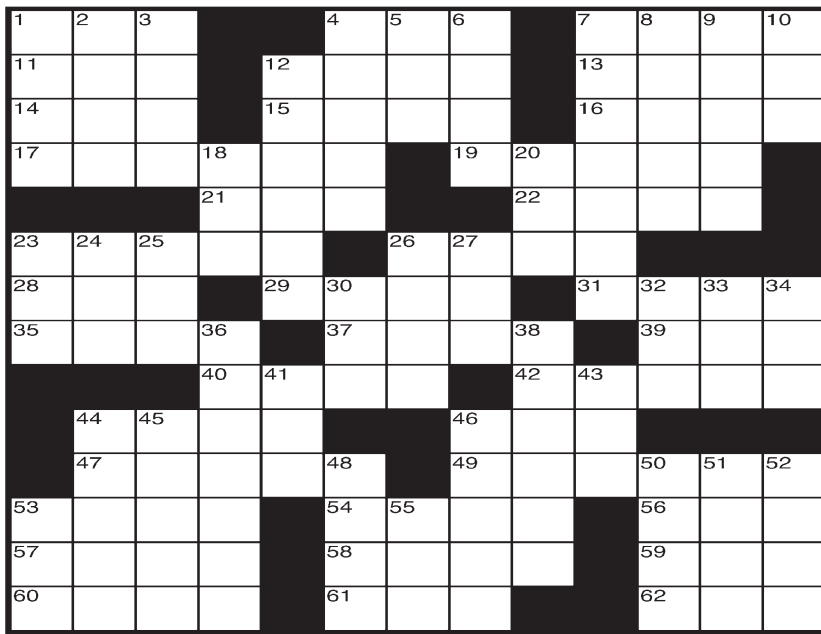
DOWN

- 1 Norwegian monarch
- 2 Legatee
- 3 Popular hemline
- 4 Oklahoma oil city
- 5 Literary collection
- 6 Eight, in Roma
- 7 Butcher's tool
- 8 — la vista!

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 9 Use force
- 10 Preserve food
- 12 Dozing
- 18 Deli units
- 20 Compost
- 23 Step on the gas
- 24 Before
- 25 Swab target
- 26 Slide sideways
- 27 Muhammad —
- 30 Mensa stats
- 32 Organ of sight
- 33 Full of hot —
- 34 CD fore-runners
- 36 Chimps' kin
- 38 Delicate
- 41 Pricing word
- 43 Poodle's doc
- 44 Car import
- 45 Figure of speech
- 46 Energy sources
- 48 Nimble
- 50 Misfortunes
- 51 Honey
- 52 Jellystone bear
- 53 Rotating part
- 55 Above, in verse



3-28

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THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Astrograph

yourself to the world matters. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- You've got more going for you than you realize. An effort to improve your health is favored. If you voice your opinions, you'll attract someone likeminded. A partnership or financial opportunity looks promising. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't limit what you can do or let someone lead the way. Do what's best for you and avoid getting left behind. Refuse to get caught in someone else's emotional mess. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- If you spend more time on hobbies and interests you enjoy, it will help you make choices that will improve your life and help you achieve happiness. Financial gain looks promising. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Consider your long-term plans and revise them to fit your current lifestyle and financial budget. Reviewing the past will help you come to terms with something you've lost. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Keep moving forward. Timing is everything, and if you act fast, you will be able to take advantage of something that will help you excel. A money matter will improve. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Choose wisely. Be realistic when looking at your options. Don't be fooled by something or someone that sounds too good to be true. You are best off doing your own thing. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Catch up with old friends, attend a reunion or host an event. Your hands-on approach will put you where the action is and help you take advantage of an exciting opportunity. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Put a plan in place that is budget-friendly and geared toward fitness and a healthy lifestyle. What you accomplish will motivate you to be your best mentally, physically and financially. **PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- If you connect with someone from your past, you'll realize what's missing in your life. Shared memories will clear your vision and encourage you to pursue a dream.

Bridge

North 03-28-20
 ♠ J 8 5 2
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ 7 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 10

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

South
 ♠ A 7 4
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ A K 6 5 2

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: North-South

South West North East
 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2NT Pass 3NT All Pass

Opening lead: ♦ Q

SMILE THROUGH GRITTED TEETH

One of my favorite figures of speech is the oxymoron, in which contradictory words are combined. For example, philanthropic skin-flint or speedy snail. At other times, we say things that are impossible when taken literally. For example, people who smile while gritting their teeth. Shakespeare must have liked oxymorons because he scattered them in a speech by Romeo in Act 1, Scene 1. On today's deal, you must try to accumulate nine tricks in three no-trump. What would you do after West leads the diamond queen, and East encourages with the nine? I know it is almost de rigueur these days with only 6-9 points to skip over diamonds to show a four-card major. However, when that major is weak,

showing diamonds is not so silly. Why? Because occasionally opener will raise the major with only three-card support in a 5-4-3-1 hand. That 4-3 fit will not play well. Your road to nine tricks has to be one spade, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs. In clubs, there are two lines of play. You can cash the three top honors, or you can take a first-round finesse of dummy's 10. Which is better? Playing off the three top honors wins whenever the clubs divide 3-3, which is a 35.53% chance. Taking the finesse works whenever West has J-x (8%), J-x-x (18%) or J-x-x-x (16%). That gives a total of 42%. So, grit your teeth and play a club to dummy's 10. Then, here, you and your partner will be all smiles.