

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



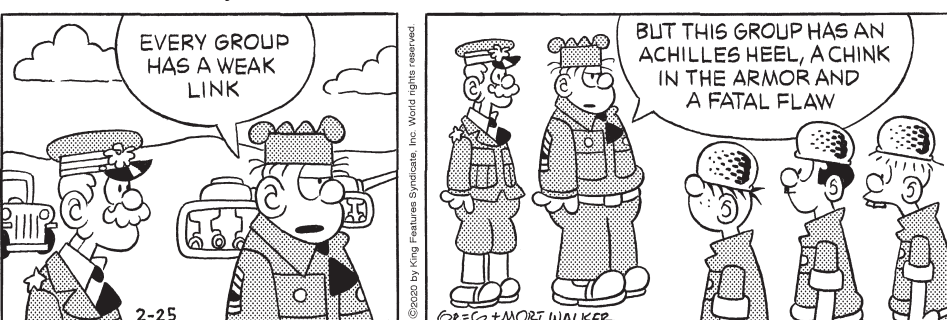
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



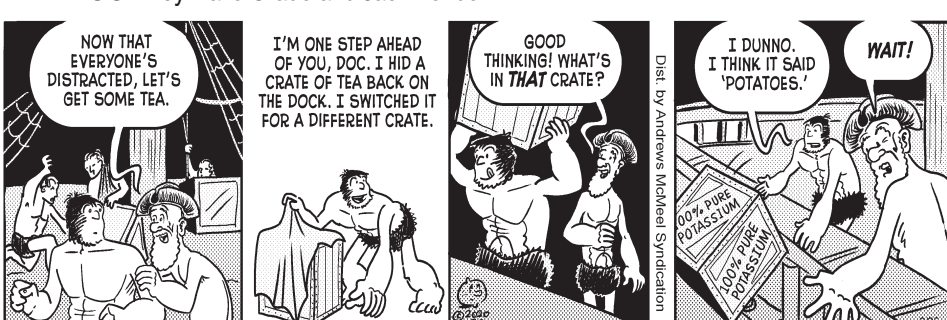
BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



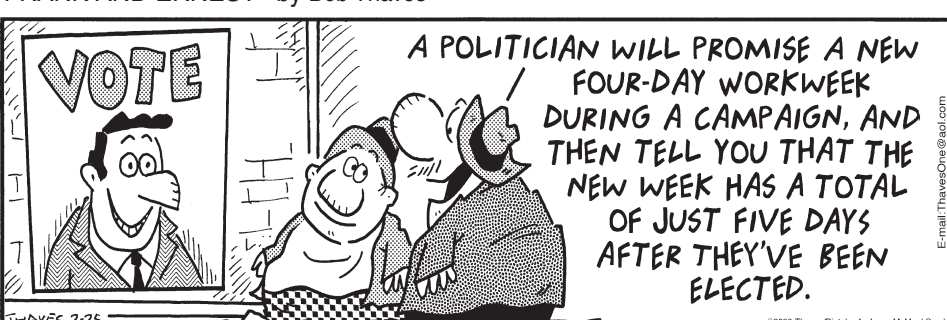
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



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 Lowers the beams
- 5 Mountain lion
- 9 Daughter's brother
- 12 Smell —
- 13 Cranston or Shepard
- 14 Psychological self
- 15 Memorandum
- 16 Those asked to RSVP
- 18 Feeler
- 20 Cash
- 21 Paris article
- 22 Chilly and damp
- 23 Runner-up
- 26 Spanish dance
- 29 Snow boot
- 30 Unhappy destiny
- 32 Timber wolf
- 34 Chase flies
- 36 Verse
- 38 Sassy talk
- 39 Combines
- 41 That is (2 wds.)
- 43 Rx giver

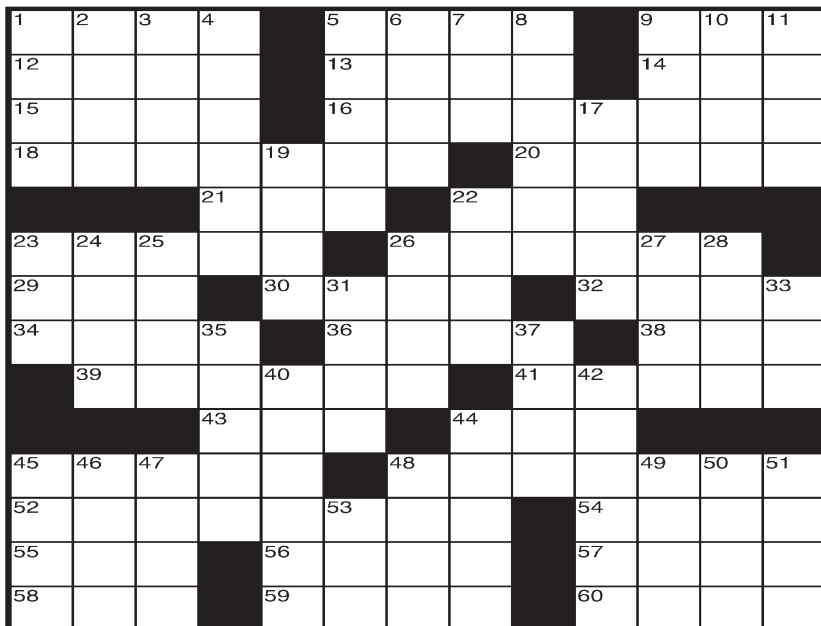
Answer to Previous Puzzle



DOWN

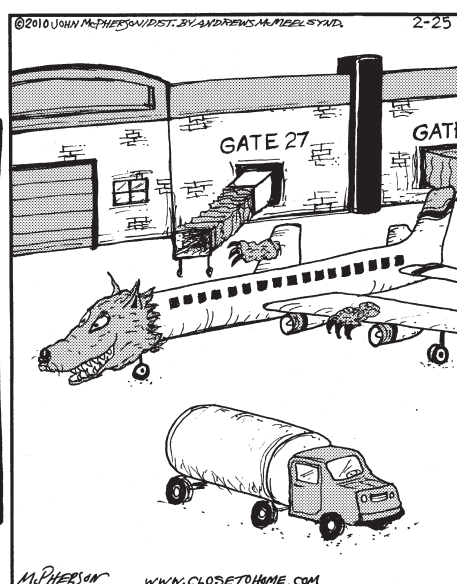
- 1 Emmy winner — Delany
- 2 Press
- 3 Spy — Helm
- 4 Addison's partner
- 5 Extra care
- 6 Forearm bone
- 7 NBA player
- 8 Zoo resident
- 9 Observed

- 10 Type of arch
- 11 Too curious
- 17 Dry off
- 19 Social dud
- 22 Tiber city
- 23 DJ's albums
- 24 Island near Kauai
- 25 Glance over
- 26 Cries of disapproval
- 27 Audition hope
- 28 Osaka sashes
- 31 Fuel cartel
- 33 — out (withdraw)
- 35 Light-headed
- 37 Thick mud
- 40 "That's a shame" (2 wds.)
- 42 Pretty and delicate
- 44 DeGeneres sitcom
- 45 Audit aces
- 46 Earthen pot
- 47 Picture holder
- 48 Run words together
- 49 "Primal Fear" star
- 50 Acclaim
- 51 Remote button
- 53 Turkish honorific



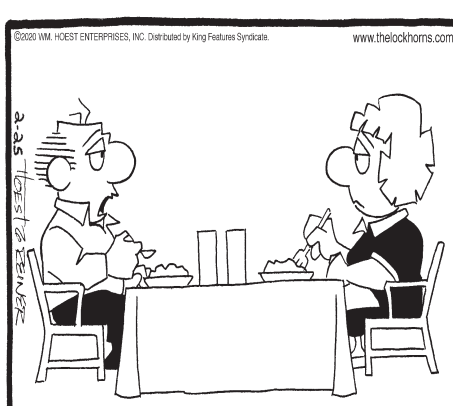
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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



To prevent flocks of geese from flying toward its planes, Jupiter Airlines made some key design changes.

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Speak up, take action and become the leader you know you can be.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Take some time to evaluate what's transpired, what you have left to deal with and how best to move forward. Make your welfare a priority.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Let go of the past and make room for upcoming prospects. Don't make a fuss if someone doesn't want to take the same route as you. Follow the path that excites you the most.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Your appearance will make a difference. Consider the current trends as well as the classic styles and choose the style that suits you best.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A progressive move will help clear the path for future prospects. Consider forming a partnership with someone who piques your interest. A change that will improve your health and overall well-being should be adopted.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Proceed with caution. Investments will not be all that someone says they will be.

When in doubt, stand still, observe and focus on self-improvement. Walk away from demanding people.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take the lead, start a conversation, share your intentions and get moving. A project that interests you should also help you expand your skills and creativity.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Spend more time fixing up your surroundings to suit your needs. If you are comfortable and feel safe, you will find it easier to develop a plan that will help you get ahead.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Listen to suggestions. Don't be afraid to do things differently or make a change midstream. Let your intuition guide you and your common sense keep you out of trouble.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Look over your papers, medical records and any contracts that are up for renewal. You'll gain some insight if you revisit what's happened in the past.

Your Birthday

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Unique people, situations and activities will capture your attention. Exploring what life has to offer and seeing what you can use to reach your pinnacle of excellence will ensure that you stand out and make your mark. Your generous yet humble approach will boost your popularity.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Take a look at your options and do whatever will bring you the highest return with the least amount of risk. Don't waste time; if you see something you want, make your move.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- A getaway will help you relax and give you a chance to mull over what to do next. Remain open to suggestions, but only do what's reasonable. Moderation is encouraged.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- If you use your imagination, you will come up with a plan that will make a difference.

Bridge

DO YOU PUSH THEM, OR ARE YOU PUSHED?

In tournament bridge nowadays, almost everyone bids much more than they used to. Putting pressure on the opponents to try to force errors has become de rigeur.

One weapon in this strategy's armory is the five-card weak two-bid. It isn't my style, but it does have its moments, like in today's deal.

North was aggressive in bidding four hearts, but he was expecting a 6-card suit opposite.

West led the diamond ace & continued with three rounds of hearts to stop a diamond ruff in the dummy.

To make the contract, South had to establish a spade for a diamond discard, and he had to find the club queen. He played a spade to the king, cashed the ace and ruffed a spade in hand.

Now declarer knew that West had at least 16 points: the spade queen, heart ace-king and diamond ace-king. Maybe he also had the club queen, but South decided to play East for that card. However, declarer had to be careful. He led the club 7 to dummy's king and continued with the club jack. East didn't cover, so the jack won the trick. Now followed a spade ruff, the club ace, a club to dummy's 10 and the fifth spade for a diamond discard.

If East had covered the club jack, declarer would have won with his ace and played the club nine to dummy's 10. Then, after a spade ruff, the carefully preserved club two would have been led to dummy's four to allow the discard on the spade 10.

Count the points and watch your spots.

North		02-25-20	
♠	A K 10 6 4		
♥	5 4 2		
♦	5		
♣	K J 10 4		
West			
♠	Q 8 5 3		
♥	A K 8		
♦	A K Q 2		
♣	6 3		
East			
♠	J 7		
♥	7 3		
♦	J 9 8 7 6 3		
♣	Q 8 5		
South			
♠	9 2		
♥	Q J 10 9 6		
♦	10 4		
♣	A 9 7 2		
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Neither			
South	West	North	East
2♥	2NT	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	All Pass	
Opening lead: ♦ A			