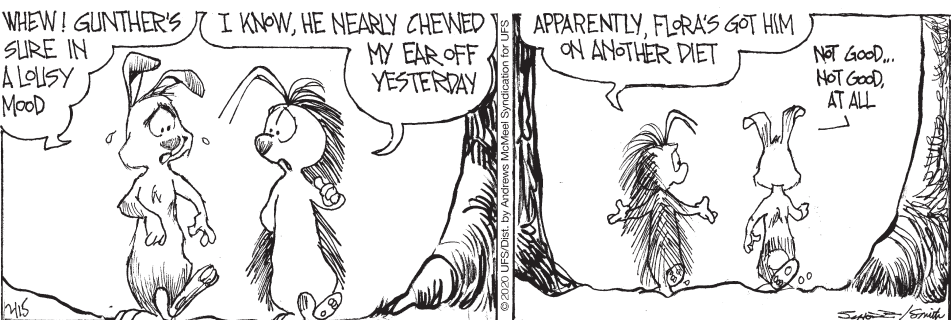


THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



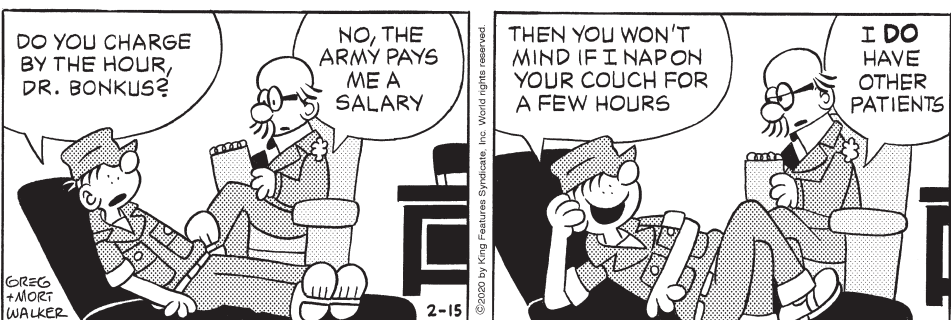
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



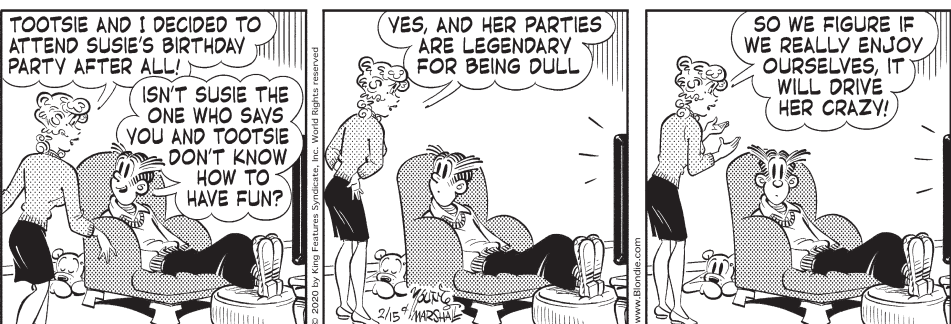
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



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 Hole in a needle
- 4 Sty habitans
- 8 Pit
- 12 Boy
- 13 Worshipped image
- 14 Ogden locale
- 15 Bikini top
- 16 Valley of grapes
- 17 DARTH's son
- 18 Own up to
- 20 Aureate
- 22 — choy
- 24 Listen
- 25 Spouse
- 28 Lowest ebb
- 31 Pinnacle
- 32 Ersatz butter
- 33 — -de-sac
- 36 California's Fort —
- 37 Land chart
- 38 Queen of Scots
- 39 Pretty, in Paris
- 40 Sea eagle
- 41 A Beatle
- 43 Oversee

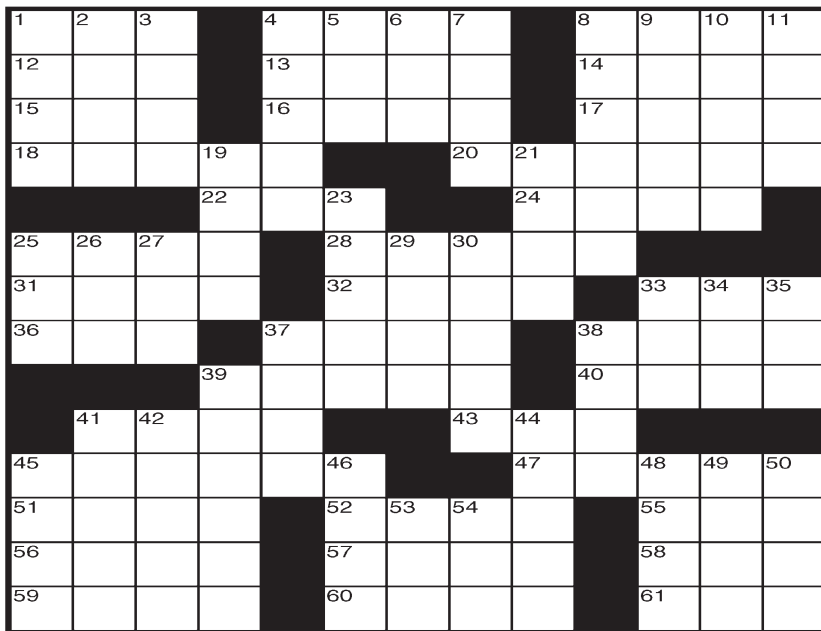
DOWN

- 1 Place of exile
- 2 Length measure
- 3 Party cheese
- 4 Spotted horse
- 5 Wyo. neighbor
- 6 Dems.' foes
- 7 Steel mill refuse

Answer to Previous Puzzle

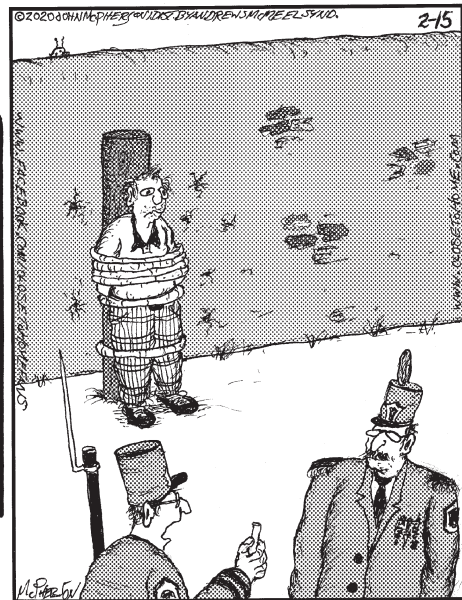


- 8 Less shiny
- 9 Chopin opus
- 10 In the altogether
- 11 Not now
- 19 Wild goat
- 21 John Glenn's state
- 23 Mound
- 25 — Tse-tung
- 26 Loan abbr.
- 27 Danson or Turner
- 29 Asian mountains
- 30 Prevent
- 33 Commuter vehicle
- 34 Coffee dispenser
- 35 Drain cleaner
- 37 Flag holder
- 38 Bill of fare
- 39 Fruit drinks
- 41 Kilted musician
- 42 Firing
- 44 Depth charge target (hyph.)
- 45 Marquette's title
- 46 Iffy attempt
- 48 ApPOINT
- 49 Dead heat
- 50 Omigosh!
- 53 Type of whiskey
- 54 Land in "la mer"

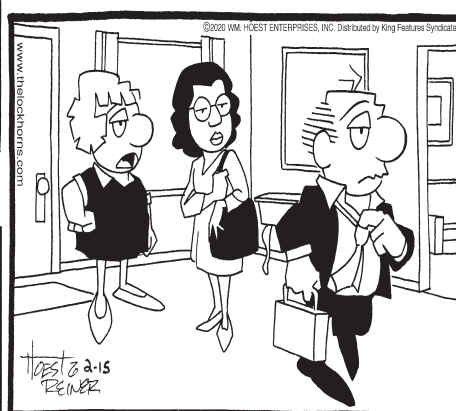


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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

one who is hesitant will help you sort out your next move.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- Present your ideas with flair. Think big, but be reasonable. Get involved in activities that will benefit you and engage in issues that interest you. Fundraising events will lead to interesting connections.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Unreliable individuals will take advantage of your generosity and kindness. Protect your possessions; personal loss is evident. Concentrate on self-improvement, not on trying to change others. Personal pampering is encouraged.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Someone with a unique point of view will inspire you. Consider what you have to offer and how best to use and present your skills.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Social events and fitness programs are encouraged. You will be appealing to someone you encounter. Be careful not to make people close to you jealous. Loyalty is in your best interest.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Keep your wallet tucked away. Overspending or hanging out with extravagant individuals will lead to unnecessary purchases followed by regret. Don't pay for others or try to buy love.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Problems with services for your home will cause disruptions in your routine. Overindulgence on your part or someone else's will lead to problems. Think before you act.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Expand your mind by engaging in conversations that offer intriguing points of view or unusual thoughts. If you reveal your true feelings, you'll alleviate unwanted stress you've been harboring.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You'll attract people who exaggerate and could lead you astray. Back up, trust in yourself and your beliefs. The grass isn't greener on the other side of the fence.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Work quietly on projects that require your utmost attention and that lead to personal happiness. If you step outside your comfort zone, you'll realize how capable you are of handling people, discord and unexpected changes.

Your Birthday

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020**

If you follow your intuition, you won't be disappointed. Expand your creative interests and your friendships, and strive for personal and emotional growth. Let go of the baggage you've been carrying and keep only what will help you excel. Be more ambitious and concentrate on what makes you happy.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Keep your emotions under control. If someone pushes you, know enough to walk away. Don't get trapped in someone else's mind game. Do your own thing and focus on self-improvement.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- An intuitive approach to your career will aid you in choosing the best direction. Don't dismiss your creative ideas or ability to turn something mundane into something spectacular.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Spend time with the people who mean the most to you. Honesty will be in your best interest, and questioning any-

North 02-15-20

- ♠ A J 7 5 2
- ♥ A 6 3
- ♦ 10 9 7
- ♣ K J

West

- ♠ 9 8 4
- ♥ K Q 8 7
- ♦ A 6 4 3
- ♣ 6 3

East

- ♠ K Q 10
- ♥ J 10 9 5 2
- ♦ 2
- ♣ 10 9 5 4

South

- ♠ 6 3
- ♥ 4
- ♦ K Q J 8 5
- ♣ A Q 8 7 2

Dealer: South  
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

Bridge

**AFTER FOUR SUITS AND FOUR ROUNDS**

This week, we have been looking at fourth-suit game-forcing. This occurs on the second round of the auction after the opener has bid two different suits and the responder has bid a third suit. When the responder rebids in the fourth suit, it is artificial. He is probably uncertain of which game will be best but might be thinking about a slam.

In reply, if the opener has a stopper or two in the fourth suit, he usually bids no-trump. Often, the responder will want to reach three no-trump but does not have a stopper in the fourth suit. (Responder, with the fourth suit well held, can bid no-trump himself.) Without a fourth-suit stopper, or with no interest in no-trump, opener does something else. Perhaps, as here, he gives preference for

the opener's first-bid suit, which leads to the final contract of five diamonds. If North had rebid three no-trump, South would have passed, and the contract would surely have died. Luckily, North investigated further.

What did South do after West led the heart king?

South had to lose one spade and one diamond, but just in case the trump split was bad, declarer had to be careful. He won with dummy's ace, then ran the diamond 10. When West ducked, declarer continued with the diamond nine. West ducked again, but South played off the club king and club jack before leading a third trump. West won with the ace and tried to cash the heart queen, but declarer ruffed, drew the last trump, ran the clubs and conceded a spade.