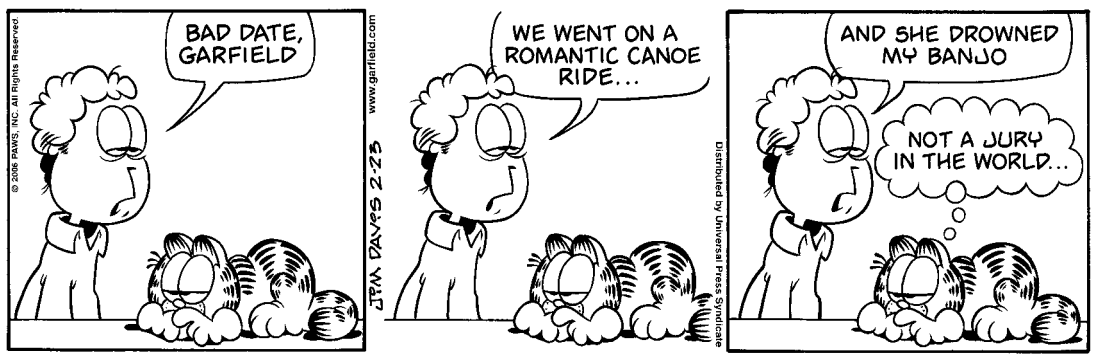
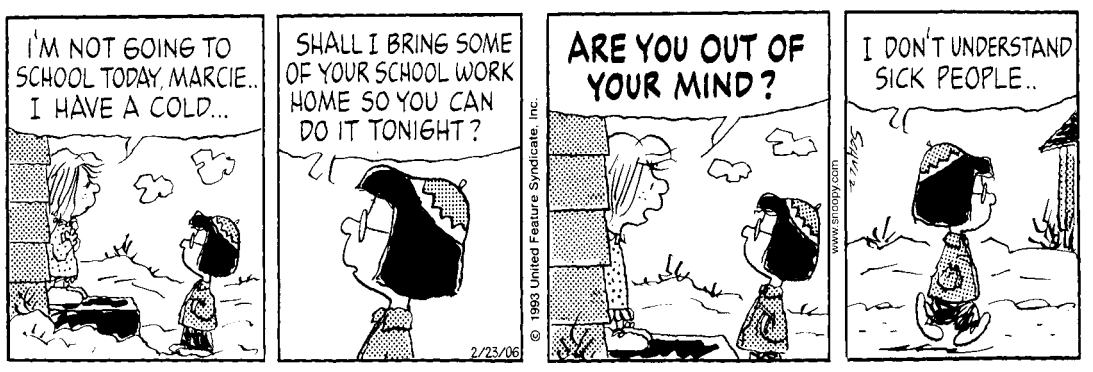
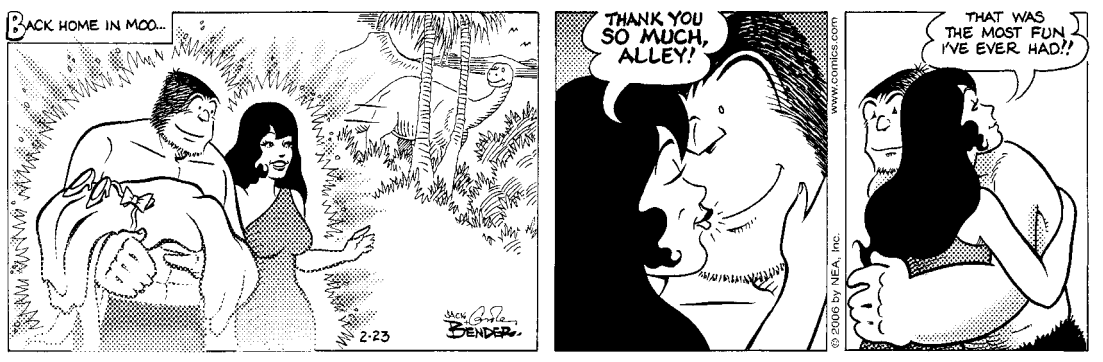
GARFIELD



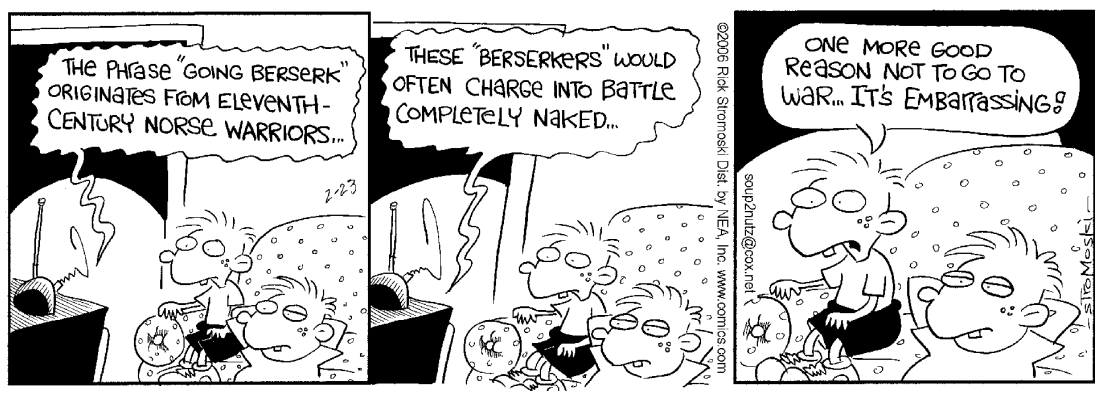
PEANUTS



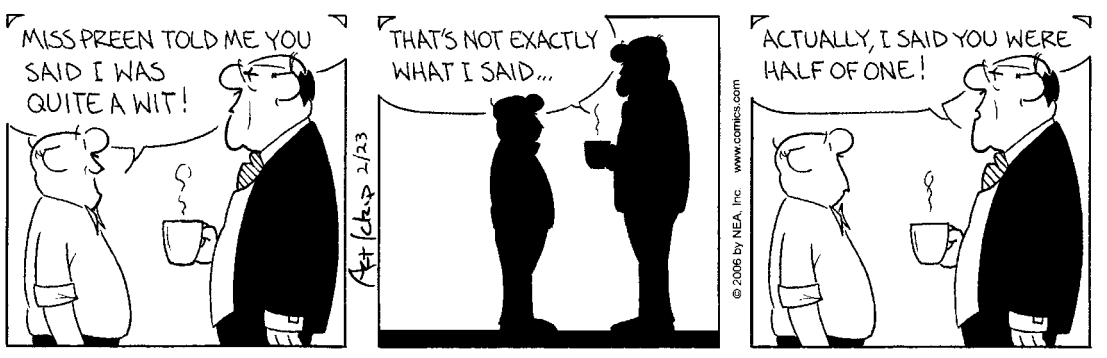
ALLEY OOP



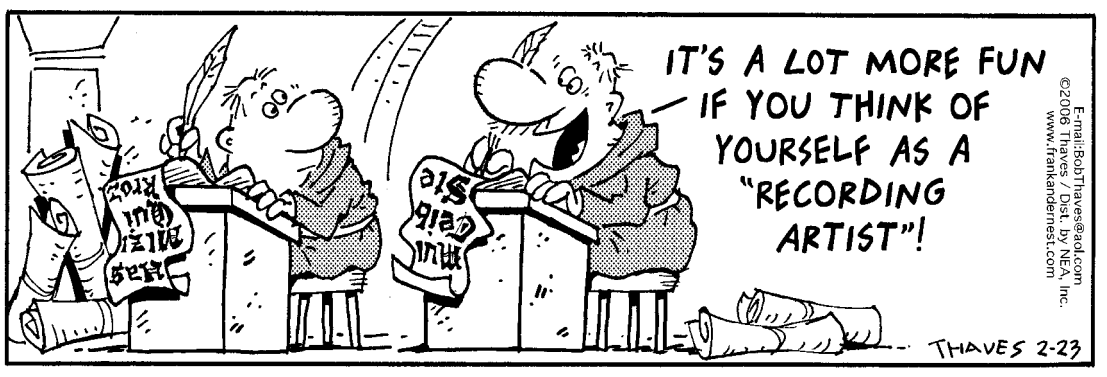
SOUP TO NUTS



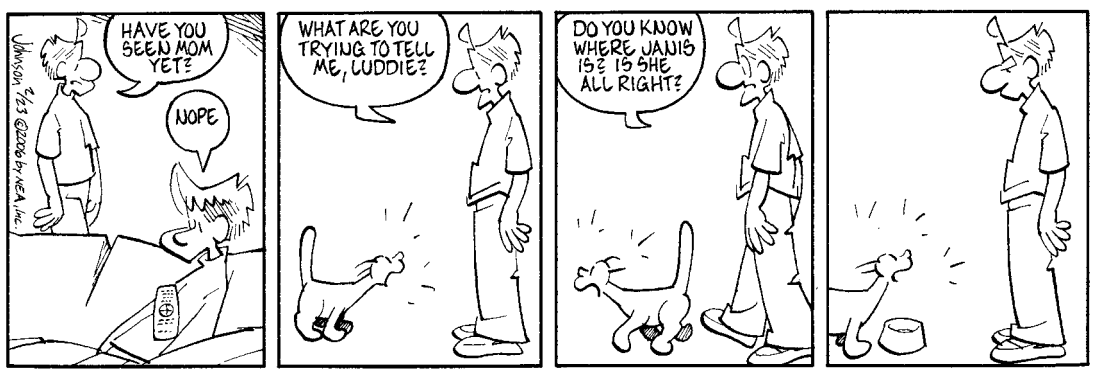
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



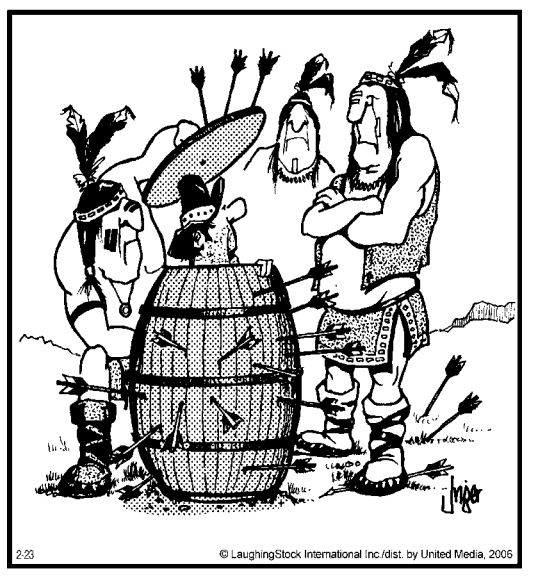
DILBERT

REALITY CHECK

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

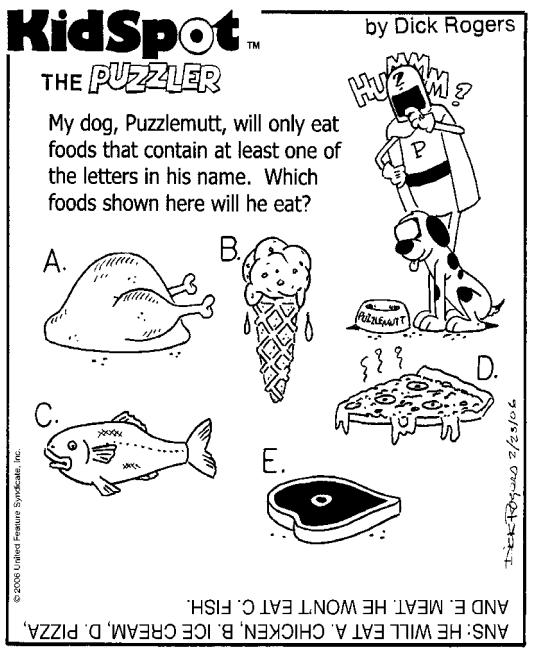
"I have to go in. My mom thinks I'm cold."

HERMAN

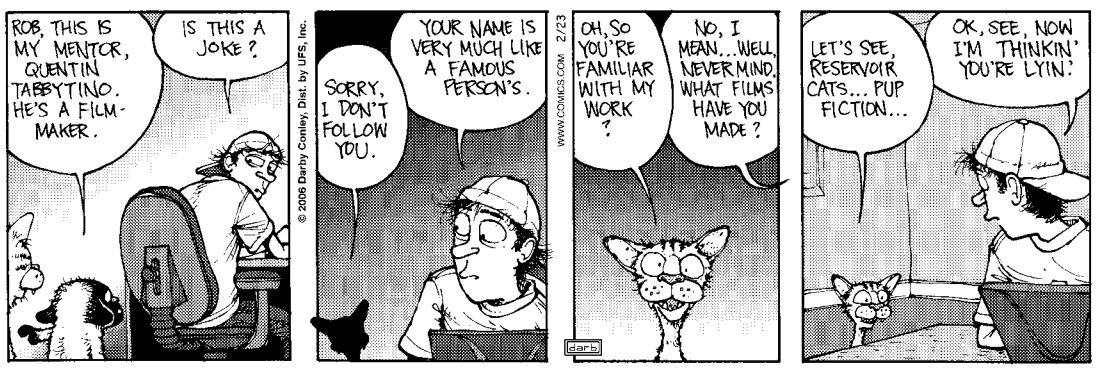


"Who's winning?"

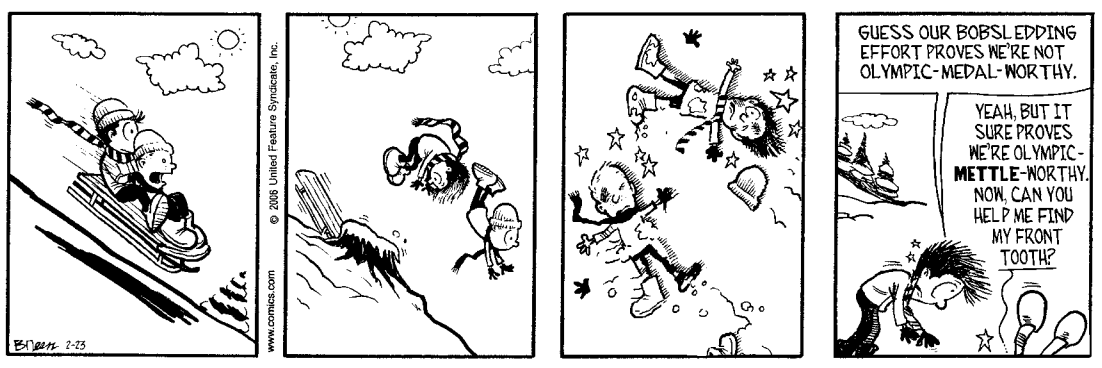
KidSpot



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006

In the year ahead, when you apply yourself, substantial gains can be made to fulfill some of your largest ambitions. You'll be in a position to open doors now that previously had been slammed shut.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Beginning today, conditions in general should be far more hopeful and happy for you than they have been during the earlier part of the week.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

An exceptionally successful day could be in the offing for you today if you are alert enough to recognize a number of opportunities your associates are overlooking. Be alert.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You'll feel better and do better today if you keep on the go as much as possible. Run all those neglected errands, do those odd jobs and pop in to say "hello" to friends you rarely see.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

General conditions should work out quite satisfactorily for you today, mostly because you have the ability to sort out the thoughts of associates and redesign them to serve your purposes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Take that opportunity you're going to get today to win over a new ally. You'll be able to do so by candidly discussing issues that are of concern to both of you and not wasting precious time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

By putting your heads together you and your co-workers can collectively come up with some new methods that can make everybody's job easier.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Unstructured activities are likely to be the ones that you will find the most enjoyable and satisfying today. Be flexible and open-minded and participate in situations without reservations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Any constructive ideas you have today that concern things related to your family should be acted upon without hesitation. The results will be satisfying to all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Your greatest asset today is likely to be your ability to execute both your ideas and those of others in an effective, productive manner. Don't hesitate to use this gift in all situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Answers you arrive at today by logical deduction, coupled with your intuitive insights, are likely to be the ones of greatest help to you where your financial or commercial interests are concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

If at all possible, try to mingle with new and different types of people today instead of just hanging around with your old standbys. Fresh relationships will provide you with inspiration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Chances are your greatest possibilities for personal gain today are likely to come through channels that you open up from new sources. Don't be afraid to experiment.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Coming out
6 Tearful
11 Deli buy
12 Evening gala
13 Soak up
14 Convincing
15 "— Street Blues"
16 Pulverize
17 Horses do it
19 Counter change
23 Winter ailment
26 Accordion parts
28 Rug pile
29 Draw back
31 Elegance
33 Meditation room
34 Set right
35 — you serious?
36 On the double
39 Sleeper's need
40 Tear to pieces
42 Wanes
44 Skippers' okays
46 Puffy hairstyles
51 Opened wide
54 Head over heels (2 wds.)
55 Stiff-coated dogs
56 Radio noise
57 Wins at chess
58 Pushed to the limit

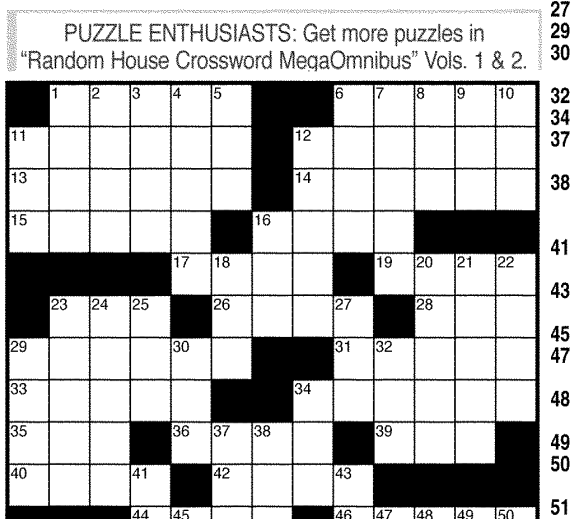
DOWN

1 Knight's wife
2 Isle off Sicily
3 Bucket handle
4 Palette color
5 Attach
6 Romances
7 Two cubed
8 Before
9 Kind of pal
10 Still
11 Bro or sis
12 Spine-tingling
16 Daisy — Scraggs
18 Make do with
20 Shallow
21 Walked the floor
22 Zipped along
23 Jacques, in song
24 Pharaoh's textile
25 Kiel conjunction
27 Top NCO
29 Tyrant
30 — — few rounds
32 Hold up
34 PD dispatch
37 Watermelon leftovers
38 Tummy muscles, in the gym
41 Beatrice's admirer
43 End-of-year temp
45 Team cheers
47 Linseed oil source
48 Kyle of the gridiron
49 Roman poet
50 Dry, as wine
51 Orange root
52 Wanted-poster abbr.
53 Funny person
54 Devotee's suffix

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	Y	A	K	S			G	R	A	T	E
A	U	L	A	I	T		E	Y	E	L	D
S	M	A	L	L	S		S	M	E	L	Y
P	A	N	E		P	U	T		D	Y	E
				A	S	K	E	W			
I	N	F	E	R		E	E	R	I	L	Y
R	E	A	D	E	R		M	I	D	A	R
E	R	M	I	N	E		S	T	E	P	E
	D	E	T	A	C	H		E	A	S	E	L
			S	T	U	B	S				
	X	L	S		O	B	I		L	I	T	E
B	E	E	P	E	R		T	O	U	R	E	D
A	N	N	A	L	S		T	A	L	O	N	S
M	A	S	T	S			F	U	N	D		

PUZZLE ENTHUSIASTS: Get more puzzles in "Random House Crossword MegaOmnibus" Vols. 1 & 2.



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'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Pastor's wife could create havoc in future

DEAR ABBY: Being a pastor of a church, I had to respond to the letter from "Hates Hypocrites in Washington." She's the woman who discovered that the new associate pastor's wife, "Millie," is the same woman who broke up her marriage, in addition to having had a "history," so to speak.

The senior pastor is probably aware of at least some of what she wrote about, that Millie has had two previous marriages, countless affairs and did time in prison for drugs. However, on the off chance that he doesn't, "Hates Hypocrites" should say something.

As you suggested, she needs to introduce herself to the woman in question. Millie's reaction will give her a pretty good idea of whether she has had a change of heart in recent years. If Millie hasn't, then the writer needs to go quietly to the pastor, approaching it from the standpoint of, "I hope Millie has turned over a new leaf since all of this, but you need to know that ..."

I have seen firsthand what can happen when not enough questions are asked when a staff person comes into a church. While I hope and pray that Millie has learned from her mistakes, that may not be the case.

— THE REV. CHET THOMAS, DAWSON, GA.

DEAR REV. THOMAS: Although I am reluctant to see anyone carry tales that could ruin a career, I bow to your expertise. You are not the only clergyperson who weighed in on this one. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: If it is true that the new associate pastor's wife broke up the writer's marriage and has a history of similarly disruptive behavior elsewhere, then the woman represents a potentially destructive force in that congregation. As a parish minister of nearly 30 years, I can see the red flags flying high on this one.

"Hates Hypocrites" should notify the appropriate denominational officials of whatever larger body this church is affiliated with and let them take whatever action they feel may be warranted.

This is not about "Hates Hypocrites" getting revenge; it is about protecting the stability and well-being of the congregation.

— REV. STEPHEN EDINGTON, NASHUA, N.H.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips. Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.