

GARFIELD



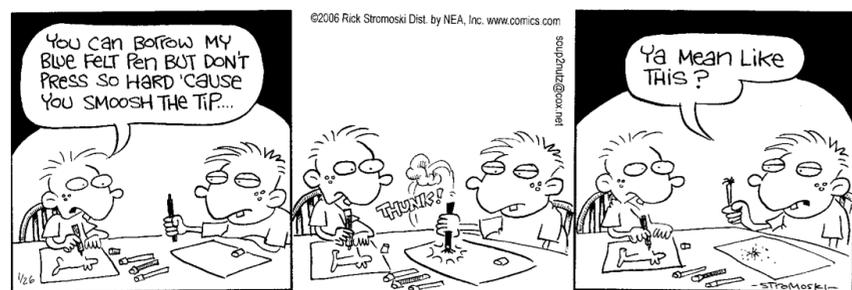
PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



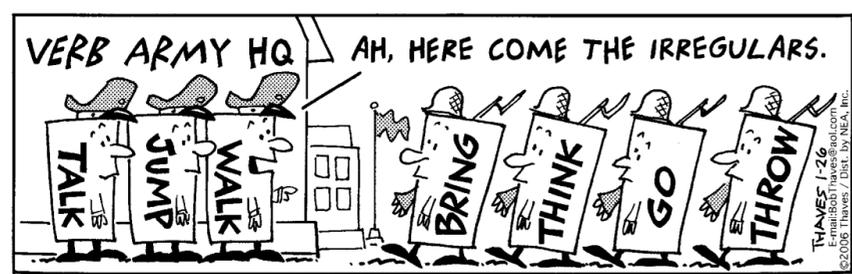
SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



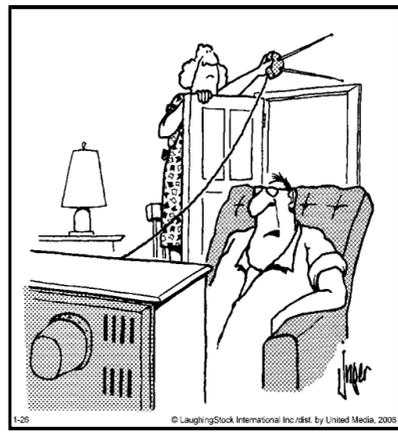
COMMITTED



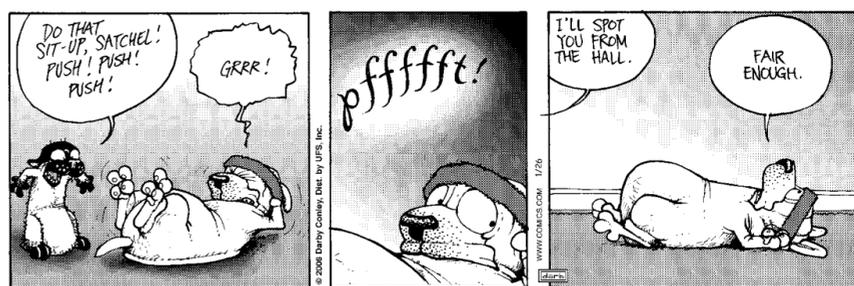
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



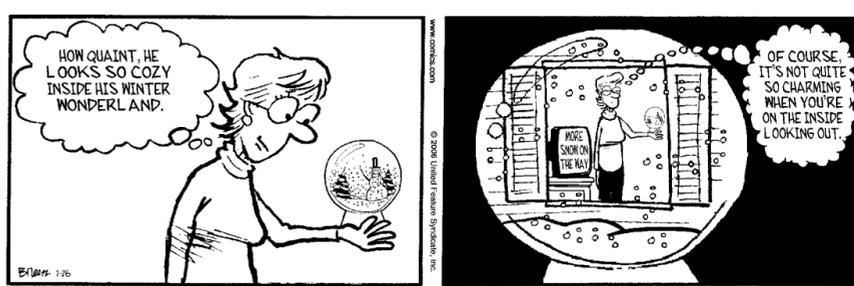
HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006

In the year ahead, you should be better able to express your thoughts and ideas to influential contacts who can open doors for you because you'll have developed a clear plan of action that they know will work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
 Things in general should work out fortunately for you today. Good things will happen for you because you'll use your smarts to get what you go after.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)
 Don't feel anxious or uneasy about something another has volunteered to do for you today, thinking it will make you look weak. On the contrary, it'll make you look very deserving.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 Go forward with the knowledge that you have what it takes to accomplish your goal today when involved in a competitive situation. When you concentrate on winning, the odds will be in your favor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 You might be a bit slow in getting started today due to taking the time to consider all your options and getting your plans in gear. Once you start rolling, however, the results will be great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 Although your first ideas may not be your best ones today, you'll be fully prepared to make the necessary adjustments as needed. Your second thoughts will prove to be much wiser.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Items you purchase on the run today

may need to be exchanged later on, but when you take ample time to do some comparison shopping, you'll end up getting exactly what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 People with whom you'll be involved in a one-on-one exchange of ideas today will imitate your modus operandi. It'll behoove you to be easygoing, so that your counterpart will do likewise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Someone you know on a friendly basis may be in a position today to open some doors for you that could give your career a boost, but this individual may not know that you want help unless you ask.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
 Voice your ideas or intentions to a friend today before jumping in and doing something that your pal might find disturbing. You'll be able to explain things so that the air will be cleared.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
 Today, you must be very careful not to jump to conclusions concerning a family member before all the facts are in and analyzed. Your early information might be either limited or distorted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
 This is an excellent day for all types of intellectual activities, but your tempo might be a bit too energetic at first to put your thoughts to good use.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Your possibilities for personal accumulation are excellent today, provided you recognize your opportunities as they develop. Once you do, you'll know exactly what to do with them.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Reader questions danger posed by secondhand smoke

DEAR ABBY: In your response to a woman whose nicotine-addicted mother insists that smoking isn't harmful, you stated, "It's common knowledge that second-hand smoke is harmful."

I'm not a smoker, but there is no scientific evidence that I can find to support your statement. Do some research, and you'll find that "common knowledge" is junk science. Be objective and you will see there is no real "evidence" behind the claim.

Cigarette smoke is irritating to me. But the secondhand smoke thing is nonsense, and you should check all of the sources before giving advice, not just the ones that promote the anti-smoking stance.

— NONSMOKER IN FLORIDA

DEAR NONSMOKER: Where on Earth did you do your research? According to an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association titled "Passive Smoking and the Risk of Heart Disease" (1992), "Secondhand smoke causes between 35,000 and 40,000 deaths from heart disease every year."

That same year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated that "3,000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers will die of lung cancer annually because of their exposure to secondhand smoke."

That is why the EPA classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, a substance that is known to cause human cancer.

If you doubt this, please contact the Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. They'll be glad to clarify further.

Read on:
DEAR ABBY: I smoked nearly all of my life. My mother smoked while she was pregnant with me, both of my parents smoked in the house while I was growing up and I began smoking at age 14.

I agree with your statement that the daughter is going to have to look out for her children and herself. However, I disagree with your remark that she shouldn't grieve for her mother if she dies of lung cancer. Mine died at 58 from lung cancer, and I still grieve for her.

— EX-SMOKER, MESA, ARIZ.

DEAR EX-SMOKER: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. However, what I said was, "Don't grieve because she lived her life the way she wanted." I would say the same about someone who died engaging in a dangerous sport.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pine for
 - 6 Gentle slopes
 - 11 Cracked wheat
 - 12 Safari leader
 - 13 Naval force
 - 14 Cancels
 - 15 Retail business
 - 16 Unfasten
 - 17 Make hay
 - 19 "Fancy" singer
 - 23 Ike's rank
 - 26 Orchestra member
 - 28 Sick
 - 29 Sporty sock
 - 31 Touch base (2 wds.)
 - 33 Humorous play
 - 34 Ugly cuts
 - 35 I-90
 - 36 "Elephant Boy" boy
 - 39 QI parts
 - 40 Four-letter word
 - 42 Type of luck
 - 44 Put out heat
 - 46 Ceremonies
- DOWN**
- 1 Round dwelling
 - 2 Furry red Muppet
 - 3 Petri-dish contents
 - 4 More discourteous
 - 5 Firearms lobby
 - 6 Old Norse poem
 - 7 — circle or tube
 - 8 R-V connector
 - 9 Sushi piece
 - 10 Final-yr. students
 - 11 — relief
 - 12 Groucho's brother
 - 16 Marvy
 - 18 Help-wanted abbr.
 - 20 Black billiard ball
 - 21 Music genre

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	A	B	S	B	A	T	C	H			
M	O	H	A	I	R	R	A	S	H		
C	A	S	I	T	A	O	N	I	O	N	S
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T	A	R	A	M	I	E	R	O	I	C	A
A	R	T	I	C	E	U	L	I	D		
M	A	H	A	L	T	I	E	D			

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

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