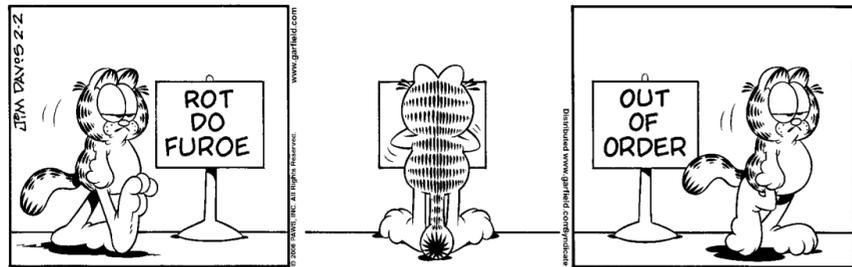


GARFIELD



PEANUTS



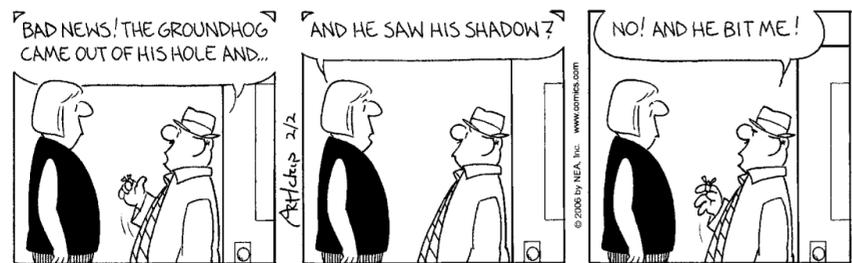
ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



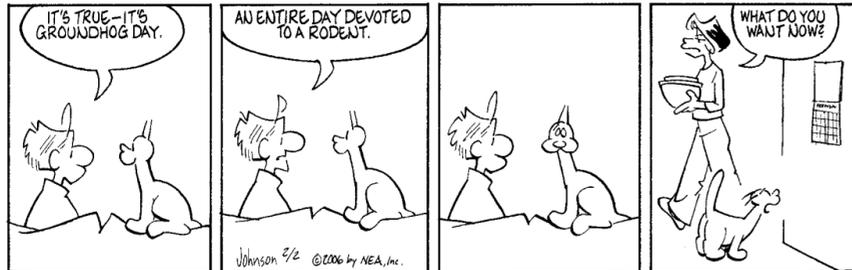
THE BORN LOSER



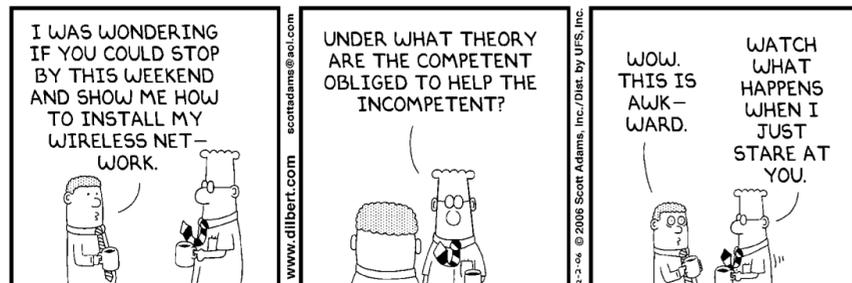
FRANK AND ERNEST



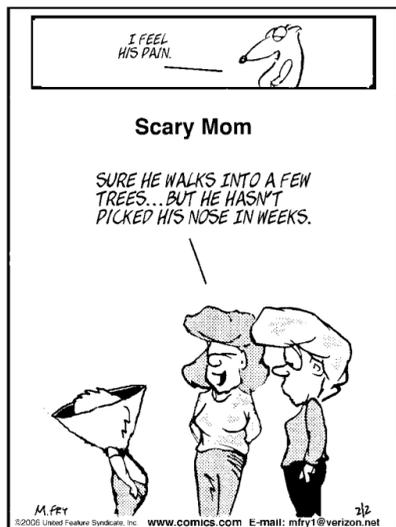
ARLO AND JANIS



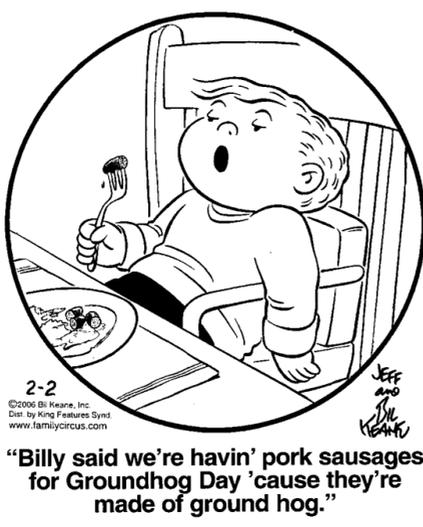
DILBERT



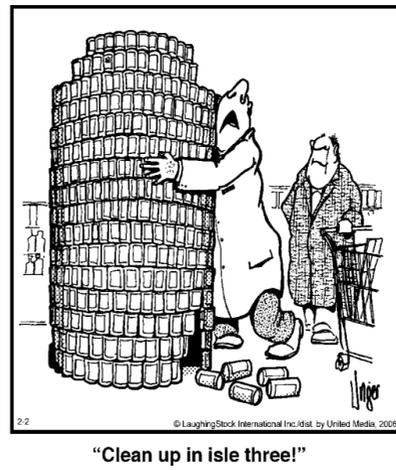
COMMITTED



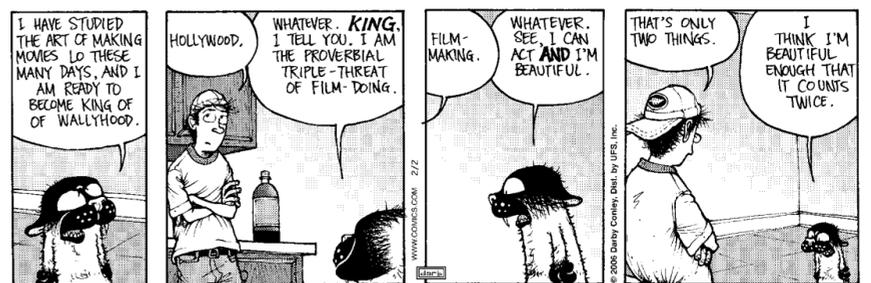
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006. Dare to be an enterprising person in the year ahead. Establish definite objectives financially and professionally in areas where you can make it big. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Try not to be reluctant today about sharing what you have with another. If you stop and remember what this person might have done for you, you'll have no trouble having a change of heart. PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You could be greatly influenced by the company you keep today. Fortunately, you'll be associating mostly with nice people, but if one happens to be a bit selfish, stick with the majority. ARIES (March 21-April 19) If there is a major ambition you're desirous of bringing to fruition today, do not allow yourself to get sidetracked by emotional outside influences. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't let someone stir things up and create complications for you today just because this person doesn't like certain people you're involved with. It's his or her problem, not yours. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There are a few people who would love to trip you up today and may even try, but they'll have no success. A little deft maneuvering on your part will enable you to skip right over them. CANCER (June 21-July 22) The reason you've been unable to resolve a certain problem could be due

to the angle from which you've been viewing it. A fresh slant can provide that elusive answer you've been seeking. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't snarl things for yourself today by seeking a complicated answer to a career matter that's bothering you. Chances are it's some little hidden thing that is at the core and can be easily fixed. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your performance level is apt to be up a few notches today, so try to make the most of it. Yes, you might make a boo-boo or two, but they can easily be corrected as you move along. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Something you thought could be easily accomplished today may contain a snag or two and unless you realize it's only that, you could complicate things. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) In order to further a personal interest today, you may be required to take a chance now and then. If you feel the odds are in your favor, don't be afraid to gamble on what you think is right. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This is one of those days when it is important to keep the sales slips and/or warranty of anything you buy, especially if it is expensive. There's a strong chance you may need one or both. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may be more interested in furthering a personal interest today than you will be at making friends. However, if you put your mind to it, you can still do both with equally good results.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Man questions wife's health after baking binges

DEAR ABBY: My beloved wife may be killing herself, and I can't stop her. Once or twice a week she stays up all night baking cookies for her friends at work, huge numbers of cookies. Over Christmas, she was up night after night baking, and it's very worrisome. My wife is 63 and in a demanding profession. I cannot believe that the body can tolerate sleepless nights like this. She says she takes a nap in her car at lunchtime, but I doubt it. How can I stop her from this self-destructive habit?

MARRIED TO THE COOKIE MONSTER IN CALIFORNIA DEAR MARRIED: You appear to be a concerned and loving spouse. Sleep patterns can vary from individual to individual, and different people require different amounts of sleep to function well. However, because you are concerned about how your wife's sleep pattern could affect her general health, suggest to her, and possibly her physician, that she might benefit from discussing the subject with a sleep disorder specialist to determine whether she's getting the amount of rest she needs. I hope this helps.

DEAR ABBY: In May, my five siblings and I put our 85-year-old mother and 90-year-old father into an assisted-living facility: Mom for Alzheimer's and Dad for heart problems and kidney failure. Our mother is in the late middle stages of her disease. Dad died July 2. Two of my siblings decided it would not be a good idea to tell our mother that her husband had died. Three of us don't like that decision.

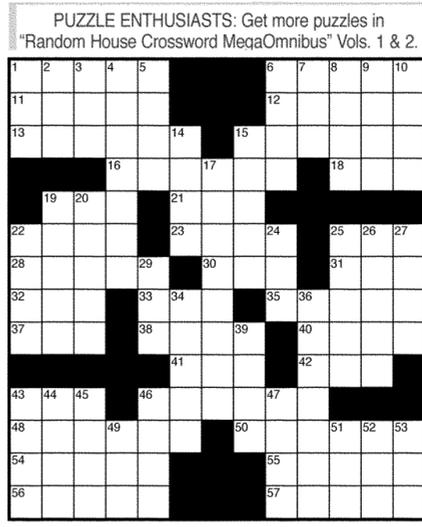
Two of my brothers have stopped calling Mom because they're afraid she will ask if our father has died, and they don't want to lie to her. She has been told that he is sleeping a lot. What do you think about this? — SAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SAD: You have my sympathy for your loss. However, I advocate for telling the truth, unless it is cruel. In a case like this, where your mother has no short-term memory, each time your mother hears that her husband is dead it will be as if she's hearing it for the first time. It would be a kindness not to put her through that again and again.

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS 1 — voce (softly) 6 Fumble 11 Sighed with delight 12 Asana practitioners 13 Tree nymphs 15 Fiery 16 Not genuine 18 Sweater letter 19 Bother 21 LP speed 22 Chair-back piece 23 Name in essays 25 — choy 28 Derrick or crane 30 Baseball great Mel 31 Ron who played Tarzan 32 Cries at a circus 33 Ottoman title 35 In motion 37 "— cool!" 38 Extinct bird 40 Pumice source 41 Converted sofa 42 Make the most of 43 Put the kibosh on 46 Getting lighter 48 Like most junk mail 50 Philly team 54 Onion-flavored roll 55 Nobel Prize category 56 Writer's concern 57 Lingo DOWN 1 Mourful 2 Boathouse implement 3 Your, old-style 4 Oolong brewers 5 Probabilities 6 Pita treat 7 Wand 8 Pointed arch 9 Carton of milk 10 This, in Havana 14 Bone-dry 15 Let in 17 Transferred software 19 Oahu welcome 20 Dagwood's pooch 22 Finish third 24 One — time 25 Alpha followers 26 Dark complexion 27 Ms. Sedgwick 29 Modicum 34 Curdle, as milk (2 wds.) 36 Hitter 39 Comics canine 43 Worn-down pencils — for the money 45 Fracture photo (hyph.) 46 Mystery writer — Kellerman 47 Wine valley 49 Pipe fitting 51 Drop behind 52 "Foucault's Pendulum" author 53 Jell



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers. Folklore says that if the groundhog comes out of its burrow on February 2 and sees its own shadow, it crawls back into its hole and there will be six more weeks of winter. The problem here is this groundhog can't tell which shadow it made. Can you help? [Image of groundhog and shadows]