

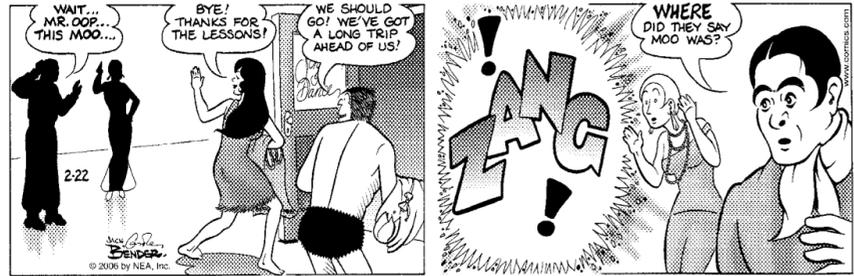
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



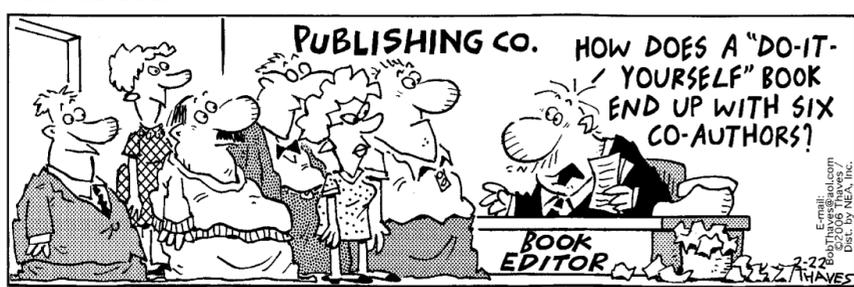
SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



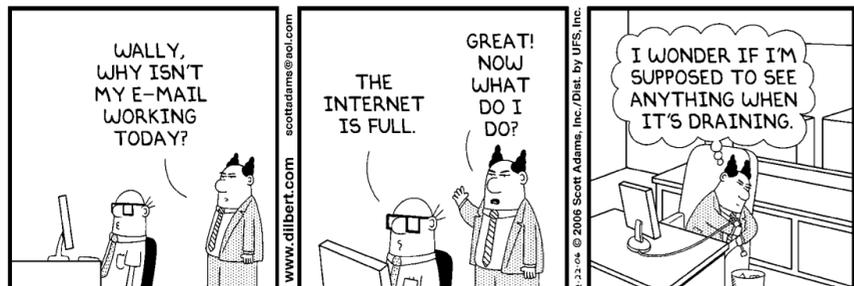
FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



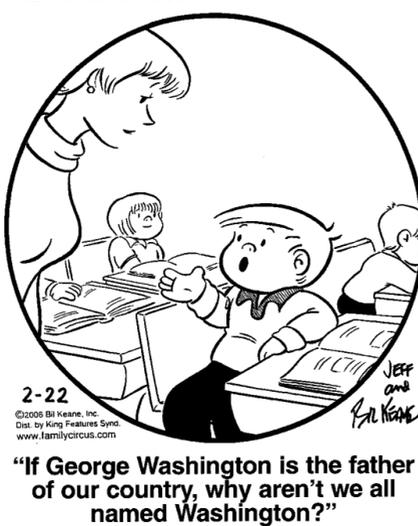
DILBERT



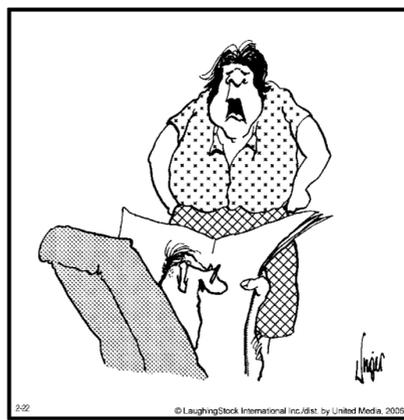
REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:
Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006

Provided you can suppress your impatience in the year ahead, your possibilities for success in your endeavors look especially good. Be content with steady progress instead of trying to get to the top of the heap in one leap.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

This isn't likely to be a much of a productive day for you if you do things in fits and starts. Coordinate your efforts so that your forces aren't spread too thin or done in a piecemeal fashion.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Don't say anything about a friend today that you wouldn't say directly to his or her face. Any unkind comments you make will be reported to the target of your remarks and be retaliated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Think twice before giving friends or associates advice today that you feel could make or save them money. If your facts or information should turn out to be faulty, you'll be held responsible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Although the opinions of others can be important, your own viewpoints have merit as well. Don't attempt to please companions today at the cost of subduing your own better judgment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Assistants and co-workers will turn their backs on you if you are overly critical of their work and efforts. Guard against making comments that could make them feel inferior or unappreciated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

When it comes to your larger expec-

tures today, you're likely to be able to keep things under control. However, when it comes to nickel and dime stuff, it could wreak havoc on your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today you may be subjected to a series of minor infractions, but instead of dealing with them or dismissing them, you might bring your frustration home and take it out on your family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Displaying double standards today by telling another not to do something a certain way and then doing so yourself will cause others to lose respect for you. Set the right example.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It's very kind of you, and even admirable, to be the one who grabs for the check today. However, it's quite possible that your companions don't practice this gesture and won't reciprocate later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

You might be a bit difficult of a person to please today, even when others are trying very hard to do so. If your friends lose patience with you, they could begin to take an opposite approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

If you are inclined to belabor your points today, don't expect your salesmanship to be very effective. Make your presentations simple, clear and concise and don't beat around the bush.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Schedule all your activities thoughtfully today or else they might simply turn out to be both time- and money-wasters. Make a list you can follow and establish an order of priorities for yourself.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

News of couple's marriage brings daughter to tears

DEAR ABBY: What should I have said to my new 24-year-old stepdaughter who started bawling when her father and I told her that we had eloped?

She wasn't crying out of happiness or even disappointment that she hadn't been invited.

The first thing out of her mouth was to ask her father, "Did you make her sign a pre-nup?"

She was sobbing uncontrollably at the table. But I held my head high and forced a smile.

Before her father and I married, I thought we had a friendly relationship. I never imagined a reaction like the one she had.

Part of me never wants to see her again. Any suggestions?
— CRUSHED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CRUSHED: I don't blame you for feeling her behavior was rude, tacky, inappropriate and cruel. But face it, you will be seeing her again.

My recommendation is to recognize that she was shocked and forgive her candor and loss of control. But don't forget it.

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Ian," has a girlfriend, "Patty," who is 5½ months pregnant. Patty is bipolar; but she is not being treated for it.

She has gotten mad at Ian and beaten him up. The most recent time it happened, Patty was arrested and spent four days in jail.

In the meantime, her mother, "Liz," came over to Ian's house and proceeded to tell me about Patty's life.

Liz then told Patty that I had said Patty needed to be institutionalized. What I said was that Patty needs to be analyzed. Her mother also said that Ian's house has "bad spirits" in it. Now Patty refuses to move back home with my son.

Additionally, while Patty was in jail, her mother killed herself.

This girl needs a lot of understanding and help, but how can I help her? I want to be there for her and the baby.

— CARING
GRANDMOTHER-TO-BE
DEAR CARING: Tell Patty her mother may have thought you said she needed institutionalization but that she was confused. Then tell her what you really said.

Frankly, I am concerned for the baby's welfare. Because Patty becomes violent, it might be safer if your son has custody of the child until his girlfriend becomes more stable. Ian should explore that option with a lawyer now.

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

Be a bird watcher. The names of these birds are hidden in the sentences. The first one shows how to look for them.

Swan Heron Dove Crow Owl

1. The queen wore a jeweled crown.
2. It was her only dress.
3. The dog howled all night.
4. You do very good work.
5. The pigs wandered away.

ANS: 1. CROW, 2. HERON, 3. OWL, 4. DOVE, 5. SWAN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Chatters
- 5 Fireplace
- 10 Cafe
- 12 Shadow's place
- 13 Some pizza orders
- 14 Reeking
- 15 Glass square
- 16 — the squeeze on
- 18 Recolor
- 19 Out of kilter
- 21 Suppose
- 25 Weirdly
- 29 Bookworm
- 31 Pilot's position
- 33 Elegant fur
- 34 Treeless plain
- 35 Uncouple
- 37 Art-store buy
- 38 Injuries a toe
- 40 Roomy tees
- 43 Kimono fastener
- 44 Diet

DOWN

- 1 Arizona city
- 2 Economist — Greenspan
- 3 Cabbage cousin
- 4 Part of RSVP
- 5 Fitness center
- 6 Organ part
- 7 Pact member
- 8 Bath decor
- 9 Ben & Jerry rival
- 10 Deadly snake
- 11 Kitchen meas.
- 12 Admirers
- 13 Banjo cousin
- 17 Sports palaces

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	C	S	P	E	C	A	T	E	
R	A	P	T	A	N	A	F	A	N	S
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Q	U	A	K	E	S	J	I	G		
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E	R	R	D	I	T	S	E	N	D	

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

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