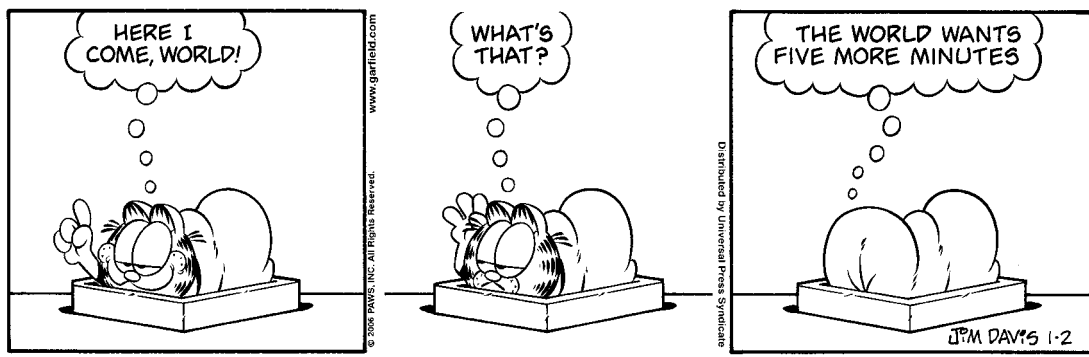


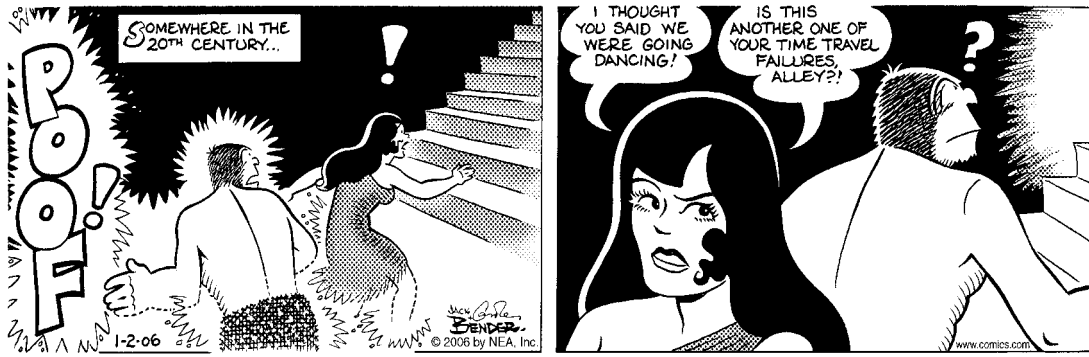
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



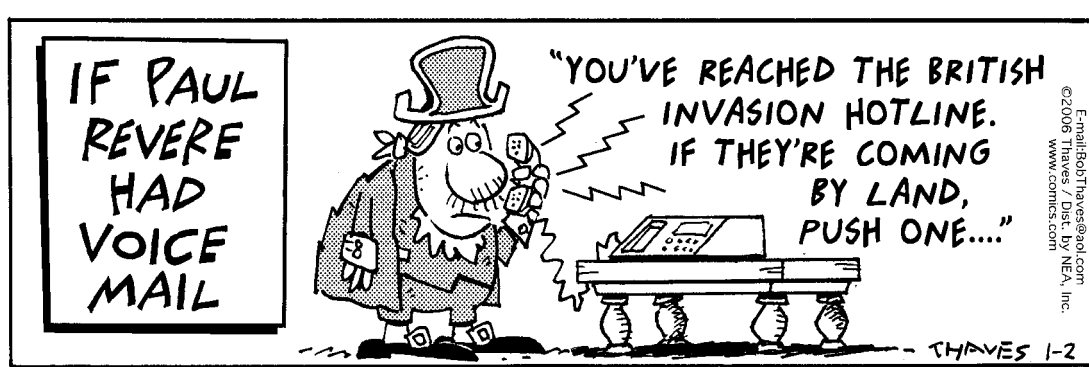
SOUP TO NUTS



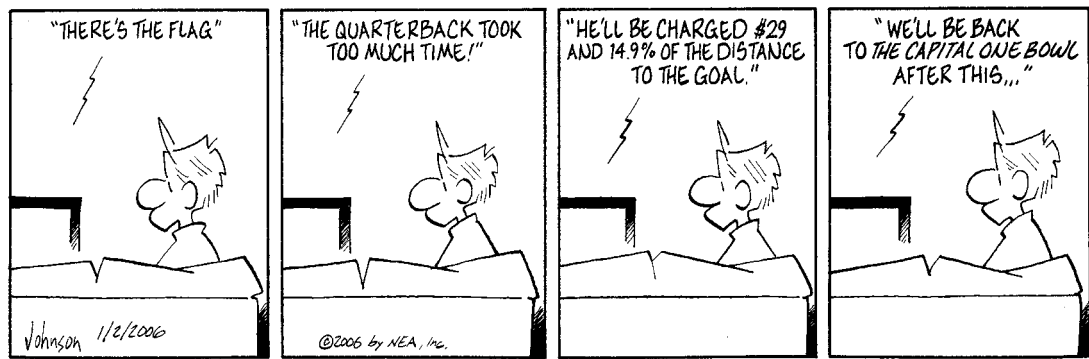
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



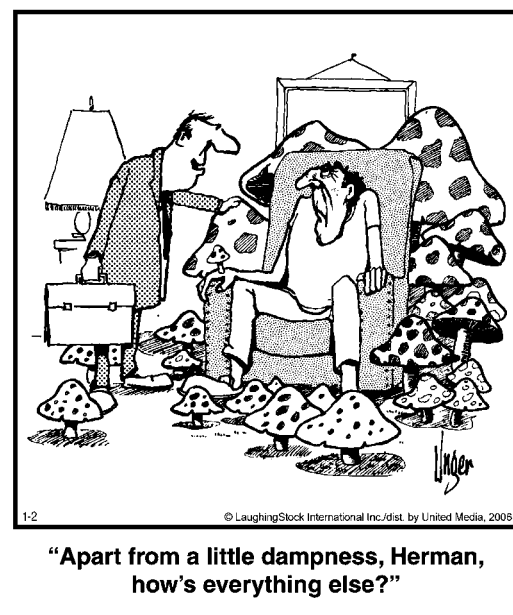
COMMITTED



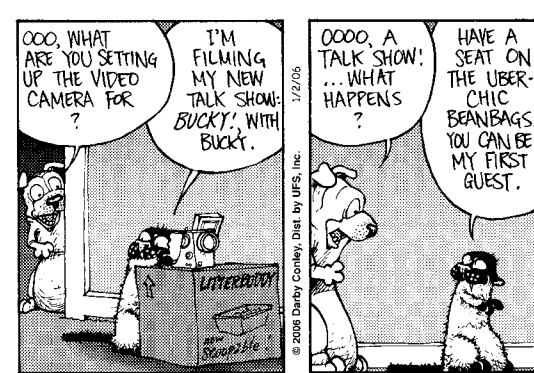
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



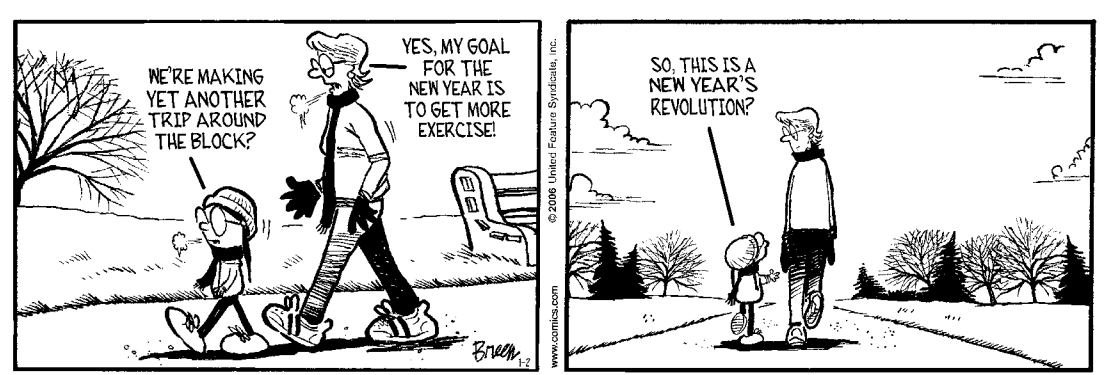
HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Monday, Jan. 2, 2006. A number of favorable changes are in the offing for you in the year ahead where your work is concerned. Obstacles that had blocked your path previously will now be removed, opening up a route to the top. CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's a strong possibility that you will get the opportunity today to reap hidden benefits from situations where you can use your talents to transform something another had begun. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Anything you do with others today has exceptionally good chances of succeeding, due in much part to everyone allowing the others to use their talents to the fullest. Be a joiner. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even if you have a few difficult conditions with which to contend today, you won't get disconcerted. You'll know by hanging in there, all can be turned around to your advantage. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your natural executive qualities will be very much in evidence today, so don't be surprised if your associates ask you to organize and manage an event which is very important to everyone. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) As of today, you could start to see returns come in on a number of things for which you've worked hard and long. You'll get everything in equal proportion to which you're entitled. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Today, there will be no question in your mind about what needs doing. More importantly, however, because you'll know how to get things done, your objectives will be successfully concluded.

able to do so well is to draw out the good ideas others might have, and then use them in an advantageous manner to expand your own interests. Do so today. CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's a strong possibility that you will get the opportunity today to reap hidden benefits from situations where you can use your talents to transform something another had begun. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Anything you do with others today has exceptionally good chances of succeeding, due in much part to everyone allowing the others to use their talents to the fullest. Be a joiner. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even if you have a few difficult conditions with which to contend today, you won't get disconcerted. You'll know by hanging in there, all can be turned around to your advantage. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your natural executive qualities will be very much in evidence today, so don't be surprised if your associates ask you to organize and manage an event which is very important to everyone. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) As of today, you could start to see returns come in on a number of things for which you've worked hard and long. You'll get everything in equal proportion to which you're entitled. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Today, there will be no question in your mind about what needs doing. More importantly, however, because you'll know how to get things done, your objectives will be successfully concluded.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Vet worries son's protest could provoke threat

DEAR ABBY: I am an armed forces veteran who spent a tour of duty in Iraq in 2004. My wife and I separated three years ago, and she and our four children now reside in another state. Neither of us has moved on, and we may reconcile later in life. I am writing about my oldest son, "Jon," who is 18 and not yet out of high school due to poor grades. He and I do not have a good relationship and have different views regarding life and politics. Jon is still bitter over his mother and me separating. When I returned from Iraq on mid-tour leave, I gave him the uniform jacket I wore in combat with all the rank, flags, name tags, etc., on it as a gift. I know from my own youth that I would have been proud to have had something from my uncles or father that they wore during the war. Jon started wearing it as soon as I gave it to him, and I was proud of him to do so. I have not seen him much since my return to the United States from the war. However, I did see him a little over a month ago and noticed that he's still wearing the jacket. My wife says he wears it often. He has written an anarchy symbol in permanent marker on the American flag on the right sleeve under my combat patch. I am angry and disappointed, but I didn't make waves. I am not sure how to handle this, and I'm afraid that a returning soldier may take one look and vent his problems from a combat tour of duty on my son. — VET IN ALABAMA

DEAR VET: Your son may have defaced the jacket to punish you for the separation or as a political statement. We live in a country that guarantees freedom of speech. Ask him if he realizes the effect that the anarchy symbol he penned on the American flag may have on other vets (including you). If the answer is yes, then he may have to learn the hard way what can happen when someone does something that's deliberately inflammatory.

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.

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

KidSpot crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 DOWN: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN; 2 DOWN: A; 3 DOWN: OPPOSITE OF OUT; 4 ACROSS: 5+4=; 5 DOWN: OPPOSITE OF CLOSED; 6 ACROSS: 7 ACROSS; 8 ACROSS: ANSWER THE QUESTION, FILTH!; 9 ACROSS: CAT; 10 DOWN: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN; 11 DOWN: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN; 12 DOWN: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS: 1 Fill the camera; 5 Edible root; 8 Smoked salmon; 12 Encourage; 13 Pub pint; 14 MP prey; 15 It had three parts; 16 EMT technique; 17 Zoo staffers; 18 Giggles; 20 Slapped together; 21 Clean a fish; 22 British rule in India; 23 Paraffin-based; 26 Some cars; 29 Pink-slipped; 30 Focal points; 31 TV band; 33 Persona; 34 Spacious; 35 Gin-fizz flavor; 36 Snagged; 38 Hayes or Reddy; 39 Freight amts.; 40 Road goo; 41 Approve; 43 Go on a cruise; 46 Thin coating; 47 Clear, as profit; 48 Survey; 50 Helm position; 51 Mineral deposit; 52 Latin I verb; 53 Farewells; 54 Male parent; 55 Cats do it; DOWN: 1 Tire nut; 2 Ph.D. exam; 3 Water, in Baja; 4 Flooded; 5 Millionaire's toy; 6 Hannibal's route; 7 Debut; 8 Hogan dweller; 9 Had debts; 10 Pull the lever; 11 Pacino and Unser; 19 Six-shooter; 20 Noted star-seekers; 22 Spicy; 23 Colorless; 24 Dendrite's partner; 25 Warrior princess; 26 Solemn promise; 27 — and void; 28 Pump, maybe; 30 More than fibs; 32 Swamp; 34 Popular columnist; 35 Sombrero go-withs; 37 Accuses; 38 Fodder grass; 40 Carried around; 41 Too smooth; 42 "Fish Magic" artist; 43 Miles of "Psycho"; 44 Mild expletive word; 45 Ultimatum word; 46 Groovy; 47 Head gesture; 49 Was in charge of.

Puzzle Enthusiasts: Get more puzzles in "Random House Crossword Mega Omnibus" Vols. 1 & 2. Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-55.