

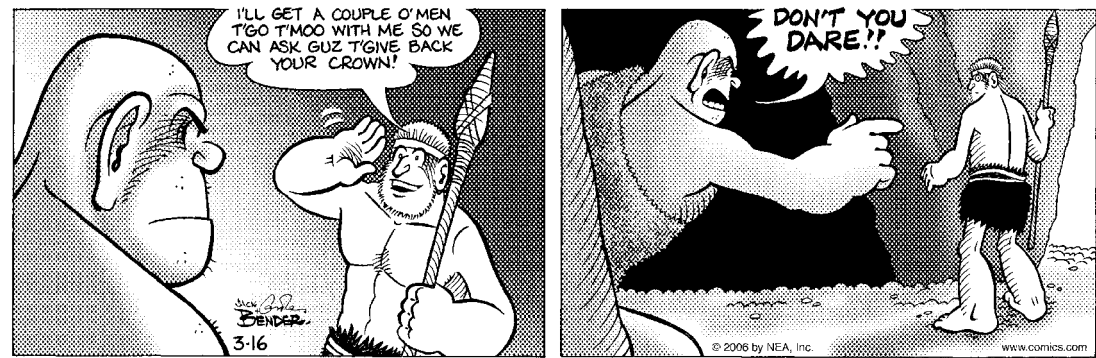
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



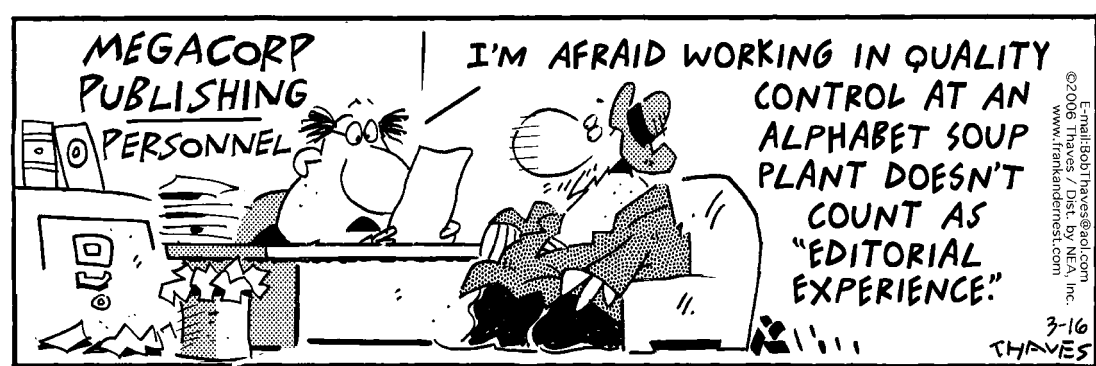
SOUP TO NUTS



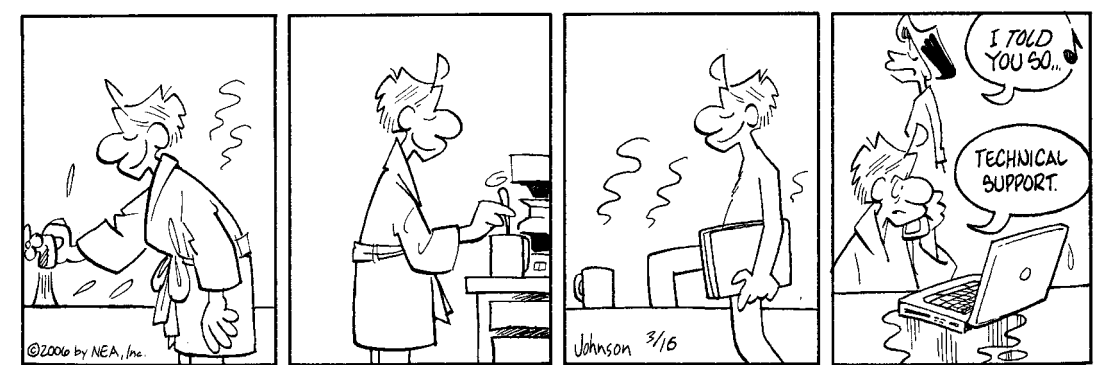
THE BORN LOSER



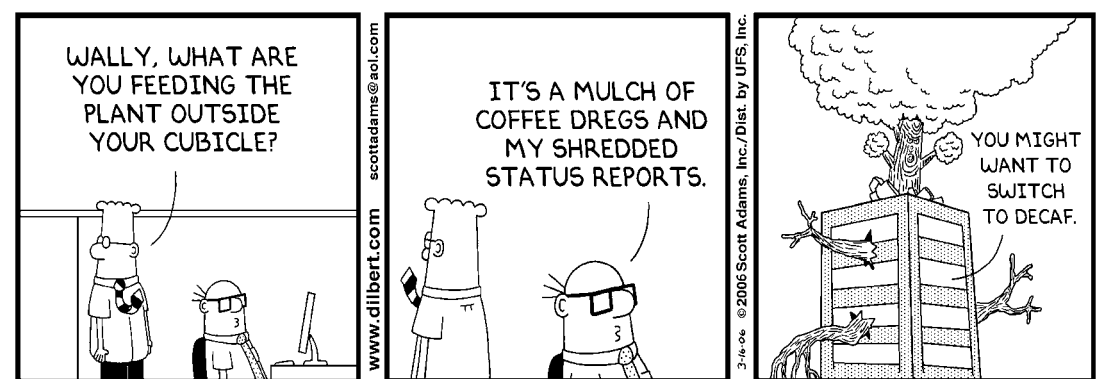
FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



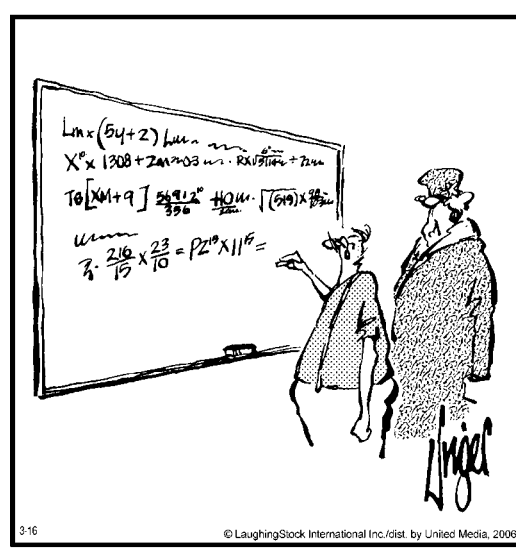
REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

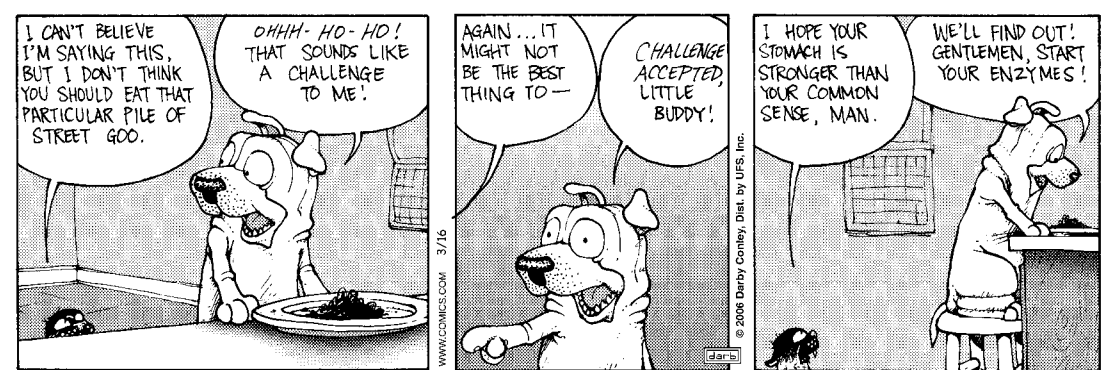


HERMAN

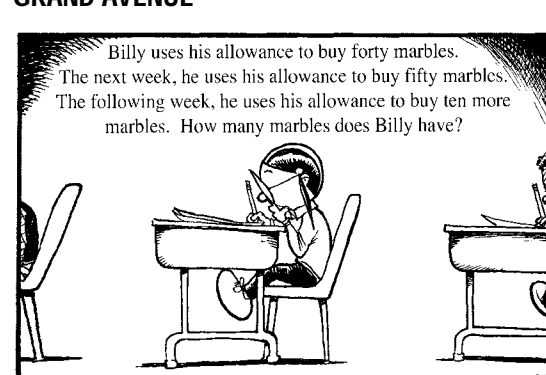


Can't you make yourself a cheese sandwich when I'm out all day?

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



Zero. Anyone who blows their allowance on marbles has clearly lost all of theirs.

ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Thursday, March 16, 2006

An exciting year ahead could be in the offing for you because of a strong desire to substantially expand your horizons. Although you are likely to attempt many things you've never tried, most will add to your success.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Although you are likely to place considerable emphasis on your personal interests, you will do so in such a manner that gains support from others, not opposition.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Conditions in general should be more favorable for you than they are apt to be tomorrow. If you're working on an important assignment, get it out of the way now.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is an excellent day to put aside some time for formulating your goals and expectations for the next couple of weeks. What you lay out today will move you in the direction you wish to go.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Something that had looked to be only moderately profitable will turn out to be rather grand in the long run because of the time and effort you apply to it. Your smarts will turn the trick.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) E-mail or telephone someone who is separated from you by distance and with whom you've neglected to stay in touch as much as you should.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It will be difficult for anyone to deceive

you because you see things quite clearly at this time. However, if you should catch someone telling a small fib, don't make a big deal out of it.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Friends will find you an agreeable companion today because of your strong inclination to be cooperative. You see all sides of issues, so it'll be easy for you to make concessions.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Establish meaningful objectives today where your work or career is concerned. This is one of those days where big things can be accomplished, if you've got a mind to do so.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You have the ability today to grasp and absorb knowledge more quickly than usual. So if there is any research or studying you need to do, don't put it off. Your task will come far easier for you now.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) The end results should work out as you anticipate, provided you don't leave anything up to chance. You can control events by laying out a game plan.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Sunshine should start to filter into several situations that were previously shrouded by clouds. When you see the light, it'll stimulate your enthusiasm and elevate your optimism.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your financial picture looks quite encouraging today, especially in matters where you can put your expertise or services to work. Compensation will be proportionate to your productivity.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Lying becomes a kindness to victims of Alzheimer's

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to "Sad in California," who is uncomfortable lying to her elderly mother, who has Alzheimer's, about the fact that her husband died. Your answer was correct.
I am a therapist. Years ago, I was a consultant to nursing homes. Once, I was called in to see a woman in the middle stages of Alzheimer's who had adjusted well to the nursing home. Suddenly, however, she had become depressed and began having daily crying jags. I went in to speak to the woman, and the first thing she asked me was, "Is my husband coming to see me today?" (Her husband had been dead for 20 years.)
Upon checking with staff, I found that in the past, staff working with her had always answered, "Yes, I believe he will be in later." Recently, however, a new supervisor had been hired and did not approve of lying, so she made staff start telling the woman each time she asked that her husband was dead. Naturally, each time she heard it, she became upset.
Fortunately, the supervisor was open to suggestions, and everyone went back to saying the husband would be in later. It made the woman happy each time she heard it, and she lived the rest of her days believing her husband was just running a little late.

— PAULA C., WOOSTER, OHIO
DEAR PAULA: Your anecdote makes sense to me. I received a bushel of letters regarding the one you referenced. Read on:
DEAR ABBY: I'm a social worker. After 25 years in the field, I have found that everyone needs to be told of deaths, but only once. Someone with short-term memory problems does not need to be reminded every time they ask, as it is painful. But everyone deserves the dignity of grieving for a loved one at least once.
— SUSAN IN DULUTH, MINN.
DEAR ABBY: I worked in an Alzheimer's unit for two years. There is nothing sadder than having to tell someone as many as 10 times a day that they lost someone they love. Each time, they are hearing it for the first time. There's no good answer to that question, but yours is the best solution.
— JENNIFER IN RALEIGH, N.C.

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 Flaky
5 Medical photos (hyph.)
10 Vampire repellent
12 Develop
13 Glue on
14 Less starchy
15 Damsel
16 Meadow browser
18 Compass dir.
19 Patella
23 "Nova" network
26 Rocky Mountain tribe
27 Wheels for baby
30 Shriill insect
32 Piece of broken glass
34 Shed, as a snake
35 Instant
36 Suffix for small
37 Abbot
38 Regret
39 Chores (2 wds.)
42 Hot spring
45 Is, to Fritz
46 Poet
50 Gallery
53 Submarine
55 Make a promise
56 Comfort
57 Wielded a broom
58 Workplace extra
DOWN
1 Computer fodder
2 Music and dance
3 Lab glassware
4 Twitch
5 IV squared
6 Computer term
7 European mountains
8 Montand of films
9 Wizedned
10 8 pts.
11 Fastest animal
12 AC supply
17 Elf-sized
20 Elbowed

Answer to Previous Puzzle
DITTO
AVAILS
METRIC
EVE
VOL INANE KIT
IRE EER LENA
ADVERSE YENS
BAIL NOVENAS
LIES AGE ETE
END AISLE REL
SST ERA
OBTUSE RIMMED
DORMER SNOOTY
EXIST GRACE

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

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58