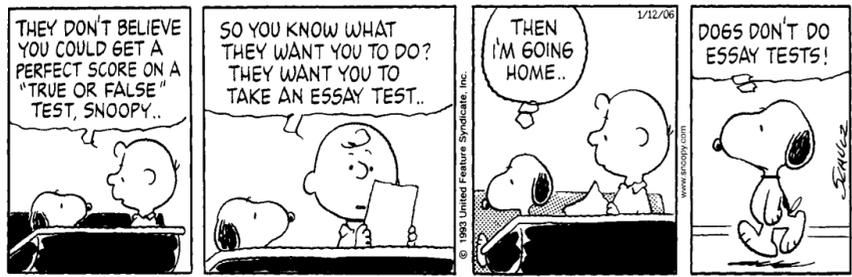


GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



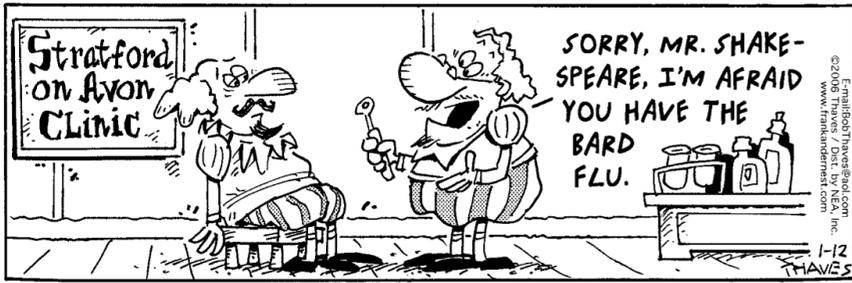
SOUP TO NUTS



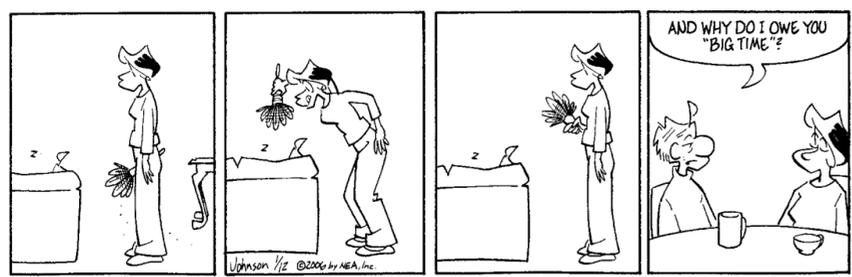
THE BORN LOSER



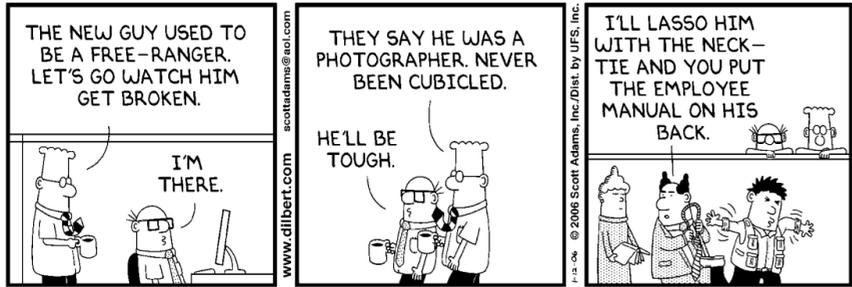
FRANK AND ERNEST



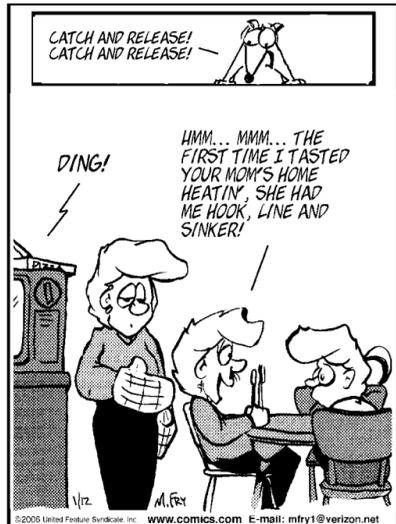
ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



COMMITTED



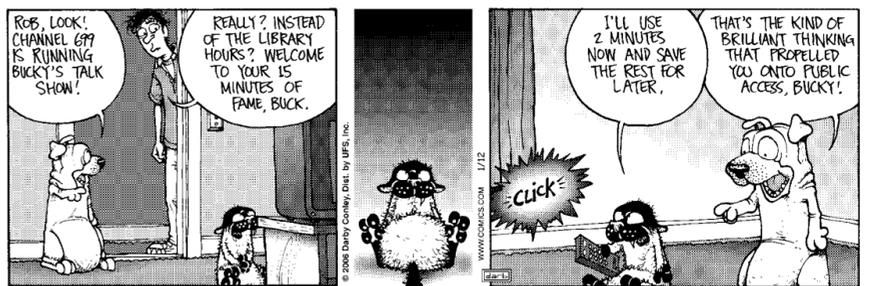
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



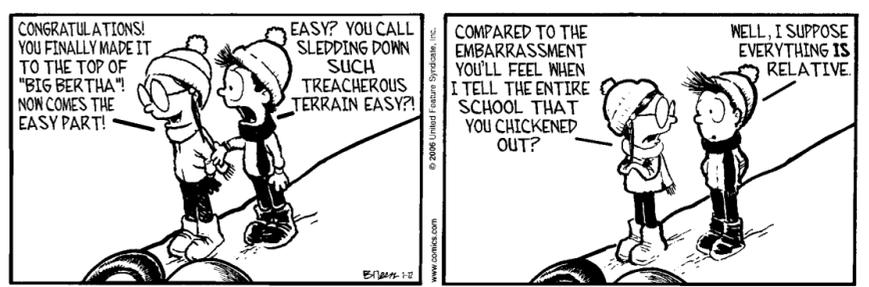
HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006

You'll have a marvelous asset going for you in the year ahead...

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Things you hear or read today could serve to enhance your faith...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It always behooves you to be flexible and hopeful regarding events...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your judgment will be exceptionally keen today...

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Because you will be strongly motivated at this time...

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Spur-of-the-moment happenings today will be the ones that provide you with the most stimuli...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) An opportunity you'll want to take advantage of which is of a very unusual nature...

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be particularly watchful for unusual wealth opportunities that could cross your path today...

Lady Luck wants to help and may send them to you in many different disguises.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Things you hear or read today could serve to enhance your faith and philosophical beliefs...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It always behooves you to be flexible and hopeful regarding events that take place...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your judgment will be exceptionally keen today, so don't be hesitant or doubtful about any of your decisions...

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Because you will be strongly motivated at this time, objectives that others might feel are too tough to attempt can be easily achieved by you today...

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Spur-of-the-moment happenings today will be the ones that provide you with the most stimuli to make life fun and exciting...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) An opportunity you'll want to take advantage of which is of a very unusual nature may come about through, of all people, your in-laws or a relative...

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be particularly watchful for unusual wealth opportunities that could cross your path today...



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Mother has nowhere to turn to escape abuse

DEAR ABBY: I am 30 years old, married seven years, the mother of three children, and I'm at the end of my rope.

My husband has quit or been fired from numerous jobs because of his poor attitude. He calls the women he works with "fat b---es" and blames everyone else for his problems.

He's addicted to weed and alcohol and gets extremely mad if I don't partake of these things with him.

When he does work, he calls me an average of 15 times a day or he instant-messages me constantly, and he's gone only six or seven hours.

If I don't answer the phone or respond to his e-mail immediately, he'll drop everything and race home to accuse me of cheating or betraying him in some way.

On three different occasions he has slapped me in the face, then immediately denied doing it. He has also grabbed me around the throat a few times.

He says extremely hurtful things to me and then denies saying them. He is verbally abusive to my eldest son from a previous relationship.

I have no friends or family I can turn to. I am extremely depressed and at the point of either running away or killing myself.

I'm scared all the time. I would leave, but he tells me he will hurt me or take my kids away and never let me see them if I do.

Can you help me? — NANCY IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR NANCY: If ever I heard of a woman who needed to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, it is you, dear lady.

The toll-free number (which won't show up on your phone bill) is (800) 799-7233 (SAFE).

The people on the hotline can help you to formulate a safe escape plan from the drug-addicted bully you married. (If this seems harsh, he qualifies.)

Please make the call today, not only for your own sake but also for your children's.

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 43 Just OK (hyph.) 45 Nosegay 47 Mattress extra 50 Out of breath 52 Genetically doubled 54 Win over 58 Faculty reward 59 Ladybug 60 Lacking 61 Tows along 62 Towels along 63 Hackers' needs 17 Tower bells 19 Swift horses 20 Bridge tower 22 Shaggy beast

Answer to Previous Puzzle grid with words: ROPES, OLDER, RENOIR, GLADLY, OTTERS, METTLE, ORATE, ZEST, TOPI, PEN, EKED, CARR, ROTE, NOD, LOONY, ATE, IRE, SPEED, NAP, BEAD, DASH, SOLE, DIP, UKES, FAUN, DRIVE, YEARS, COLLAR, ERRANT, AGENDA, TANYA, TERSE

Puzzle Enthusiasts: Get more puzzles in 'Random House Crossword MegaOmnibus' Vols. 1 & 2. Grid with numbers 1-61.