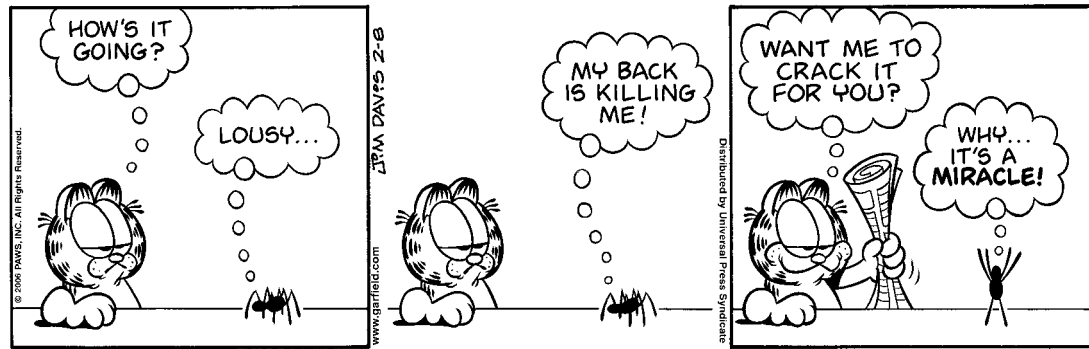
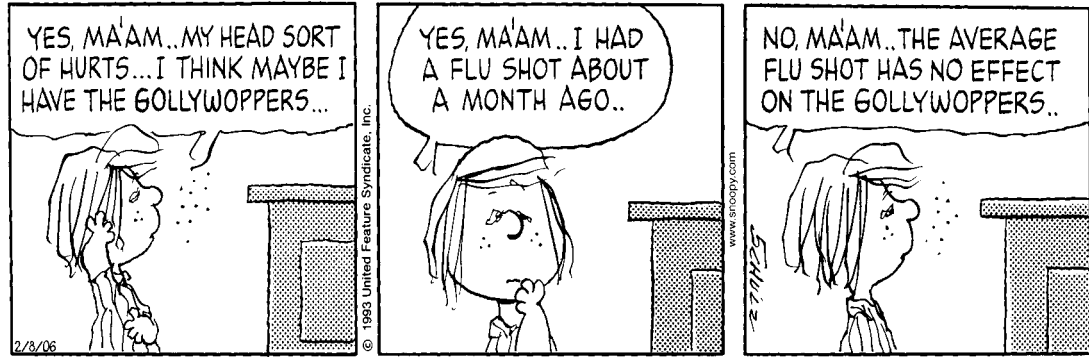


GARFIELD



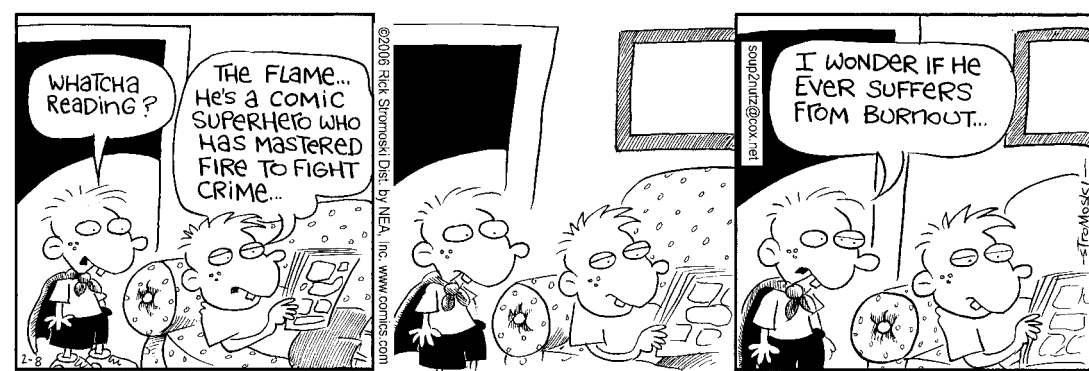
PEANUTS



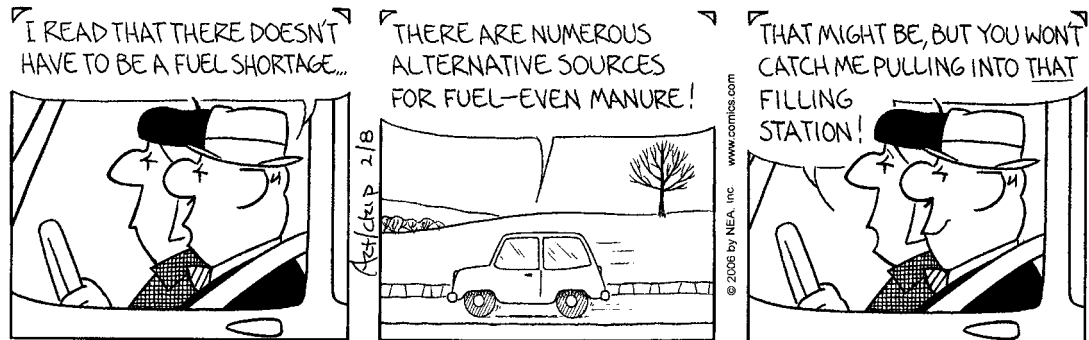
ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



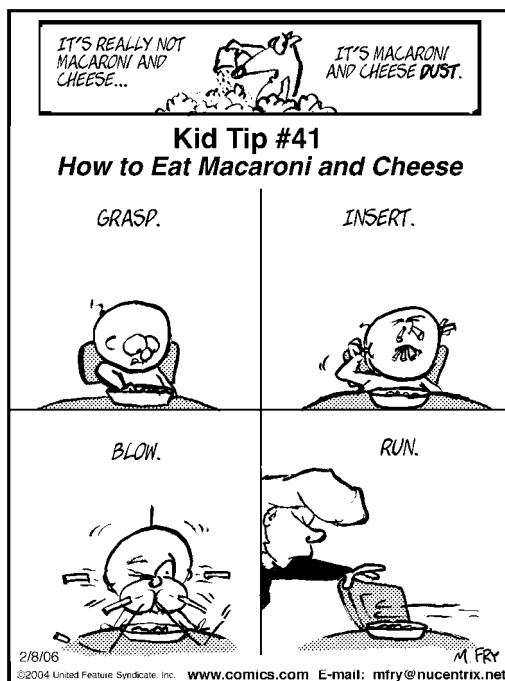
ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



COMMITTED



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

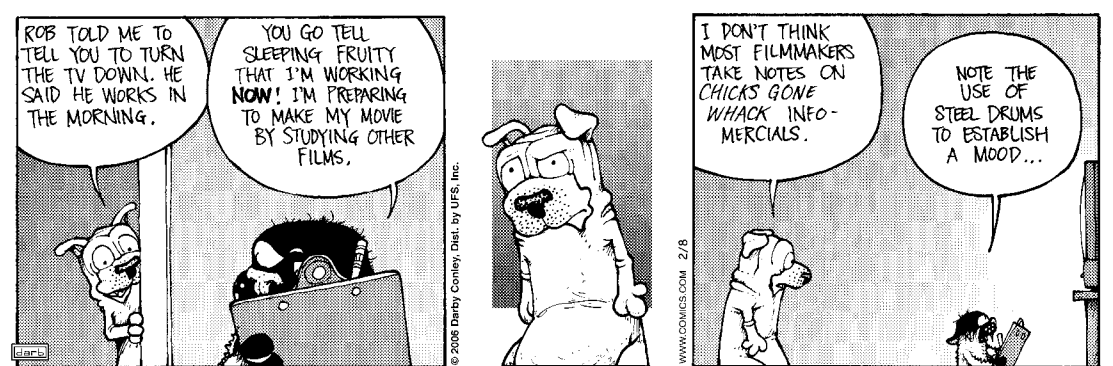


HERMAN



"You're missing a great movie!"

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

If you find the travel bug gnawing at you in the year ahead, don't aimlessly wander about. Plan a few important journeys both near or far where you can learn much that can benefit you in some profound manner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

You'll be more in harmony today with associates whose philosophy and interests are in line with your own. Seeing eye-to-eye with one another offers a chance to get better acquainted.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

This is a good day to work out family situations with your mate, such as budget problems. Between the two of you, you'll be able to figure out ways to get more mileage from your funds.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Without being insincere you have the natural ability today to make people with whom you associate feel they are important to all those around them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You've heard the old saying that "a penny saved is a penny earned," so give it a try today. By using your smarts you'll figure out ways to trim a lot of costly corners.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Getting your mind off those serious matters today which have weighed you down will help refurbish your outlook and give you more energy tomorrow.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You can learn more about that which

you're curious by asking indirect questions of those who hold the answers than from blunt talk. It will encourage them to talk freely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's usually the little things that you say to friends which can count the most to them, and today this could be that case once again. A few kind words will make powerful, lasting impressions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

One of your better gifts today is being sharper about financial matters than those with whom you are dealing. However, to your credit, you'll be fair and not take advantage of them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You are in the thoughts of someone who lives at a distance from you, and you're likely to hear from this person today. What this person has to tell you will be beneficial to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

A promising joint venture that you could fit into nicely could come to your attention today. You shouldn't have too much trouble convincing the other party of your worth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

You're already quite aware of everything you know, so search for what others know. Knowledge that comes from the thoughts of others can breathe new life into some of your affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The attention to detail that comes naturally to you will alert you to some important details today that others may overlook. What you'll spot will put you ahead.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Soft-spoken dad won't control his abusive daughter

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Jeff," is a single parent. His daughter, "Nicole," is 14. Jeff is very soft-spoken and even-tempered. He hates conflict and shies away from it if it arises. We have been in a loving and caring relationship for nine years. We don't yell at each other or call each other names.

Over the past six months, Nicole's behavior toward her father has changed radically. She has become verbally abusive toward him. When she speaks to him she calls him names and uses ugly language. I cringe when she starts screaming and cursing at him.

I'm concerned that if Nicole treats her father this way, how is she treating her peers, teachers or strangers? Have you any advice to offer?

— HEARTSICK IN FLORIDA

DEAR HEARTSICK: Nicole's behavior is not normal nor acceptable. Your boyfriend should have asserted his authority the first time it happened. The longer he tolerates his daughter's outbursts, the more they will escalate.

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice. I married "Fritz" in February 2001, during a spur-of-the-moment trip to Las Vegas. Afterward, we decided we would wait to tell our parents because we wanted to have a traditional wedding and invite all of our relatives.

It has been more than four years, and I am still trying to get Fritz, at the bare minimum, to tell our families that we're engaged. But if I bring up the subject, he gets angry and refuses to talk about it because he's not ready.

I don't understand why he won't marry me publicly since we are already married legally. Please help me.

— WANTS MY M.R.S. IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WANTS: He may have had second thoughts about marrying you, or he may be afraid of his parents' reaction. He could also have a problem with commitment and feels that he's "not really married" until there's a formal announcement.

However, there's one thing I know for sure. The way you are being treated is degrading, and you should not tolerate it. Offer Fritz the option of marriage counseling or end this travesty once and for all.

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 Haiku and sonnets
6 Duplicate
11 Serves the soup
12 Hiring
13 Decree
14 Gold bars
15 Coil of yarn
16 Admiral
17 Get paid
18 Brooch
19 Get a load of
23 Barely makes ends meet
25 Playing card
26 Navaho handiwork
29 — to the teeth
32 KFC piece
33 Pyrite
34 Be lovesick
35 Almost grads
36 London "bye" (hyph.)
38 Gallivant
40 Bang down
41 Hypo units
42 Island off Italy
46 Listen!
48 Tijuana farewell
49 Place of business
52 Graduates
53 Humidity problem
54 Quit
55 Kiddie-lit author
56 Groovy
1 Hooded jacket
2 More unusual
3 Lily maid of Astolat
4 Chow —
5 Worker's no.
6 Lucy Lawless role
7 Swallow up
8 Sugarloaf locale
9 Nose-bag morsel
10 Big T-shirts
11 Misplace
12 Demeanor

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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

