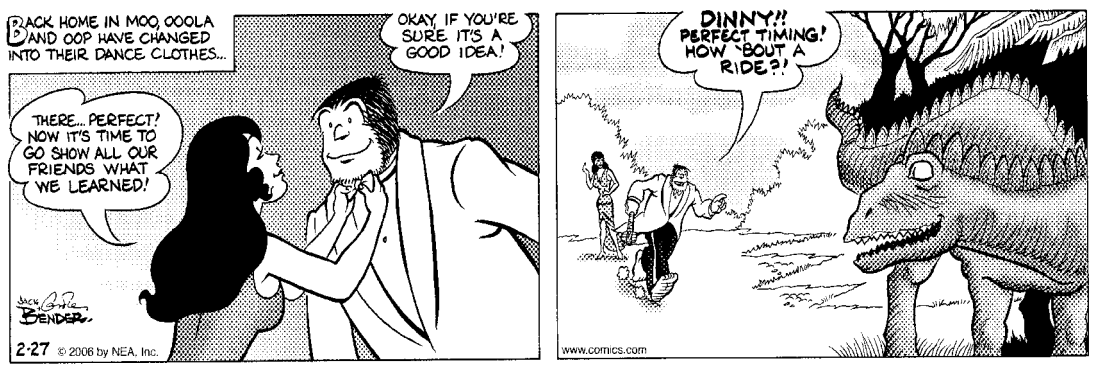
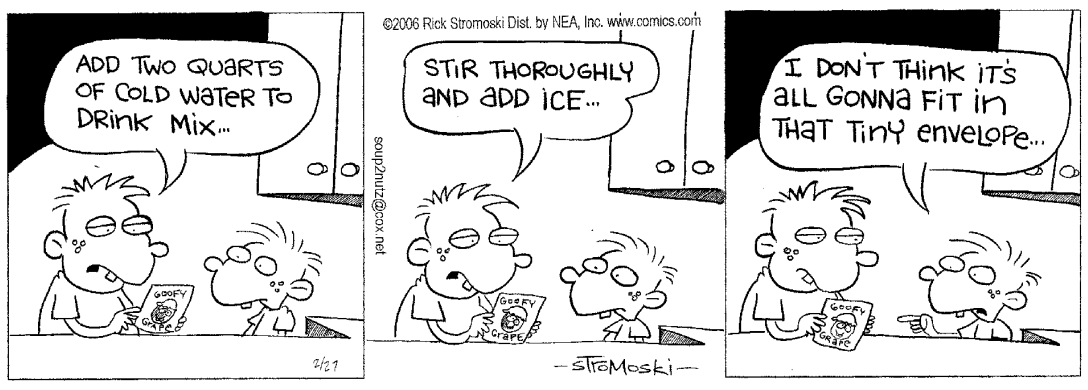
GARFIELD

PEANUTS

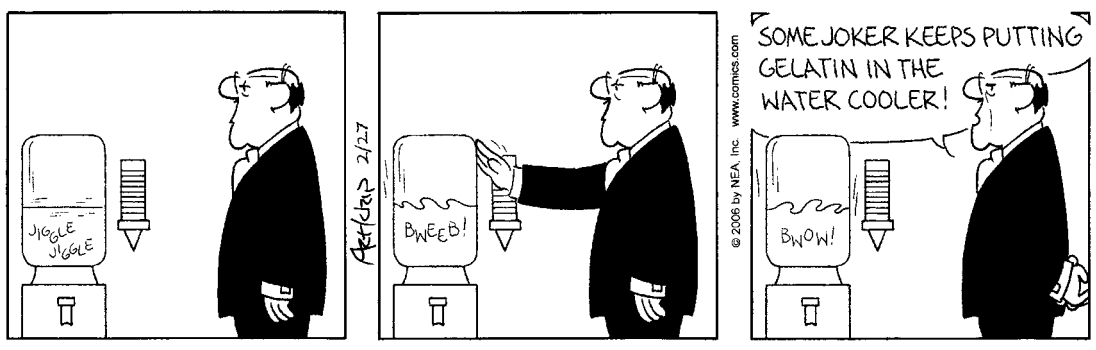
ALLEY OOP



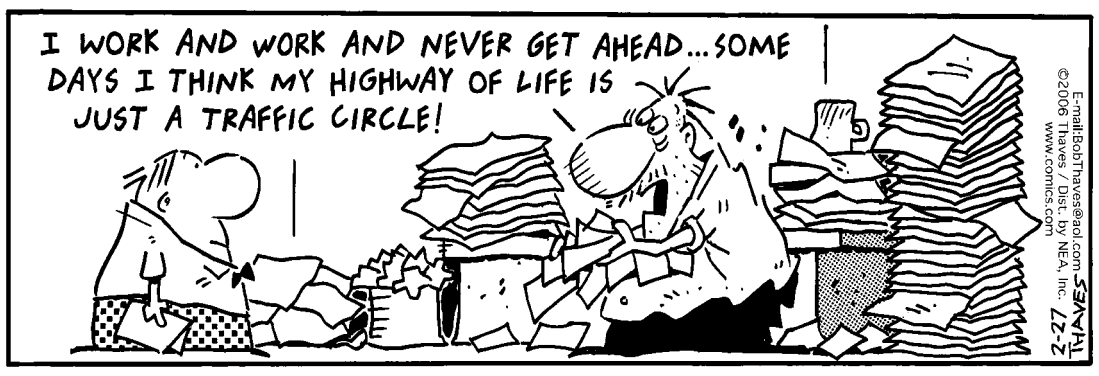
SOUP TO NUTS



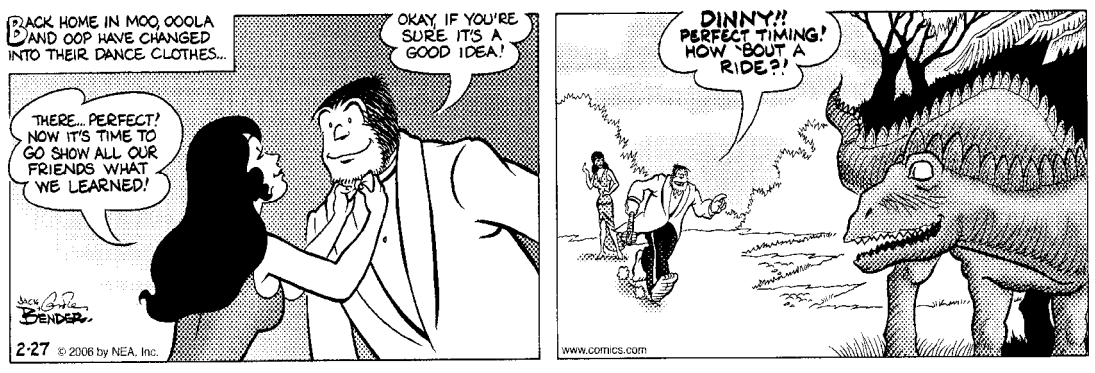
THE BORN LOSER



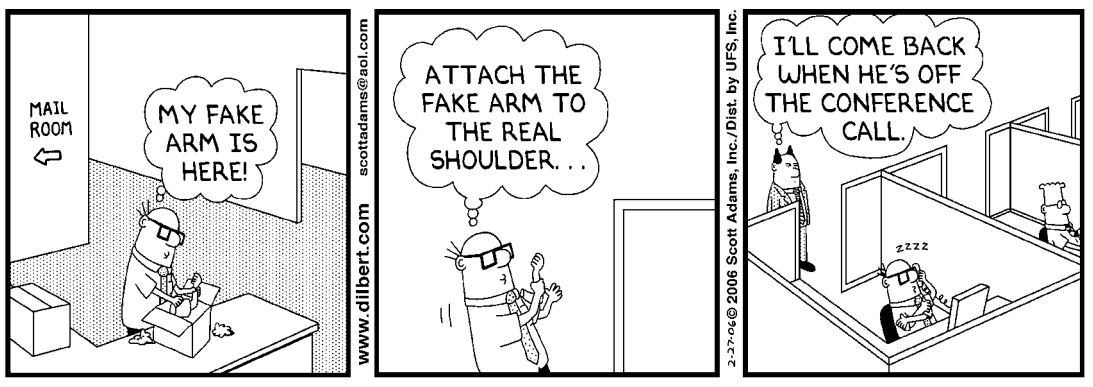
FRANK AND ERNEST



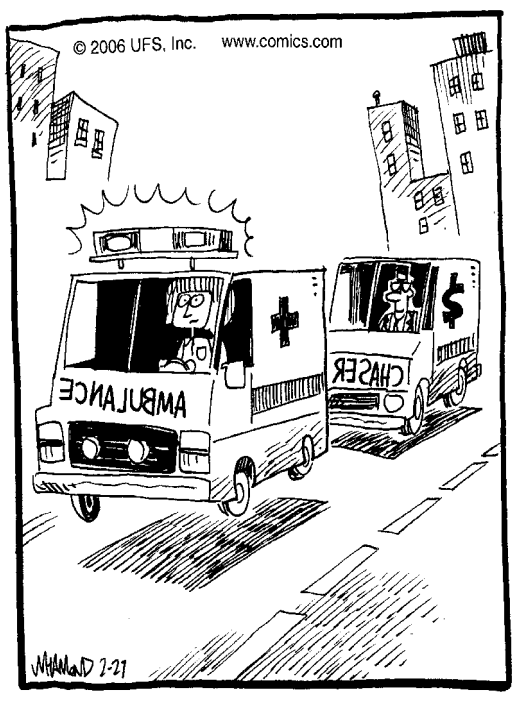
ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



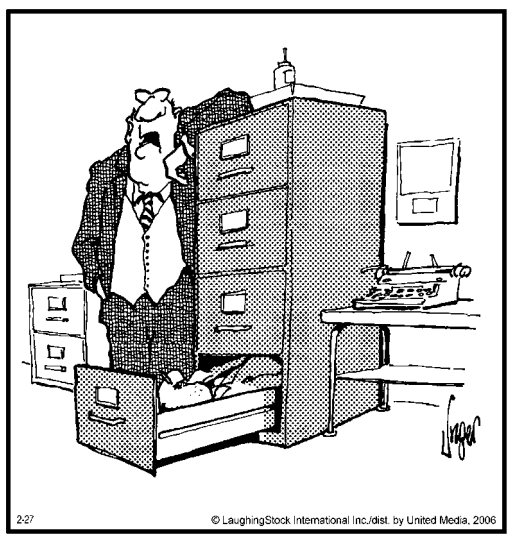
REALITY CHECK



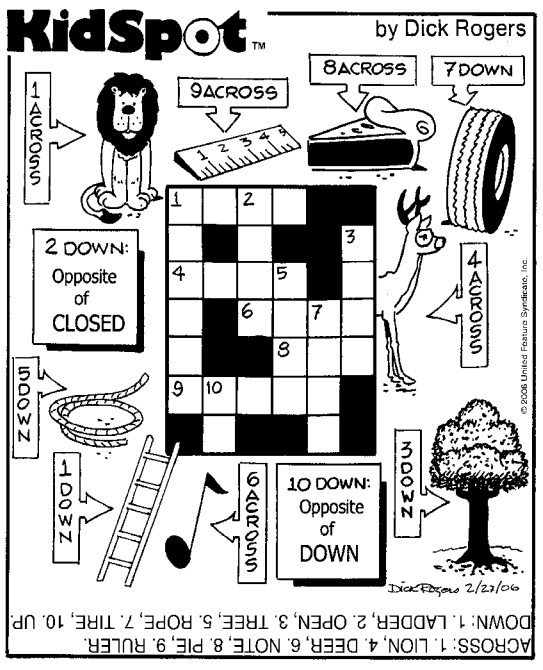
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"There's no such thing as a minimum requirement of candy."

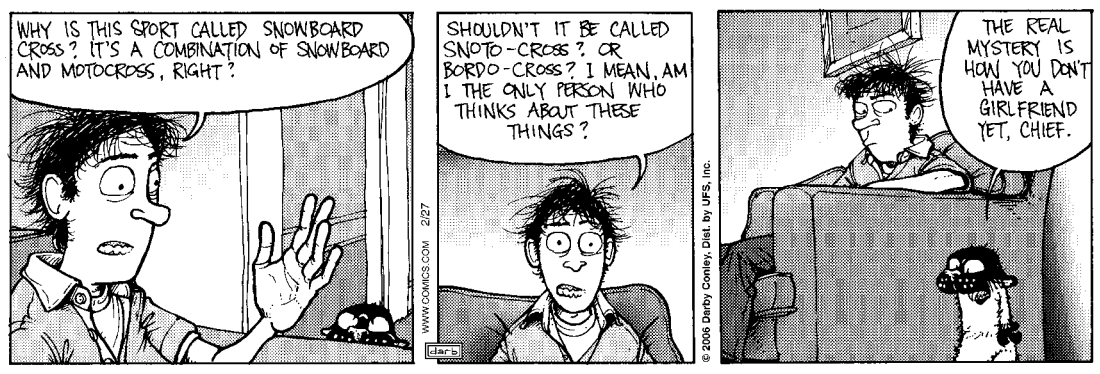
HERMAN



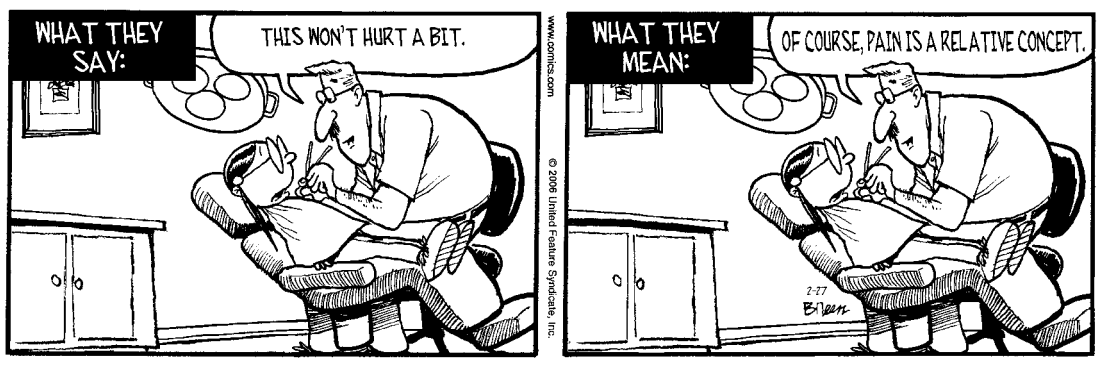
"Get out. I haven't forgotten I fired you this morning."



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Monday, Feb. 27, 2006

The best things will happen for you in the year ahead through people with whom you have established solid relationships. Although someone new may be more exciting, take care before getting too deeply involved.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Even though you know making concessions or compromises would be your wisest course of action, they may be difficult for you today. Don't expect the other guy to yield if you won't.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It's a mistake to delegate a task today you don't have time to do yourself to someone whose talents or capabilities are not up to yours. You'll have more work doing the entire project over.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

If you find yourself in an uncomfortable spot today, chances are you will be able to trace it right back to your own poor decision-making and actions. Think all your moves through carefully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Although you're a smooth talker, do not attempt to bluff your way through a critical career matter today. If you don't have something of substance to offer, be quiet and don't make waves.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Watch your moods carefully today so that you're not more sensitive and defensive than usual regarding your opinions and positions. You could overreact and say things you'd later regret.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

A companion's expenditures and extravagances could prove to be expensive for you today if you don't watch yourself. Don't be duped into paying for another's bills or worse yet, mistake.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Actions made out of spite today are likely to cause you additional frustrations instead of giving you the satisfaction of getting even as you had expected. Have malice toward none.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Patience might not be your long suit today, especially if you get saddled with tending to an unpleasant assignment. If you perform poorly, what you do may have to be done all over again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

There's a possibility today that you could encounter an individual in a social setting who might give you cause to arouse your animosity. Take care not to say things that'll make you look bad.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Generally speaking you tend to be a pretty popular individual and admired by most of your peers. However, today you may pull off something that could diminish the luster of your image.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Sadly, people who aren't in complete agreement with you today are apt to experience your wrath. Coming down too hard on the wrong person may teach you a lesson you'll not forget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Working conditions could be a bit more complicated for you today than they appear at first glance when you take on a job nobody wants. Move cautiously and take nothing for granted.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 "Star Trek" speed
5 News channel
8 Festoon
12 Diva's tune
13 Help-wanted letters
14 Type of bean
15 Loud cry
16 Escorted
17 Sheik colleague
18 Like most letters
20 Times around the track
21 Corn holder
22 Monsieur's nose
23 Compare
26 Facade
29 Co. honcho
30 Mrs. Truman
31 Itinerary word
33 "Gal" of song
34 Diploma word
35 Moore of films
36 Gaps
38 Televised
39 Univ. degree
40 Famous numero
41 Just
43 Propped up
46 Clouseau's valet
47 Derrick arm
48 Ostrich relatives
50 Pull down
51 — — snail's pace
52 Metro haze
53 City in Iowa
54 Mil. rank
55 Orient

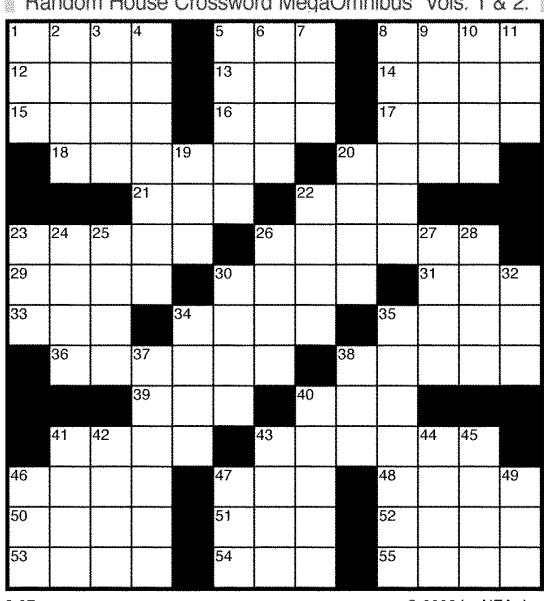
DOWN

1 Course
2 Mars, to Plato
3 Tick off
4 Royal residences
5 "People" person
6 Require
7 Doze off
8 Dirty politics
9 Cream puff, slangily
10 "Jake's Thing" writer
11 Realty ad item
19 Chaney of horror films
20 Projector part
22 Monster's loch
23 CD predecessors
24 Levin and Gershwin
25 Seaweed
26 Zoo staffers
27 "If I — Fall in Love"
28 Hoarfrost
30 Multiplied
32 Help out
34 Flu symptom
35 Bishop's domain
37 Chefs' wear
38 Literary compilation
40 Kind of sprawl
41 Lady's honorific
42 To be, in Bordeaux
43 Light snack
44 Samms of "Dynasty"
45 Twosomes
46 Green parrot
47 Sharp projection
49 Noncom

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	R	D		F	O	P	S		F	B	I
A	R	E	A		A	N	I	L		E	L	M
M	O	A	N		T	O	G	A		T	A	P
E	M	P	I	R	E			S	H	A	H	S
	A	S	S	T			C	H	E			
			H	E	L	L	O		C	L	I	P
C	O	W		S	O	U	R		K	O	O	L
A	W	E	S		O	M	A	R		B	U	Y
P	E	S	O		S	P	L	I	T			
			A	D	E			L	I	S	T	
H	A	P	P	Y			O	L	D	I	E	S
E	W	E		L	I	E	U		I	D	L	E
I	R	K		A	L	P	S		E	L	L	A
R	Y	E		N	E	A	T		R	E	S	T

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



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'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Breaking cycle of abuse must start with youth

DEAR ABBY: Your recent letters regarding domestic violence bring important attention to the dangers of this problem.

Unfortunately, every year thousands of Americans lose loved ones to this terrible epidemic, and most are left wondering what they could have done to prevent it.

Too often we assume that violence happens only to other people, people of a different race or culture, people who live in a different community, or people in a different type of relationship.

But domestic violence does not discriminate.

It can touch everyone, through friends, co-workers and family members who are suffering silently without our even knowing it. Many of us also know abusers, people who may seem charming and likable on the surface but cause fear, self-doubt, pain, even death, to those they claim to love.

Recent studies show that as many as one-third of teens experience abuse in a dating relationship. And more than half of teens say they know friends who have been physically, sexually or verbally abused. The need for early intervention to change these shocking statistics is clear.

We must reach out to youth and talk openly and often about these issues so we can help them to avoid the terrible sorrow felt by families and others who are victims of abuse.

Each of us has the right to a safe and healthy relationship free from violence, coercion and fear.

— JESSICA ARONOFF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BREAK THE CYCLE

DEAR JESSICA: Thank you for an important letter. I hope it grabs the attention it deserves from teens and their parents.

Your statement that as many as one-third of teenagers experience abuse in a dating relationship, and more than half of them have friends who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused, will shock many people, I am sure.

Readers, Break the Cycle provides domestic violence education, information and help to students ages 12 to 24 throughout the country. It teaches what healthy relationships are and helps them to recognize the warning signs of abuse.

There are opportunities for interested people to help in this endeavor. To find out more about this worthwhile program, log onto www.breakthecycle.org, or call toll-free at (888) 988-8336.