

GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



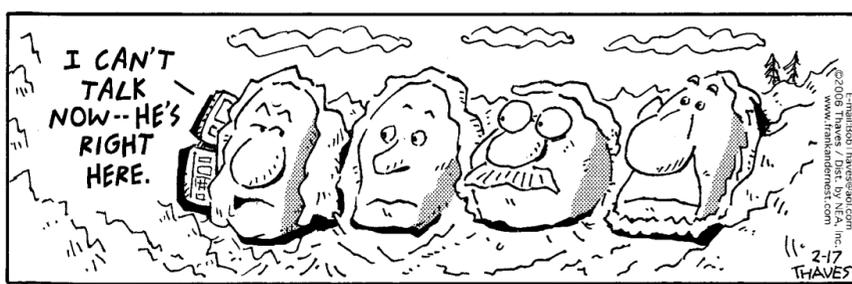
SOUP TO NUTS



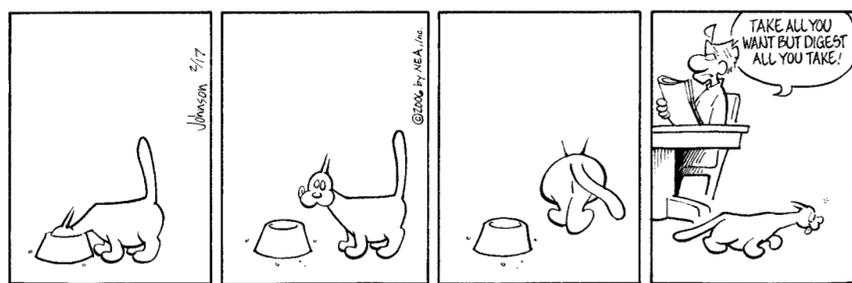
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



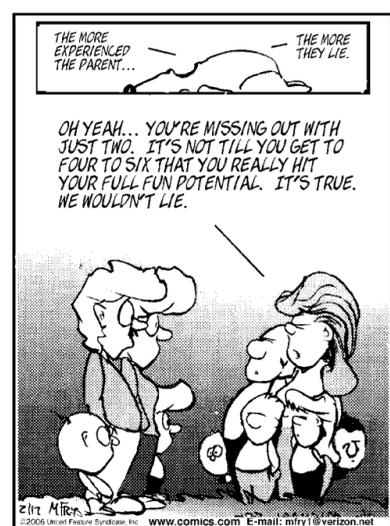
ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



COMMITTED



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



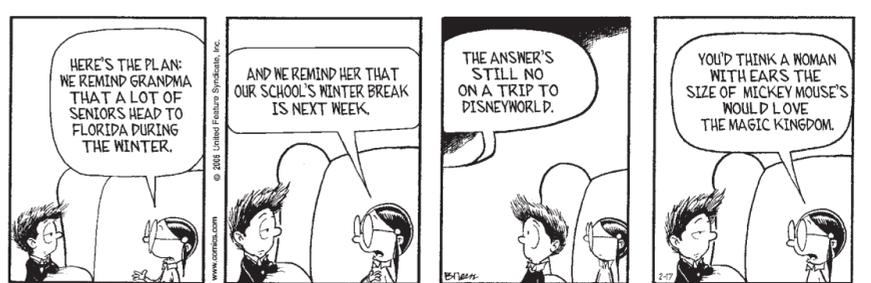
HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Friday, Feb. 17, 2006

Although your financial trends look quite encouraging to you for the year ahead and you know you should be able to strengthen things considerably, it's still important not to take any wild chances with your hard-earned money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Being a farseeing individual, you usually assess situations quite logically and accurately. However, today you could yield to wishful thinking and be given to impractical rationalization.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Unless you're thoughtful in handling your affairs with a close friend, a misunderstanding with your pal could arise over, of all things, something material. Don't let anything affect this union.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Although the actions you take today may be the most convenient and advantageous for you, they might not be as constructive for others and, sadly, you'll know it. It won't win you any friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You may think you're being kind by letting someone who thinks he or she can handle a delicate assignment do the job, but if this individual botches it up, all will end up paying for the debacle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

It's not like you, but today because you care so much, you could step out of character and be unduly possessive of someone who needs wings. This person will feel bullied, not loved.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Unless you fully intend to comply, don't

make any promises or commitments to others, especially those who depend on you. You'll end up hurting these individuals very much.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Sincerity is always essential when dealing with friends, so don't make the mistake that today is different, even if all you're trying to do is flatter someone. This person will feel manipulated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

That extravagance bug that lies dormant most of the time could rear its ugly head today and encourage you to foolishly fritter away funds. You'll end up having nothing to show for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

It's not like you to slack on your social graces, but today that's exactly what could happen. Have a good time and be yourself, but don't do anything that could detract from your image.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Should you decide to wear your heart on your sleeve today, you'll be leaving yourself wide open and vulnerable to being wounded by someone you love who doesn't exactly feel the same.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Just because your financial picture looks promising at this particular time doesn't mean you can foolishly make expenditures with funds you don't yet have. Things never go exactly as we think.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

When an important goal is at stake, don't think you can coast a little even when you are told it's OK. A failure to be proactive could lead to that downfall you've tried to avoid.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Bean-sprouts bean
41 3-ft. lengths
42 Lost cause
44 Uniform
47 Serf's master
48 House wing
50 Physics particle
52 Slime
53 Cozy seat
54 Shorten an article
55 Aroma
56 Distress call
57 Type of antenna

DOWN

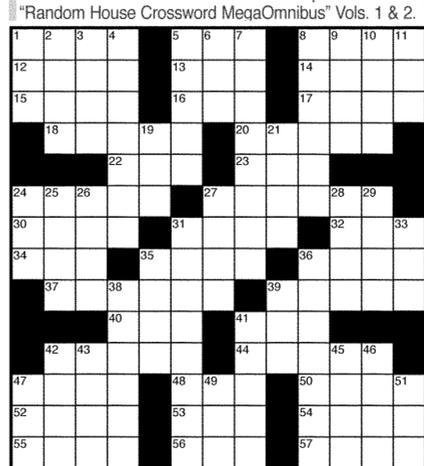
- 1 Universal competitor
2 Russian range
3 Label
4 Like an old oak tree
5 Gimmicks
6 - Holm
7 Ghostly ceremony

Answer to Previous Puzzle

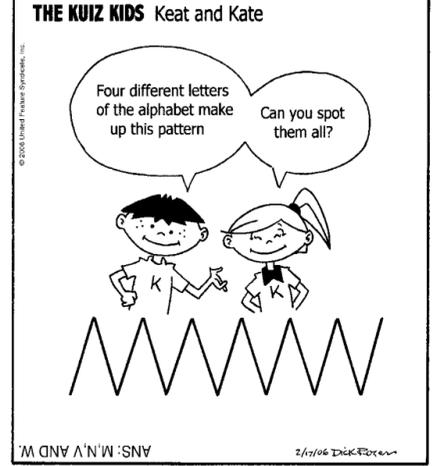


- 8 Chirping insect
9 Homeboy's turf
10 Blows away
11 Mattress extra
19 Decide on

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



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Ex-husband's stalking tactics against the law

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my mid-30s, recently divorced. I was married for 13 years.

My ex won't leave me alone. He calls me constantly, and if I won't talk to him, he starts threatening me.

Hanging up on him doesn't work; it makes him that much angrier. He threatens to damage my vehicle and says he has people watching my daughter when she is out.

He will call and tell me where she went, who she was with and what time she came home. He has me watched, too.

I don't go out except to work and to the grocery store. Calling the police is not an option because that will just make it even worse on me. Please help me.

— BEING WATCHED, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR WATCHED: There is a name for the harassment you and your daughter are receiving. It's called stalking. There is a law against stalking in Alabama.

After I read your letter, I contacted your chief of police and read it to her. She advises that you should document every incident — which can include recording those threatening phone calls — and file a police report.

The longer you remain silent, the longer his intimidation will continue.

DEAR ABBY: I married later in life to a wonderful man I'll call "Juan." Our courtship was brief.

My problem is his family. Everyone was cordial at first, but during a brief rough patch early in our marriage, his family made it clear where the line was drawn: me on one side, all of them on the other. (I have no immediate family, just a couple of close girlfriends I consider family.)

If someone from his family phones the house, I'm pleasant, but other than that we don't speak. My question concerns my elderly mother-in-law. Due to her advanced age, there will be a funeral I have to contend with at some point. I feel I should be there for Juan when the time comes, but I have absolutely no desire to be around any of the rest of his family. What should I do?

— JUAN'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: When the time comes, take your cue from your husband. If he would like you to be there, then attend the funeral with him and be pleasant to his family. If he prefers to go alone, you'll be off the hook.