

GARFIELD



PEANUTS



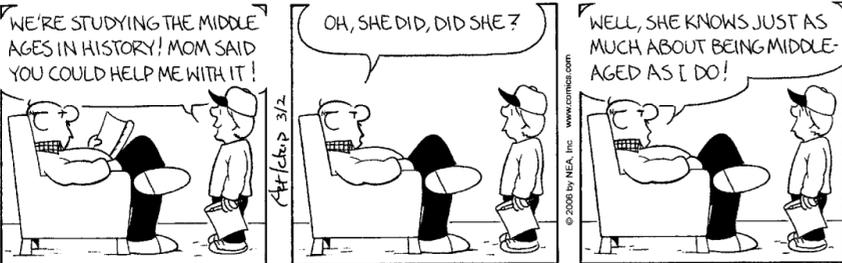
ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



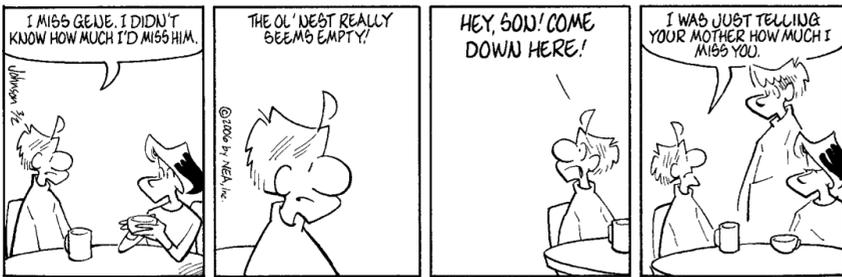
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



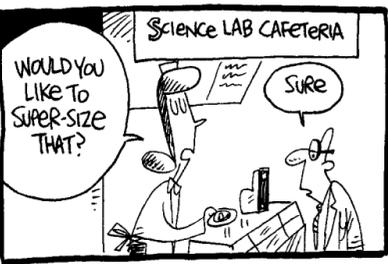
ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

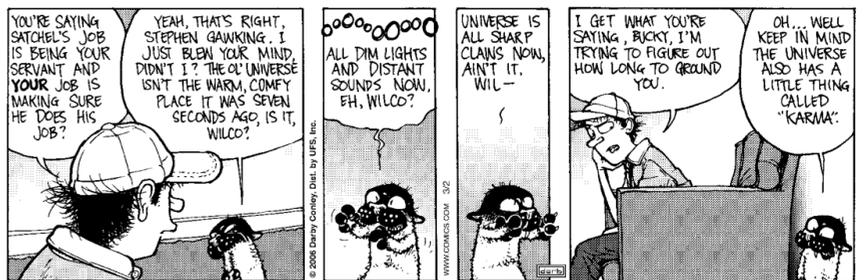


HERMAN



"This is the latest exerciser. It's an inflatable mother-in-law and a baseball bat!"

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Thursday, March 2, 2006. Be prepared to get rolling in the year ahead, because conditions that have been restraining you are now likely to come to an end...

be established today with a person you know who's in a position to help you further your present ambitions. Make contact now and present your request. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be alert and ready to take advantage...



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Hospice can give the dying a sense of peace

DEAR ABBY: "Overwhelmed in Arizona" wrote that she is helping her dad care for her dying mother and feels isolated and overwhelmed by her feelings.

— VIOLA IN SEVERNA PARK, MD.

DEAR VIOLA: Thank you for reminding me about hospice and the important work it does.

Hospice is a service for patients who have been told by two physicians they have six months or less to live.

It is paid for by Medicare, most of the time at no cost to the patient, and non-Medicare patients can receive care through private insurance.

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from the girl who said that she and her father were unable to talk about the mother dying of cancer, I had to write.

The mother needs to hear it's all right for her to die, and that her daughter and husband love her but will carry on and be fine.

She needs to talk about the good times they have shared. She needs hugs, body contact.

Dying is lonely, cold and final. You feel that you have let your family down, disappointed them, and that they are terribly inconvenienced by your not being there for them.

— SHIRLEY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEAR SHIRLEY: Thank you for an extremely informative letter. I hope that those who read it will take what you have written to heart.

I often hear from people who say they don't know how to act or what to say when someone is stricken with terminal illness.

A young woman who is battling cancer put the answer succinctly in a letter to me: "I may have cancer, but I'm still the same person. I want my friends to talk to me like they always have, and about the same things."

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

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and 'PUZZLE ENTHUSIASTS: Get more puzzles in "Random House Crossword MeqaOmnibus" Vols. 1 & 2.'

Completed crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-53.