

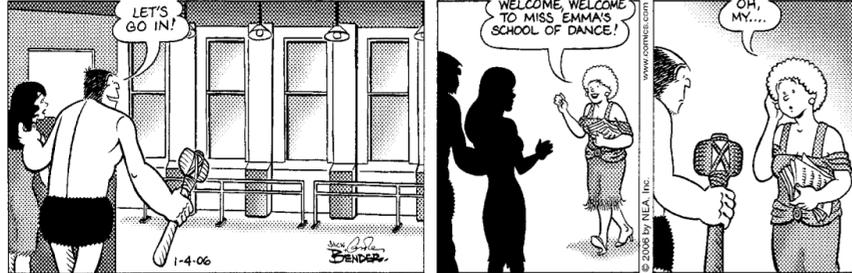
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



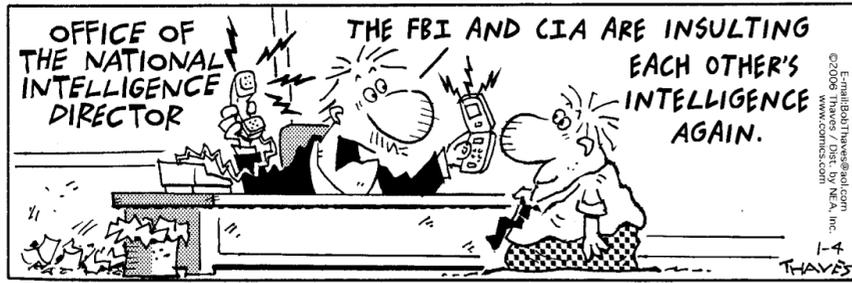
SOUP TO NUTS



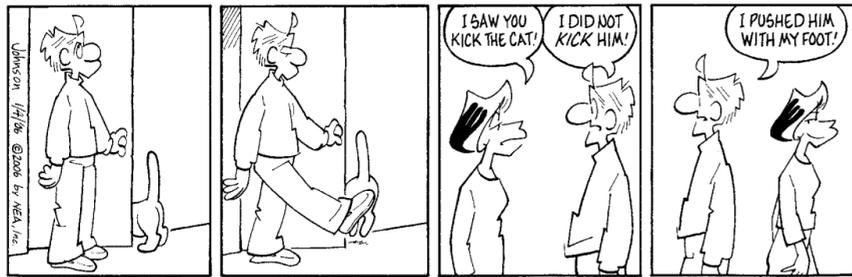
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



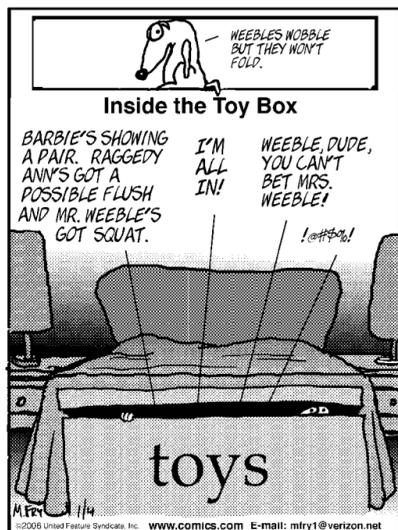
ARLO AND JANIS



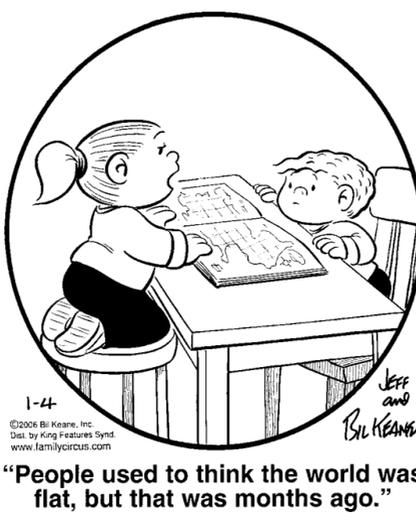
DILBERT



COMMITTED



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

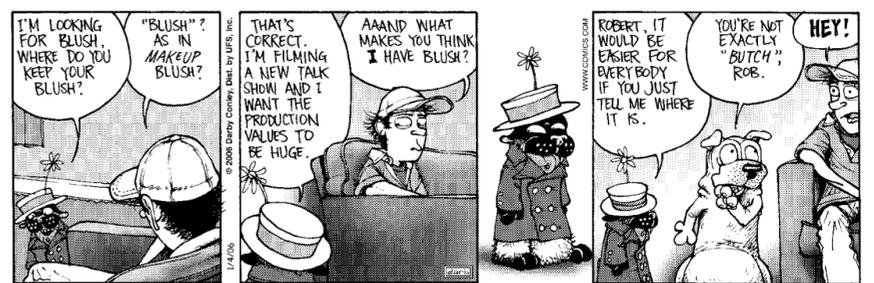


HERMAN



KidSpot by Dick Rogers. THE PUZZLER: A sheepdog is an example of one animal that bears the name of two animals, a sheep and a dog. Can you match an animal on the left with one on the right to name five more examples? FISH DOVE FLY FROG HOUND. ANS: CATFISH, DRAGONFLY, BULLFROG, TURKLEDOVE, FOXHOUND.

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006

New projects you personally direct in the year ahead will be earmarked for success as long as you remain head of the helm. Don't be afraid to take a chance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Personal interests can be greatly advanced today. Chances are you'll now be able to find ways to overcome those obstructions that have been blocking your path for the past few weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

A situation which has had you a bit concerned could reverse itself today and begin to work out in your favor, provided you keep away interference from others who want to get even.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Don't worry too much about the material aspects of a new venture in which you are now involved. As long as you put the pieces together properly, you can expect all to fall into place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Success will not elude you today if you know when to be bold and when to back off. Once you establish an objective, don't let your eye drift off your target.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are presently in a very hopeful cycle, so there is no need to lower your expectations or goals. If you want something badly enough, you will find a way to accomplish your mission.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

The chances for gratifying your ambi-

tious interests today are far better than they will be tomorrow, so don't sit on your laurels. Pull out all the stops now and go for your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

If there is an important matter that you have studied thoroughly, get moving on it right now rather than reflecting on it any further. Remember that today is a time for action, not contemplation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Something you've been working on for some time and are now ready to launch could go very well for you. The key is to seize the day. The timing is right, so it's best that you don't stall another minute.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Conditions are much more harmonious for you at this point in time and minor differences can easily be mended now. If there is someone with whom you've been at odds, resolve issues now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

This is an excellent day to tie up any loose ends you've left dangling or finalize projects you've had in the mill. You might even surprise yourself as to how much you can get done today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Today you might be the recipient of some information you'll be able to use to your advantage. It might come through someone you've recently met.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Your financial picture could start to brighten up considerably as of today. However, it's best not to go out on a spending spree quite yet.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Man who ruins pot party now out of joint with girl

DEAR ABBY: I am 21 and my girlfriend, "Jody," is 19. The other day she was invited to a party and told me she intended to smoke marijuana there. She knows I disapprove of drugs and alcohol. When I became upset, she told me to lighten up.

I love Jody and want nothing bad to happen to her, so I wrote an anonymous letter to her mother explaining the situation. Because I told her mother what was going to happen, nobody was able to do what they intended at the party.

Now they're all mad at me. I have been getting hate messages on my answering machine and via e-mail. Jody promised to call me before the party, but she didn't. I visited her at work and tried to talk with her, but she won't speak to me. I have apologized many times. What more can I do? — HURTING IN IOWA

DEAR HURTING: You have done enough. Your relationship with Jody is over, at least for now. Accept that you and Jody are at different levels of maturity and heading down different paths.

When and if this girl matures, she may realize the fine qualities you have to offer. But I have a feeling that by the time that happens, you'll be in love with someone whose values are more similar to your own.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married almost 22 years and are happily child-free. We have always lived far from our relatives and see them only every three or four years.

At a recent gathering of my husband's siblings, his sister (now a grandmother) was aggressive in her insistence that we hold, kiss and interact with her 11-day-old grandchild (her latest). When we attempted to rebuff her with humor, saying, "Oh, we just don't do babies!" she became hostile.

Because of this, we are now considering skipping future visits because her behavior will undoubtedly be repeated. I don't want bad blood in the family, but I refuse to be treated with disrespect.

Should we let the sister know how her behavior made us feel? — NO BABIES, PLEASE, MARLBOROUGH, MASS. DEAR NO BABIES,

PLEASE: Please don't skip the next family reunion. With any luck, there won't be any new grandchildren to be forced on you. And if there are, smile and say, "I prefer babies at a distance, in the arms of their parents," and keep your hands at your sides.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS: 1 Chowder morsels, 6 Walks, 12 Nobles, 14 Blowtorch pro, 15 Galaxy shape, 16 Slackers, 17 Muslim honorific, 18 Louis XIV, e.g., 19 — de-sac, 21 Small, in Dogpatch, 23 Floating leaf, 26 Rare mineral, 27 From, in Hamburg, 28 Late bloomer, 30 Pop music category, 31 Grounded bird, 32 Puts on the block, 33 Flu strain, 35 Sidelines cry, 37 Dune buggy kin, 38 Maurice's thanks, 39 Pilot's dir., 40 Maple-tree product, 41 Dry, as champagne, 42 Mds., 43 Oak, Elm, etc., 44 Boathouse implement, 46 Drenched, 48 Alpaca cousin, 51 Deletes a file, 55 Wry, 56 Bloke's "You bet!" (hyp), 57 Long cape, 58 — up (on edge), 1 Fox rival, 2 Lick, 3 Meyers of "Kate & Allie", 4 Ethical, 5 Obstacle, 6 Pirouette, 7 Change decor, 8 Flattened circle, 9 Lemon cooler, 10 —, "Rosenkavalier", 11 HS grads-to-be, 13 Ski race, 19 Desists, 20 Referee, 22 Hardened, 24 Finally (2 wds.), 25 River-mouth deposits, 26 Chemist's weight, 27 —, vidi, vici, 28 Arthur — of tennis, 29 Hostess' plea, 34 Bank deposit, 36 Grab the phone, 42 Dancer's asset, 43 Footlights, 45 Indigo plant, 47 Composer — Satie, 48 Pep, 49 Nest-egg letters, 50 Debate side, 52 Not sociable, 53 Hot time in Paris, 54 Grassy surface

Answer to Previous Puzzle: TUG BEAN JOE, ETA LEVI TORO, ATM ALEC ANON, LEMONS ETC, RACK AHAB, TSHIRT GEE, WOKE USIONS, HINT RESGTS, ONE PLEADS, KEPI OUCH, ICY DUELED, VEAL OBIS EAR, ACME YOKE FRA, TOP ODES SST

PUZZLE ENTHUSIASTS: Get more puzzles in "Random House Crossword MegaOmnibus" Vols. 1 & 2. 1-4 © 2006 by NEA, Inc.