

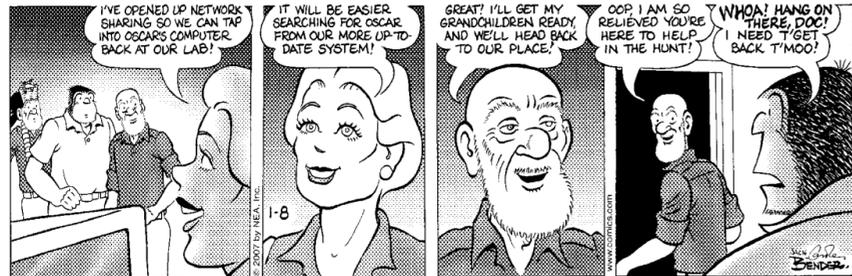
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



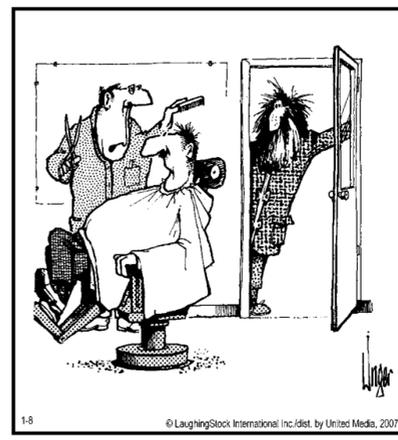
REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

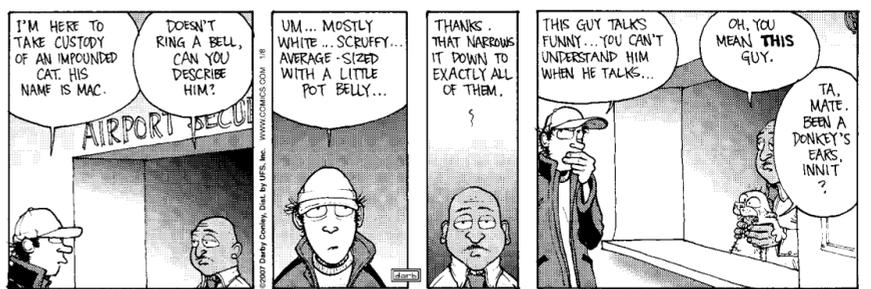


HERMAN

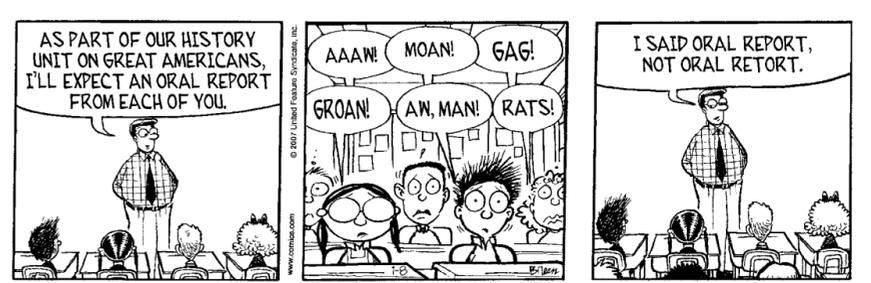


"Here comes this week's challenge."

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Monday, Jan. 8, 2007

Those endeavors on which you've labored hard and long in the past are about to pay dividends...

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The one thing in particular that makes you such a dominating force among your peers is your faith in your abilities...

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Your sharp faculties for researching, probing and detecting could be keener than usual...

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Somehow you'll understand that the secret to success boils down to making each person feel special...

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Because you know exactly what you want, you'll map out some clear objectives for yourself and set a good plan of action on how to achieve them...

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your success won't be because you're merely lucky in involvements that have pronounced elements of chance...

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

If there is a particular goal you wish to achieve, focus on it and relegate all of your other interests to a secondary position...

When you make it your primary focal point, you'll win.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Don't think this can't be a productive day just because you have a lot coming at you at this time...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Although conditions in general look rather favorable for you, it will be good old-fashioned hard work that brings you success in your financial affairs...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Follow the old adage, "If you want something done right, it's best to do it yourself." Because those to whom you delegate assignments won't do half as good a job on it as you...

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Don't allow yourself to get discouraged because something isn't happening as quickly as you'd like...

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Those you hang out with will have an enormous effect upon your outlook and attitude, so it behooves you to select companions who have lots of energy and a clear direction in mind...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Make profit and advancement your top priorities, and notable results are likely. These two objectives can act as the fuel that will intensify your drive and lead to the success you covet.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Sister protests when brothers shirk chores

DEAR ABBY: I am in dire need of your help. My two brothers and I have certain chores that have to be done when we get home from school...

The problem is, one brother goes up the street and another brother goes somewhere else, leaving me at home to do all the work.

When Mom gets home and the work isn't done, she blames me, even though there are two more people here who could have helped me.

Please tell my mother that if three people are meant to do chores, she shouldn't blame just me.

— MAD AND CONFUSED

SISTER, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR MAD AND CONFUSED: Please clip this column and share it with your mother. It's unfair that your brothers run off, leaving you with all the chores...

She should make a chart that defines specifically which jobs are to be done by each member of the household and when. And if the chores are not completed when your mother gets home, the guilty parties should be reprimanded, not you.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice about visiting a person who is going into hospice care with terminal cancer. I know this woman socially. We've always been cordial, but I am not a close friend. What is the most comforting approach? After, "I'm sorry you're sick," I am not sure how to proceed.

— WANTS TO REACH OUT IN BOULDER

DEAR WANTS TO REACH OUT: There is some confusion about hospice. Some people think hospice is a place, but it is really a program. In other words, people can be in hospice care at home.

I recommend you give your friend a call, ask if she's in the mood for company, and if there is anything you can bring with you on your visit. She might welcome a box of candy or her favorite ice cream.

When you see her, tell her how sorry you are that she's ill — and go armed with all the latest gossip, too. What's most important is not to hang crepe. Treat her as you always have. She may be dying, but there's life in the lady yet.

Remember that, and I'm sure your visit will be rewarding for both of you.

KidSpot by Dick Rogers

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Clues include '1. DOWN: Opposite of WEAK' and '2. DOWN: Opposite of NEW'.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS and DOWN crossword puzzle clues. ACROSS includes '1 Earth's star', '4 Clock sound', '8 Dutch', '11 Carrier's partner', '13 Mouse target?', '14 Jr.'s son, maybe', '15 Beautiful Nile queen', '17 Use sparingly', '18 Necessitate', '19 Basic assumption', '21 Caviar', '22 Question starter', '23 Early stages', '26 Later!', '29 The one in charge', '30 Rainy weather systems', '31 Bikini half', '33 Material for a picture border', '34 Hollow fruits', '35 Turnpike', '36 Lustrous earrings', '38 Honks', '39 Domestic animal', '40 Craze', '41 Piquant', '44 Not broken', '48 Bran source', '49 Not according to Hoyle', '52 Mouths, in zoology', '53 Gas used in signs', '54 Sticky stuff', '55 Cagey', '56 Egg on', '57 I, to Nero', '1 Calculator key', '2 Baker's need', '3 Took off', '4 Name', '5 Here, in Le Havre', '6 Camp bed', '7 Armor wearers', '8 Ukraine city', '9 Take pleasure in', '10 Bearing', '12 Grilled a steak', '16 Noisy disturbance', '20 Charged particle', '22 Dazzles', '23 Electrical unit', '24 Half-moon tide', '25 Jade', '26 Holiday quaffs', '27 Double-reed instrument', '28 Outer garment', '30 Happy tune', '32 Blurbs', '34 Raveling', '35 Kind of sale (2 wds.)', '37 Pretend', '38 Pound on the door', '40 Monster', '41 Where monkeys swing', '42 Viscount's superior', '43 Wait', '45 Sunblock additive', '46 Plug up', '47 Hunt-and-peck error', '50 August sign', '51 Hawaii's Mauna'.

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

Completed crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the empty cells.