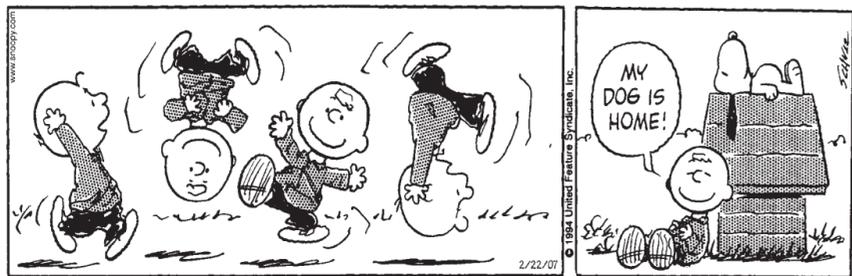


GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

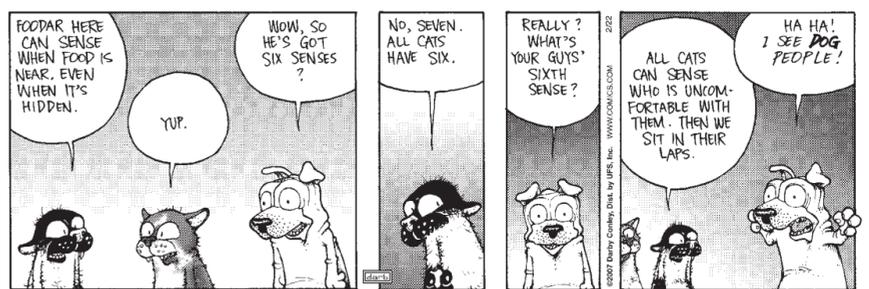


HERMAN



"Stay alert. They've tripled the import duty on wallpaper."

GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007

Don't allow yourself to get discouraged if some of your big plans in the year ahead should run into a few snags. With determination and staying power, they'll survive the onslaught and things will work out in the long run.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)
Take extra care not to impulsively enter into an agreement about something that needs more study. Afterward, you may realize you made a bum deal and not know how to wiggle out of it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You're pretty good at figuring out ways to add to your financial holdings. Yet, even with all that cleverness, you might not be able to know how to further build upon what you've acquired.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
All should work out well in situations where you don't take yourself or what you do too seriously. When you lose that easygoing approach, however, the tide could turn.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You have what it takes both intellectually and socially to overcome disturbing conditions, provided you don't let some negative thoughts overwhelm you and defeat you in the end.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Have fun and enjoy yourself with friends, but don't let the folly of one of them cost you money. When operating in tandem, keep your pals from doing anything erratic or foolish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Conditions look exceptionally promis-

ing career-wise, so there's no reason to step on the toes of associates in order to achieve the opportunities that are at hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You have the insight to accurately judge the outcome of events that occur, yet for reasons known only to you, you might ignore your perceptions and do something counterproductive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Should you sense a person with whom you're involved in a joint endeavor lacks your business acumen, don't let him or her make any important moves without first consulting you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Select only friends whose warmth of personality you always enjoy to spend your day with. Avoid associating with a cold, unemotional type, even if you think he or she can help you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
If you avoid taking the necessary steps to achieve a significant objective, it will weigh heavily on your mind later. If you're able to do so and don't, you'll always have regrets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
When circumstances allow you to relax and just be yourself, your winning ways will prevail. However, if forced to cater to others, you may not be as equally amicable or pleasing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
It's always best to keep the disagreements between you and your mate to yourself and not air them in public. Should you ignore this, it'll embarrass everyone, including you.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Don't abandon people with terminal illness

DEAR ABBY: I loved your response to "Wants to Reach Out in Boulder," who asked what to say to someone with a terminal illness.

When my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, many of her friends and family disappeared, and Mom felt sad and abandoned by the people she loved. The few that did make an attempt to come around would often burst into tears, which was upsetting for her.

Rule 1: When you visit someone who is terminally ill, please keep your emotions in check and keep it light. What Mom appreciated most was laughter.

Rule 2: References to the person "being in heaven soon" are also not particularly welcome, unless you know the person well enough to know he or she shares your religious beliefs.

Rule 3: When death is imminent, gifts of food might not be appreciated, and large floral arrangements can actually be frightening.

Rule 4: If possible, and you can deal with it, try to do something helpful. One friend of Mother's who was a former nurse would rub lotion on her hands, wash her face, etc. Another would read to her every day, light reading only, please.

Rule 5: When in doubt, the best thing to do is make that visit.

— HEATHER IN BUENA VISTA, COLO.

DEAR HEATHER: Thank you for your helpful suggestions. Although end-of-life issues can be hard to read about, let alone difficult to deal with, many readers offered to share personal experiences. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Some of my mother's most cherished last days were spent with friends who dropped by to visit. They brought stories about work, other friends and current events, and once beyond the "I'm sorry you're sick" sentiment, found ways to have normal conversations.

The most cherished thing you can bring is your friendship, but calling ahead to see if there's anything the patient or caregiver needs would also be appreciated.

My sisters and I will be forever grateful to the wonderful friends who made our mother's last days special.

— PROFUNDLY GRATEFUL IN FORT COLLINS

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

DOUBLE CROSS

Read the clues and write the answers in the boxes. The same words appear across and down.

CLUES:

- Graceful water bird.
- Drink made from grapes.
- Picnic pests.
- Bird's home.

ANSWERS: 1. SWAN, 2. WINE, 3. ANTS, 4. NEST

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Practical joke
 - Urgent
 - out of (renee)
 - Dressing-down
 - Regard highly
 - Took advice
 - Place
 - Stitched together
 - Hairy humanoid
 - Cable channel
 - Ad committee
 - Greek sandwich
 - South Seas staple
 - The "Bionic Woman"
 - Squeeze dry
 - Like tall grass
 - Become very pale
 - Some
- DOWN**
- Mosquito, to us
 - Evaluate
 - Clueless
 - Hard up
 - JFK lander
 - Outlook
 - "Good night" girl
 - A bit
 - Fruity drink
 - Was in front
 - Unsed of the
 - Tan shade
 - Pigskin prop
 - Do the laundry
 - Scraps of cloth
 - Parasite
 - Bowling group
 - A funny Raye
 - Japanese pooches
 - Neut of action
 - Oval nut

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

GET MORE in the new "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" series from Quill Driver. Call 800-605-7176.

2-22 © 2007 by NEA, Inc.