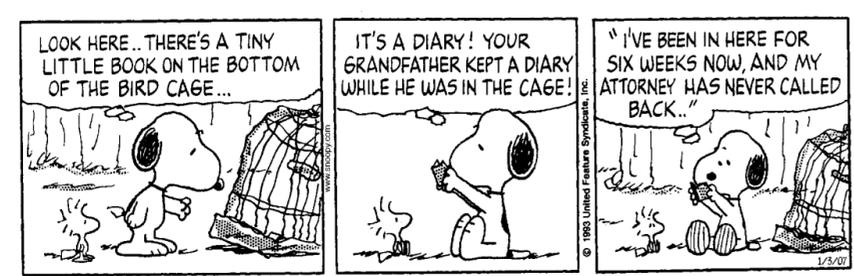


**GARFIELD**



**PEANUTS**



**ALLEY OOP**



**SOUP TO NUTS**



**THE BORN LOSER**



**FRANK AND ERNEST**



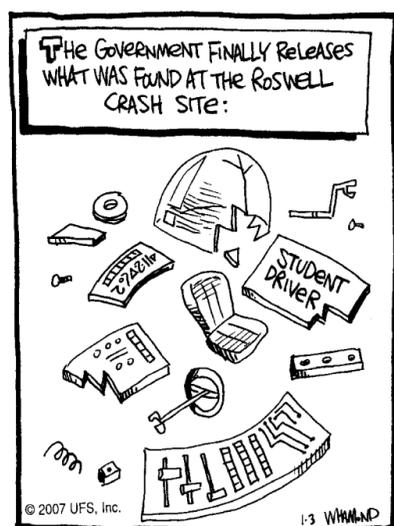
**ARLO AND JANIS**



**DILBERT**



**REALITY CHECK**



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



**HERMAN**



"Your wife phoned. She said if you want toast for breakfast, bring home a loaf of bread."

**GET FUZZY**



**GRAND AVENUE**



**ASTROGRAPH**

**Your birthday: Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007**

You may establish several new friendships that could turn out to be interesting alliances. Two of them might turn out to be of immense value to you, while a third may be fun but totally unreliable.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

Taking on an individualistic attitude when you're supposed to be a constructive participant won't sit well with your partners. You could be pushed out.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)**

Chances are you won't be blameless when conditions shift in a manner where you'll become required to shoulder another's burdens. Keep your mind on what you're doing at all times.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)**

Should an overbearing acquaintance attempt to pressure you into doing something to which you're strongly averse, stand your ground and refuse but not to the point of overreacting.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

The smartest thing you can do is not to bring your worldly frustrations home with you. Give yourself a rest by either solving your ills where they originate or leave them on your steps.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

There's a chance you could thoughtlessly do something that caused you trouble in the past. If you do, learn from experience this time and handle things quite differently.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

To add more financial burden on an

account you haven't totally settled yet won't evoke any positive results. You'll be far happier if you decide to do without instead.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

It's best not to get involved in a joint endeavor with someone who isn't truly happy about it. This person isn't likely to give his or her best, and you'll end up doing the entire job yourself.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

Responsibilities you so cleverly swept under the rug recently could raise a dust storm. It you don't stop and take care of them now, you can expect the fallout to grow considerably.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

Unless you're careful, a thoughtless action on your behalf might impose a severe imposition on a friend. The result could be that it'll cause your friend to lower his or her opinion of you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)**

Be certain that an objective you set for yourself will actually provide you with something you truly want. Otherwise, all you'll yield is a useless hollow victory.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**

Do not adopt rigid positions on mundane issues. It will prove to be quite offensive to others. Keep things in perspective, and don't give importance to the insignificant.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)**

You might not be a good manager of your own resources, which is bad enough. But if you butt into another's affairs and mess things up for him or her, you'll really be in trouble.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

**Young couple's sex life none of parents' business**

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband returned from Iraq a few days ago, and, of course, my parents wanted to talk to him. When they called, Dad and Mom both made off-color comments to me about our sex life. They always want to joke about it, but I never do. It's none of their business.

I don't discuss my sex life even with my closest female friend. I believe sex is something that is private between a husband and wife.

My parents, especially my father, always have some kind of dirty joke or question about our relationship when I go home to visit, and I am tired of it.

They are easily insulted and angered, especially my father, so I can't just say, "I don't like those jokes, stop it!"

What can I do? — EMBARRASSED IN TENNESSEE

**DEAR EMBARRASSED:** To paraphrase an old saying, "Those who can, do; those who can't, talk about it." Your parents may be trying to show you how with it they are by making these comments. Or your father may have an unhealthy preoccupation with your sex life.

They have no business asking personal questions about it. There is nothing wrong with telling them you want it stopped. And if they take offense, so be it. Let them sulk.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been in construction since I was 19. I'm 47 now. I want to know, what makes a man lose his courage?

I started my own business two years ago, and since then I have been doing mostly interior work: remodeling kitchens, bathrooms, hanging doors, etc. My most recent job is a second-story add-on, and while I have been working on it I have found myself nervous about heights.

I have never been afraid of heights before. It's kind of embarrassing. Am I just getting older or out of practice?

— "VINCE" IN VALLEJO, CALIF.

**DEAR "VINCE":** It could be that you are out of practice, or it could be something else. I am a firm believer in intuition, and if yours is telling you that you should avoid heights, it could be that your sense of balance is off.

My advice is to schedule a physical exam with your doctor and discuss this change in your normal pattern of behavior. There could be a physical reason for your sudden anxiety about heights, and you should not ignore it.

**KidSpot** by Dick Rogers

1 ACROSS: Opposite of FAST

6+4=

6 DOWN

7 ACROSS: Young boy

5-4=

4 ACROSS

1 DOWN

2 DOWN: Opposite of CLOSED

1: SLOW 3: SAW 4: ONE 5: NET 7: LAD 8: MOON

2: OPEN 3: SHELL 6: TEN

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pitches
  - 6 Moon tracks
  - 12 Squirrel's hoard
  - 14 Xerxes ruled here
  - 15 Start up a computer again
  - 16 Touched up
  - 17 Hoover's org.
  - 18 Agree silently
  - 19 Hi-fi records
  - 21 Cell phones' predecessors
  - 23 Tell — glance
  - 26 — -de-sac
  - 27 Bout ender
  - 28 Concrete foundations
  - 30 Gold, in Peru
  - 31 Olympics chant
  - 32 Seize power
  - 33 Scuba enthusiast
  - 35 Deli bread
  - 37 Pothole filler
  - 38 Kind of thief
  - 39 Donut qty.
  - 40 Actress — Williams
  - 41 Watchdog's warning
  - 42 Tax-form ID
  - 43 Vein contents
  - 44 Investor's concern
  - 46 Rx givers
  - 48 Rush forward
  - 51 Time of the mammals
  - 55 Arctic sight
  - 56 Thundered
  - 57 It may be lost
  - 58 Unobstructs
- DOWN**
- 1 Smoker or diner
  - 2 First-rate
  - 3 Gang
  - 4 Univ. staffers
  - 5 Social climber
  - 6 Raises the lid
  - 7 Try again
  - 8 Weddings
  - 9 Is, to Fritz
  - 10 Dressy accessory
  - 11 Blue
  - 13 Boonies
  - 19 Tempting
  - 20 Shore bird
  - 22 Prepares to sail
  - 24 Less loose
  - 25 Chafe
  - 26 Atlantic swimmers
  - 27 Fez wearer
  - 28 Canal to the Red Sea
  - 29 Frisky
  - 34 Pendant jewelry
  - 36 Over there
  - 42 Courtroom word
  - 43 Muppet grouch
  - 45 Fairy-tale heavy
  - 47 Rafter locale
  - 48 Vet patient
  - 49 Clamor
  - 50 Jacket feature
  - 52 Previously
  - 53 Once named
  - 54 Mag execs

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**



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

