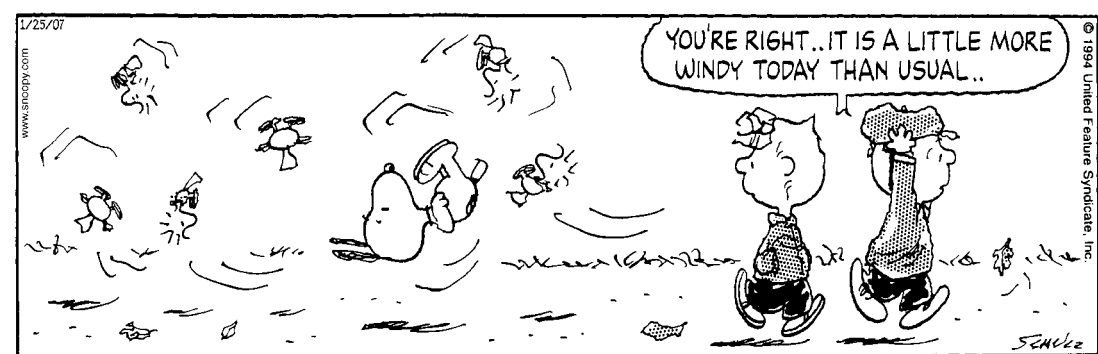


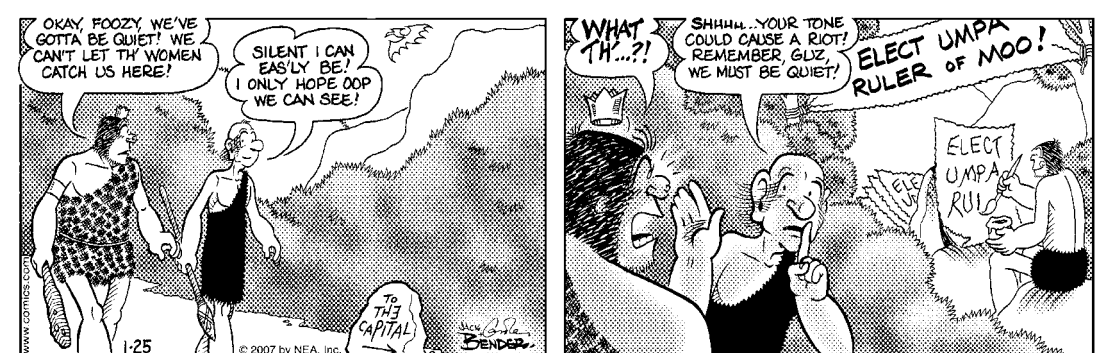
GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



SOUP TO NUTS



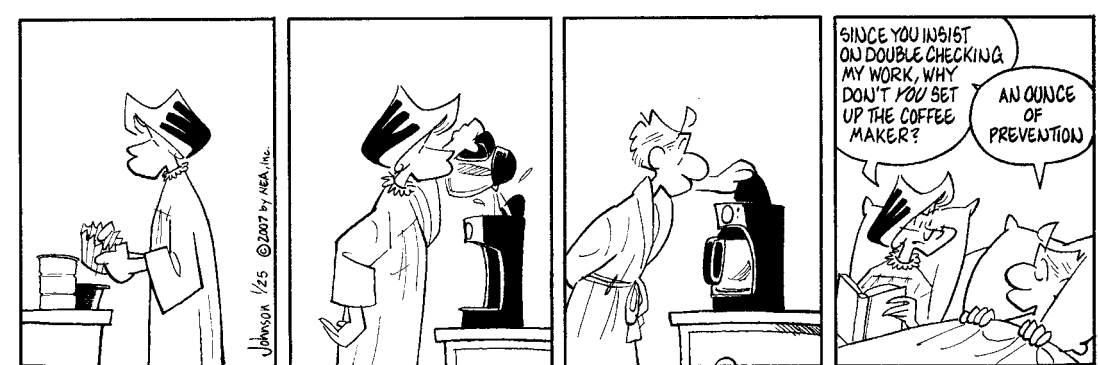
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



REALITY CHECK



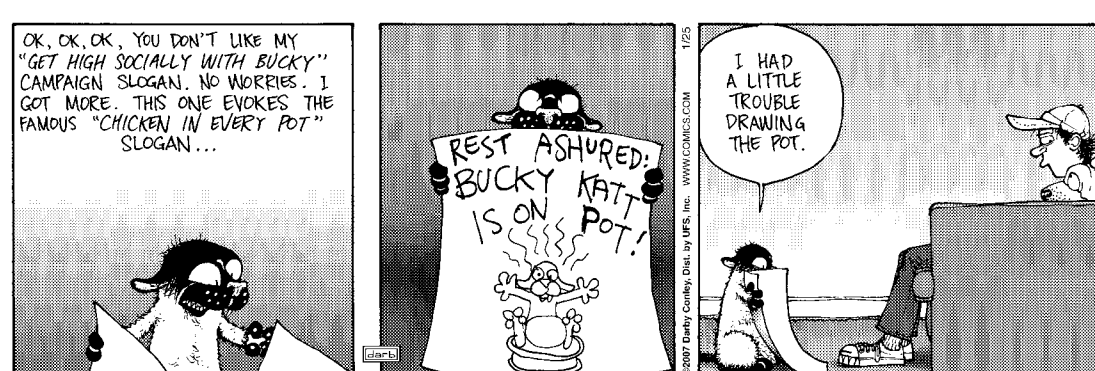
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007

Although your opportunities may be a bit larger and more plentiful than usual, you could have a tendency to take things for granted. If this is the case, you might not take full advantage of what's offered.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Your luck could be a bit whimsical, because Dame Fortune has a tendency to be a bit fickle. If you're not on her preferred list, tread carefully when it comes to chancy situations.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

You might frivolously make a commitment that you won't take too seriously. Unfortunately, the recipient of this promise is likely to assume you are serious about it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It will be your indifferent attitude toward money that could cause a loss, which, unfortunately, might never be recovered. Pay attention to the details in your transactions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

It isn't unusual for cooperation to be a major consideration when going after an important objective, so don't become too insistent upon doing things your way. You'll lose.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Beware of tooting your own horn a little too loudly. What rings like golden tones in your ears might sound like loud, banging brass to others. When you see the signs, change your tune.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

If you're planning to make some kind

of financial investment at this time, you're going to need the finest counsel available. Otherwise, you could end up believing only what you want to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Be hopeful, but also be pragmatic and realistic. It won't be possible to turn every lemon into lemonade, especially if it's one of those times when you don't have enough sugar to do the job.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're likely to believe you are simply offering sound, constructive criticism, but the recipients might think you're being too doggone critical. It's a toss-up whether you can resolve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Usually, you're a reasonable and easygoing individual, but you might step out of character and become possessive and demanding. Others will like you more your old way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Although it might be very easy for you to make promises in order to expedite a matter that involves another, sadly, you could make some concessions that won't serve your best interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

There is a strong possibility both you and another person will rely too much on each other and end up creating a situation where neither will adequately fulfill his or her role.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Know the difference between play and work, because they should not be permitted to overlap each other. Duties not treated seriously will bring consequences to be reckoned with.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Humor brings young, young at heart together

DEAR ABBY: After reading your column with the letter from the Arizona substitute teacher, I had to respond. I am also an older substitute teacher with white hair, and I, too, used to be offended when children would ask how old I am.

However, I found that if I seemed offended by the question, the children would be hurt and distant for the rest of the day. When I laughed and said something like, "Oh my, I'm old enough to be your grandmother," or, "Would you believe I'm older than dirt?" the children would laugh with me, and we'd have a positive relationship for the rest of the day.

Substitute teaching is about helping the children to learn and have a good day while their teacher is out, not about making me feel good.

When I can no longer laugh and enjoy the children, it's time for me to retire.

— COLORADO SENIOR SUBSTITUTE

DEAR COLORADO SUBSTITUTE: Thank you for weighing in on the issue. I heard from others in the field of education (and out), and all of their input was interesting. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a first-grade teacher and have found that kids come to school unaware of many of life's rules. I cover the rule about asking your age the first day in my class.

When I introduce myself, I tell the children that I'm a grandma and laughingly tell them that makes me "old." Someone always asks me the question, "How old are you?" That's when I tell them the first of many of life's rules: "There are two things you never ask a woman: her age and her weight."

— TEACHER IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I started substitute teaching after 35 years in the classroom. Young children have no concept of age. We, as adults, are always asking children their ages, and they are proud to tell us. Telling young children the question is inappropriate sets a double standard.

When I am asked, I always reply, "How old do you think I am?" The answer may be anywhere from 5 to 100. Then I tell them they are close to being right, chuckle to myself and continue with the day's activities. They are happy, and it puts a smile on my face.

— JOAN IN STEWARTSTOWN, PA.

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

EXO MAZE
Start at the starting gate and pass through each gate only once.

ANS: FOLLOW GATES 8, 5, 6, 9, 2, 1, 7, 4 AND 3.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- One under full legal age
- Took a nap
- Dawn goddess
- Shaggy blossom
- Laggard
- Cleaned the board
- Redhead's tint
- One-sidedness
- Festoon
- Tooth problem
- Lid
- All, in combos
- Steal from
- Realism
- San — Padres
- News morsels
- Video game classic
- Satchel
- Knight's

DOWN

- Backless slipper
- Magnets attract it
- Any thing
- Whales like
- Shamu
- Sidelines cry
- Name in cheesecake
- Dalai Lama's city
- Urban trains
- Slapstick missile
- Just a little bit
- Fire residue
- Condescend to
- give
- Loud thud
- Beat the field
- Sweet liqueur
- Wrestling's Hulk —
- Black, in verse
- Sum
- Rolex rival
- Ms. Shriver
- Wyo. neighbor
- Claims
- Doctrine
- Covered with sleet
- Chest muscle
- Rap sheet info
- Cow's "second course"
- Hold responsible
- Actor — Reeves
- Unwelcome obligation
- Ricky Ricardo
- Pleased
- Journalist — Ducommun
- In the oldtrums
- Kind
- Martini base
- Sporty truck
- Boxer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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