

GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



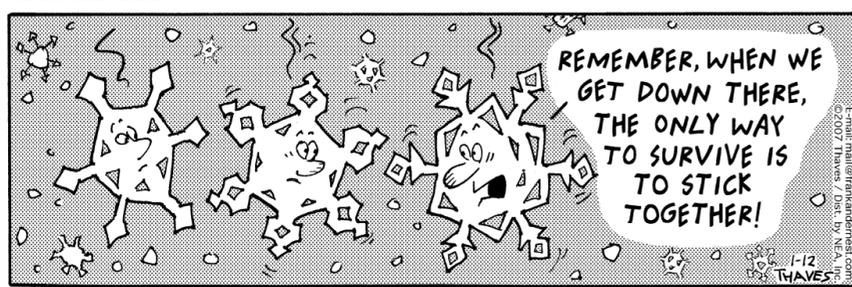
SOUP TO NUTS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



REALITY CHECK



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007

A number of important changes are developing for you that will prove to be very important in furthering your interests. Although you may not see advances early on, by midyear you'll be in lockstep with the happenings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Dreams and flights of fancy won't do a thing for furthering your interests. Get your head out of the clouds and focus on laying a firm foundation for future success. Build from the bottom up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

No matter how much you dislike doing so, too your own horn or an associate will jump right in and take bows for something you've accomplished. Shyness won't serve you well.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Others might not see merit in your ideas or suggestions, but that's no reason to give up on them. Left to your own devices, you can find methods to improve upon them in productive ways.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Although you might not mean to, if you push your ideas or agenda ahead of your co-workers', it will come off as upstaging and the support you need will be lost quickly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Instead of being caught up in self-interests, be attentive to others and a good listener. If you aren't, something of value you would have learned about will be lost forever.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

It is best you don't attempt to do any assignments that require an extra pair of hands. Wait until you have competent help so that you don't mess up the job.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You might want to do something fun and different, but if taking the day off hurts another's work or delays a job getting done, you'll suffer the consequences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

A project you're anxious about is working out better than you expected, so don't allow yourself to get discouraged if it isn't in its final stages. It just needs a more time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Only after you've successfully concluded your responsibilities and duties can you dismiss them from your mind. Don't let yourself or others down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Don't get discouraged if that opportunity for personal gain you've been counting on doesn't appear to be in sight. Actually, it is there, partially veiled by circumstances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Conditions that have been inhibiting your scope of operation recently are, in reality, lessening — even if you can't as yet see that. Keep the faith, and keep on plugging until things break open.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Don't ignore your instincts, especially if you feel there is someone you like who needs your help. If you ignore them and later find out you could have done something, you'll kick yourself.

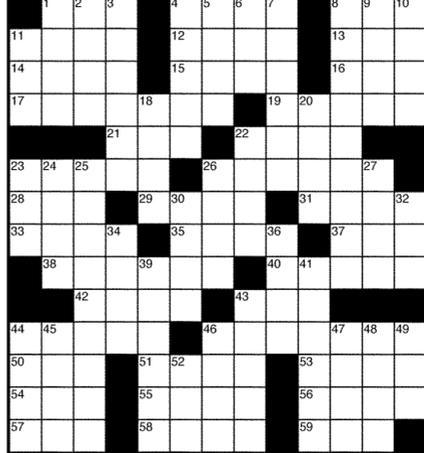
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
1 What, in Seville
4 Goddess's statue
8 Vexation
11 Arizona city
12 Confident
13 Racehorse, slangily
14 Klutz's mutter
15 Urban problem
16 Travel word
17 Got smart (2 wds.)
19 Tip over
21 Grant foe
22 Famous last word
23 Large deer
26 Arranges in folds
28 Moon or planet
29 Hat or umbrella —
31 Not green
33 Storm track
35 Struck silent
37 Monsieur's wine
38 Joke responses
40 Rectify
42 Wrongs
43 Cable network
44 Wolfgang's thanks
46 Earthenware
50 Onassis nickname
51 Bing Crosby tune
53 Brain wave
54 Checkers pieces
55 Kiosk lit.
56 Camera need
57 Droop
58 Tart plum
59 Pig pen
DOWN
1 Je ne sais —
2 Ballpark figures
3 Painters' supports
4 Part of GI
5 Sell cheap
6 Galloon cargo
7 Bean or pea
8 Highly original
9 Deluge
10 Hoople expletive
11 Zippy the Pinhead's cry
18 Bug repellent
20 Mellow fruit
22 Sheltered
23 Swab
24 Paperless exam
25 Getting
26 Hard benches
27 Quick drive
30 Team cheers
32 Put a stop to
34 "Incredible" comics hero
36 Money owed
39 Sparkles
41 Designs
43 Mustang or pinto
44 Hydro projects
45 Field of study
46 Comic-strip possum
47 Fix types
48 Be certain of
49 Orange tuber
52 Opposite of "bien"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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



KidSpot FIND THE WORDS. THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES ARE HIDDEN IN THE SQUARE. CIRCLE EACH WORD, GOING ACROSS, DOWN OR DIAGONALLY. Things that begin with C. CLOWN, CAP, CARROT, HNMCMC, ADCEBO, ILCCLEW, NECAKE. WORD LIST: CLOWN, COW, CARROT, CAKE, CAMEL, CHAIN, CANDLE, COMB, CAT, CAP.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Divorcing dad's new girlfriend is too soon for ex

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Noah," and I are getting divorced. He moved out nine months ago. We have a 7-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.

Last month, Noah revealed that he has had a girlfriend, "Dana," since last June, and they're moving into an apartment together this week. He said the children won't have to meet Dana until I'm comfortable with it. Noah also promised it would be "gradual."

I took the kids to see his apartment a couple of days later. The next day he called me and announced he was taking them to a birthday party for one of Dana's relatives. He also said some co-workers would be there. (He and Dana work for the same company.)

We're not even divorced yet. I don't want to teach my kids that people live together before marriage. By moving in with Dana, Noah has created a secret I can't tell my kids.

Abby, I had to meet many of my father's girlfriends. They all fell by the wayside, each time creating more loss in my life. I don't want that to happen to my children. I'm thinking of making a rule: One year of committed relationship before either Noah or I introduce them to a potential partner. Personally, I'm waiting until after the divorce is final before I start to date. Am I right?

— PROTECTIVE MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR PROTECTIVE MOM: Create all the rules you wish, but that doesn't mean Noah will abide by them. If he took the children to a birthday party for a relative of Dana's, it's logical to assume that they have already met her.

While you might like your children to keep their innocence, it may be impossible under the circumstances. (If the children visit at Daddy's, is he supposed to throw a blanket over his roommate?)

Honesty is the best policy, in measured doses. Realistically, he should tell the children that Dana is his new "friend," and if things develop from there, so be it. How you conduct your own life is your business, and I admire your character and maturity in waiting to begin dating until after the divorce is final.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips. Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.