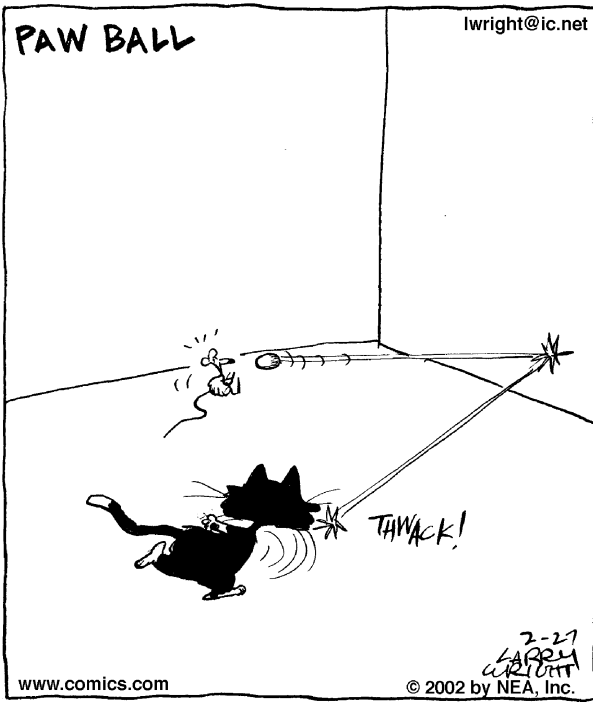
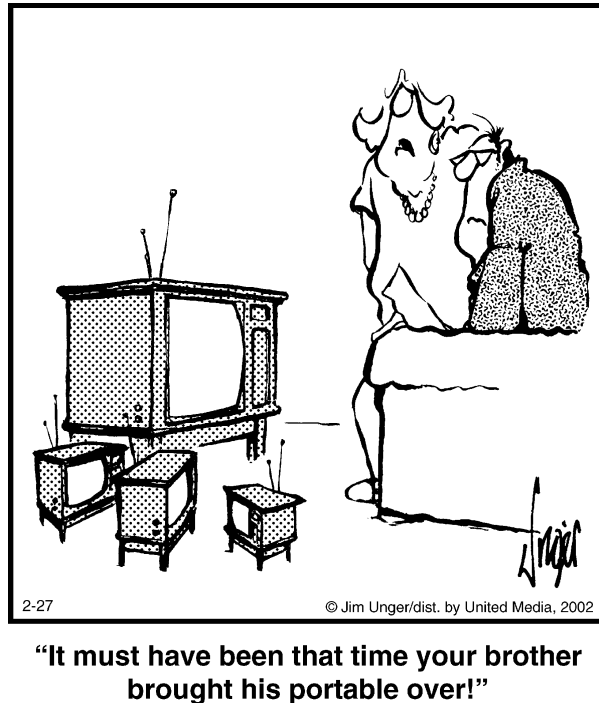


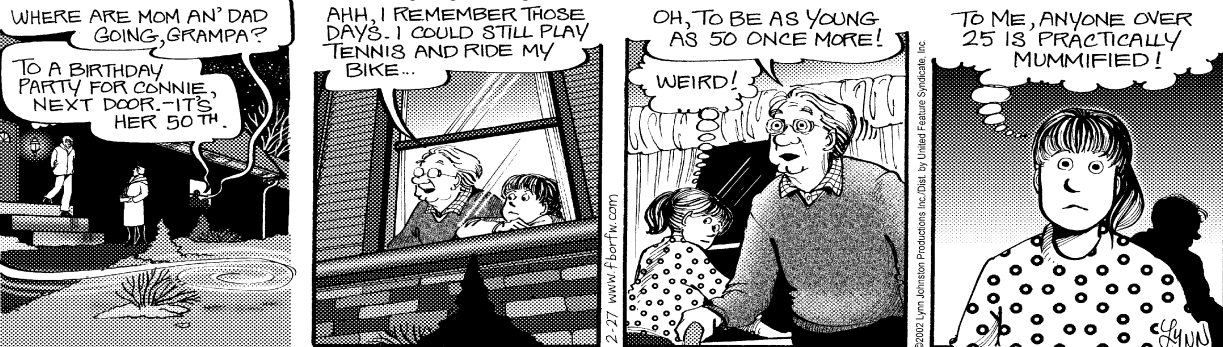
kit and carlyle



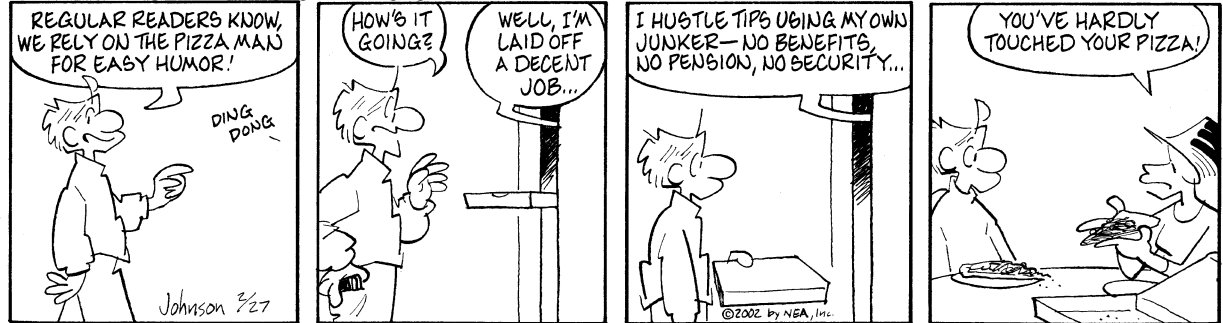
herman



for better or for worse by lynn johnston



carlo and janis by jimmy johnson



born loser by art and chip sansom



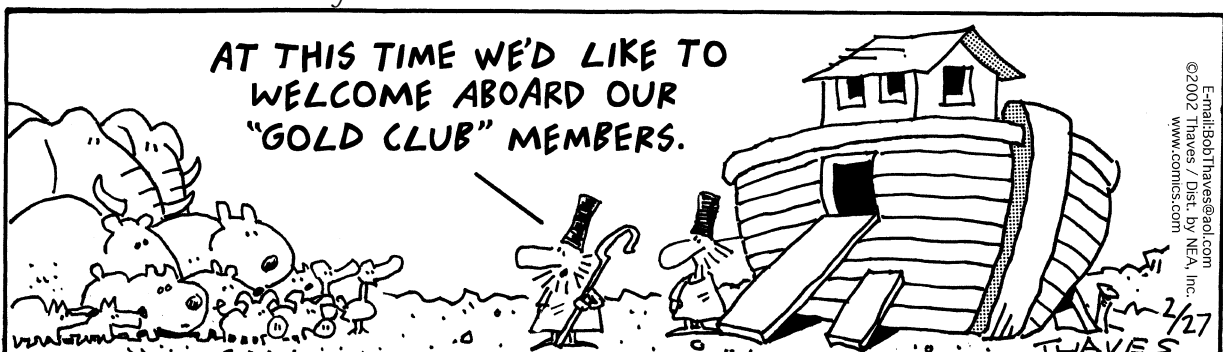
dilbert by scott adams



peanuts by charles m. schulz



frank and ernest by bob thaves



big nate by lincoln pierce



garfield by jim davis



Pictures of ex-wife haunt widow



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Tom," had a heart attack and died six months ago. I was his second wife. He was married to his first wife, "Becky," for seven years before their divorce. They split up because Becky found someone who made more money. Five years later, Tom married me. We had seven happy years together. There were no children in either marriage.

It took a month before I felt strong enough to go through Tom's personal belongings. He owned one wallet. Sadly, there were no pictures of me in his wallet, even though we had studio portraits taken together on two occasions and I had given him wallet-sized prints.

What I did find hidden in his wallet were two small snapshots of Tom and Becky, taken when they were newlyweds. I was

stunned. In all the years we were married, if Becky's name was mentioned, Tom made nothing but negative remarks about her.

I feel certain they were not having an affair, but I can't help but wonder if Tom still loved her. Whenever I ask anyone, the person tells me what I want to hear — that the fact he could never say a kind word about Becky proves that he loved me. Abby, what are your thoughts on this? Please be straight with me. — HURTING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR HURTING: OK. There are many reasons why people keep souvenirs. It doesn't always mean that the person is carrying a torch. It's possible that your husband carried the old snapshots to remind him how lucky he was to have you in his life instead of the woman he had trusted who had caused him so much pain.

I know it's convoluted thinking, but since Tom is no longer here to explain it, please hold a good thought. I'm sure the pictures had nothing to do with his feelings about you, with whom he spent seven happy years.

P.S. Wouldn't it be ironic if the pictures were there because Tom never bothered to clean out his wallet?

daily horoscopes



Thursday, Feb. 28, 2002

In the year ahead, you won't wait for Lady Luck to make things happen. To your credit, you will do whatever it takes to get the ball rolling and, in the process, pick up many gems along the way. PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Sometimes it's whom we know that gets us where we want to go, but it'll be strictly what you know that will be the most significant factor in achieving success. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Although you like a buddy hanging around most of the time, this might irk you should you find this person to be more of a hindrance than a supporter. Go it alone. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Start off small, instead biting off more than you can chew. It might not be so easy to drop some of the work you started. You could get overwhelmed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Should you do something foolish money-wise, it's apt to be a lulu, so your best policy is to leave financial matters to another day, when you may have better luck. CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Get your mind off yourself, and try to be as cooperative with others as possible. Any evidence of self-centeredness will be met with disdain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Tasks or responsibilities will not get done on their own power. You're going to have to do them one way or another. The longer you wait, however, the more they'll compound themselves. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Investigate all aspects of an endeavor before you plunk down any of your hard cash on them. It's good to be enthusiastic about things, but realism must precede this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — It's very unlike you, yet you might absent-mindedly do something that smacks of favoritism, and end up hurting one who is important to you. Watch your actions. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Hold your trump card as long as possible. There is a good chance that your opposition will try to wait you out in hopes of you making a silly move, and end up as the joker. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — An associate might pledge a fair share in a collective investment, but when it comes time to deliver she or he may be nowhere to be found. Get the funds up front. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There's a possibility that you could be your own worst enemy if you fail to be cooperative when needed. Holding out for a better deal may yield you a big, fat zero.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Indifference or procrastination may cause you to fail to recognize opportunities that could be beneficial to your general welfare. Be alert and ready to act.

celebrity cipher

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: I equals Y

'UCBDRBDS BT C DCBA RN
ZLBHL B YCTRXD WI BPXCT.'
- (YMXDHL HGJBTR UCBDRXM)
SXNMSXT JMCV GX

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Music is medicine that's pleasant to take." -- Odette

'I epitomize America.' — John Denver

daily crossword

ACROSS
1. Share
6. Pirate captain
10. Organic compounds
12. Plunder
14. Unfasten
15. Japanese martial art
16. Breaks the rules
18. Min. fraction
19. Joint problem
21. Athletic competition
23. Brynner of "Westworld"
24. Mother rabbit
26. Reddish-brown horse
29. Baseball stat
30. Utmost degree
32. Sit down heavily
34. Potato buy
36. Taunting cry
37. Cravat
38. Distort, as data
40. Longbow
wood
42. Poisonous snake
43. Shriek barks
45. Twisted
47. Sheik's robe
50. Water boiler
52. Thataway
54. Pack animals
58. Range
59. Hidden
60. Kyoto cash
61. Copper coin

DOWN
1. Q Math proof abbr.
2. Put into service
3. Hall-of-Famer Mel
4. Instruct
5. Curved
6. Crusty roll
7. Vex
8. Speaker's platform
9. Kind of ranch
11. That ship
12. Hubby
13. Dwarf with spectacles
17. Gemstone
19. Mystiques
20. Metallic sound
22. Upper part
23. Da or ja
25. Lennon's wife for short
27. Wedding vow site
28. Deafening
31. Work in the garden
33. Energy
35. Door opener
39. Rouses up
41. Smack
44. Fresh
46. Make baskets
47. Sailor's reply
48. Thicket
49. Feed the kitty
51. Pampering, for short
53. Lion's quarters
55. All dads
56. Prince
58. Valiant's eldest
57. Dirty place

