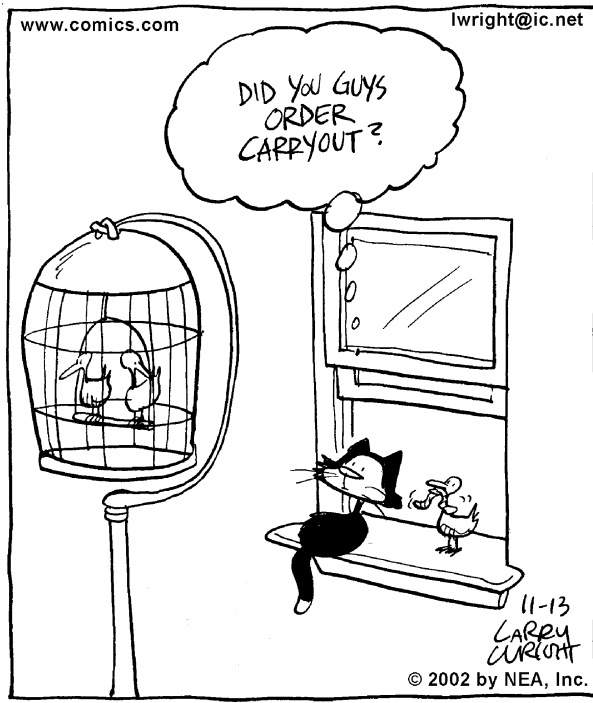
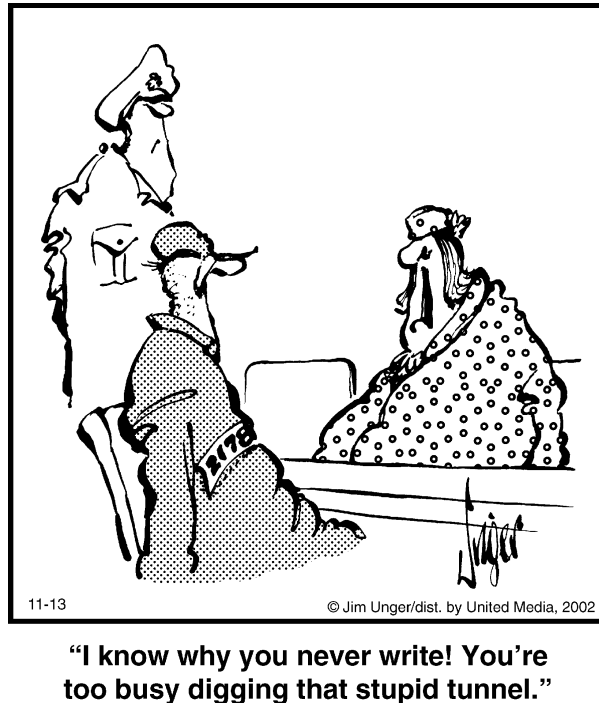


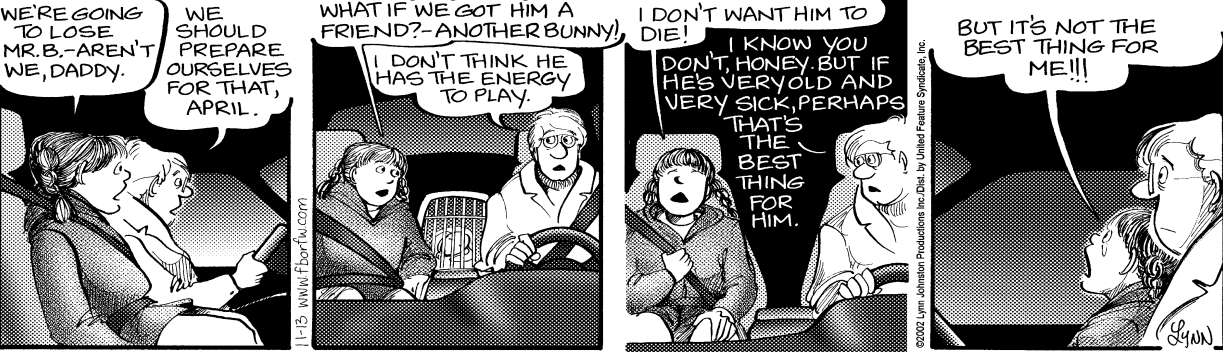
kit and carlyle



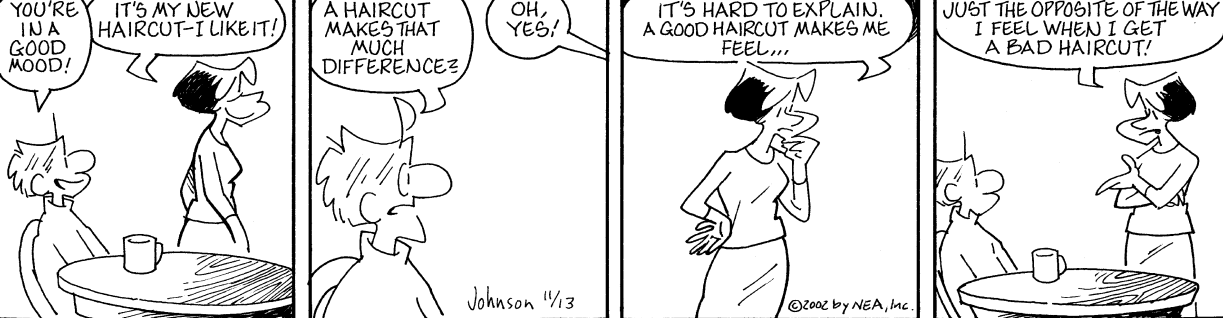
herman



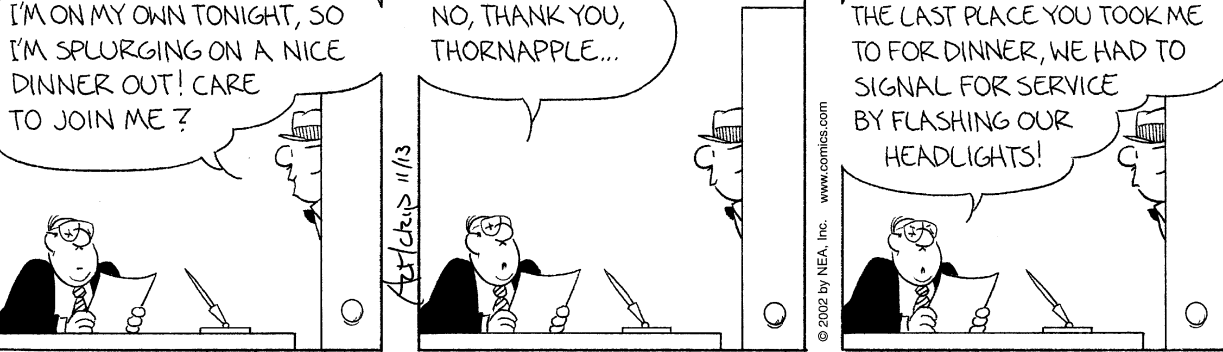
for better or for worse by lynn johnston



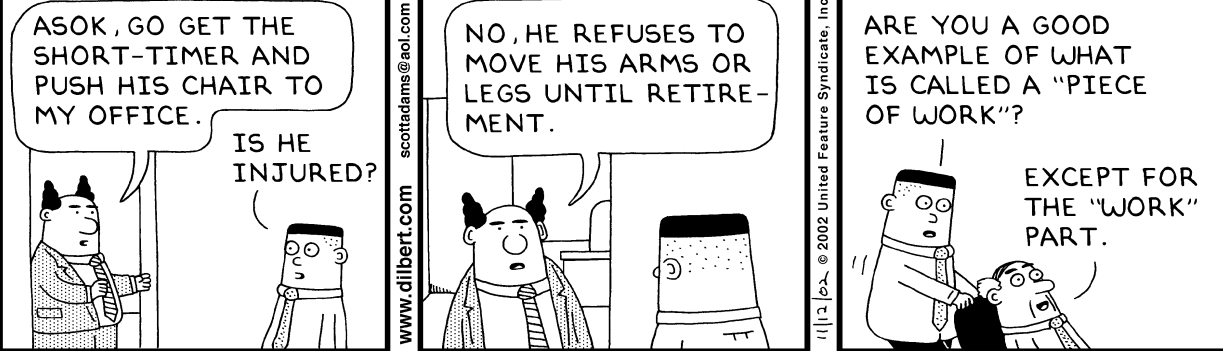
carlo and janis by jimmy johnson



born loser by art and chip sansom



dilbert by scott adams



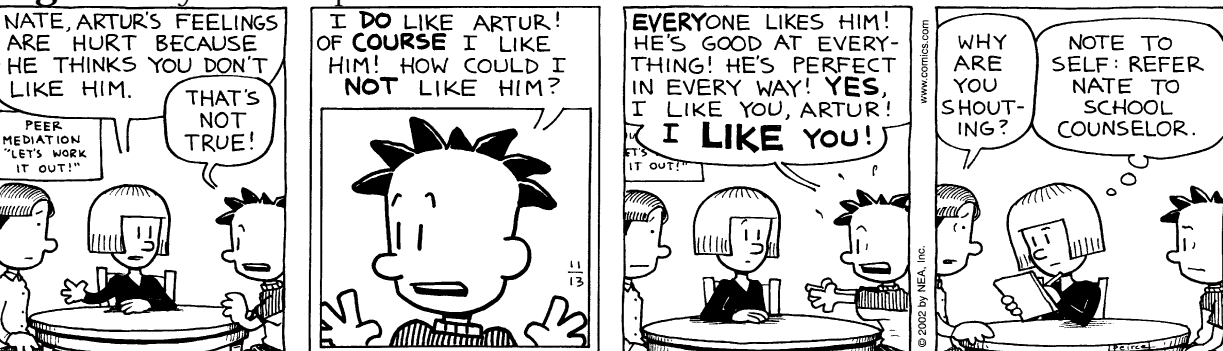
peanuts by charles m. schulz



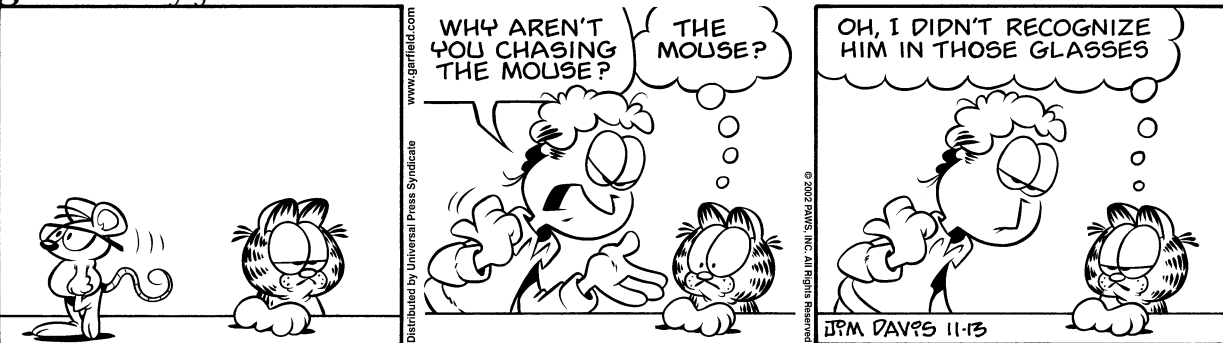
frank and ernest by bob thaves



big nate by lincoln pierce



garfield by jim davis



Eye care program offers year round service

DEAR ABBY: The American Optometric Association is pleased to announce that for the first time, VISION USA, our free eye-care program for low-income, working Americans, is accepting applications and examinations year-round!

Children, adults and seniors in working families can now benefit by applying any time throughout the year. This allows them to receive an eye exam when it is needed most.

Year-round VISION USA means that the 7,000 optometrists who donate these comprehensive eye exams will be able to serve more patients through the program. During the exam, an optometrist will not only examine vision acuity (how well the eyes can see distant and close), but also examine the eyes for focusing, visual alignment, tracking, binocular fu-



abigail van buren

• dear abby

sion and disease.

To qualify for free eye care through VISION USA, individuals must be working or be part of a household with one member who is working at least part-time, have no insurance that covers eye examinations, an income below an established level based on household size, and not have had an eye exam in the past 24 months. (Some states have different eligibility requirements.)

Abby, we appreciate your previous support of VISION USA. Please know that mentioning this free program in your column can help many people. — J. PAT CUMMINGS, O.D., PRESIDENT, AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

DEAR DR. CUMMINGS: I am pleased to publicize this worthwhile program for my readers. Since VISION USA began in 1991, more than 314,000 individuals have benefited from this free service.

Readers can register by calling toll-free: 800-766-4466, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central time. Application forms are also available from VISION USA, 243 Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141, or on the AOA Web site: www.aoa.org/visionusa.

DEAR ABBY: My brother has been seeing this girl for less than a year, but we seem to have become friends. Recently her grandfather passed away. They were not close. My brother called and told me the news matter-of-factly.

I have a strong aversion to funerals and go only if I "have to." I know this sounds cold, but my aversion is strong. Everyone knows this about me.

My brother called me a couple of days after the funeral, yelling at me because I didn't attend. I was waiting to call his girlfriend until after everything settled, because I know how crazy it is when someone in your immediate family passes away.

Could you please explain the proper etiquette in a situation like this? Was I completely wrong in not going? — K.D. IN CREST HILL, ILL.

DEAR K.D.: Your mistake wasn't in skipping the funeral. It was in not immediately reaching out and offering sympathy to your brother's girlfriend for her loss.

Since "everyone" knows you have an aversion to funerals, your brother should not have yelled at you. However, I can understand his being upset that you didn't call, didn't send a card or flowers, or in any other way acknowledge the fact that his girlfriend — and your new friend — had lost a loved one. It would have been the proper and considerate thing to do.

daily horoscopes



Your Birthday

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002

There is a possibility that you could become involved in an interesting but speculative arrangement in the year ahead. It can work out advantageously if it is managed wisely and prudently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A moody, negative friend could have an influence on your outlook today if you allow yourself to be drawn into his/her negativity. Treat this person kindly, but don't get too involved. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astrograph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you have to work out a delicate arrangement with another today, strive to be fair, but make certain that the other party offers as many concessions as you do. A lopsided deal won't work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Unless you have something nice to say about others today, especially co-workers, keep your thoughts to yourself. People in general could be more touchy than usual at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Bargains need to be more closely scrutinized today when out shopping. There may be hidden reasons for the low price, and chances are you could get stuck with a lemon.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — For reasons known only to you, there's a chance you could be both a lethargic starter and a poor finisher. Without continuity of purpose, your efforts will count for little.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — How unlike you today to put yourself in a position where you'll have to rely upon other individuals who are not as responsible as you are, yet that is exactly what you might do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't take it personally if an ally who is usually cooperative disappoints you today by turning down a request you make. This person's reasons are serious and will be revealed later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — The reason you may not achieve the goals you set for yourself today is because you're not apt to be prepared to pay the price that it will take to reach them. You'll get what you put out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Self-doubts are likely to be the greatest obstacles with which you'll have to contend today. Consequently, if you don't think you can succeed, you'll prove yourself right.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Whatever you do today don't get in the middle of two friends who haven't been getting along too well recently, no matter how hard they try to involve you in their disagreement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Someone you did not give authority to may try to take it upon him/herself today to make decisions for you. Step in immediately and let this person know you run your own show.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Even though you might feel an urgency to finish a few tasks you've neglected for some time, be careful not to push yourself beyond your limit today. It could prove unwise.

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: U equals J

"CRWBEWH ED R DSYRL UAP."

- NXYC RDLREXY

"CRWBY ED LMY MECCYW

GRWHIRHY AN LMY DAIG."

- KRXL MR HXRMRK

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work." — Stephen King

daily crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Wild ducks
- 6 Struggle
- 11 Tree trunk
- covers
- 12 In a row
- 13 Klee or Van Gogh
- 14 Graduates
- 15 Things
- 16 South African settler
- 17 First-century emperor
- 18 Neon or ozone
- 19 Festive nights
- 23 Peddle
- 25 Copenhagen native
- 26 Stray dog
- 29 Pub brew
- 32 "Positively —!"
- 33 Crude metal
- 34 Office staffer
- 35 Road curve
- 36 Pronto
- 38 Bread grains
- 40 Mantra chanter
- 41 Neptune's kingdom
- 42 Excuses
- 46 Shortening
- 48 Ballroom number
- 49 Deepest
- 52 Graphite
- 53 Michener
- bestseller
- 54 Climb
- 55 Aptitudes
- 56 "— it's at"
- DOWN
- 1 Viennese treat
- 2 Organic compound
- 3 Famed sci-fi writer
- 4 More, to some
- 5 Fast plane
- 6 Computer document
- 7 Habituated
- 8 Emerald
- 9 Chinese dynasty
- 10 Numerical prefix
- 11 Leading
- 12 Burma neighbor
- 16 Pestered
- 18 Tiny insect
- 20 Windmill part
- 21 Cabell or Slaughter
- 22 Firms up
- 24 Ernie — of the PGA
- 26 Fossil fuel
- 27 Bear in the sky
- 28 500 sheets
- 30 New Age singer
- 31 Canape topper
- 37 Least tanned
- 39 Reporter's contact
- 41 Mlle., in Acapulco
- 43 Palette color
- 44 Cut of beef (hyph.)
- 45 Hourglass contents
- 47 Requests
- 48 Too hasty
- 49 Test tube's place
- 50 Olsen of vaudeville
- 51 Whey-faced
- 52 Cornfield cry

