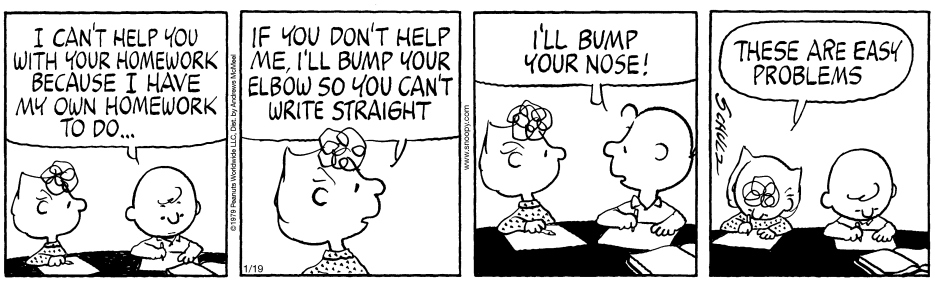
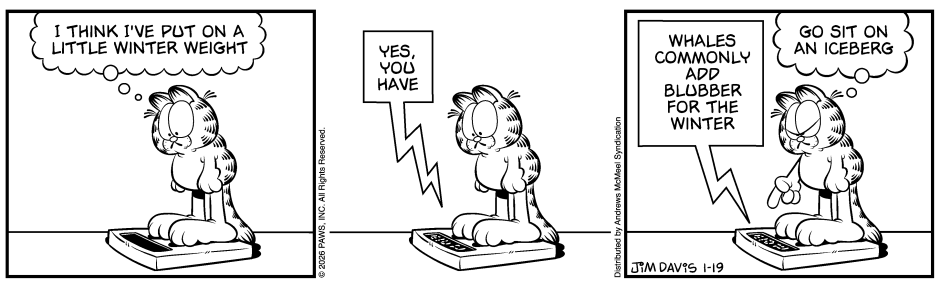
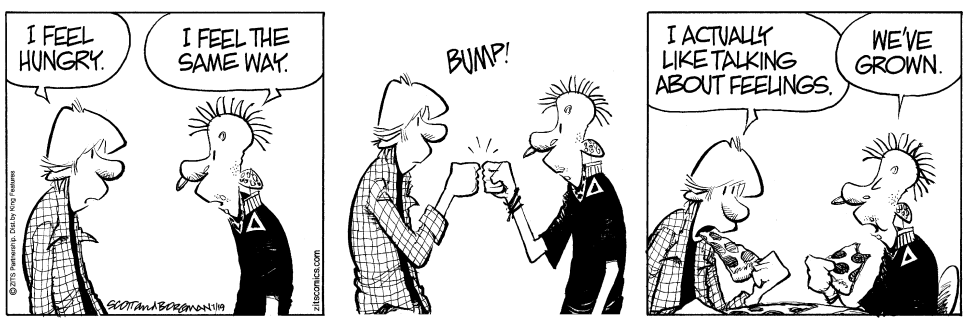
PEANUTS® BY CHARLES SCHULZ



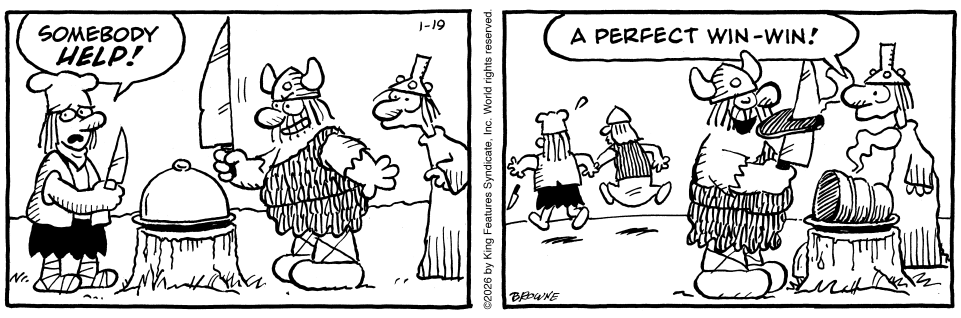
GARFIELD® BY JIM DAVIS



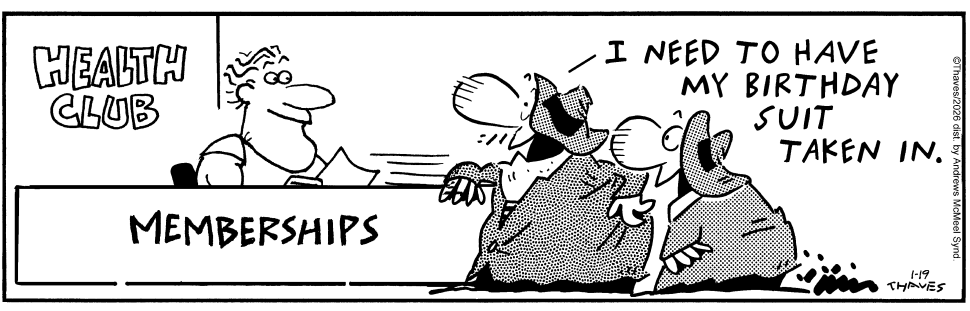
ZITS® BY JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



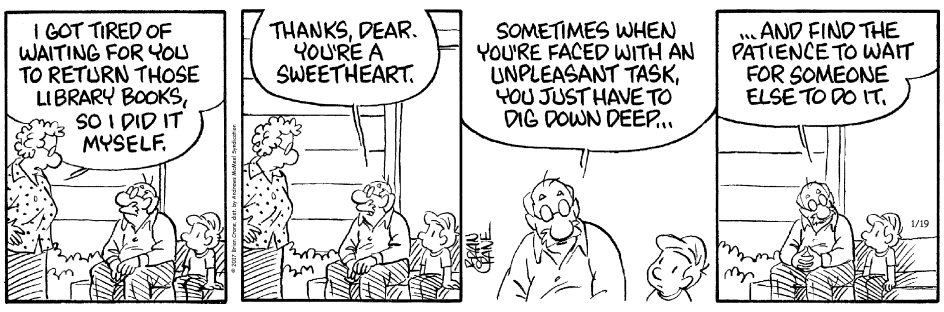
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® BY CHRIS BROWNE



FRANK AND ERNEST® BY BOB THAVES



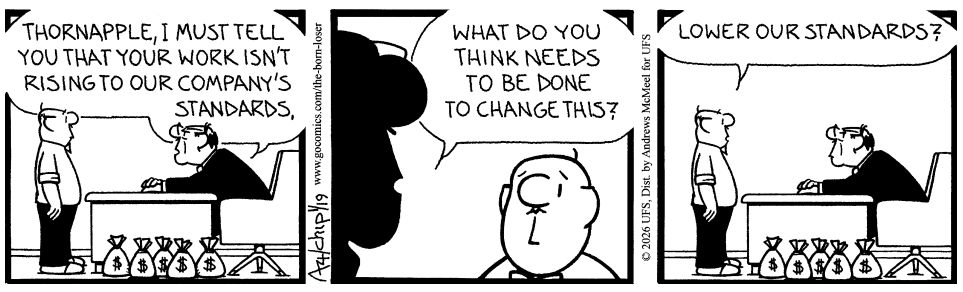
PICKLES® BY BRIAN CRANE



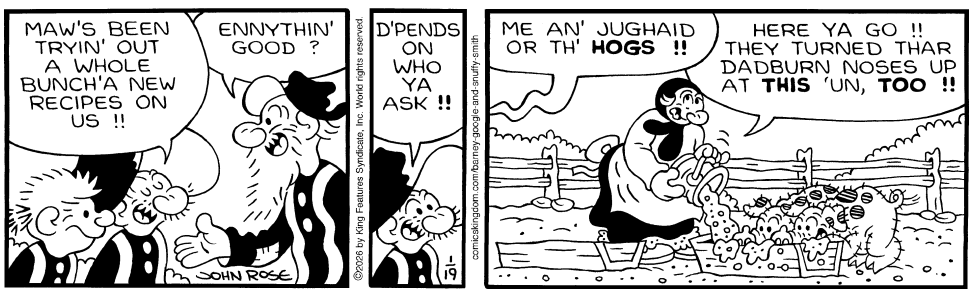
BEETLE BAILEY® BY Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker

BABY BLUES® BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

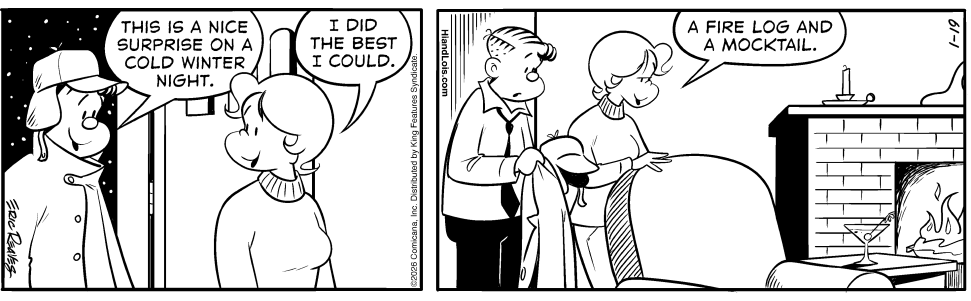
THE BORN LOSER® BY ART & CHIP SANSOM



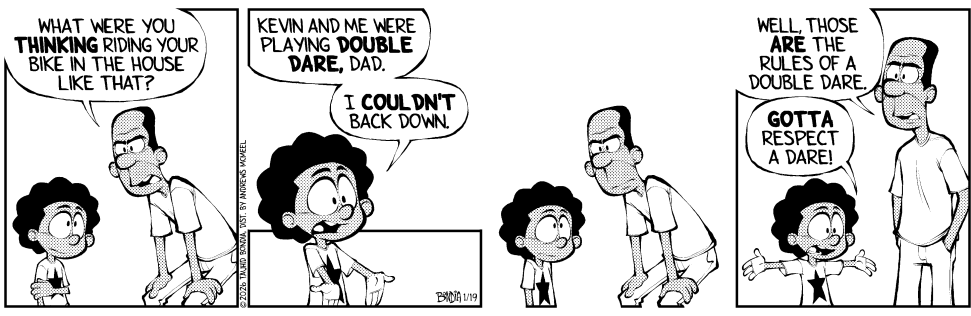
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH® BY F. LASSWELL & JOHN ROSE



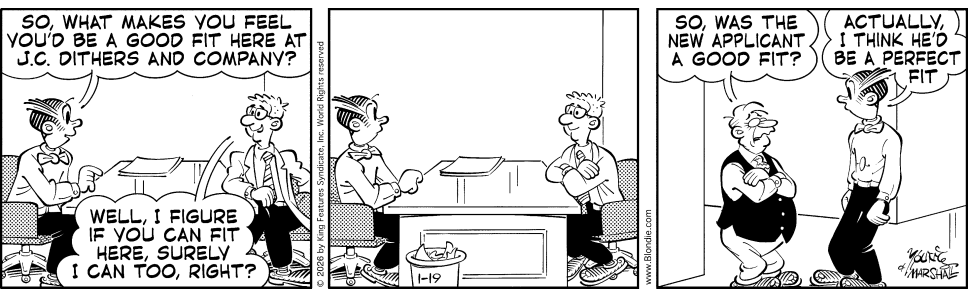
HI AND LOIS® BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER & CHANCE BROWNE



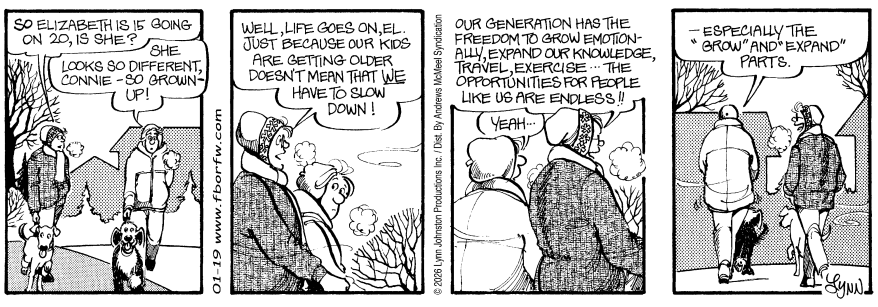
CRABGRASS® BY TAUHID BONDIA



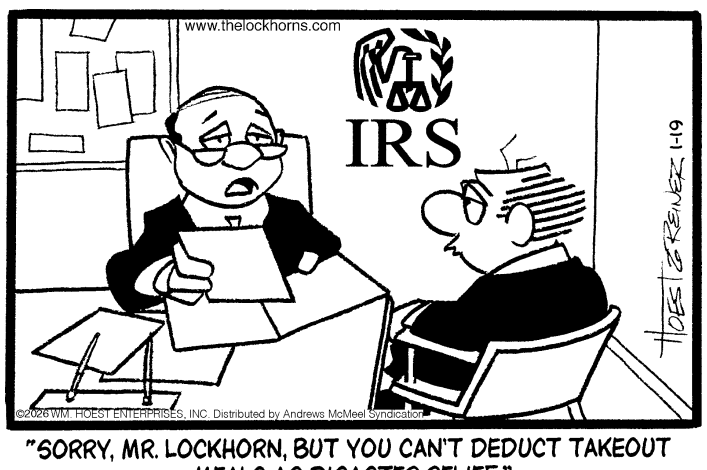
BLONDIE® BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® BY LYNN JOHNSTON



THE LOCKHORNS®

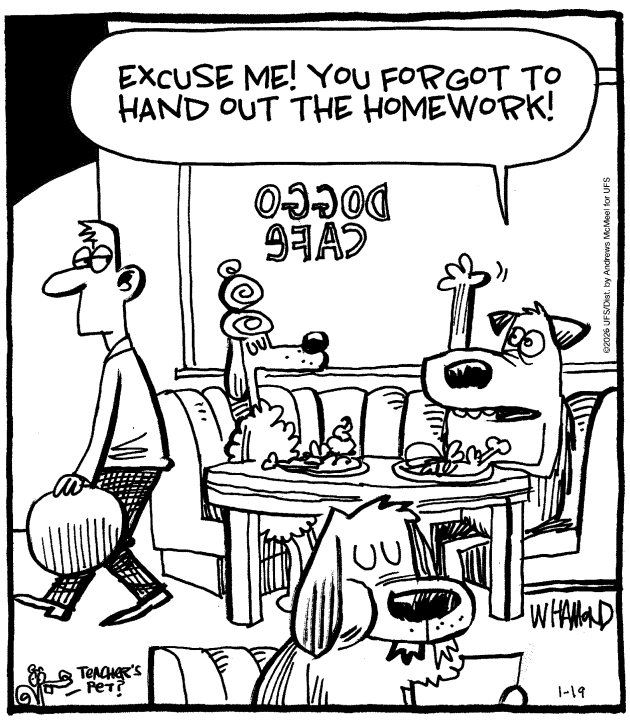


"SORRY, MR. LOCKHORN, BUT YOU CAN'T DEDUCT TAKEOUT MEALS AS DISASTER RELIEF."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

"Know where Mommy used to live? GRANDMA'S house!"

REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 2
♥ 10 6
♦ A Q J 3 2
♣ Q 10 3

WEST
♠ 10 7 6 4
♥ K J 2
♦ 10 6
♣ K 9 6 5

EAST
♠ —
♥ 8 3
♦ K 8 7 5 4
♣ A J 8 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 8 5 3
♥ A Q 9 7 5 4
♦ 9
♣ —

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdble
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Dble	Redble	All Pass	

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Nearly all the attention to the U.S. victory over Italy in the 2003 world championship was focused on the last two deals, which saw the U.S. overcome a 21-IMP deficit to win by 1 IMP.

But another deal that made a critical difference in the outcome occurred earlier in the 128-board match. Italy's Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin held the North-South cards in the auction shown. North's two-club response was artificial, after which a series of relay bids ended with North-South in six spades redoubled.

Bob Hamman, West, led a diamond, the suit his partner had doubled. Duboin put up dummy's ace, led a heart to the ace and played a second heart, planning to ruff a third round of hearts in dummy, if necessary, and so make the slam.

Hamman won the heart with the jack and, knowing what Duboin did not know — that the trumps were divided 4-0 — cleverly continued with the king of hearts. Duboin ruffed with dummy's jack to forestall a potential overruff by East and then cashed the ace, discovering that he now had to lose a trick to Hamman's ten for down one.

Had Duboin cashed the ace or jack of spades before starting to play the hearts, he would have uncovered the trump situation and then easily made the slam.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair stopped in four spades, making five, to give the U.S. a pickup of 12 IMPs. Had Duboin played a high trump from dummy at trick two, however, Italy would have gained 15 IMPs on the deal and won the world title by 26.

Tomorrow: Abnormal procedure.

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CTPHA
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NIAQTU
MSPIRH

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here: ____ ____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DROLL MULCH CHANGE KERNEL
Answer: The FBI agents kept questioning the alleged money launderer hoping he'd — COME CLEAN