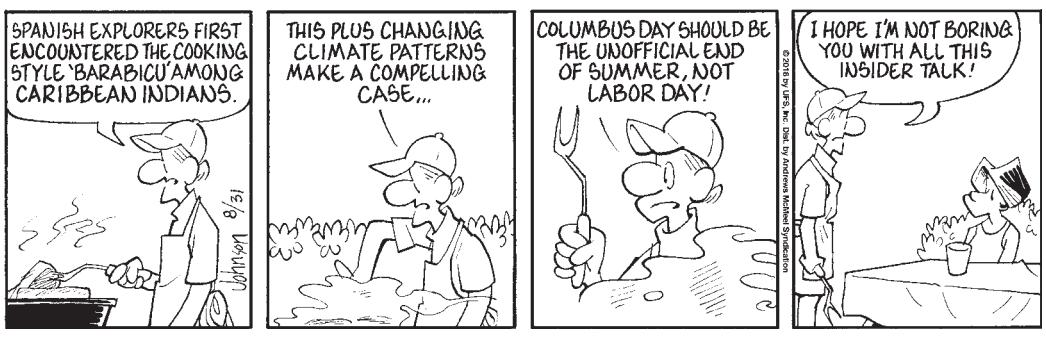
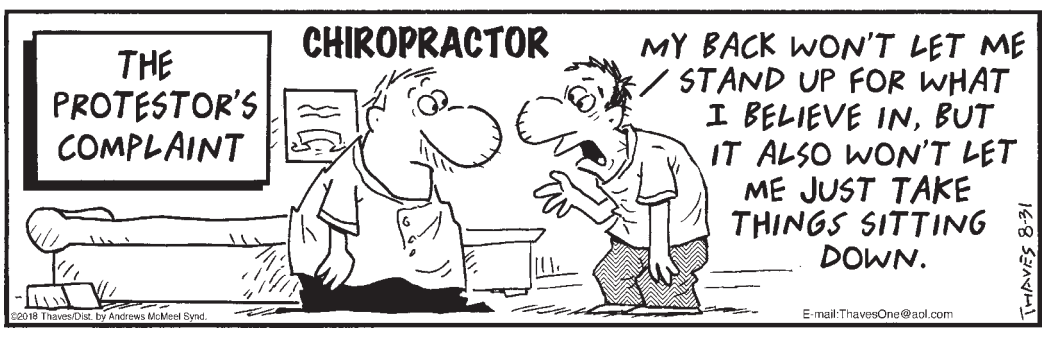
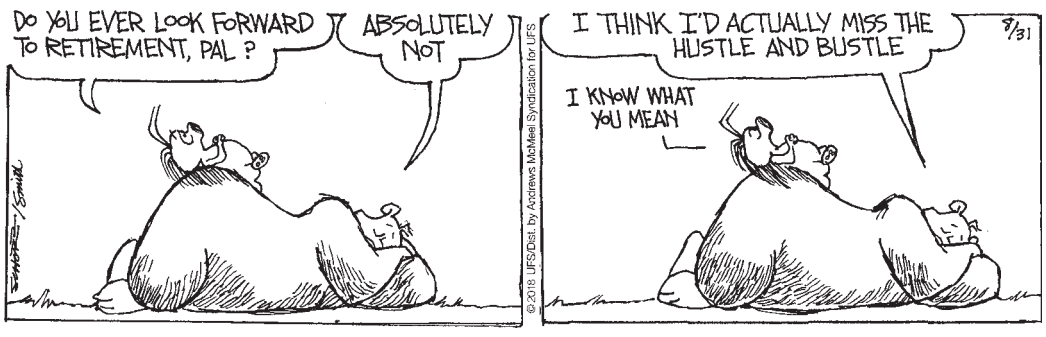
ARLO AND JANIS® *by Jimmy Johnson*



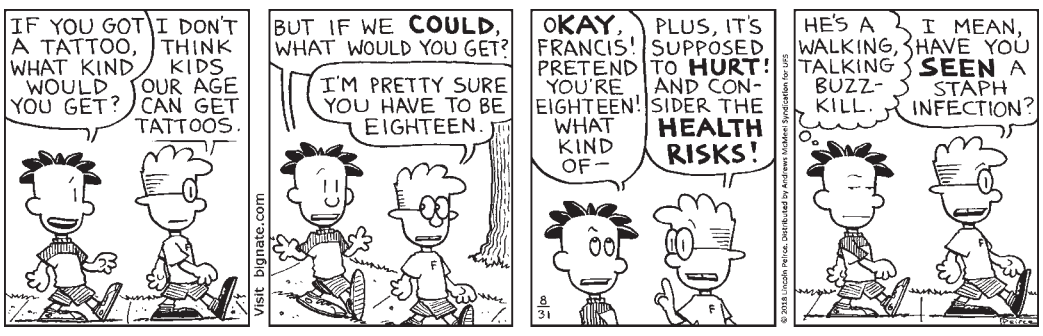
FRANK & ERNEST® *by Bob Thaves*



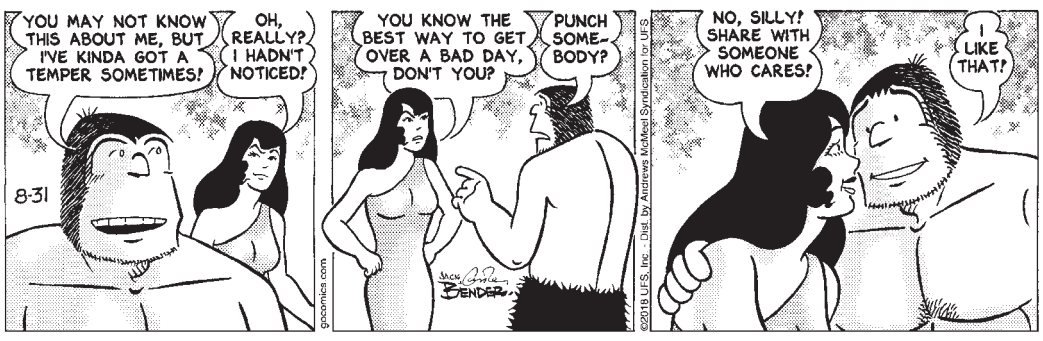
THE GRIZZWELLS® *by Bill Schorr*



BIG NATE® *by Lincoln Peirce*



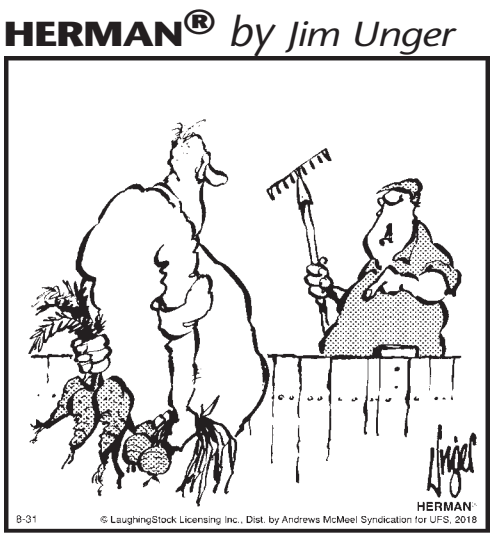
ALLEY OOP *by Jack and Carole Bender*



HEART OF THE CITY *by Mark Tatulli*

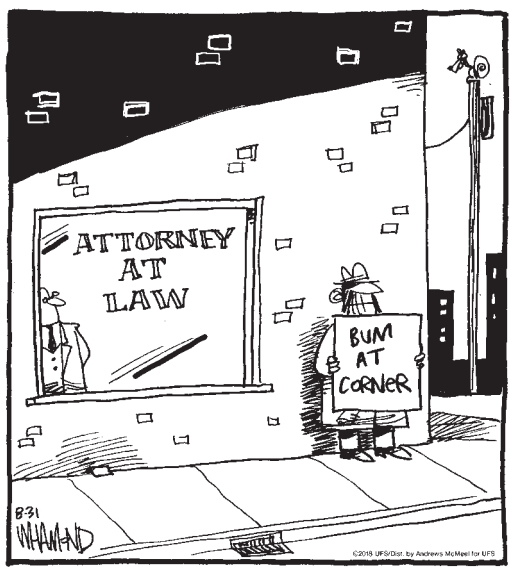
THE BORN LOSER™ *by Art & Chip Sansom*

HERMAN® *by Jim Unger*



"It's funny, but I can never get any vegetables to grow along that fence!"

REALITY CHECK® *by Dave Whamond*



AT THE MOVIES

'Kin' offers promise but it's often erratic

(AP) -- In the teen sci-fi thriller "Kin," a shy 14-year-old kid finds unearthly powers in the vacant warehouses of Detroit — an intriguing if standard young-adult premise that dissolves before your eyes in this inept and erratic directorial debut.

Jonathan and Josh Baker's "Kin" expands from their 2014 short "Bag Man," a film that must have shown enough promise to attract a topline cast featuring Zoe Kravitz, Dennis Quaid, James Franco and a couple prominent late cameos in the full-length feature. But "Kin," as is common to late-August releases, has the uneven, half-baked feel of franchise designs gone bust.

It stars newcomer Myles Truitt as the young Eli, whose adoptive family could be cheerier. Quaid plays his gruff blue-collar father; the mother is gone; and his older brother, Jimmy (Jack Reynor) is just getting out of prison after six years. A not great situation quickly goes downhill when Jimmy's brutal debtors (led by Franco's maniac gangster) come to collect.

When things get bloody, Jimmy misleads Eli about what's happened, and the two flee westward with a bag of cash, uprooting from the dark streets of Detroit for a cross-country chase that, to a surprising degree, plays out at a Midwestern strip club, where they meet Kravitz's stripper, and a Reno casino. Before leaving, Eli, while wandering the vacant buildings on his bike, comes across an alien gun that proves predictably handy in the showdowns to come, but that also sends a pair of very human-sized aliens on his path, speeding along — just like the extraterrestrial pursuers of "Under the Skin" — on motorcycles.

But should a movie about a parentless 14-year-old be centered on a gun, one that only he can fire? Is that empowering? The underlying odiousness of the gun violence — both regular and ray — in "Kin" is particularly questionable given its PG-13 rating.

But the bigger problems in "Kin" have more to do with the script by Daniel Casey which takes implausible turns without grounding any of the action in the characters. Given the film's title, and that the filmmakers are themselves twins, you would expect the brother relationship at the heart of the movie to be something more than it is. But Eli and Jimmy seem worlds apart, even when they're talking to each other. For a movie centered on brotherhood, it's remarkably empty of any sense of kinship.

When one character chases after them, she sums it up: "$60,000 and a space gun? Who the hell are you people?"

"Kin," a Lionsgate release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for gun violence and intense action, suggestive material, language, thematic elements and drinking. Running time: 102 minutes.

CROSSWORDS

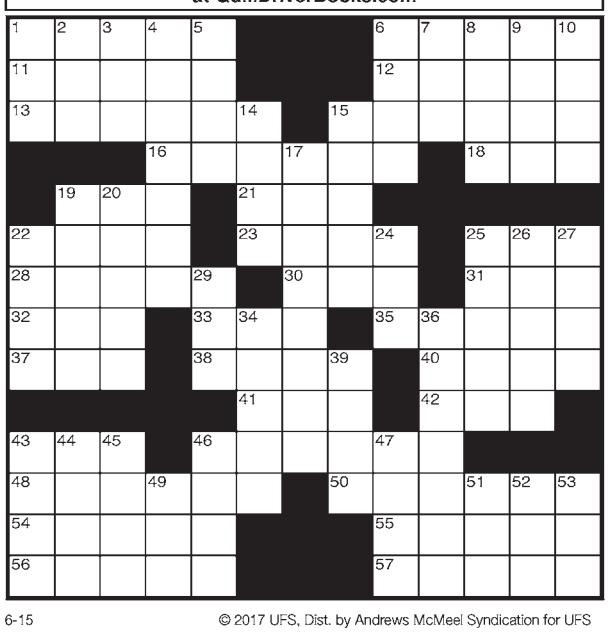
ACROSS
1 Premiere performance
6 Garden intruders
11 Soap —
12 Lingo
13 Group of geese
15 Wrinkle
16 Football team
18 Beads on grass
19 Chignon
21 Aberdeen kid
22 DEA operative
23 Defraud
25 Ms. Lupino
28 Rubber-stamps
30 "— we there yet?"
31 Cat call?
32 Aunt or bro.
33 Rear, to Popeye
35 It merged with Exxon
37 Mme. in Boston
38 Smooth-tongued
40 Hauls
41 Santa — winds
42 Japanese currency
43 Fritz, to himself
46 Native American shelter
48 Rubicon crosser
50 Falls into disuse
54 Handle dough
55 Rents, as a limo
56 Pound sounds
57 Look down on

DOWN
1 Half-star movie
2 Clean air org.
3 Panhandle
4 Need for speed
5 Long-legged
6 Admonish
7 Previously
8 I say!
9 Rx amount
10 One-pot dinner
14 Fish with no scales
15 Closet wood
17 Moving out
19 Cake maker
20 Russian range
22 Standard
24 Dues payer, for short
25 Permeate
26 Condescend
27 Hole punchers
29 Droop
34 Knack
36 Apollo's games
39 Cry loudly
43 Viscid
44 Blackberry stem
45 Foot part
46 Gobs of gum
47 Pleased sighs
49 Fall guy
51 B'way posting of yore
52 Always, to Byron
53 9-digit no.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	E	A	N	S			G	R	O	U	S	E
E	N	G	I	N	E		L	I	M	P	E	D
T	E	A	C	U	P		E	D	I	C	T	S
			E	G	O		N	E	T			
	J	A	R		C	B	S		T	A	M	
G	A	I		R	H	O		M	E	T	E	R
A	S	K		E	S	A		O	D	O	R	S
S	P	I	C	E		T	W	O		N	E	V
P	E	D	A	L		E	O	N		E	S	P
	R	O	B		B	R	O		D	D	T	
			I	R	A		D	E	R			
L	I	O	N	E	L		S	T	A	I	N	S
A	S	C	E	N	D		Y	O	N	D	E	R
B	U	T	T	E	S			N	O	S	E	S

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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