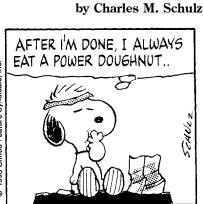
Comics









Garfield



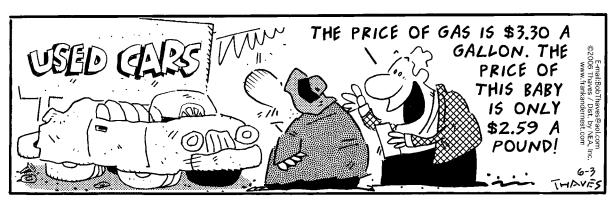




Frank and Ernest

by Bob Thaves

by Jim Davis



Big Nate

by Lincoln Peirce









Soup To Nuts

by Howie Schmeider



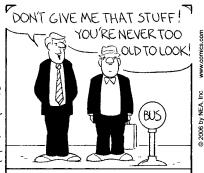




The Born Loser

by Art and Chip Sansom







THAT DOESN'T MATTER! ALL THIS DIRT IS A HEALTH HAZARD!

Alley Oop

by Dave Graue



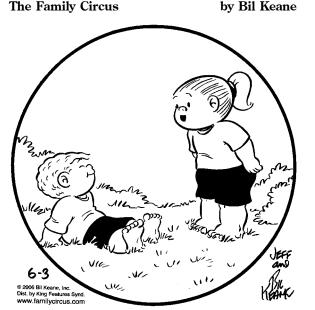




AN' I'VE

by Larry Wright

IS THIS ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE!



"The week could use more Saturdays."



Health

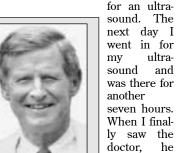
= BY PETER GOTT, M.D.

Reader afraid to play the waiting game

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 49-yearold female in otherwise pretty good

In February 2004, I noticed what I thought was a lump on my left front under my ribcage in the stomach area. I finally went to the emergency room in spring 2004 in pain.

I sat there for seven hours to be told to go home and come back the next day



told

everything

looked fine

and that I

me

By Peter Gott, M.D.

may be experiencing Irritable Bowel Syndrome. I told him that I had had a colonoscopy seven years previously and that was the diagnosis then, and that this did not feel the same. I also told him that my mother had died from colon cancer when she

was 29 years old. The doctor told me that if I had a colonoscopy within that time, that another test would not show anything different. One and a half years later, having gotten an EGD for stomach problems and still experiencing a lump feeling, I told the GI doctor of my concerns, and thank goodness he agreed that I needed another colonoscopy. My concern now is that my test is not until July.

This has been going on for some time now, and a few more months may be too late if there is truly something wrong. They say that my mother was diagnosed too late because she ignored her symptoms. I have not ignored anything, but I feel the ones who could help simply ignored my concerns. I was actually told at one time to, and I quote, "Eat more fiber, get less stress and learn to live with it." Should I wait patiently, or do I have need to worry?

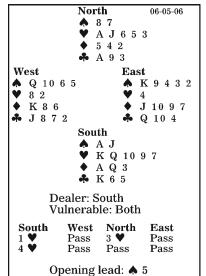
DEAR READER: The fact that your colonoscopy was normal seven years ago is an important consideration. If you have IBS, I believe that you can safely wait until your next scheduled test this summer. However, if you develop other symptoms (such as bowel changes, rectal bleeding or pain), the testing can certainly be moved up. In short, I believe that patience is appro-

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please continue as you were. The only thing wrong with your daily feature is it's too short. Many will be disappointed if we fail to find your anecdotal gems. My husband was much loved for 40 years during his medical practice in this area, and his relaxed demeanor with patients was appreciat-

DEAR READER: Thank you for your compliments. I value letters of support from those involved in the medical pro-

Bridge

BY PHILLIP ALDER



An opponent can be counted on for help

By Phillip Alder

James Thurber said, "I'm 65 and I guess that puts me in with the geriatrics. But if there were 15 months in every year, I'd only be 52. That's the trouble with us. We number every-

thing. Take women, for example. I think they deserve to have more than 12 years between the ages of 28 and 40."

In bridge, you should number everything: points, winners, losers. But even that might be insufficient for finding the number of tricks you require to make or break a contract. Then you might need to enlist an opponent to help you out — as in this deal. How would you plan the play in three no-trump after West leads the spade four into your ace-queen?

The bidding is straightforward — for

When in no-trump, always start by counting your top tricks, your instant winners. Here, they number eight: two spades (given trick one), two diamonds and four clubs.

From where will trick nine come?

You could try the diamond finesse. Or East might have the heart ace. Then you could lead the suit from the board to establish your king as a winner. Alternatively, you could run your clubs

and try to guess who has what. But why guess? Assuming West has led an honest fourth-highest spade, he cannot have more than a five-card suit. So, cash three rounds of clubs, play a spade to your ace, and exit with your last spade. West takes three tricks in the suit while you pitch two hearts from the board and a heart and a club from your hand. What does West lead now?

If a heart, it is around to your king. If a diamond, it is into your king-jack.

Your Birthday

In the year ahead, you could do rather well for yourself in financial arrangements that would provide a source of second earnings. Constantly be on the lookout for good investments or a job that can provide

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Don't attempt to put on a convincing facade when inwardly you might feel insecure about a position you've taken that's now being challenged by associates. Rehash the facts with

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It would prove more prudent in the long run if you take care of old commitments first, before you start to use whatever you've got in your pocket in order to gratify a present

whim. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your good looks and pleasant personality isn't likely to provide enough firepower to achieve your goals. You may have to call upon the heavy stuff, like working hard and sticking to the

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — If you allow self-doubts to control your thinking, they'll have an eroding effect, causing a less-than-efficient performance on things that are important, things you should be

accomplishing. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Even though you will intellectually know better, you might still get burned by going along with a friend's suggestions and jumping feet first into the fire. Use your head.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) When it comes to things that could affect BY BERNICE BEDE OSOL

your career, don't request favors from persons you have a hunch will turn you down. It would cause an embarrassing situation for everyone involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -You'll do far better if you are careful not to delegate assignments to others that you can easily handle yourself. They could impede your progress or mess things up for you altogether.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It you handle sensitive associates poorly, coworkers who aren't doing things exactly as you like, it might cause a misunderstanding of your intentions that could derail the whole iob.

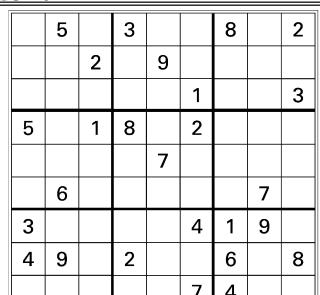
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - Be careful not to throw cold water on something about which your mate or a family member feels enthusiastic, even if you evaluate it as being rather silly. Be tactful and

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Try to be as cooperative with a friend as this person has been with you in the past. If you're not, even for a good reason, his/her feelings will be hurt and the association scarred.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — This could turn out to be a costly day for you. owing to a division between your common sense and your desire to have a good time. Spend no more than is allocated for pleasurable events.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you find yourself in the company of someone you dislike, don't react in a manner that will make everyone present feel uncomfortable. Conduct yourself with grace.

Sudoku



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