











# Bell Atlantic seeks court waiver to fix computer glitch problems

By ROBERT NAYLOR JR.  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bell Atlantic on Tuesday sought an emergency waiver of the court decree that keeps the regional Bell telephone companies out of equipment manufacturing, arguing the waiver was needed to correct a computer software problem that interrupted service for millions of customers.

Meanwhile, an official of the company that made the software, DSC Communications of Plano, Texas, told a congressional subcommittee that the outages were caused by a software modification it made in April.

The software that failed normally routes thousands of calls a second along the telephone network and allows phone companies to offer such services as call waiting.

"In working to sort out what the problems are ... we have to get into some of the operating software that controls the switches," Bell Atlantic spokesman Ken Pitts said.

The 1984 federal court order that required American Telephone & Telegraph to spin off the six regional companies forbids Bell Atlantic and the other "Baby Bells" from making telephone equipment.

Pitts said U.S. District Judge Harold Greene, who handed down the judgment, has interpreted the order to "prohibit us from working in software that is integral to the network."

Pitts said Bell Atlantic had asked the Justice Department whether the company would violate the court decree by working on the computer software, and Justice officials initially said they saw no problem with it. But late Monday, he said, department officials suggested that Bell Atlantic seek Greene's permission.

Meantime, Frank Perpiglia, a DSC senior vice president, said the company modified the software at the request of Pacific Bell.

However, he told the telecommunications subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee that the changes were made without subjecting them to the normally exacting tests, which he called "an absolute mistake."

Computer glitches caused major phone outages in two Bell Atlantic subsidiaries. On June 26, about 6.7

million customers of Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia lost local service. On July 1, about 1 million Bell of Pennsylvania customers had their service interrupted.

Pacific Bell customers in Los Angeles experienced outages on the same day as the C&P disruption and 45,000 Bell South customers in Greensboro, N.C., lost phone service on the same day as the Bell of Pennsylvania outage.

Overall, more than 10 million phone lines were affected.

On Monday, MCI Communications customers in much of North Carolina lost long-distance service, but MCI spokesman Steve Fox said late Tuesday that the cause had not yet been determined. Fox said he did not know how many customers MCI has in the state.

DSC, which built the computers used by Bell Atlantic and Pacific Bell, said the software, which it also makes, was to blame for those companies' outages.

The Federal Communications Commission, meanwhile, has decided to call a meeting of phone companies, telecommunications equipment makers and others to hear how they plan to avoid such interruptions in the future.

Commissioners spent 90 minutes behind closed doors hearing from staff members who had conducted a preliminary examination of the outages. They spent the remainder of the day drafting a plan to deal with future problems.

"The actions we set in motion today are designed to ensure the network's continued strength, and to ensure that the commission is fully equipped in the future to investigate and respond to any problems in the system," FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes said in a statement.

The FCC said it had invited representatives of regional and long-distance companies, computer hardware and software makers, standards groups and user groups to the session.

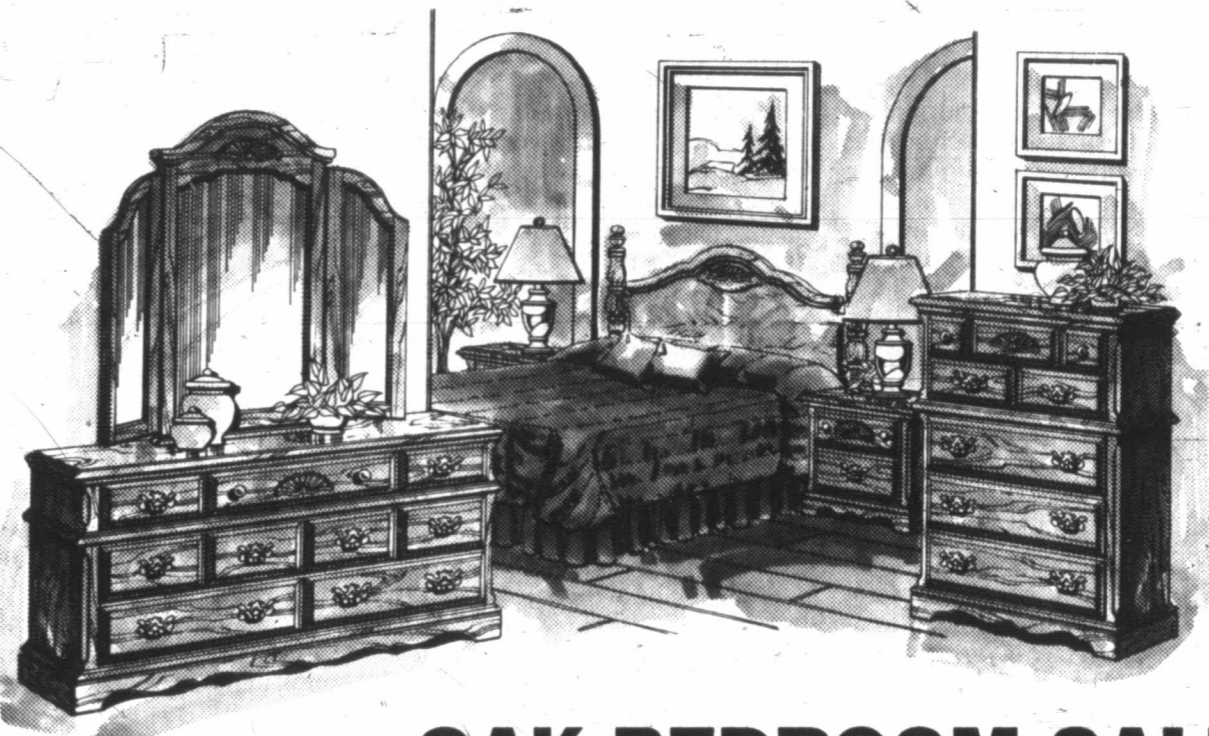
The commission said also that it would set up a special staff to systematically address "issues of network performance."

And the commission plans to institute requirements for companies to notify the commission formally of future outages.

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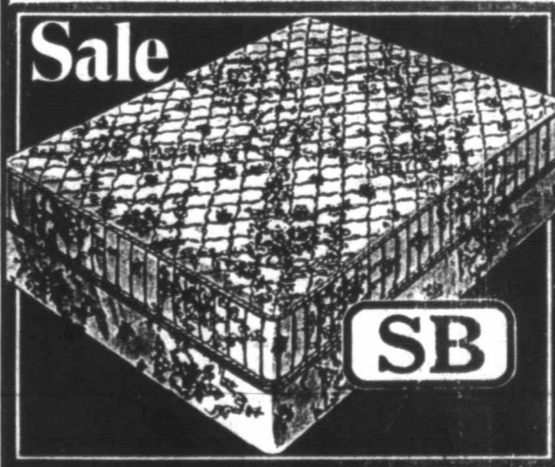
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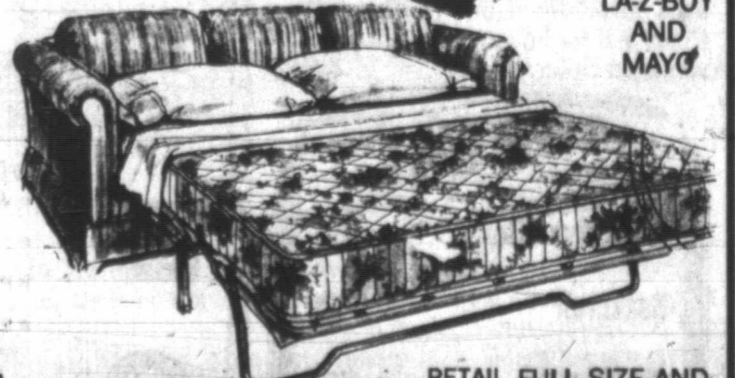
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# Medical museum sheds its old 'horror show' image

By ROBERT M. ANDREWS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of Washington's most distinguished but obscure museums — home of oddities such as a Union general's amputated leg and parts of dead presidents — is shedding its image as a medical freak show of pickled deformities.

Even if they knew about it, tourists would have a hard time finding the National Museum of Health and Medicine. It occupies the bland concrete annex of a 1950s bomb shelter at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, far from the historic monuments of downtown Washington.

Once inside, visitors are greeted by a jumble of exhibits that reflect the old and newly emerging missions of the nation's pre-eminent medical repository, which was founded during the Civil War as the Army Medical Museum.

A few steps away from a modern AIDS exhibit is one of the museum's oldest displays, a glass case containing the bones of the amputated right leg of Union Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, who was struck on horseback by a 12-pound cannon ball at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863.

After his shattered leg was sawed off, the eccentric Sickles sent the leg and cannon ball to the museum in a coffin-shaped box with a card inscribed "With Compliments of Major General D.E.S." For many years, Sickles visited the museum on every Gettysburg anniversary to view his "remains."

Also on display in a "cabinet of curiosities" are mummified Siamese twins, a dissected human ear, a gangrenous human foot and a well-chewed pair of cotton shorts and a turtle bone found in a shark's stom-

ach. The museum's 350,000 historical objects, 20,000 specimens and 2.2 million documents and photographs also include one of the world's finest collections of early microscopes, primitive hearing aids and dental instruments, a Peruvian mummy, wax models of battlefield wounds and two live leeches used for medicinal bloodletting.

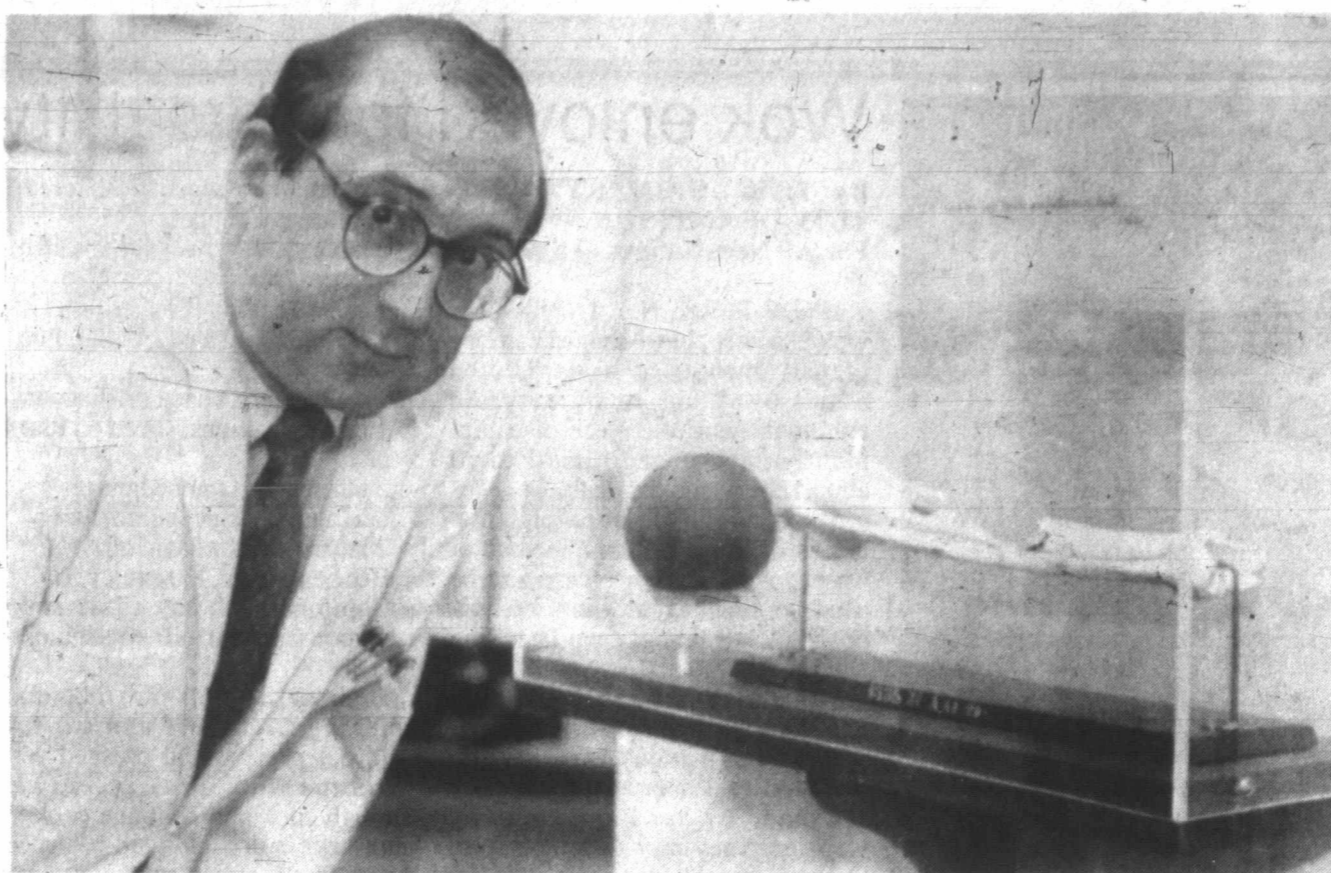
On display are a lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair, shirt cuffs stained with his blood and seven tiny skull fragments removed during the autopsy after Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865. Nearby is a section of President James Garfield's spinal column bored through by his assassin's bullet.

For 80 years, the museum was housed in a large, red-brick building on the National Mall next to the Smithsonian Institution. A million visitors trekked through its doors every year to gawk at its shelves of pickling jars containing mutilated or deformed organs and fetuses.

The museum's "horror show" reputation, officials say, detracted from a 129-year history of breakthroughs in medical research led by doctors on the staff of the parent Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

It was here that Walter Reed conquered yellow fever, allowing construction of the Panama Canal, and here that the world's first vaccine against typhoid fever was produced to protect American soldiers in World War I. In 1896, it took one of the first full-body X-ray films.

In 1917, the museum produced the first sex education film in the United States, warning soldiers against syphilis and gonorrhea at a time when discussion of sexually transmitted diseases was taboo in



(AP Laserphoto)

Marc Micozzi, director of the National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., stands in front of one of the oldest oddities among the exhibits Tuesday. The glass case contains the bones of the amputated leg of Union Gen. Daniel E. Sickles and the cannon ball which struck him at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

schools and churches. Earlier this year, the museum was studying a proposal to conduct genetic tests on the museum's Lincoln specimens to determine whether the former president inherited a potentially fatal disorder called Marfan Syndrome.

When the museum on the Mall was demolished in 1968 for construction of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn museum of modern art, the medical museum was moved to the Walter Reed center eight miles away. Public visits declined drastically.

The museum's governors, facing the threat of severe cutbacks by the Defense Department, hired Dr. Marc S. Micozzi of Philadelphia as director and redefined the museum's mission to stress public health education.

A non-profit foundation chaired by former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was organized to raise money for the museum's eventual return to a prominent site near the Mall.

The museum already is mounting public awareness exhibits on such topics as AIDS, mental depression and substance abuse. Later this month, it will open a computerized display inviting visitors to manage Lincoln's medical treatment.

Micozzi said the days of the freak show are long past.

"Our purpose will be to give people a sense of wonder and respect for the human body, to provide information to help them make personal decisions about their health and to inspire young people to choose careers in the health field," he said.

## Florida enacts law to reduce number of Caesarean births

By JACKIE HALLIFAX  
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — One Florida hospital that clamped down on Caesarean sections saved millions in tax dollars and found that mothers and babies were just as healthy. Hoping to repeat that success statewide, Florida law will require doctors in many cases to try to deliver babies naturally.

Natural delivery "has done quite well by all of us over the years," said Dr. Charles Mahan, Florida's health officer. "It doesn't seem natural that God wanted half of us to be born through the abdomen."

About 25 percent of American babies are delivered surgically, often when vaginal birth is a threat to the mother or child.

But consumer advocates say about half of all Caesareans are unnecessary. Mothers are about five times more likely to die during a Caesarean than during a vaginal delivery, although the risk is small in either case, Mahan said.

A law passed by the Legislature this spring requires the establishment of guidelines for when Caesareans may be performed. It also mandates peer reviews for doctors who do them. Generally, the law will require that vaginal birth be attempted before the doctor resorts to a Caesarean.

The law applies only to births paid for by Medicaid in hospitals where at least 30 such government-funded deliveries are performed annually. It will cover nearly a quarter of all births in the state.

"I felt that the state had an extraordinary interest in those Caesarean sections that it paid for out of state dollars," said the law's sponsor, Sen. Bill Bankhead, a Jacksonville Republican.

The state and obstetricians

together will devise the law's guidelines. The law takes effect in October.

New York enacted a similar law four years ago.

The state of Florida could save up to \$10 million a year if it repeats the results seen at University Medical Center in Jacksonville, where the rate of Caesarean sections fell from 27 percent to 8 percent, Bankhead said.

Caesarean sections require four or five days in the hospital compared with two or three days for vaginal births. Insurance companies pay doctors more for Caesareans, but in Florida the Medicaid payment was equalized several years ago.

Dr. Paul Gluck, president of the Florida Ob-Gyn Society and an obstetrician at Baptist Hospital in Miami, agreed that standards should be statewide but noted that many hospitals already have guidelines. Baptist has had guidelines and peer reviews for 15 years, he said.

In the past 20 years, the number of Caesareans in the United States has risen sharply from 5 percent of all births. C-sections are now the most common operation in the country.

Among the reasons for the rise: increased concern for the welfare of the fetus and doctors' fear of being sued if something goes wrong during a vaginal delivery.

Four of the 10 U.S. hospitals with the highest Caesarean rates are in Florida, including Hialeah Hospital, where 53.1 percent of 2,239 births in 1987 were by Caesarean.

Ines Thanos, 42, had an emergency Caesarean 10 years ago when she delivered twins. Last month she endured nine hours of labor before giving birth to a daughter, Katherine, naturally.

"That's the way it should be," she said.

## Man swallows pesticide tablets, exudes toxic fumes

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Poisonous fumes seeped from the body of a man who swallowed pesticide tablets, sickening several hospital staffers and forcing the evacuation of emergency rooms at two hospitals.

The unidentified man swallowed four tablets containing Phostoxin, an industrial-strength pesticide used by

farmers to kill weevils in wheat silos. He was found in suburban Perth early Tuesday, collapsed but still alive, and died two hours later.

At the first hospital the man was taken, a doctor and two ambulance officers were overcome by the fumes he emitted. He died at the second hospital.

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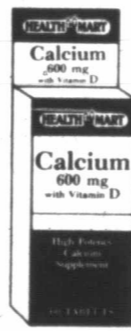
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# Today's Crossword Puzzle

## The World Almanac Crossword Puzzle

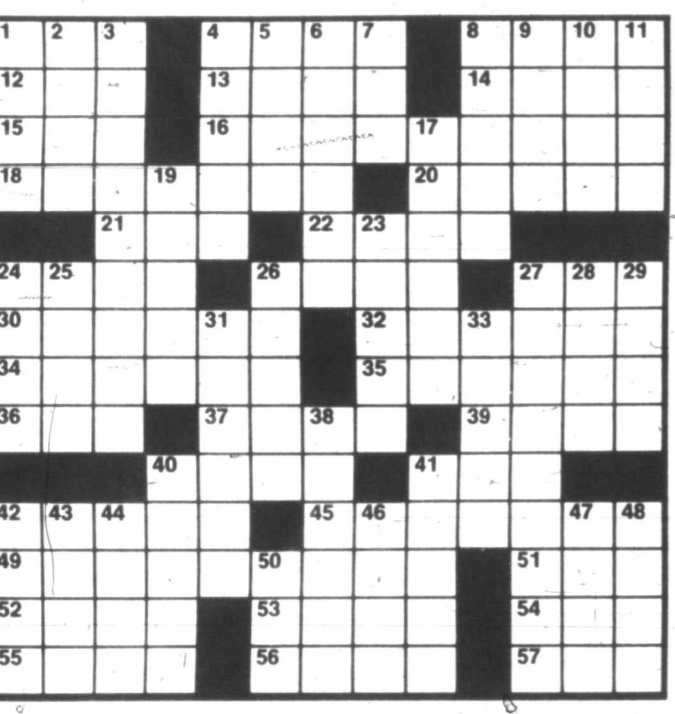
- ACROSS**
- 1 Repent
  - 4 Depressed
  - 8 Smudge
  - 12 Actress
  - 13 Isn't (sl.)
  - 14 Actress — Bonnet
  - 15 Joke
  - 16 Most underhanded
  - 18 Casts aspersions on
  - 20 Conductor — Previn
  - 21 Even (poet.)
  - 22 Christmas —
  - 24 Fruit decay
  - 26 Lone
  - 27 Fermented cane
  - 30 Arrangement
  - 32 Mother —
  - 34 Retaliate for
  - 35 Breakfast food
  - 36 Possessed

- DOWN**
- 1 Mats
  - 2 Two-toed sloth

Answer to Previous Puzzle

INTRA	SWEATS
STORES	NELLIE
NATIVE	ELDEST
OLEOS	VALE
BYRD	MID REEL
	EZIO
RHO	ORLOP
SAL	LOADS
VILLA	TIED
PRAY	BEN WISE
	NARD
STADIA	SILENT
SARONG	UNLADE
TAINTS	MESSY

- 3 Keen-sighted
- 4 Washbowl
- 5 Stock of goods
- 6 International org.
- 7 Airline info
- 8 Window
- 9 Was insincere
- 10 Soviet Union (abbr.)
- 11 Charge
- 17 — Abdul-Jabbar
- 19 Pretend (2 wds.)
- 23 Singing voices
- 24 Dull (sl.)
- 25 Fluid rock
- 26 Shorthand
- 27 Averse
- 28 Addict
- 29 Marshal Dillon's nickname
- 31 African land
- 33 Contradict
- 38 Confiscating
- 40 Mosquito genus
- 41 Small restaurant
- 42 Amorous look
- 43 Oil exporter
- 44 Come to earth
- 46 — bene
- 47 Biblical garden
- 48 Large quantity
- 50 Chinese pagoda



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### WALNUT COVE

By Mark Cullum

### THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

### EK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider

### B.C.

By Johnny Hart

### Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

Several new acquaintances will help expand your range of interests in the year ahead.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Someone with whom you're closely involved might be very difficult to motivate today. It's best you proceed alone rather than wait for this individual to get into gear.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Your chances for achieving your objectives look good today. But the desired results could be late in coming, thanks to the round-about way you'll do things.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Someone who doesn't fit in with the rest of your friends may be on the list for an activity you've planned today. It may be best for all concerned not to include this individual.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Ambition is likely to permeate your being today, and you may reach out for something you previously felt was beyond your grasp. It isn't — if you're bold enough to try.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Even though you'll be able to handle weighty matters with relative ease today, your companions may not. Don't make them feel uneasy; allow them time to sort things out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** You may have an opportunity to profit through another today — if you don't get cold feet just because the endeavor is more complex than what you're accustomed to.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** In order to make a sound decision today, you must have adequate time to carefully weigh and balance all your alternatives. If you move too hastily, you could be sorry.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** You may have to deal with someone today who you feel has treated you a bit shabbily in the past. Operate in accordance with your standards, not this individual's.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** You're reasonably safe today in taking chances on things that have been carefully thought out. However, shot-in-the-dark gambles should be avoided at all cost.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Do what you believe is right today, and don't be overly sensitive regarding what another may think about your actions. It's only important that you know your motives are pure.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** You'll receive the type of cooperation necessary to execute your plans today, provided you present them in a straightforward, easy-to-understand manner. Don't embellish facts.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** If you're prepared to earn what you get, you should be able to find ways to add to your resources today. Don't waste time thinking about dividends to which you're not entitled.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom

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By Charles M. Schulz

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By Jim Davis

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