PICTURE PAGE (answer)
by Brooke Nelson

Every picture in the grid corresponds to a five letter word. Because you are looking for 7 paths of equal length, they must all be thirteen squares long. Because the clues are 12 letters long, every connection between two squares maps to a letter. We are using five letter words, and 'bit' was used awkwardly in the flavor text, which will hopefully connect you to using five bit binary as the encoding. For example, DAFFY and GUMBY share just the Y, which corresponds to 00001, which is 1, which is an A. GUMBY to DUMBO is 01110, which is 14, which is N. Using possible connections and some boggle skills, you can figure out what the 7 paths and clues are.

The grid, with colors indicating which square is part of each path appears below:

DAFFY	BOARS	BEARS	WINGS	HINGE	DODGE	ASTRO
BLADE	GUMBY	WANDS	PEARS	GEARS	ACORN	EDDIE
EXCEL	BRIDE	DUMBO	HANDS	SPOON	TRAMP	ELVIS
LOUIE	ELROY	MANGO	APRON	CANDY	TIMMY	SIMON
FLUTE	CURLY	MAYOR	PANDA	BACON	JIMMY	HEMAN
GOOSE	COUNT	VELMA	WATER	SATAN	SMILE	EMILE
PAUSE	GNOME	CLOCK	WIPER	SMURF	SCALE	QUILL
WALDO	JIMBO	VIPER	SNORK	BRAVE	PEACE	PLANE
BALOO	ELMER	RUNTS	DOPEY	PLATE	GEODE	FLAME
HONDA	LINUS	GATOR	PANTS	HAPPY	STEAK	BJORK
UHURA	HOMEY	APPLE	MATER	SITAR	HIPPO	TABLE
PORKY	ZORRO	BUGLE	LANCE	NANCY	BILBO	FABLE
PINKY	MARIO	CELLO	BELLE	ANNIE	ANGLE	WILMA

The paths are:

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DAFFY 00001 A    EXCEL 10000 P    FLUTE 00101 E
GUMBY 01110 N    ELROY 00101 E    LOUIE 00001 A
DUMBO 00001 A    CURLY 10000 P    BRIDE 10011 S
MANGO 11000 X    COUNT 10000 P    BLADE 10100 T
MAYOR 01001 I    CLOCK 00101 E    BOARS 10111 W
WATER 10011 S    SNORK 10010 R    BEARS 01111 O
WIPER 01111 O    SMURF 10000 P    PEARS 01111 O
VIPER 00110 F    SATAN 01001 I    GEARS 00100 D
DOPEY 00101 E    BACON 00011 C    TRAMP 10010 R
HAPPY 10110 V    APRON 01011 K    TIMMY 01111 O
HIPPO 01001 I    SPOON 00101 E    JIMMY 01100 L
BILBO 01100 L    ACORN 10010 R    SIMON 00101 E
WILMA            ASTRO            HEMAN


PAUSE 00011 C    BALOO 01101 M    UHURA 00010 B
GOOSE 10101 U    WALDO 00001 A    ZORRO 00101 E
GNOME 00010 B    JIMBO 00100 D    MARIO 00001 A
VELMA 00001 A    ELMER 00001 A    CELLO 01110 N
PANDA 01110 N    GATOR 01101 M    BELLE 10011 S
CANDY 01110 N    MATER 00101 E    BUGLE 00011 C
HANDS 01111 O    SITAR 10010 R    APPLE 00001 A
WANDS 10101 U    STEAK 00001 A    LANCE 01110 N
WINGS 01110 N    BJORK 00100 D    NANCY 00100 D
HINGE 00011 C    GEODE 01001 I    ANNIE 11001 Y
DODGE 00101 E    PEACE 10101 U    ANGLE 00011 C
EDDIE 10010 R    PLANE 01101 M    FABLE 01111 O
ELVIS            FLAME            TABLE


PINKY 10011 S
PORKY 01001 I
HOMEY 11000 X
HONDA 00100 D
LINUS 00101 E
RUNTS 00111 G
PANTS 10010 R
PLATE 00101 E
BRAVE 00101 E
SCALE 10011 S
SMILE 01111 O
EMILE 00110 F
QUILL
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Each of the clues has an answer that is two five letter words or names. You can then use the same five bit binary mechanism on these answers.

The clues and answers, appearing in order of exit from the grid, are:

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PEPPER PICKER    PETER PIPER           10011      19 S

CUB ANNOUNCER    HARRY CARAY           01101      13 M

EASTWOOD ROLE    DIRTY HARRY           00101       5 E

SIX DEGREES OF   KEVIN BACON           00001       1 A

MADAME RADIUM    MARIE CURIE           00111       7 G

BEANS CANDY CO   JELLY BELLY           01111      15 O

AN AXIS OF EVIL  NORTH KOREA           01100      12 L
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The answer is therefore **SMEAGOL.**