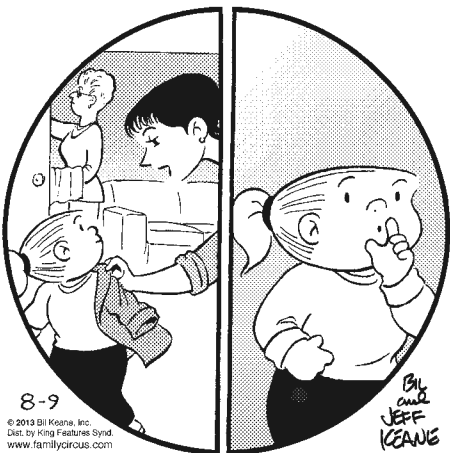


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

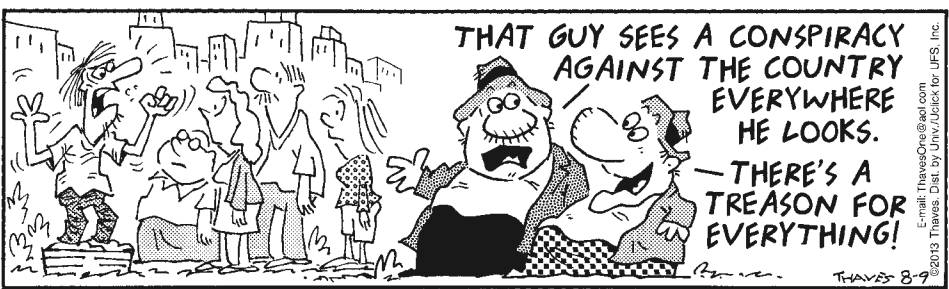


“Did Grandma have anything to say during the movie?”
“Yes. She said, ‘Shhhh!’”

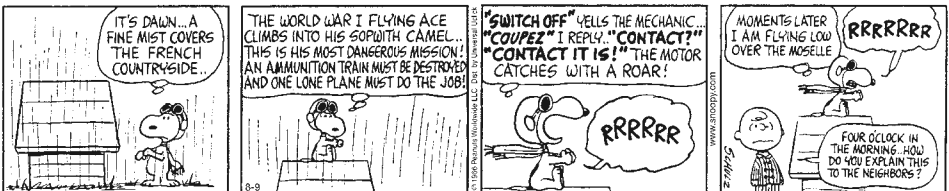
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



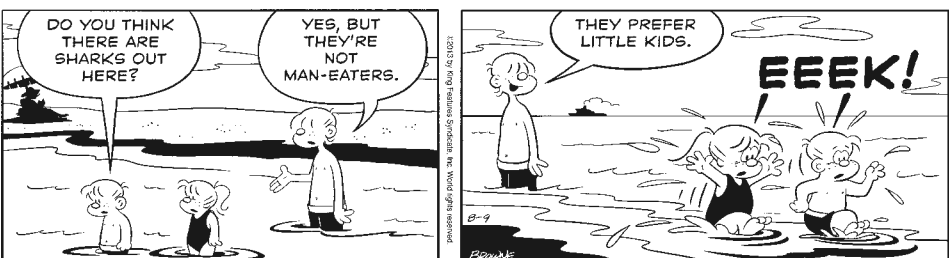
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



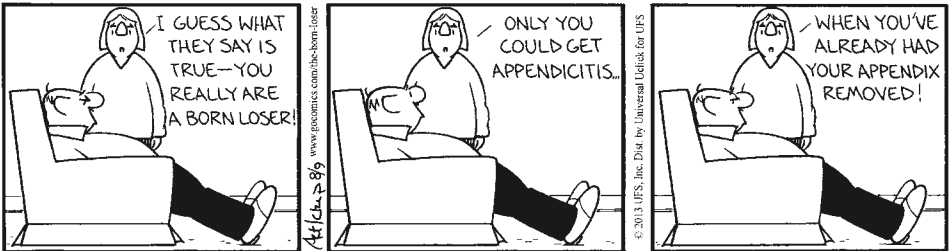
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Flowers Meant To Ease Grief Cause Only Heartache Instead

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law died two weeks ago. The services were beautiful. Many people sent flowers, but one arrangement — a bouquet of white flowers — arrived anonymously. I didn't think much about it, just that someone wanted to express sympathy. Now my mother-in-law has become frantic with concern about the flowers. She sobs over not knowing who sent them and — we think — suspects they came from an old or not-so-old flame.

My in-laws were married for more than 50 years, and it is heartbreaking to see her compound her grief with these thoughts. We have suggested various reasons that someone might have sent the flowers anonymously, but she refuses to accept them.

Is sending flowers this way unusual? Or are there good reasons to do it? For the record, is it even good manners to send flowers to a funeral anonymously? Or is my mother-in-law's reaction normal? — GRIEVING IN GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

DEAR GRIEVING: Your mother-in-law is grieving. She is fragile right now, and possibly not thinking straight. A card may have been sent with the bouquet that was somehow lost in transit.

That she was married to her husband for 50 years and now suspects he was unfaithful because of a bouquet of flowers at the man's funeral is a sad reflection on their marriage. She should discuss this with her spiritual adviser, if she has one, or a grief therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I am in my early 30s and have been married for five years. My husband and I decided to have a baby, and five months ago I found out I was pregnant. When I told my mom the great news, she wasn't happy to hear it. She doesn't care. All she cares about is how “fat” I'm going to get.

My mother never wants to talk about anything baby-related. If I complain about an ache or pain, she quickly says, “It's because you're fat!” The last time I went to the OB/GYN for a

checkup, Mom didn't even ask if everything was OK. All she said was, “How much weight have you gained?”

It hurts me so much that she treats me and her future grandchild this way. I almost feel like having this baby was a mistake. Please help me. I don't know what to do anymore. —

ALMOST IN TEARS IN OHIO

DEAR ALMOST IN TEARS: Stop depending so much on your mother's approval and you'll have a happier pregnancy. The person you should talk to about your weight is your OB/GYN. If your weight is such that it might affect your health or your baby's, you need to know it ASAP. Your doctor can refer you to a nutritionist if you need guidance about your diet.

Your relationship with your mother doesn't appear to be particularly positive. As you grow closer to motherhood, talk more with your girlfriends, talk more to your husband and less to your mother.

DEAR ABBY: I don't go to night-clubs often, so I'm curious as to what the protocol is for this. Sometimes, in the ladies' room, there is a woman there with toi-

letries, gum, cosmetics, etc. Before you can get your own, she puts soap in your hand and gives you a paper towel. There is a bowl on the counter for people to leave tips. The club manager says she isn't an employee of the club, but simply looking to make tips. I understand this.

My question: Am I supposed to tip her just once for the evening, or each time I use the ladies' room? — INQUISITIVE CLUBBER IN FLORIDA

DEAR CLUBBER: Tip the attendant each time you use the bathroom and she hands you the soap and towel — the standard rate is 50 cents to a dollar. However, if you tip the person generously the first time, you shouldn't feel obligated to do it again if you need to return.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Leo and a Moon in Virgo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 2013:

This year you could be more detail oriented than you have been in many years. Others might find you to be fussy. If you are single, you could attract someone who is emotionally unavailable. Make no commitments until you are sure this person can open up. If you are attached, the two of you could get into petty squabbles. You might opt to spend more weekends together as a couple. VIRGO does not realize it, but he or she often rains on your parade.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ Whatever you feel and do, you feel and do with a great amount of intensity. Others clearly understand your determination, which prevents you from being met by any heavy resistance. Use it well. Consider finishing a project that you have been putting off. Tonight: Out with a friend.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might be quite determined to have someone hear your version of what is happening. You will do nearly whatever it takes in order to ensure that you are heard. Communication can be a little sarcastic if you are not careful. Tonight: Join friends. Make it light and easy.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You could be overwhelmed by an unexpected and costly problem; you might not be sure which way you want to go. Check out alternatives, and others will respond well to your inquiries. Listen to feedback, but trust your judgment. Tonight: You need to let off a little steam. TGIF!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You could be taken aback by a personal matter, and perhaps you might even feel left out. You will funnel your frustration into a form of overindulgence. This escape might work for now, but what about later? Consider sharing your feelings instead. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You would like to see a situation develop in a more positive way; however, you also need to express your feelings. You might have been pushed way beyond what most people can

and will tolerate. Share your thoughts in a way that can be heard. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You tend to spend a lot of energy on getting what you want most. Start taking action. A friend or an associate might be far more supportive than you thought possible. This person's caring will infuse you with optimism. Tonight: Know what you want, and then make it so.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. You will have a strong sense of what is happening; however, if you become too inquisitive, you could cause a problem with someone you look up to. Assume a holding position for the present moment. Tonight: Make it an early night.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You might be dumbfounded by how everything seems to tumble into your lap. You know how hard you have worked, and now everything seems to be falling into place. A very assertive friend means well, but he or she can be controlling. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might be ready for a change, but the question remains: Is everyone else? You might want to hold back for a while in order to find a new approach or a different way of thinking. Brainstorm with your buddies and look for more answers. Tonight: Say “yes” to an offer.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Keep looking at what is happening. Seek out an expert or two to trigger new ideas or to give you feedback. This action will be a powerful alternative when you start to feel overwhelmed. Express your caring, even if the receiver is hostile. Tonight: Out late.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You generally are friendly and outgoing. When an associate becomes pushy, you might wonder what is going on. Express your concern in a caring manner, and you'll get excellent results. Know what you want from this situation. Tonight: Make and return calls.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's behavior. This person is likely to be a new friend who is expressing his or her caring in a way that you might not get. Once you understand where this person is coming from, you just need to respond. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

