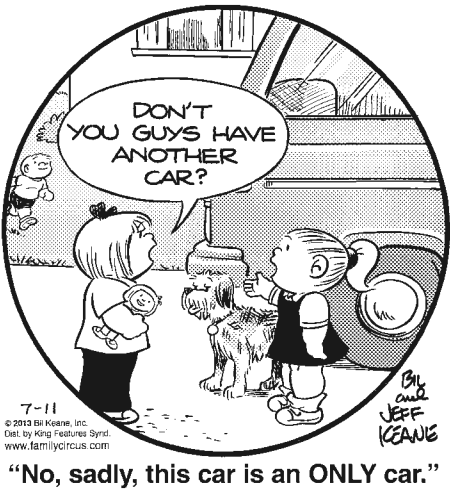
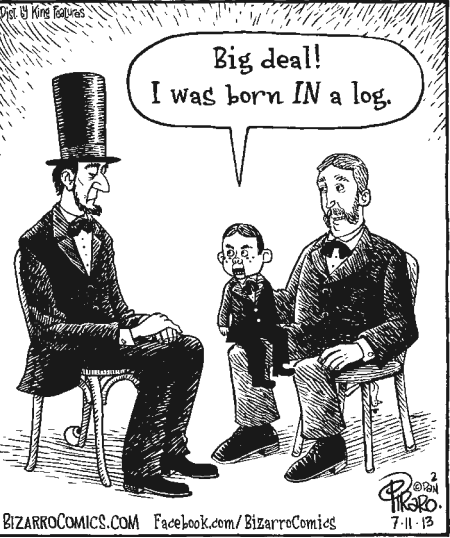


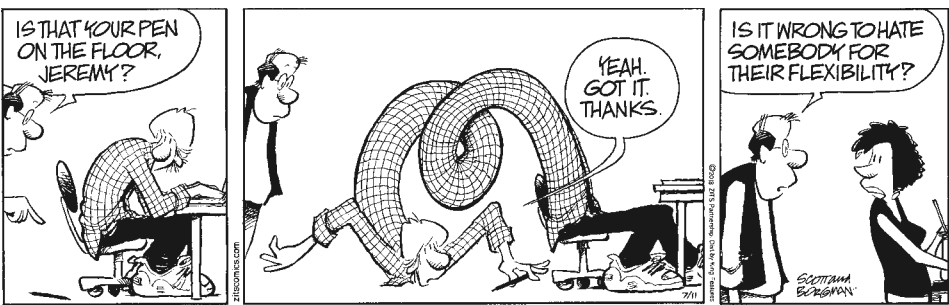
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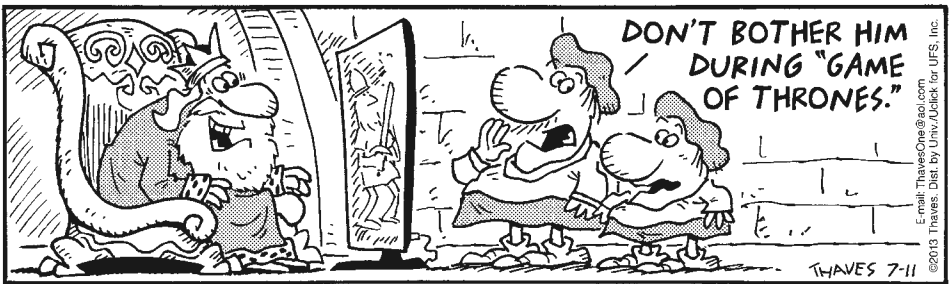
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



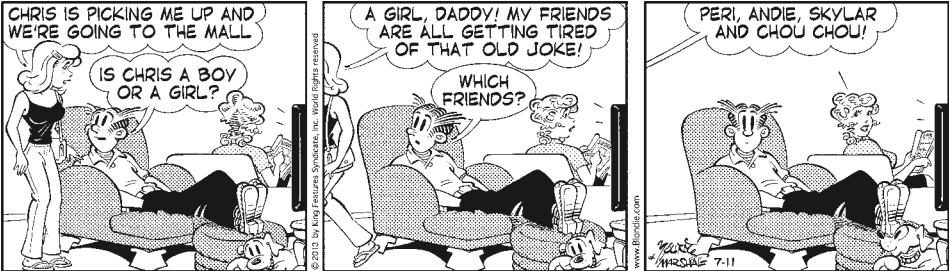
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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



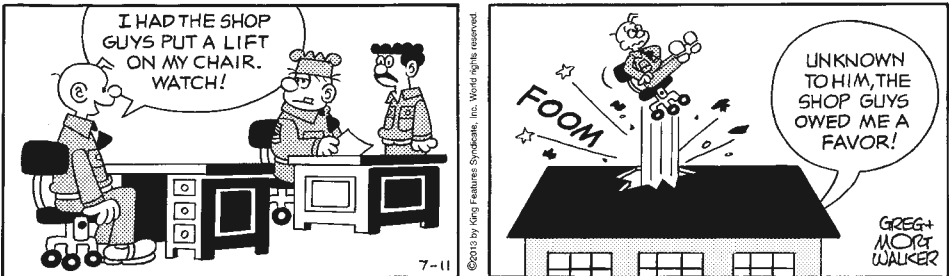
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



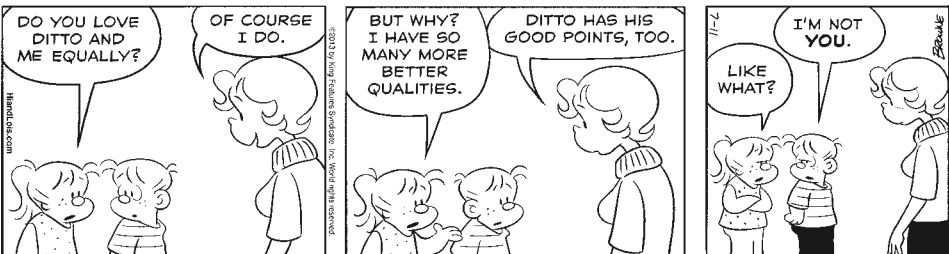
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



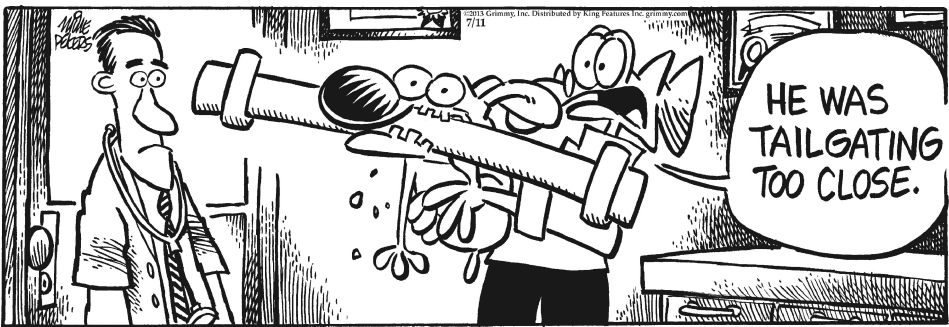
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Woman Says Marijuana Use Is Clouding Friend's Mind

DEAR ABBY: Legal marijuana is making my best friend stupid, boring and insipid. "Susan" and I are in our 50s and have been best friends off and on since childhood. A decade ago, we started taking better care of our friendship because so few longtime friends were still in our lives. Since then, I have been careful not to be judgmental or condescending because it was the source of past friction.

Susan is a regular marijuana user, which has sapped away all of her ambition and curiosity. Even when she isn't actually high, she lacks the cleverness and mental acuity I have always treasured about her. Otherwise, her life is functional. She's in a good marriage, loves her pets and enjoys her job. I think if I said anything, it would cause a major rift.

Should I just limit our time together and accept this is how things are going to be from now on? I'm a widow who has lost my parents and others to illness. I have other friends and family, but I don't want to lose my old chum, even though being around her is starting to make me sad. — FRIENDSHIP GOING TO POT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR F.G.T.P.: As people grow older, long and well-established relationships become more precious. But much as we might wish otherwise, relationships do not always remain the same. Because you are no longer receiving what you need from your interactions with Susan, I agree you may need to see her less often.

In light of your long relationship, I don't think it would be offensive to tell her you have noticed a change in her and you miss the person she used to be. However, are you absolutely certain that what you have observed is caused by marijuana? If you're not, then consider sharing your observation with Susan's husband, in case her lack of sharpness could be the result of another medica-

tion she's using or a neurological problem.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for one year. Yesterday I put all the pieces together and realized he's been cheating on me.

I called the other woman, and after she regained her composure and heard she is a mistress, she told me everything. She gave me the answers I desperately needed, and I am thankful for her honesty and — surprisingly — her compassion.

Now I need to move forward. I am crushed, and even though he can't explain why he cheated, I still want to know why. He says he's going to counseling, which is something I have been begging him to do since I had a miscarriage last summer.

Will he change? Or should I continue to pack the house and move on? — CRUSHED IN CHICAGO

DEAR CRUSHED: Much depends upon the reason your husband started cheating. If it was a way to avoid experiencing the pain of the loss of the baby, it's possible that with counseling the

two of you can get beyond this.

I suggest you ask to be included in one or more of the counseling sessions. If he agrees, at least you will know he is seeing a therapist. If not, you will have to decide whether you have had enough loss in one year to last you a lifetime, and whether you still have a future together.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Cancer and a Moon in Leo if born before 3:12 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013:

This year your temper could be an issue, as you'll learn to express your feelings in a way that others can understand. You tend to have a sweet tooth, and will want to indulge yourself more as a result. The best part of this year begins in late fall. If you are single, someone important could become a part of your life history. If you are attached, your charisma increases — and with it, your attentiveness to your sweetie. VIRGO can be fussy and critical at times.

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)

★★★★ You might want to make a tremendous effort to complete a project that has been on the back burner for a while. People sense your confidence, and they will make the decision to go along with your ideas. You finally feel supported! Tonight: Any reason works for celebration.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might not have to venture far. You could do your shopping via the Internet and enjoy the luxury of taking your time. Your creativity surges to an unprecedented level. You feel good no matter what you do. Tonight: Totally in the moment and ready for the weekend.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might need more feedback. You know what you want, and you are likely to pursue it impulsively, without thinking first. If someone points out a potential liability, listen carefully. You will see the problem once it is identified. Tonight: All smiles, and happy to be home.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might be trying to get the best price possible for a particular item. Try to postpone your decision for a while, because there could be a sale in the near future. Communication picks up in the afternoon; you'll like what you hear. Tonight: Think "weekend."

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Put the finishing touches on a project. Move quickly and efficiently, as by late afternoon, you might need to handle a financial situation or

follow through on a hunch. Do not allow someone to distract you. Tonight: Take care of an errand or two on the way home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might be doing more than your usual amount of questioning. You have a drive to launch a project but, for whatever reason, you have done little so far. A meeting proves to be very important. You will feel a sense of camaraderie. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could feel a little tired and overworked. You have a way of making your mark. Your insightfulness comes from asking questions — just make sure they're the right ones. Your power of observation will come through. Tonight: All eyes turn to you. Now what are you going to do?

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Deal with a partner who is determined to share his or her viewpoint. Later, when you stop to ponder where this person was coming from, you will see the rationale behind his or her thoughts. Be sure to keep an open mind. Tonight: Consider a getaway this weekend or next.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Others seek you out. In order to accomplish what you desire, you might want to screen your calls. Listen well to a partner who can help you carry out a certain project much faster. This likely will be the only person you should open the door for. Tonight: Wind down with a friend.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Dive into work; the grueling details of a meeting need to be handled quickly. By midafternoon, you will reach out to someone with whom you want to speak. Hopefully you have some extra time in your schedule. Tonight: Continue an important conversation over dinner.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ When you defer to others, you seem to have better results. Push a creative concept forward before lunch, if possible. Others will hear you better then, though it might take a day or two for them to make an assessment. Deal with a partner directly. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Getting going might be difficult in regard to a personal situation. You might believe that you can handle it right now if you could stop and make the time. Tap into your creativity, and request the help of a close friend. This person's ideas could help. Tonight: Let more fun in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

