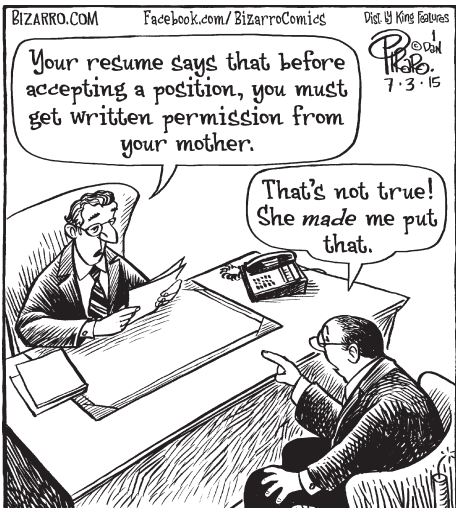


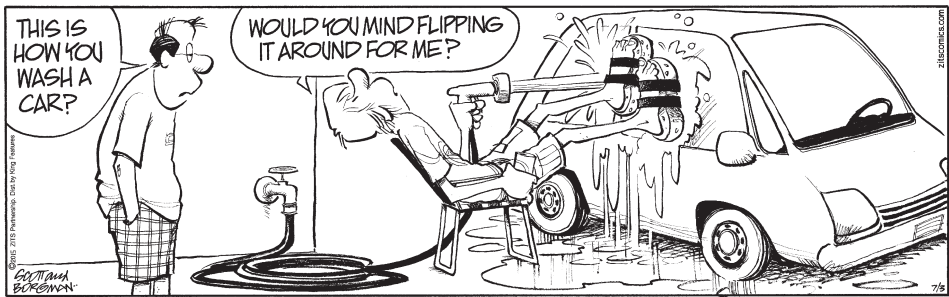
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



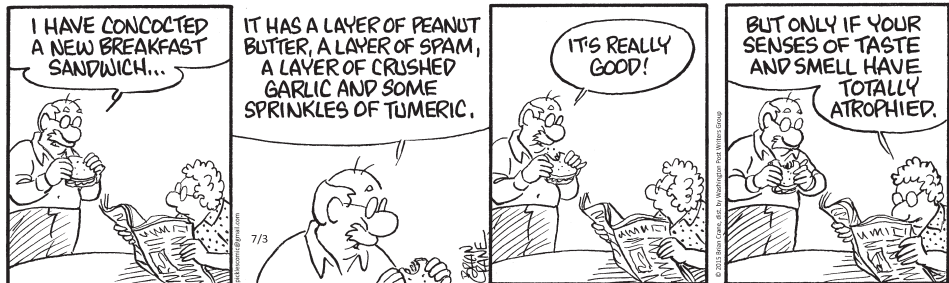
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



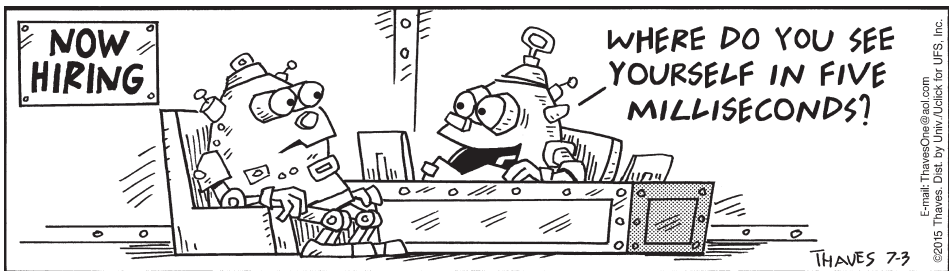
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



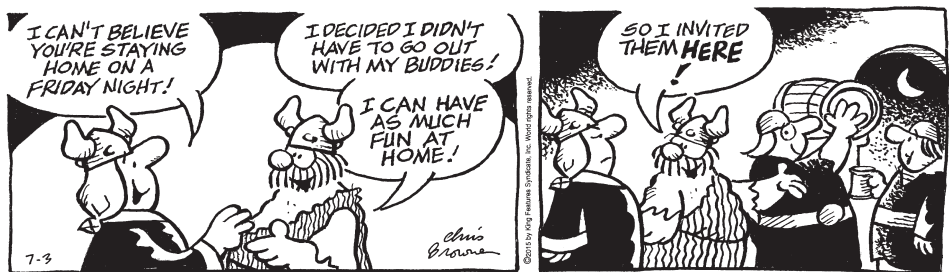
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



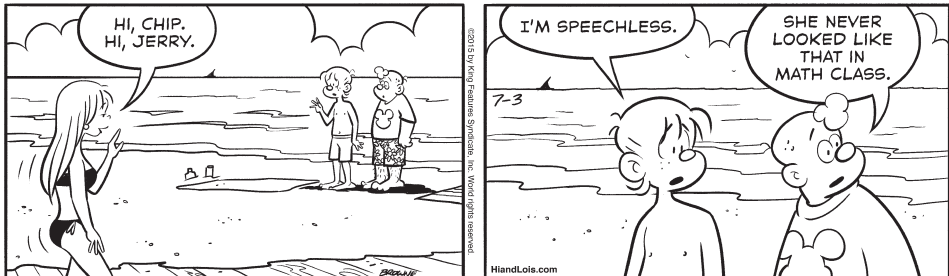
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



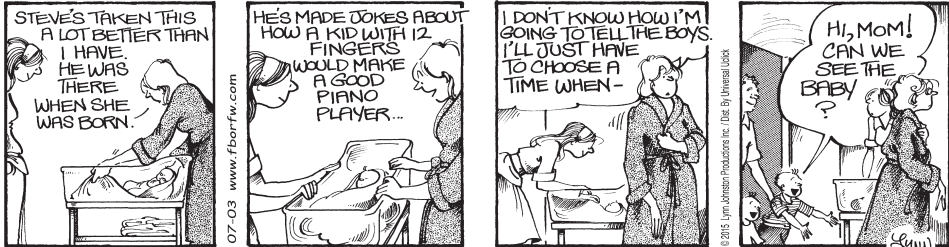
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Girlfriend Expects Fireworks When Her Parents Meet His

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "Tom" for two years, and I suspect that he will be proposing soon. He is 27 and I'm 24. Here's the problem: He wants our parents to meet before he asks.

Abby, I have put this off because I'm sure they will have nothing in common. My parents are small-business owners and conservative. His parents are pot-smoking swingers – literally.

How do I prepare my parents (and myself) for what I expect to be a tense and uncomfortable meeting? Should I suggest talking points? Should I fill my parents in on what is to come? I want this to go as smoothly as possible. I would appreciate any wisdom you may have. – NO WORDS ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR NO WORDS: Your dilemma reminds me of the plot from the movie "Meet the Fockers."

I'm sure the one thing your parents WILL have in common is a desire for you and your boyfriend to be happy together. Building on that, you and Tom should talk to your folks and prepare them for the encounter. Trying to hide or minimize their differences would do no good because they will soon become obvious. Do not waste your time or energy preparing "talking points" for Tom's parents, because if they show up stoned, they probably wouldn't be able to remember them.

DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, my sister "Diane" said she would like to get the family together for some professional family photos. The photographer she chose was available only on one particular day. Unfortunately, my husband couldn't get off from work that day.

Diane then suggested we take the pictures without him. I said it was inappropriate and refused. When I asked if we could use a different photographer at another time, my sister told me to forget the whole thing.

Today I was visiting my parents and I saw the family photos – taken without me, my husband and our child. I had no idea they had gone ahead and taken the pictures without us.

I am angry and hurt. I'm especially mad at my mom because she knew how bothered I was that Diane suggested excluding my husband.

Am I justified in feeling this way? Should they have waited until the whole family was able to get together? Or should I suck it up and not expect everyone to accommodate my husband's work schedule? – OUT OF THE PICTURE IN HOUSTON

DEAR OUT OF THE PICTURE: Yes, yes and yes.

DEAR ABBY: Until my daughter was 18, we did all the traditional birthday celebrations. On her 18th birthday, she turned the tables saying, although she was born on that day, I had done all the work of giving her life.

Now, at her request, we spend her special day celebrating each other. She takes me to dinner and buys me flowers, and I let her. And now on my special day, I do the same for my own mother.

This has become a tradition, and my grandchildren now follow it. The only gift necessary is the time we give each other. – APPRECIATED IN IDAHO

DEAR APPRECIATED: I like your daughter's idea very much. It makes perfect sense to me. In my opinion, what makes any holiday special is the time people who care about one another spend celebrating together.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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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 Capricorn if born before 8:21 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2015:

This year you prefer to relate to others on a one-on-one level. As a result, you will be more effective at relating. You are full of energy and are determined to have more of what you want. You often might not get enough sleep, as you seem to spend a lot of time worrying about certain issues. Take good care of yourself. If you are single, no one can deny your desirability. You could be in a situation where you have several suitors to choose from. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy being together without all of your friends and family around. Schedule a special vacation together. AQUARIUS can push hard to get what he or she wants. 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 have a lot to say, and you want others to hear you. Try incorporating more originality into the conversation. A friend could feel a bit awkward about a project you both are involved in. Don't let the gawkiness interfere with the bond. Tonight: Let your imagination rule.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Listen to news, and be ready to make a decision that might cause some tension. This matter could revolve around the community or your work. Stay centered. Use caution when spending money on your home or on a family member. Tonight: Let the party begin!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have the ability to see beyond the obvious. As a result, when you give a presentation, everyone focuses on what you are saying. Use caution with spending, and explain in a clear way why you might need to say "no." Tonight: Take off and try out a new spot.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Deal with a loved one on a one-on-one level. Your points will be well-received, and you can have a discussion that you probably had been avoiding. You might have felt vulnerable as of late, but you will determine that you are on friendly turf. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You add punch to everyone's day. You

know what you want, but getting it could take some talent. You deal with very stubborn people who are determined to be right. Zero in on a long-term desire that you have wanted to make a reality. Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You intuitively know what to do. Pace yourself and recognize that you are not a superhero. Don't push yourself too hard. Communication revolves around an authority figure or some other person you often defer to. Tonight: Know when to say "enough is enough."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take news with a grain of salt. You are happiest at home, not having to deal with any uproar. Focus on what you enjoy. A child might delight you more than you ever could have imagined. Add that quality of lightness to your other bonds. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be in the midst of a major change involving a matter you have avoided dealing with. This adjustment is likely to occur in the near future. Focus on a domestic issue. A partner will support you in whatever you want to do. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Others have a lot to say, so listen closely, and you can meet them halfway. Your logic might be offbeat and a bit unrealistic. No matter what you do, you can't seem to get everyone to listen to your opinions. Stay upbeat, regardless of the outcome. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Use caution with spending. You usually are cautious, but someone knows how to goad you into spending more. Take your time, and check out an item you have wanted to buy more carefully. You probably are not getting a good deal. Tonight: Have fun!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

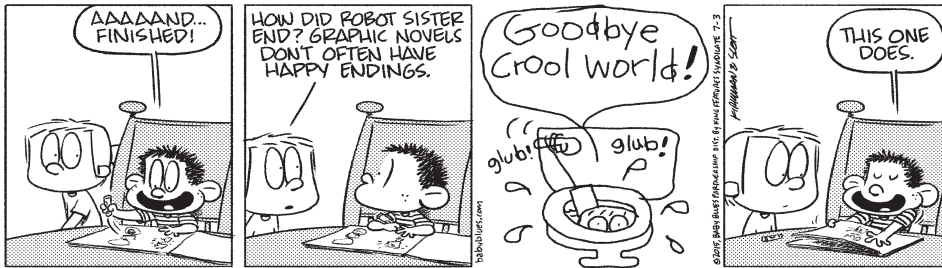
★★★★ Choose not to see a situation as a problem. You might be surprised by how different your perspective could be if you just relax. Listen to what someone else has to share. This person has strong feelings, so make sure you're ready for that type of interaction. Tonight: Ever playful.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Take your time when making a decision. You might not know which way to go. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with a child. Consider taking some time off. You need a change of scenery, and you'll feel much better if you go for a drive. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

