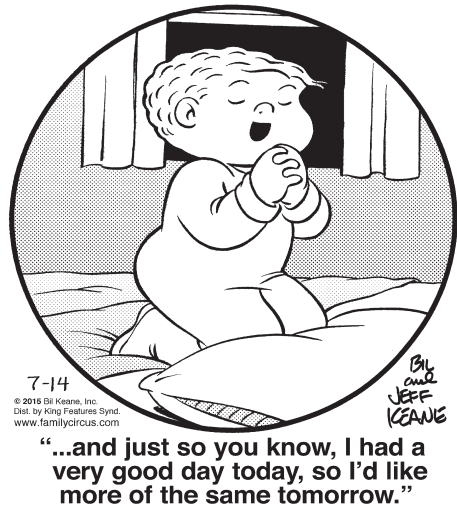


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



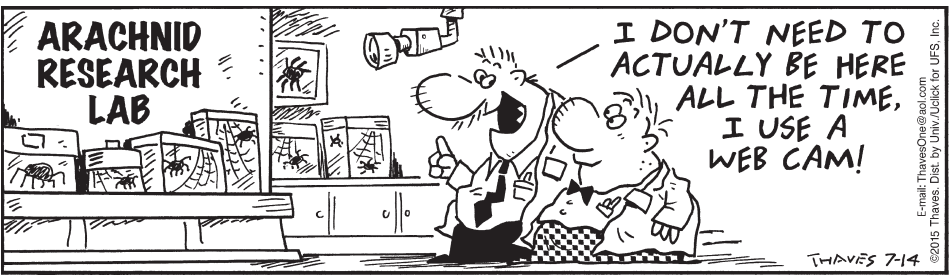
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



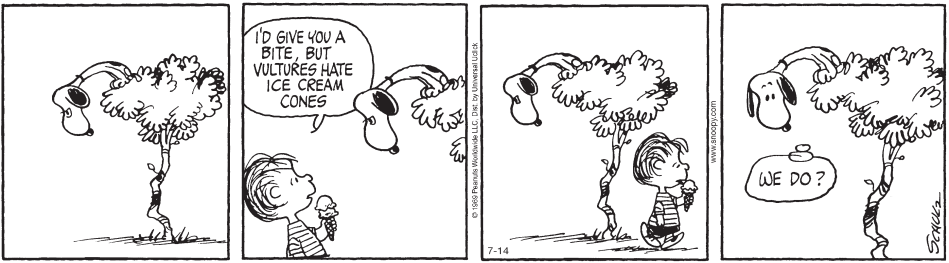
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



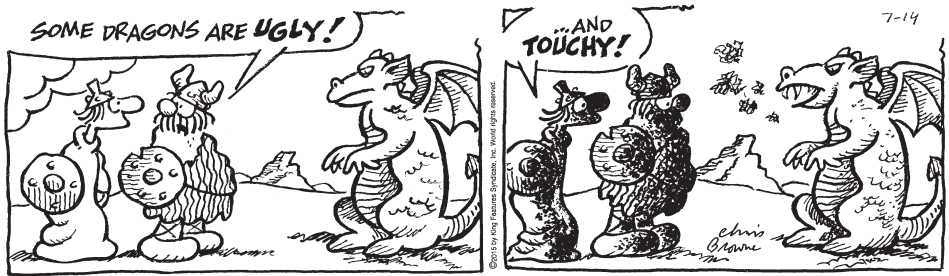
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



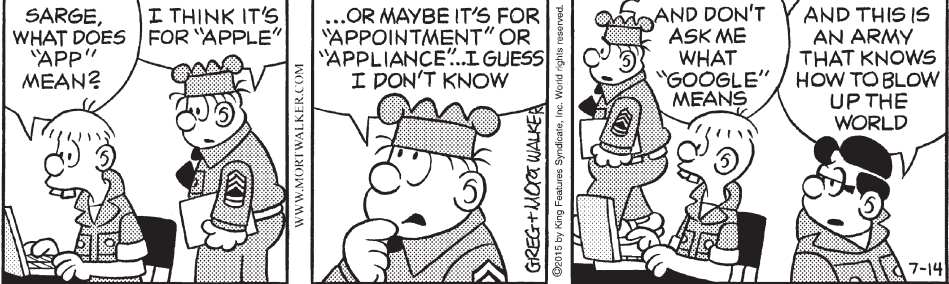
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



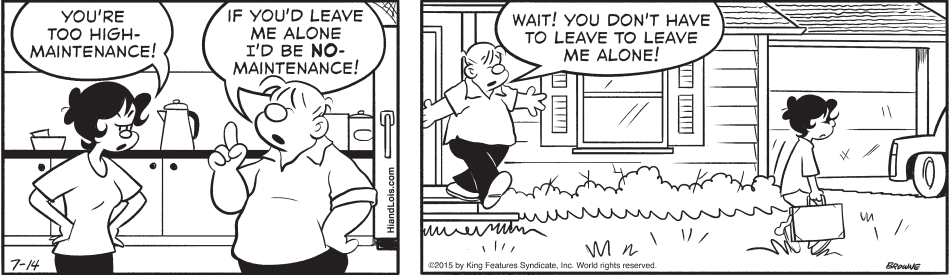
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



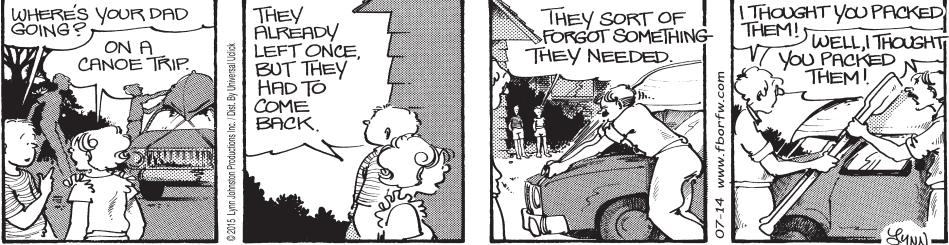
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Woman In Wheelchair Feels No Need To Explain Her Condition

DEAR ABBY: I am a partially disabled person in my 70s. Because of arthritis in my spine and hip, I'm able to stand for only a few minutes and walk only 20 to 30 feet. When I know I am going to be someplace that requires more walking or standing, I use my wheelchair.

My question is: How do I reply to strangers who ask me, "Why are you in a wheelchair?" One lady said, "Oh, is it your knees?" I feel the questions are rude, and I shouldn't have to explain my medical status to people I don't know. I try to mumble something about not being able to stand for long periods, like waiting in line. But I'd really like to respond with a funnier, more flippant reply if I could think of one. Any suggestions? – TRAVELING BY WHEELCHAIR

DEAR TRAVELING: Try one of these "flippant" possibilities: "It's nothing I usually discuss in public, but it's contagious!" Or, "I broke my tailbone dancing at the Bolshoi." Or, "Just lazy, I guess."

However, joking about a medical condition isn't funny. So perhaps you should reconsider and just be honest.

DEAR ABBY: I recently was invited to a surprise 50th-birthday party for my twin sister. Her husband had a family dinner that included all my siblings.

When my brother-in-law invited me, he said my sister didn't want a big party, but he wanted to celebrate our birthdays with this special dinner. I was delighted to attend, but I must admit I was a little hurt when the celebration turned out to be strictly for my sister. My name wasn't on the cake, and only she blew out the candles and opened gifts. (I did receive two cards.)

I know the party was given for her, and I was a gracious guest, but as her twin, I felt awkward and ignored. Am I being overly sen-

sitive, or were they just rude? – TROUBLED TWIN

DEAR TROUBLED TWIN: Oh, my. I don't think your brother-in-law was being rude. But in light of the fact that you and your sister were womb mates, you were treated with incredible insensitivity.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a sticky situation. My husband, "Chester," can't stand to eat meals with my dad. It's never bothered me, but Dad sometimes "smacks" or talks with food in his mouth. It drives Chester crazy. We visit them every week and meals are always involved. What do I do? Should my husband just get used to it? We decided to ask you for advice before we do anything else. – IN A PICKLE IN TEXAS

DEAR IN A PICKLE: Have your mother talk to Dad and "suggest" that their son-in-law is used to more formal table etiquette, so would Dad please make an effort to not chew with his mouth open when the two of you are visiting. I can't promise it will do the trick, but it may make your father more conscious about what he's doing.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Gemini if born before 2:14 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015:

This year you often will flip back and forth between different opinions. To you, you are processing your thoughts. To those around you, you are making them crazy. Try to verbalize less to avoid triggering others. If you are single, you will meet someone anytime from when the cool weather begins to your next birthday. This relationship could be major. If you are attached, the two of you love hanging out together. You will see even more bonding occur. You might react to another CANCER in a competitive manner. You understand each other, but you often are not in sync.

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)

\*\*\* Honor a sense of feeling drained. It might be best to spend some time at home relaxing. You can't always go-go-go, as if you were a machine. Follow your instincts, and you will land well. A child or loved one will be delighted to see you. Tonight: Make your No. 1 priority.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Your smile and expression tells others where you stand on certain matters. You'll be quite content with an offer heading your way. A partner might express sarcasm, possibly because of jealousy. Be nice anyway. Tonight: Visit over dinner, and talk through a problem.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

\*\*\* Double-check all your financial dealings, and make sure there are no errors. This cautious attitude needs to transfer over to counting your change as well. A boss might make a suggestion that appeals to you, but ultimately might not be as clear as you would like. Tonight: Pay bills.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

\*\*\*\*\* You are far more direct than many people realize. Your moodiness sometimes confuses others, as you tend to say one thing yet do another. Curb spending and overindulgence. If you can walk a moderate path, you will be able to avoid a problem. Tonight: Free yourself up.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

\*\*\* Use today for reflecting on a recent

decision and for making a new opportunity possible. You are full of fun, but take some time off to recharge your batteries. Take your time; this downtime is important to you and your well-being. Tonight: Say little right now.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* You are at a point where you can change a difficult situation quite easily, if that is your desire. You have pushed very hard to be acknowledged. You might be taken aback by some awkwardness between you and another person. Let it go. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* A dear friend might entice you to spend more than you want. Listen to news more openly than you have in the past, especially if it is coming from a respected authority figure. Stay more in touch with a situation that has financial implications. Tonight: Accept a gift graciously.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* Share a new outlook about a touchy situation. You might want to distance yourself from this problem even more after seeing someone else's reaction. A friend will express his or her appreciation for your caring. You'll sense a new beginning. Tonight: Be near great music.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* A partner or a close loved one might want to discuss an important financial matter. You could get cranky and become quite difficult. Even if you try to express your authentic appreciation, the other party might judge it as being false. Tonight: Follow the leader.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

\*\*\* You easily could become quite uptight in a situation where you see a partner or loved one pull back and try to make what he or she wants happen. You will notice that others support this person. You might want to acquiesce to his or her will. Tonight: Go along with the program.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

\*\*\*\*\* You might have a lot to do, but after the past few playful days, you could be more than ready to clear out some paperwork or tackle a project that has been on the back burner. Allow another serious-minded person to share more of his or her ideas. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

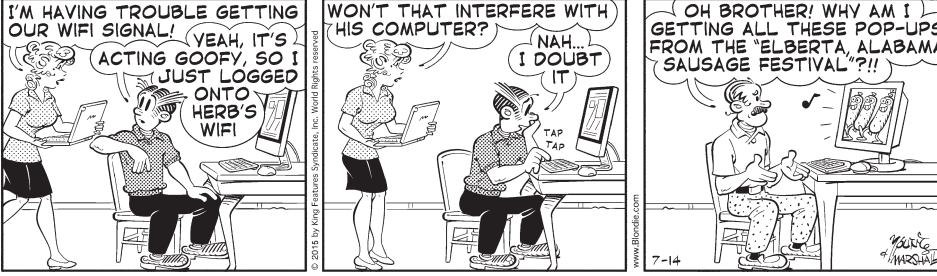
\*\*\*\*\* Observe the creativity around you, and encourage this type of thinking. Your ability to take information and use it differently from how others do will help you find solutions easily. Others seek you out when they have a problem. Tonight: Add spice to the evening.

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5 ways PARENTHOOD is like COLLEGE



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

