

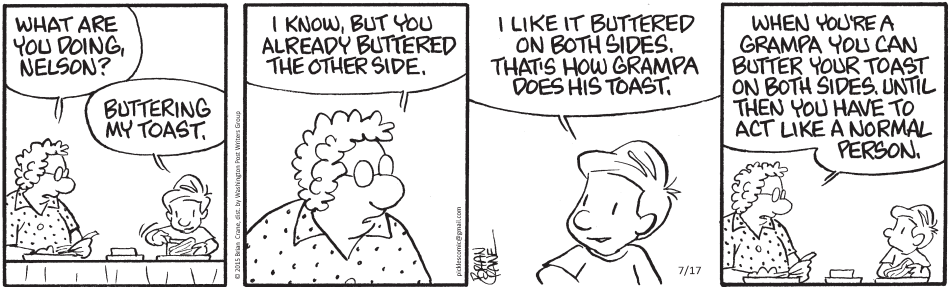
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



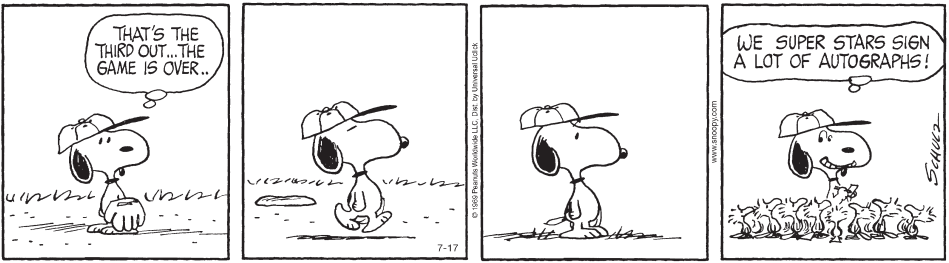
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



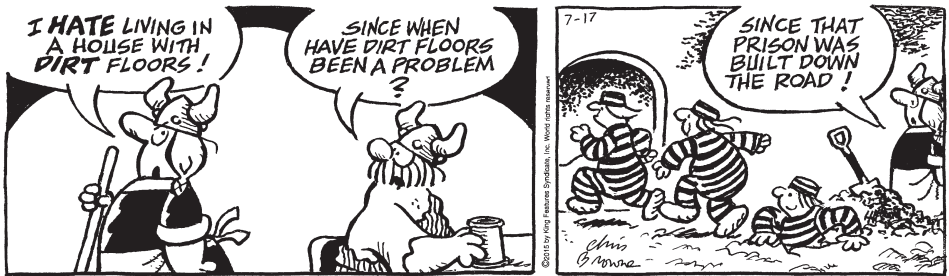
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



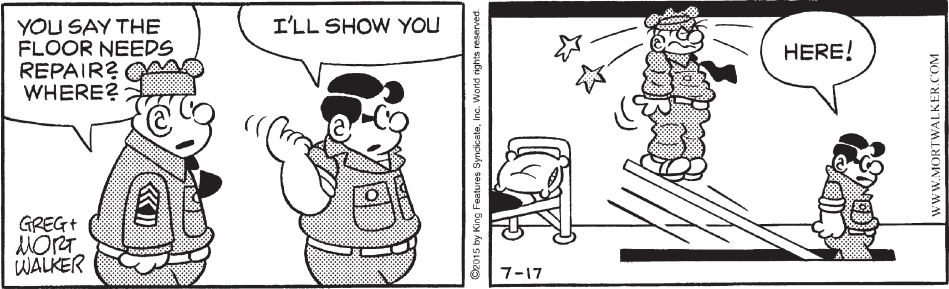
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



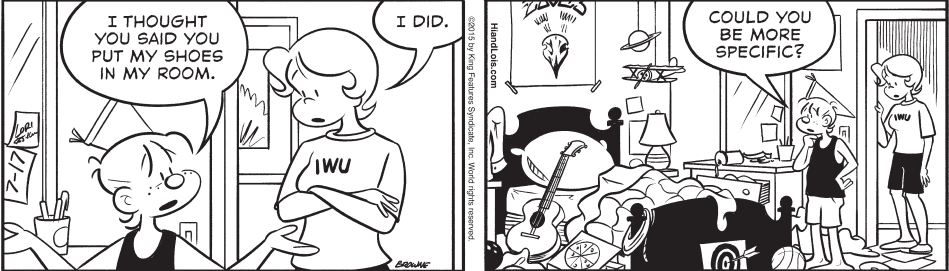
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



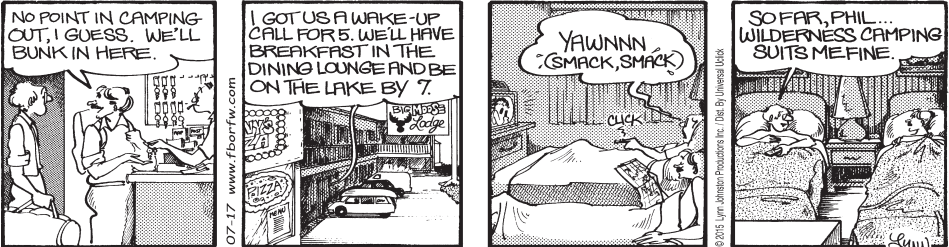
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Secret Engagement Should Stay Secret Awhile Longer

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend, "Derek," for four years. After a night of emotion-filled discussion, he asked me to marry him. I said yes, but it has always been a difficult idea for me to wrap my head around. I'm turning 21 and although that may be old enough for some people to get married and have kids, it scares the heck out of me.

I love Derek and I want to marry him one day. He assured me we could stay "engaged" for a few years, but it still makes me uneasy. We don't have a ring yet, and we agreed we wouldn't tell our families until we get one. It doesn't feel real because there's no ring and no one knows – could that be why I'm so nervous?

I need a second opinion and some advice on whether to wait to tell anyone or tell people now. – COLD FEET

DEAR COLD FEET: An engagement with no ring and no announcement hardly seems like an engagement at all. That's why you and Derek should rethink making any announcements until you BOTH feel ready to take such a big step. When the time is right, the idea of marriage and children will make you feel happy, not frightened.

Frankly, I think your fears may be well founded because you have had little life experience – and once the ball starts rolling, stopping it may be complicated. That's why you and Derek should remain in a holding pattern until you are more confident about what you want to do.

DEAR ABBY: Although I am not considered bad looking, I'm not extremely beautiful either. Guys find my friends prettier than me.

For a few years I have been thinking about getting a nose job. My parents say I need to wait for all my facial features to adjust to my growing body to prevent facial disfigurement in the future. I think that's just an excuse. When is the right age to get a nose job? – ALA-BAMA TEEN

DEAR TEEN: This is a question that should



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

be answered by your personal physician. You didn't state your age, but I don't think your parents are stalling. According to WebMD, it is very important that before a young person has a nose job the facial bones have reached "adult size." The usual age for girls' noses to mature is 15 or 16. (Interestingly, for boys it is a year or so later.)

DEAR ABBY: My father had a son with a woman while he was dating my mother. Mom made Dad choose between her and his son. He chose Mom, and has had no contact with the boy.

Dad doesn't want to interfere with his now-grown son's life. I, on the other hand, would love to reach out and meet my half-brother. Would it be overstepping boundaries if I do this? – SOMEONE'S SIBLING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SOMEONE'S SIBLING: I'd be curious to know how you became aware of your half-brother's existence, because I'll bet the topic wasn't discussed in your home. While I might have no objection to you reaching out to your half-sibling – because I am not emotionally involved – your mother will feel betrayed and angry. If you decide to move forward, be prepared.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone.

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 Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015:

This year you will be unusually buoyant. You have a lot of energy, and you'll need to use it wisely in order to prevent yourself from becoming stressed out. If you are single, don't jump right from one relationship to the next, or you could miss meeting the right person. If you are attached, the two of you will opt to spend more time together. You have a tendency to overspend together, but it is also likely that you will see more money coming in. LEO is great at spending your money.

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)

★★★★ Though you and a friend might have only good intentions, somehow a clumsy awkwardness is likely to come over both of you. Allow a partner to express his or her feelings, even if it makes you uncomfortable. Tonight: Get into week-end mode.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You could be somewhat unconcerned with a domestic matter. A family member who can be a bit dramatic will remind you why you tend to distance yourself from him or her. You might gain an unexpected insight about the situation. Tonight: Stay close to home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Don't just sit back and listen. You need to be an active leader in order to get others to listen to you and your ideas. You have the proper leadership skills to make this happen. A partner might not be as tuned in as you would like him or her to be. Tonight: Strut your stuff.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You have a way of affecting those close to you in a big way. You might be a bit self-indulgent, so be prepared to receive some negative feedback from a loved one. A boss or a parent could surprise you with news or with his or her actions. Tonight: Out on the town.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You can't help but smile as you see your efforts finally come to fruition. A call could

bring some exciting news that might involve travel and/or a long-distance visit. Your sense of organization will help you get through a difficult few days. Tonight: Wish upon a star.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You probably will want to be left alone, as you feel you have so much to do in so little time. Honor a change of pace, and set aside some spare time just for you. A loved one might try everything he or she can in order to communicate better with you. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ A friendship will put a smile on your face. Don't question what is happening -- just enjoy the moment. Clear your desk, and get as much done as possible. You could be surprised by a loved one's actions and/or words. Tonight: What is stopping you? It's the weekend!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You'll feel more sure of yourself than you have in a long time. Respond to someone who is demanding and to whom you know you must answer. You could be subject to unpredictable changes in your daily schedule. Your ability to flex will be tested. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be excited about an opportunity to take several days off. You might choose to make a strong decision about a financial matter. Be willing to take a workshop in order to increase your knowledge in your field. Tonight: Get past a self-imposed restriction.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. You are more likely to see the results you want. Allow your imagination to wander, and you might be delighted by some of the ideas you come up with as a result. Ignore the uproar surrounding certain people. Tonight: Dinner out with a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

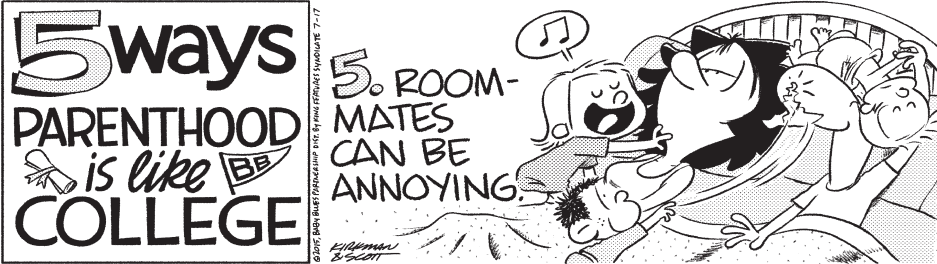
★★★★ You'll have little choice but to defer to a loved one, and you will like the freedom you get when you do. If you have a side project that you want to do some work on, go for it. Choose to relax and worry less about a problem. Tonight: Which invitation will you accept?

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

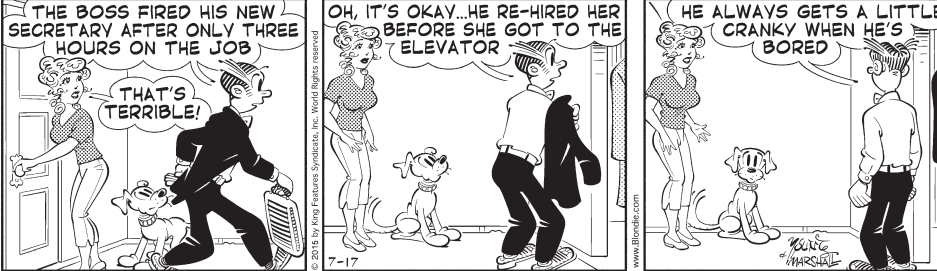
★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover, many people to speak with and a lot of errands to finish. The unexpected occurs. If you feel lucky, stop and buy a lottery ticket. Don't take any risks for which you cannot afford a loss. Zero in on what you want. Tonight: Off to the gym.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

