

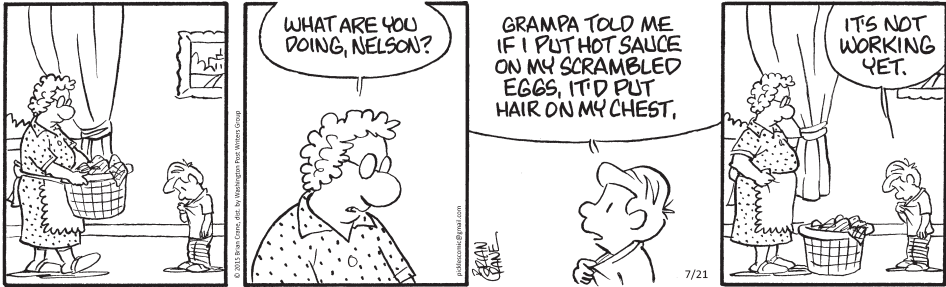
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



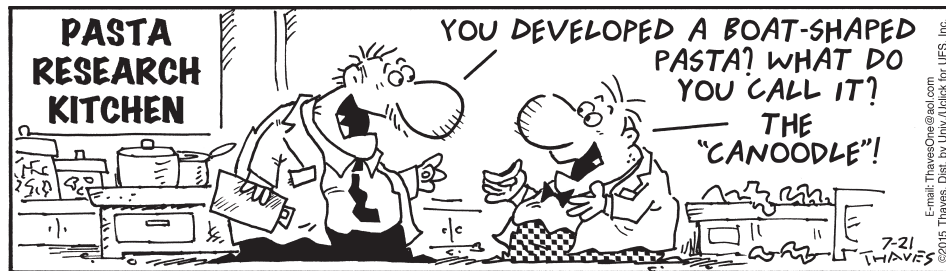
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



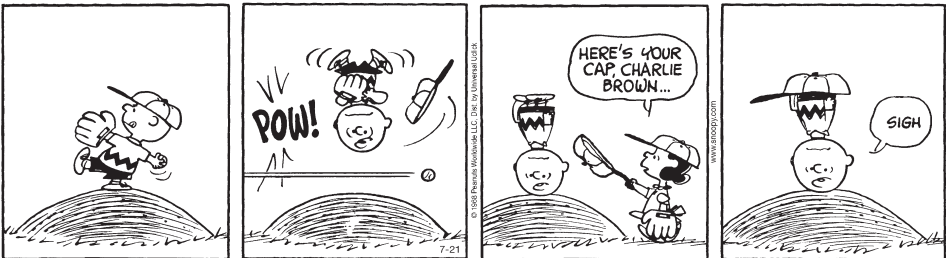
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



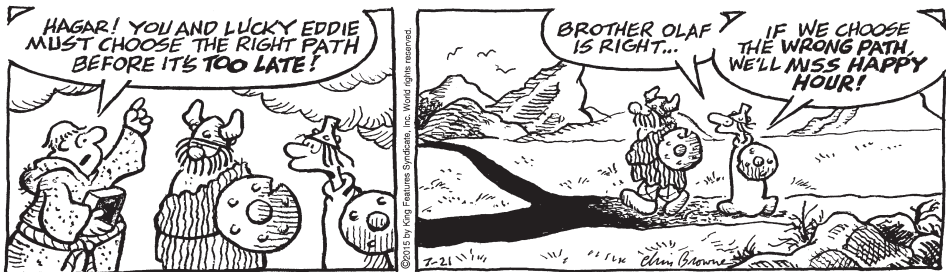
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



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



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Hospital Worker Violated Law By Reading Husband's Records

DEAR ABBY: "Concerned in Massachusetts" (Feb. 20) used her status as a hospital employee to access her husband's medical records and found a history of STDs. I'm a registered nurse with 40 years' experience. Every healthcare organization I know of teaches all their employees about HIPAA violations and that accessing private patient medical information is a criminal offense. It is essential that patients know they can trust us to protect their privacy. We have specific policies against using one's employee status to access a relative's medical information.

"Concerned" is lucky she still has a job. At my institution, she would be terminated for violating organizational policy and federal law. She wouldn't have to worry about how to broach the subject with her husband; she'd be explaining why she was fired. He may not be a saint, but neither is she. Her actions were unacceptable and reflect a clear lack of integrity and honesty.

DEAR SAFEGUARDING: Thank you for your informed response. You are not the only reader who was appalled at what "Concerned" had done. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Like "Concerned's" husband, I, too, am labeled as high risk for STDs based on a medical survey I completed, although I have had a monogamous 30-year marriage and do not do drugs of any kind. In that survey, they asked how many partners I had in my lifetime. Those few other partners were before I met my wife.

"Concerned" indicated that her husband had been treated twice for STDs "some years back." What does that mean? Were they married then? If not, is he labeled high risk due to his previous behavior? Perhaps there is something deeper in the relationship that needs addressing – such as why there are weeks between sexual contact with her husband.

It's ironic that she's bent out of shape over infidelity concerns, but thinks it acceptable to betray the privacy and ethics rules governing medical professionals. – VINCENT IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: "Young at Heart in Texas" (Feb.

9) could have written my story. I am also a 70-year-old man who is sexually dysfunctional. I, too, was lonely, having outlived two of my brides. However, I did find someone who appreciates holding hands and whispering sweet words without more physical contact.

Abby, you said: "Not only do I think you can (find companionship), I suspect you may need police protection to control the crowd of applicants. Years ago, my aunt, the late Ann Landers, polled her female readers asking if they would prefer 'holding and cuddling' to actually doing 'the deed.' The majority of them answered in the affirmative."

My first wife died of a heart attack after 30 years of marriage. My second wife died after eight years of marriage, of kidney cancer. At 71, I married my third wife, a wonderful woman just as you both describe. She was my next-door neighbor. We have been married three years and nine months. (The

Bible says, "Love thy neighbor," so I married her!) We also enjoy cuddling, even without doing "the deed."

So I say to "Young at Heart in Texas": YES, you can find a woman such as you and Abby describe. And when you do, I suggest you rub her back often. Women love it! – YOUNG AT HEART IN COLORADO

DEAR YOUNG AT HEART: I'm glad your story had a happy ending, and I'm crossing my fingers that "Young at Heart's" will, too. Thanks for writing to encourage him.

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.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 2015, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Virgo if born before 9:20 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015:

This year you can be detail-oriented and quite effective when dealing with various matters that are close to your heart. You can be critical at times, yet the same situation on a different day could draw a totally different response from you. You often have to charm your way out of a bad situation. If you are single, after August you will attract someone who could change your life in many ways. This person will be intrigued by your changeability. If you are attached, the two of you see life much differently from how you have in the past. Open up to each other more. LIBRA is impressed by your domestic nature. 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 will understand what is happening if you step back and let others reveal their thoughts. You could be taken aback by a change of pace. Honor what is happening around you, and if you can't go along with it, head in a new direction. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Your creativity remains high. The issue seems to be applying your unique ability to what is happening right now. Lighten up about a situation, and know what lies ahead. Someone close to you seems detached and cold. Understand that this is just a phase. Tonight: Make it merry.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are finally justified in a choice you have made. Be careful here, as you could burn some bridges. Lighten up about a personal matter that is close to your heart, and watch as new possibilities appear. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might want to make a call first thing in the morning, especially if it is important. Your ability to move forward and come to terms with a personal matter could change. You know what you need to do. Handle a domestic issue before the day ends. Tonight: The party begins now.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ It would be smart to get over your

fussiness quickly, as you will be dealing with a lot of people at once. It seems as if all you are seeing is what you want to see, and nothing more. Be careful, as it might be your distortions that upset the apple cart. Tonight: Hang out.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might have a sense that a problem has gone too far. How you handle a personal matter could change this situation. Listen to your instincts, and you will land well. Your expenses might be out of whack, so try to use more self-discipline. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your energy soars. What could possibly stop you at this point? You seem to be much more together right now, and you'll make a strong impression no matter what you do. If you have an important situation pending, push it forward. Tonight: Don't stop now.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Say little, and concentrate on a project or your work. The less involved you are, the more successful the outcome will be. You also might need some personal time to rethink a decision or maybe just snooze. Don't allow anyone to slow you down. Tonight: Take a walk.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Open up a discussion in the most positive way possible. Loosen up; a friendship could play a significant role in what happens. Remain sure of yourself, and don't lessen the importance of your needs. Don't back down on a matter that's important to you. Tonight: Find your friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might feel pressured by someone in a position of authority. You know your limits, but does this person recognize them? You could feel burdened by a set of commitments and responsibilities. Let others know that you have had enough. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You have a way about you that implies that you can handle anything. Your plate is full, but you'll have an opportunity to take a short trip or switch gears. You are full of energy and open to possibilities. As a result, doors will open. Tonight: Know what you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might be in the mood for a close encounter. You would like to see life from a more logical point of view. A discussion with a key person in your life will help you bottom-line what is happening. Understanding will evolve as a result. Tonight: Have a one-on-one chat.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

