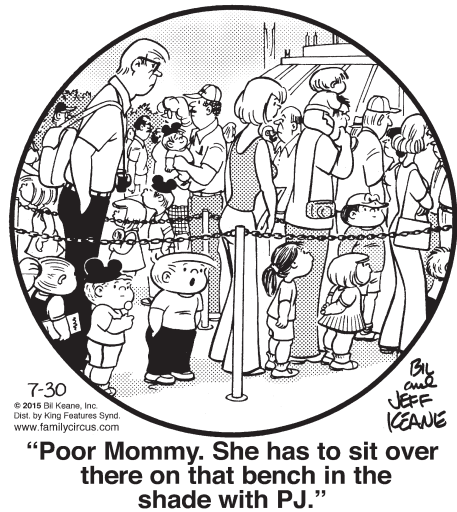


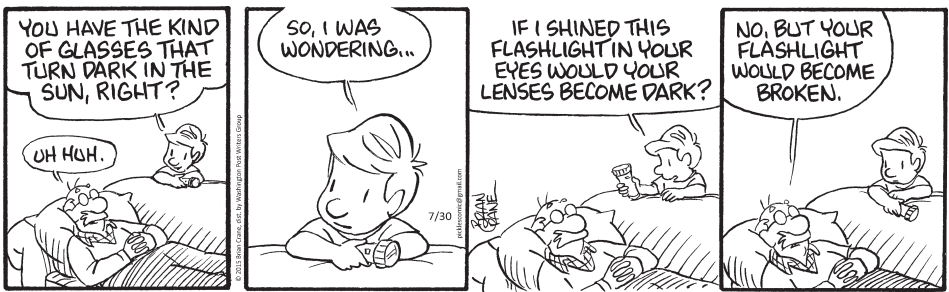
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



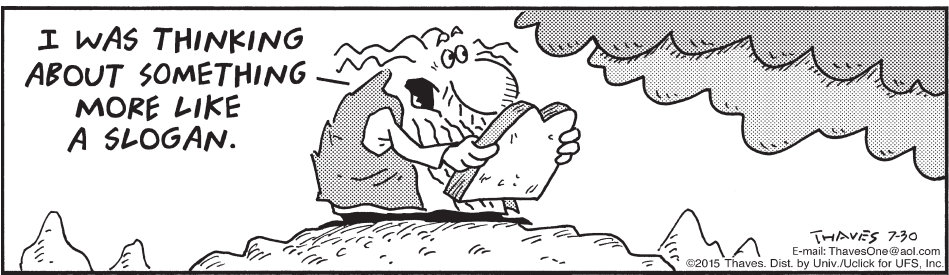
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



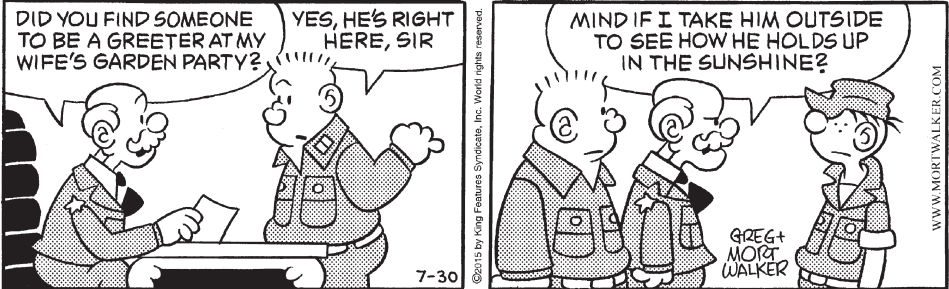
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



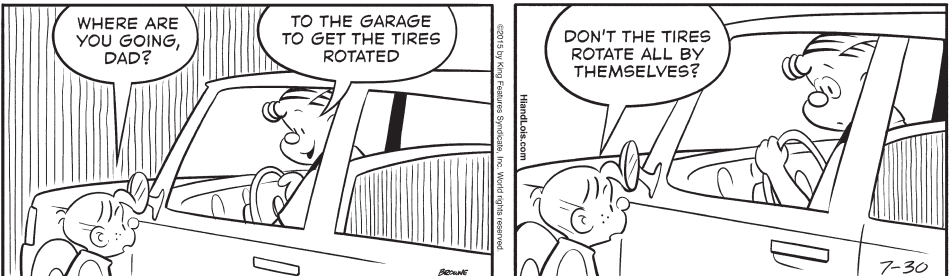
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



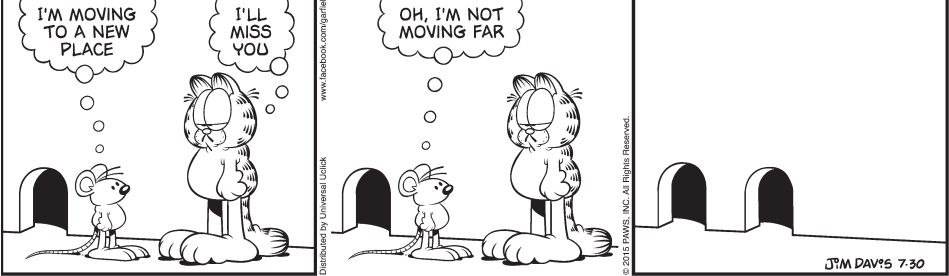
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Family Pet-Sitter Helps Herself To Homeowner's Possessions

DEAR ABBY: A trusted and beloved family member who takes care of my cats – and therefore has a key to my house – has been stealing things like cleaning supplies, knick-knacks, family pictures, etc. Most of them have little monetary value. But imagine my surprise when I spotted some of my missing seashell collection in her fish tank!

Naturally, I can't accuse her of taking things like seashells that anyone can pick up free on the beach, but I select ones with distinct markings, which is why I know they are mine. It's frustrating to run out of toothpaste and find that the spare tube I just bought is missing. It's not like she doesn't have the money to buy her own.

She does so much for me and my kids. Should I just continue to ignore it? – SEASHELLS BY THE SEASHORE

DEAR S.B.T.S.: Your family member may have a touch of kleptomania – a compulsion to steal – or perhaps she takes the items because she feels entitled to “payment” for the favors she does for you.

If you confront her, she will probably deny it. This is not to imply that you must continue putting up with it until she takes something with greater sentimental (or tangible) value. Ask her to return your key “because you have made other arrangements to care for your cats,” or change your locks. Then follow through with someone who won't take advantage of your trust.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a big woman (not fat). She's an athlete and quite strong. We both enjoy wrestling. We are evenly matched and do it often.

Many times she'll pin me down with me on my back, shoulders to the ground. Other times, I do the same to her. The loser takes the winner out to dinner. We enjoy it greatly.

Are we crazy? Are we weird? And most of all, are we alone in this activity? – HAPPY HUSBAND IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAPPY HUSBAND: As long as no one gets hurt, what two consenting adults do is their business. I don't think you are either crazy or weird, nor are you alone in this activity. What you have described as “wrestling” some people call “foreplay.”

DEAR ABBY: Can you advise me on how to respond to comments from younger men when I am at dinner or out with friends? I often get “Wow, you are really good looking for an older woman!” which I find vaguely insulting even though they may think it's a compliment. I'm in good shape for my age (48), but my husband agrees it's rude.

I'm at a loss for a snappy comeback and usually so embarrassed that I just turn away and pretend that I didn't hear. Am I overly sensitive? Should I be thanking them?

That doesn't feel right. Any witty responses you think would be good? – SPEECHLESS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SPEECHLESS: A left-handed compliment is one that has two meanings – one of which is not flattering to the recipient. Because you find it offensive, say, “I may look ‘older’ to you, but I'm not so old I consider that to be a compliment.”

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 Leo and a Moon in Capricorn if born before 5:45 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2015:

This year you will work very hard to achieve your goals. Be careful, as you could spend a substantial amount of money attempting to reach them. You also are likely to receive a pay raise or promotion. Still, consider curbing frivolous spending. If you are single, you could meet someone very exciting in the next few weeks. People met after that time might be somewhat petty or critical. If you are attached, make special plans to enjoy yourselves as a couple in the next few weeks. Your relationship will benefit from the little gestures that let your sweetie know how much you care. AQUARIUS can be cold 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 try to avoid a conflict, but it is inevitable. You understand where each party is coming from and what needs to happen, but you could feel powerless in convincing anybody of anything. Put your energy where it counts. Catch up on news. Tonight: Think “weekend.”

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might see the big picture, but helping others see the same vision could be quite the challenge. Avoid someone who is touchy, angry and seems to be seeking a fight. Do you really want that? Be more direct with a loved one. Tonight: Accept all the attention you get.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You keep hitting the same wall, and can't seem to get around it. You might want to try a different method. You could be spending too much of your energy on frustration. Be aware of your limits with a child. Tonight: Decide to approach a situation in an entirely different way.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You have the ability to see a situation in a new way. How you handle a personal matter could change greatly once you stop sitting on your anger. Simply relax and try a different approach. You could be surprised by the results. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You will strive to handle a situation with-

out losing your cool; however, don't be surprised if the anger gets to you. The issue will be whether you direct it to the appropriate situation. How can anything change if you do not address your feelings? Tonight: Choose a stressbuster.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You have a way about you that draws many people toward you, especially earlier in the day. Communicating your feelings might be difficult. Try not to let your affections get involved. Dote on a child or new friend. Tonight: Off to the gym to work through stress.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your playfulness will emerge and take you in a new direction. Others are likely to want to join you. Avoid letting stress build up. The less said, the better. You might doubt the authenticity of someone's feelings, but say nothing for now. Tonight: In weekend mode.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be in a situation where you are the only person communicating. Others might have difficulty responding in an authentic manner. You will be on top of a major change, if you can remain open. Check in with a neighbor sometime today. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might not understand what all the fuss is about until someone close to you launches into a tirade. You'll want to advise this person on the best way to proceed. Be smart and initiate a conversation with a respected friend for some feedback. Tonight: Let the party begin.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to open up a conversation in the morning, but someone could receive that gesture the wrong way. You will know if this person misread your words and intentions. You might need to make amends. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could be in a situation where you don't know how to complete or work through a problem. Hold off on making a move, and you will see that others feel the same way. Be open to a discussion, and the outcome will be better than you had imagined. Tonight: All smiles.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

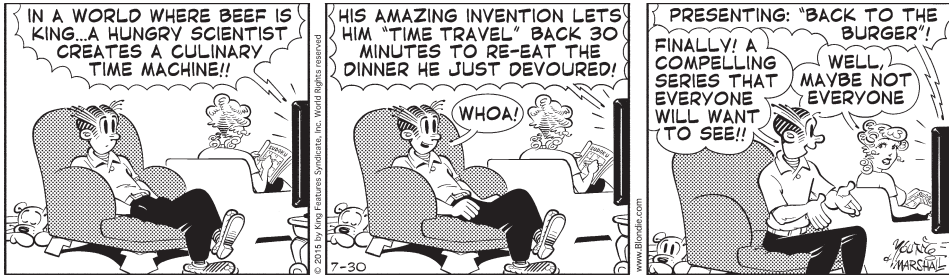
★★★★ Use the morning to further an important cause. The more supporters you have, the better off you will be. Honor a fast change, and know full well what your limits are. By midday, you might want to pull back some. Tonight: Get some zzz's before your weekend starts.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

