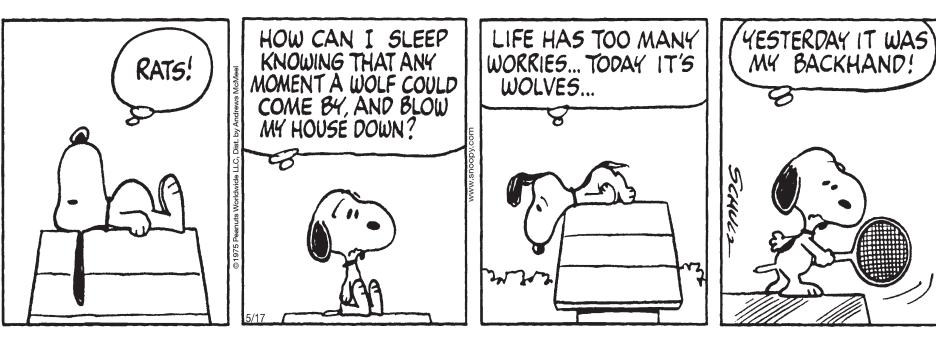


Peanuts



Your Birthday today:

Put greater emphasis on health and emotional well-being – schedule time for relaxation, creative endeavors, personal growth and fitness. Surround yourself with people who put a smile on your face. Call the shots, set the stage for a year filled with self-improvements that make you feel and look your best, and achieve a healthy lifestyle. Romance is on the rise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

– Consider what others expect of you and address your responsibilities head-on. Leave nothing to chance or up to others to complete. Keep your money, important papers and passwords safe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – You can make a difference if you speak up and offer concrete solutions. Don't trust anyone promising the impossible or delivering vague responses. Show your willingness to work hard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Put on a happy face, even if you find someone irritating. It's amazing what a positive attitude can do. Pitch in, keep busy and show compassion, and you'll make a difference.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Choose your associates wisely. Listen carefully and be resourceful. Follow through and get the facts. Take responsibility for your actions and words, and live up to your promises.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Open your mind and learn. A change of attitude will give you a new take on an old situation or relationship. Pick up the pace and say what's on your mind. Beware of someone with a vendetta.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Bring up topics of conversation that need addressing. Show compassion, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Keep your money and possessions safe. Change things around at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Call the shots and do things your way. Don't waste time trying to convince others to follow your lead. If someone doesn't like your decisions, give them the freedom to take a different path.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec.

21) – Distance yourself from people who take you for granted. Put more time and effort into domestic responsibilities and personal growth. Make improvements to your surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Be secretive regarding finances, contracts or medical issues. Focus on changes that improve your lifestyle, or drum up worthy connections at networking events. Take better care of your health.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – You'll attract unique people and opportunities, but before you decide to change your life, do your research. If you act on hype alone, disappointment will follow. Know what you are up against.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

– Be careful not to offend someone. Choose your words wisely and concentrate on doing what's right. Control your emotions, work on yourself and don't try to change others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) –

Invest in your future. Supplement your qualifications, update your look and prepare to promote what you want to do next. Don't limit what you can do; follow through with your plans.

DEAR ABBY

Advice written by
Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: For a few years, I volunteered to tend to an elderly woman through a hospice organization. My role was to visit with her while her son ran errands or enjoyed an evening of entertainment. I grew fond of her and her family.

For my 70th birthday, her daughter, son and daughter-in-law hosted an at-home dinner in my honor. It was good fun. In addition to a tasty dinner and homemade birthday cake, there were presents: wine, gag wine glass and a birthday card with a gift card enclosed. The wine is long gone, and I have used the wine glass ever since.

I left the gift card in the birthday card and set it aside. I recently wanted to buy a \$20 coffee mug online, so I pulled out the gift card and was shocked to see the value of the card is almost four times more than the mug I fancied. I feel the gift is too much. How do I gracefully return the very generous gift? – OVERWHELMED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR OVERWHELMED: Your heart is in the right place, but please do not reject that family's gift of gratitude for what you did for their mother – and for them – during a difficult time. To do otherwise would be a breach of etiquette. Your acts of kindness are worth every penny, and you are deserving of what was given to you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 55 years never talks to me anymore. Unless I initiate conversation, he sits in silence, staring off into space. He says he has "nothing to say." It drives me crazy. I suppose, after all these years, anything he says has been said before, but still, it leaves me feeling lonely and unloved.

When I tell him how it makes me feel, he says it isn't the case, but he never changes. We don't have TV, and I can read and do crossword puzzles by myself for just so long. I really look forward to the evening, when I can start drinking my whiskey, so I have a little pleasure in my life. I don't have more than a couple of drinks because I understand the health risks, but tell me, what else can I do? – TALKING TO MYSELF IN TEXAS

DEAR TALKING: What you can do is quit drinking to ease your loneliness and get out of the house. Socialize with others at least once a week. Look into opportunities to volunteer in your community. Take your husband with you if you can pry him out of his chair. The only thing you should NOT do is continue on the path you're on.

P.S. If your husband's passivity is new behavior, consider going with him to the doctor so he can be screened for depression. (While you're there, it might not be a bad idea for you to be screened for it as well.)

DEAR ABBY: This is not a big drama, but I think that if someone wants to give out my email address, they should first ask me for permission. I just received an email from an acquaintance telling me they had given out my email and THEN asking me if that was OK. No, it wasn't! Abby, I'm not in witness protection, but my email address is private. Am I crazy? – CRANKY ON LONG ISLAND

DEAR CRANKY: Crazy? Not at all. What your nervy acquaintance did was breach whatever privacy is left in our society these days, which was thoughtless, rude and inexcusable.

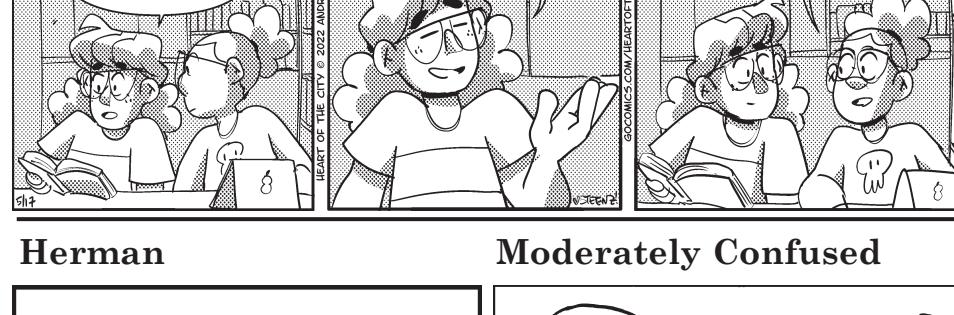
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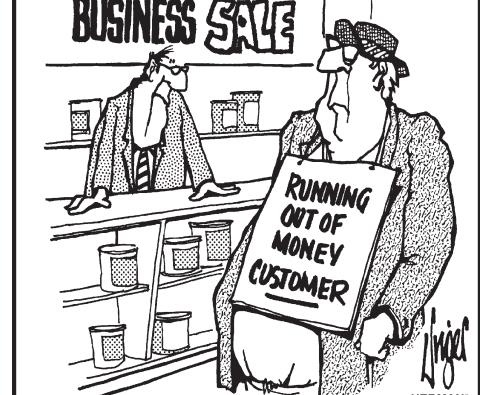
Grizwells



Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



STAHLER. 5/17

Hagar The Horrible



Shoe



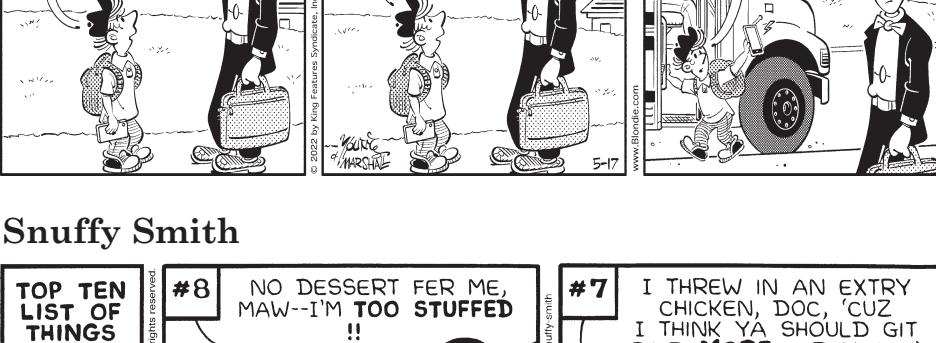
Garfield



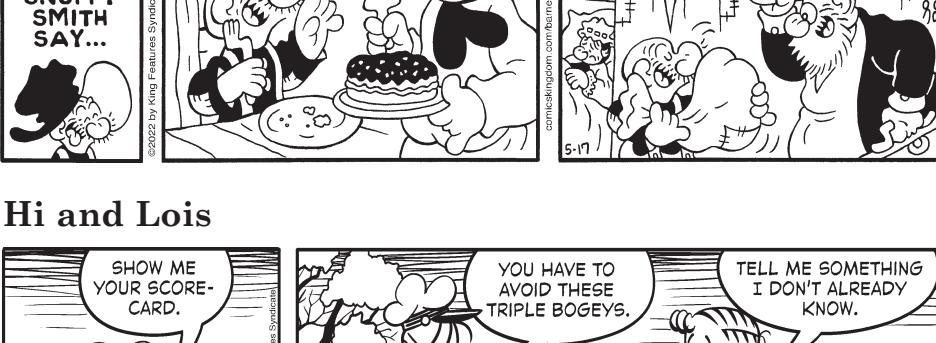
Frank and Ernest



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Born Loser



I NEVER MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST ONE!