

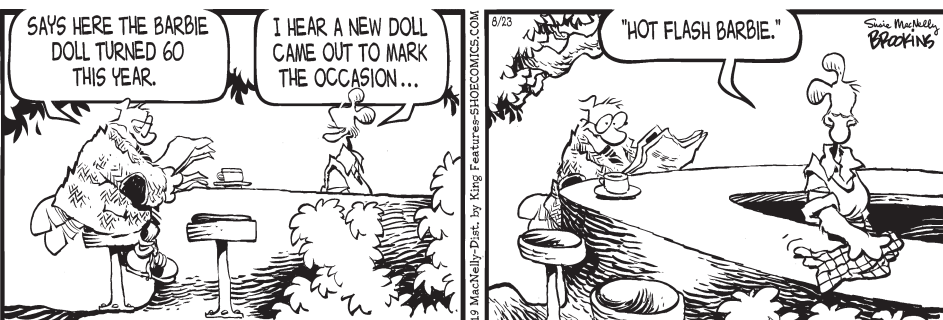
Peanuts



Hagar The Horrible



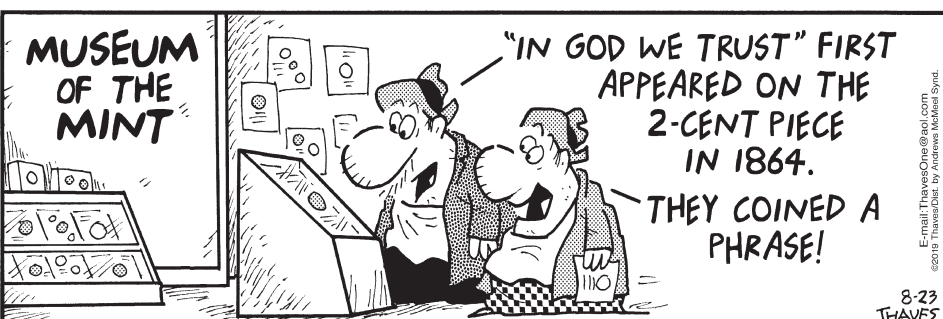
Shoe



Garfield



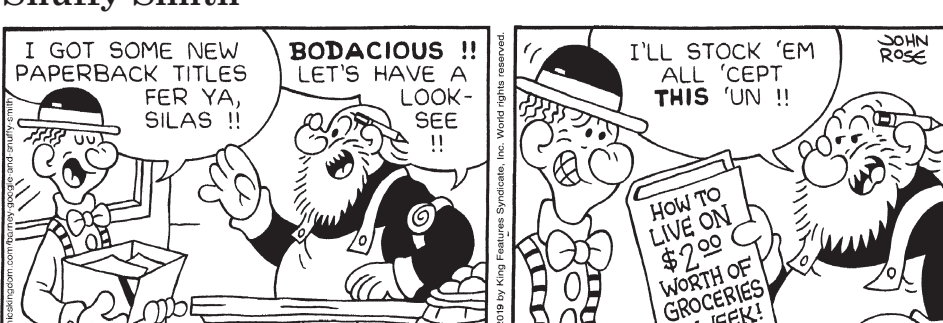
Frank and Ernest



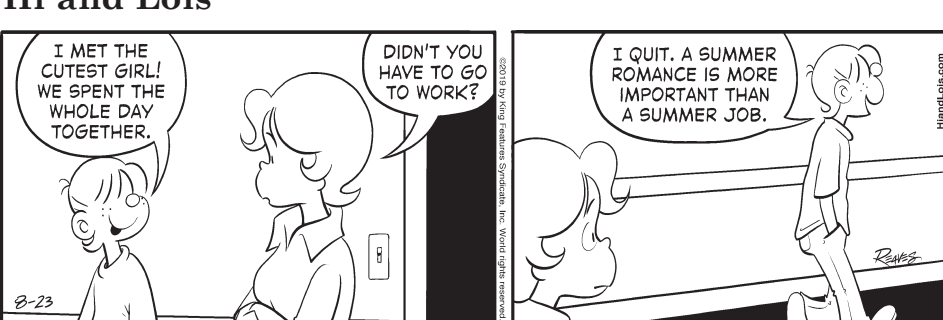
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Your Birthday today:

Consider what you want and head in that direction. A change you've been wanting to make can now be considered seriously. Lay the foundation and start the process. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. It's up to you to go after your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - If someone questions your motives, take a more in-depth look to ensure that you are making the changes you want and not just trying to please someone who is pressuring you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Don't expect others to do things for you or hand you an opportunity on a silver platter. If you want something, pursue it wholeheartedly so you can call it your own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Listen to reason and recognize the cockamamie. Knowing the difference between what's doable and what's not will be what counts at the end of the day. Trust your instincts, not someone's bluster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - You don't have to become something you are not to prove yourself to others. Learn to love who you are and to associate with people who value your friendship. Avoid emotional foolhardiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - If you negotiate on your own behalf, you'll get what you want. Whether you are in pursuit of more attention, cash or a better lifestyle, determination, persuasiveness and a little patience are favored.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - Take care of personal matters to avoid getting into a senseless dispute. Have a clear picture of the changes you want to put into play and proceed openly.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - Listen to someone who has never let you down. You may not like what you hear, but it will be good for you to hear it. Avoid temptation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Gather information and explore your options. Don't let your emotions cause you to forgo something vital for someone else's sake. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - A change is heading your way. Get ready to take advantage of a chance to learn something new, travel somewhere exciting or spend time with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - You'll be torn between what you want and what you know is best for you. It's OK to think big, but taking baby steps will help you avoid a costly mistake.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - How you help others will influence the outcome of a situation that's important to you. Partnerships and sharing should be your top priorities. Love and romance will ease stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Take care of family affairs. Update contracts and personal documents, and do your best to lower your overhead. Don't trust someone else to handle your affairs properly.

DEAR ABBY
 Advice written by
 Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 35 years. During the last six years, my mom died, my dad moved in and then he passed away at 91. Dad traveled, including to see my three siblings, and had a girlfriend. Three years ago, my mother-in-law, who is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's, moved in. My husband is an only child and has no other family nearby. A couple of years ago, our sons, both of whom are in their 30s and had been in the Air Force, moved in. They have steady jobs and contribute to the household. One just bought a house.

My problem is with my husband. Because his mother can't be left alone, we rarely go anywhere anymore. And even when we are out, he's glued to his phone. They don't have a strong relationship and rarely speak to each other. When I try to talk to him about it, his answer is, "I promised I'd never put her in a nursing home," and, "Honor thy mother and father."

We have been to counseling. It didn't help. We are in our mid-60s and in good shape. I would like to travel before we won't be able to anymore. His mother is almost 90 and has no other health problems, so she could live five or six more years. I feel he should put her in assisted living so we can get on with our lives again. I'm tired of taking care of others, and I want to "retire," too. Am I selfish for feeling this way? How do others deal with this? - HOW MUCH LONGER?

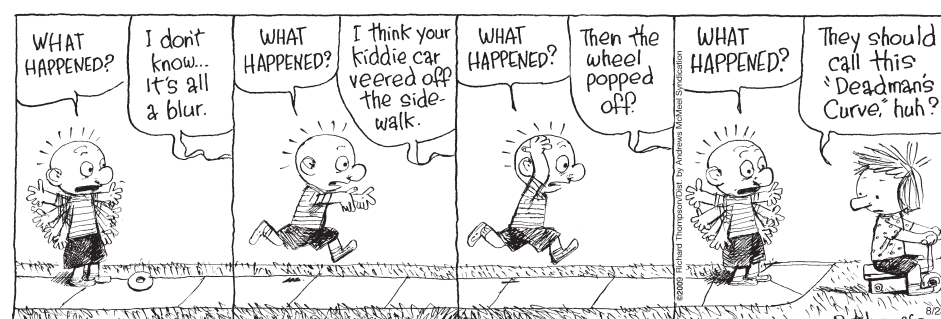
DEAR HOW: I have mixed feelings about your letter. Considering that your father moved in with you and your husband until his death, yes, I think your attitude is selfish. That said, Alzheimer's patients need constant supervision, and it is possible that in the right kind of assisted living situation, your mother-in-law could be doing better than she is. Social stimulation is important, and the activities that are provided could be good for her. The Alzheimer's Association is a trusted source of information, and you and your husband should be getting help from it. Find it online at alz.org. The toll-free phone number is 800-272-3900.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is marrying someone of a different faith. She doesn't want to invite my husband's first cousin and her spouse to her wedding. The spouse is openly racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic, and the cousin doesn't contradict him.

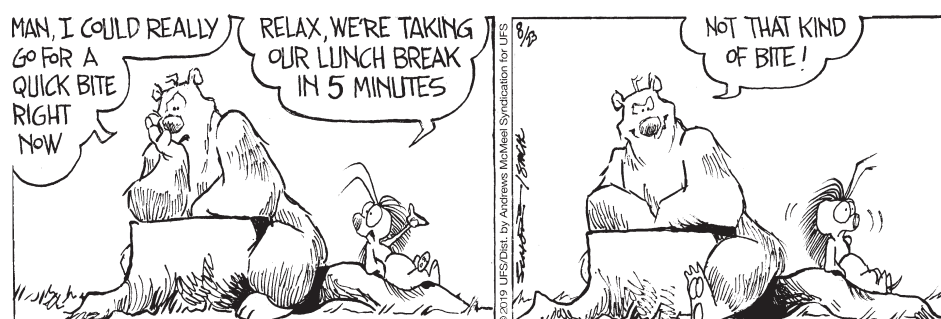
My daughter is inviting people of different faiths, ethnicities and sexual orientations. She does not want to share her wedding day with someone who is filled with hate for her other guests and for her fiancé. Although we don't socialize with this cousin and her spouse, my husband believes "family is family" and they should be invited. What is your opinion? - ON MY DAUGHTER'S SIDE

DEAR O.M.D.S.: I disagree with your husband. Because someone is a relative does not require the individual to be invited to every family function, particularly when your branch of the family doesn't socialize with them otherwise. However, if your husband still insists they receive an invitation, he should follow up the invitation with a phone call detailing what will be expected of guests regarding civility and decorum.

Cul De Sac



Grizwells



Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



Born Loser

