

COMICS, ETC.

Dr. Keith Roach

Dear Dr. Roach: At 64, I was in very good health except for moderate hypertension, which was treated with lisinopril. I then had an incident lifting a heavy load, which injured my back. Long story short, three years of pain drove me to have an L4-L5 vertebrae back fusion. I am now 67, and in hindsight, surgery was a bad decision.

Since my surgery, every injection I have received from three pain-management doctors has been ineffective. These injections have never brought ANY relief. But they do, however, aggravate my pain for the next several days.

Is my system impervious to the desired effect of these injections? — R.S.

Dear R.S.: I don't know why some people respond well to injections and others do not. Most experts do not keep attempting injections if the first one (or maybe few) are ineffective. However, some people have a good response, so it usually is worth a try. There isn't outstanding evidence of benefit in trials.

Your story is another reminder not to make the decision for back surgery lightly.

Dear Dr. Roach: My husband has precancerous cells in his prostate. Is there a danger to me performing oral sex? What other types of diseases can be transmitted through this activity? A male movie star stated that he con-

tracted throat cancer from performing oral sex on women. I'm very concerned for my own health and safety. — ANON.

Dear Anon.: I think you are concerned about human papillomavirus. Some strains of this virus can cause several types of cancers, especially cervical cancer in women and some cancers of the mouth and pharynx in both women and men. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are about 9,000 cases of HPV-associated throat cancers, roughly 80 percent of which happen in men. It is thought that oral sex is the usual way that the virus is acquired.

Prostate cancers are not HPV-associated, so there is no increased risk to you due to your husband's prostate cancer. It is unlikely, though still possible, for you to contract or have HPV, even if neither you nor your husband have had symptoms, such as genital warts, and if you have never had an abnormal Pap smear (associated with HPV infection).

The HPV vaccine is an anti-cancer vaccine. There is incontrovertible evidence now that it protects against cervical cancer, and most experts believe that the vaccine will protect against HPV-related throat cancers as well.

— North America Syndicate Inc.

Send questions to Dr. Roach at ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu

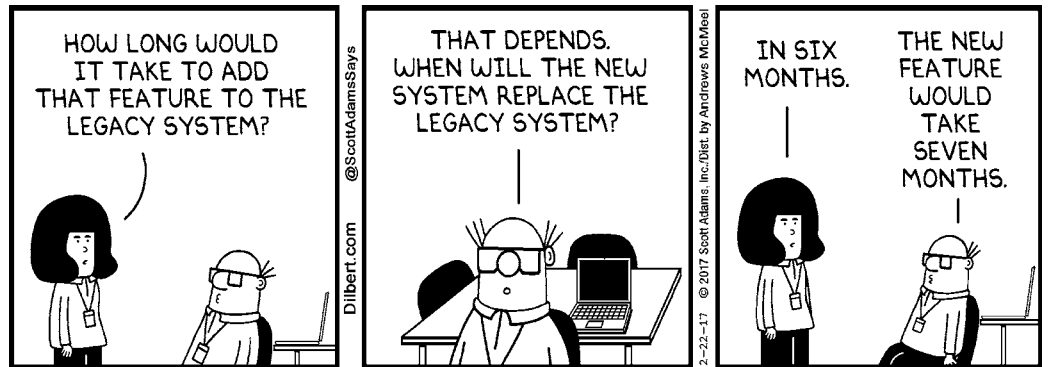
GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



PICKLES BRIAN CRANE



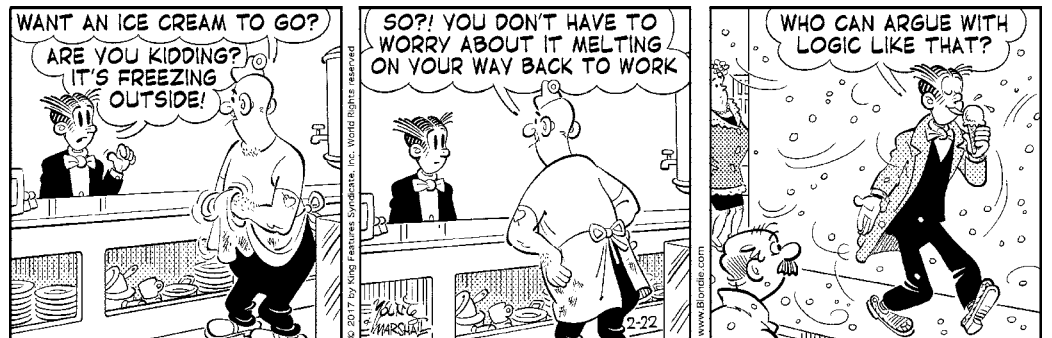
DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



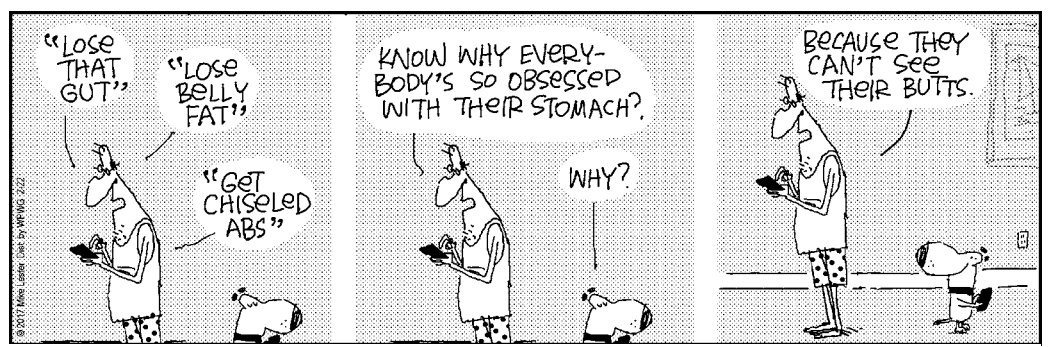
BEETLE BAILEY MORT WALKER



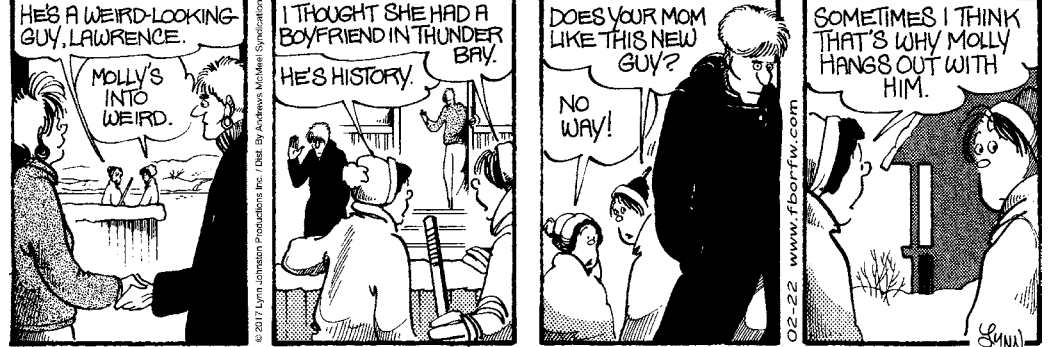
BLONDIE DEAN YOUNG



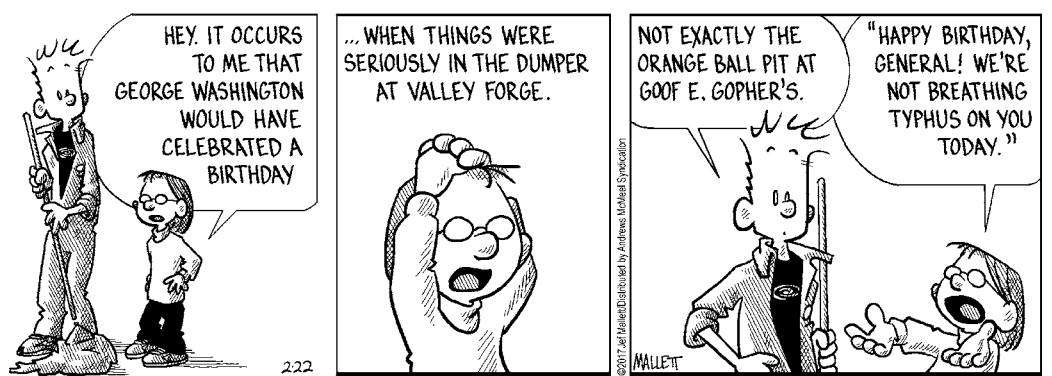
MIKE DU JOUR MIKE LESTER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE LYNN JOHNSTON



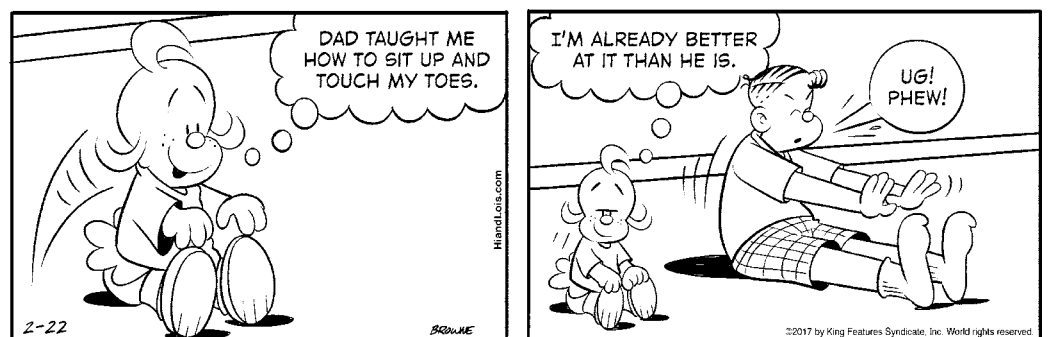
FRAZZ JEF MALLET



ZITS JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI & LOIS BROWNE AND WALKER



Horoscope

Aries (March 21-April 19): Someone will try your patience. When it comes to work, put your head down and take care of your responsibilities to avoid any recourse or complaints.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Share your thoughts and feelings and find out where you stand. Someone will contribute to your ideas and offer to help you. Collaboration with the right people will bring prolific results.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Do what you can for others, but make sure you get something in return. Don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity and keen perception of situations.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Look outside your usual stomping grounds. Go to unfamiliar destinations and you will expand your mind. Discuss your thoughts and plans with someone you love.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Make plans to boost your education. Be resourceful and engage in feats that are challenging. Show everyone what you are capable of accomplishing and new opportunities will be your reward.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The information you are given will not be complete. Question every aspect of any contract, negotiation, settlement or money matter before you concede. Invest in yourself, not someone else.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll find it difficult to keep the peace when dealing with partners or people you live with. A reserved approach will give you a chance to gather facts and information that will help you negotiate your position and your plans.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have plenty to think about. Don't let anyone persuade you to take part in something that isn't going to benefit you personally.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional matters will surface if you neglect someone who needs your attention. Dealing with children, friends, relatives or

your lover should be handled carefully. Don't take physical or financial risks.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Educational pursuits and dealing with professors, police or anyone in a position of authority will cause you stress and uncertainty. Come up with a plan that works for you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A chance to expand an interest or idea you have will bring you greater returns than you anticipate. Don't waffle or show laziness when taking actions to turn your dream into a reality.

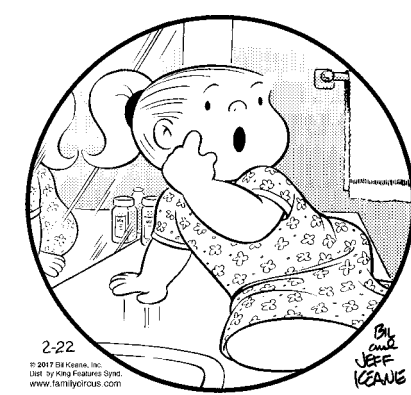
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Size up your situation and set parameters. Don't overdo it in order to be noticed or feel obligated to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you.

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, perceptive and outgoing. You are imaginative and experimental.

Your numbers are: 4, 11, 18, 26, 37, 42, 48.

— By Eugenia Last, Universal Uclick

THE FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



Word Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- Spot for an AirPod
 - Chowder morsel
 - Moscow currency
 - Slept like ___
 - Color in a Spanish rainbow
 - Religion of Basra
 - Corn Belt tower
 - Latin I verb
 - Riyadh resident
 - *Fictional road material
 - Bookshelf bracket shape
 - Of a battery terminal
 - Necessity for a game of Ultimate
 - History class assignment
 - Elec. or water ___ a clue
 - Slangy pounds
 - Financial help
 - End ___
 - Tomato product
 - Preference indicator
 - Religious prefix
 - Grub
- DOWN**
- Class requiring little effort
 - Distant and then some
 - Pal of Nancy, in comics
 - Brought about
 - Tenerife, por ejemplo
 - Take the helm
 - Surface layers
 - Clogs from France
 - Neurologist's order, briefly
 - *Cola flavor
 - Pop-up foul-up
 - Stereotypical family spoiler
 - Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
 - Renaissance painter ___ della Francesca
 - Minute quantity
 - Fish ___
 - Family car
 - ___Coburg: former Bavarian duchy
 - Homer's neighbor

C	R	A	B	T	A	C	T	P	A	P	A	L		
R	O	T	E	O	L	A	F	A	G	I	L	E		
I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	A	D	D	R	E	S	
B	A	N	T	U	F	L	X	E	R	O	S			
		R	H	I	N	O	P	O	E					
W	A	T	E	R	C	O	O	L	E	R	T	A	L	K
H	I	E	D	U	S	D	A	Z	O	W	I	E		
U	R	N	A	S	A	M	I	O	A	L	A			
M	E	T	A	L	L	G	B	T	T	R	A	C		
P	R	O	T	E	C	T	E	D	S	P	E	E	C	H
		A	E	R	L	A	Y	L	A					
O	P	A	L	T	E	C		O	R	B	I	T		
F	A	M	O	U	S	L	A	S	T	W	O	R	D	S
F	R	I	S	K	S	P	A	M	S	A	L	A		
S	E	N	S	E	A	S	T	I	E	D	E	R		

- Yesterday's puzzle**
- Barely advances
 - Big name in vision care
 - Slightly open
 - Recurring theme
 - Go out on a limb
 - Stars and Stripes land: Abbr.
 - *One with noble lineage
 - Crock-Pot server
 - French novelist Zola
 - *Floral papal ornament
 - Brewery kiln
 - Input for a refinery
 - *Chard, by another name
 - Marine shade
 - Portable Mongolian dwellings
 - Simple dwelling
 - Shade of gray
 - Angrily ignoring the first half of the answers to starred clues?
 - Luck, pluck or duck ending
 - Part of D.A.: Abbr.
 - Prefix with con
 - Shade of gray
 - Jacob's wife before Rachel
 - James with three NBA titles
 - Tunnel out, maybe
 - Many future presidents, as it turned out
 - Like "Stranger Things," e.g.
 - Metaphorical moments of time
 - Skin, but not bones
 - Kind of evidence
 - Ecclesiastical council
 - Word of amore
 - Fort with billions in bullion
 - "... man ___ mouse?"