ADVICE

Grandson restricts access to his righteous flock

Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I'm a Christian. I've raised my family to be Christians, and they have raised theirs to be Christians, even though we may not all be members of the same denomination.

One of my grandsons believes that his denomination is the only one and the rest of us are all sinners. He and his wife have decided that no one outside of his church can see his child. It's his decision, his choice, but I'm heartbroken and, of course, angry. I'm afraid my great-grandchild will grow up never knowing his great-grandparents or his grandparents. I believe that I will never know him.

I told my grandson I understand that this is his family and, therefore, his choice. He knows I'm heartbroken. Since they won't be coming to family gatherings, how should I handle gifts in the future? Should I acknowledge the baby and send a gift in the mail? I pray that someday soon my grandson realizes that we love him and his family.

-- PRINCIPLED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PRINCIPLED: I always thought Christianity was a welcoming religion. This is the first time I have heard of a denomination that decides other Christians are not Christian enough. The church your grandson has joined sounds more like a cult than a religion. Before making any decisions about how, what or whether to gift anything to the new baby, ask your grandson whether accepting a gift from an "outsider" is even allowed.

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend of 40 years, "Dorothy," came to visit me for my birthday. She has visited numerous times over the years, and this was her third trip to my current home. As we were walking into the garage to take my car for a drive, she slipped off a small step and fell, injuring her shoulder and foot. Six months later, she still wasn't healing and said she would file a claim against my insurance to cover some of her expenses (her medical was covered, but she needed more in-home care and had to board her dog for many months).

My insurance company has been diligent about investigating the incident and decided I had no liability as a homeowner. They determined that Dorothy's physical condition (diabetes, neuropathy in her feet, obesity) was more likely the cause of her fall and slow recovery. They recommended I have no contact with Dorothy, so we haven't spoken in eight months. When she learns of the insurance company's decision, I suspect she may sue me next.

I truly don't feel I am at fault. The area was clearly lit, there was no clutter or other impediments, and she had been up and down that step many times. I'm sorry to lose a treasured, decades-long friendship, but here we are. Am I wrong?

-- INNOCENT IN THE WEST

DEAR INNOCENT: You are wrong to end a 40-year friendship because some employee at an insurance company told you not to speak to Dorothy eight months ago. What you should have done then was tell your friend to contact her insurance company so the two companies can thresh out in court who is responsible for what and to what degree. It may not be too late to revive the friendship if you give her a call now.

HOUSEHOLD ADVICE

Magnifying lamps cause a fire

Hints from Heloise
Heloise

Dear Heloise: I want to warn readers about something that happened in my home. I have a magnifying lamp for crafts, and one afternoon, I smelled smoke. Sunlight from our skylight had focused through the lens and started to scorch my end table. Fortunately, I caught it quickly. Two days later, I learned someone else nearby had sunlight hit her magnifying lamp, and because she was away, her house was badly damaged.

I never realized that a magnifier could act like a burning glass, but this is exactly what it does. Now I make sure that the lamp is turned away from windows when it's not in use and that the lens cover is closed. Please remind readers to be careful with these lamps. -- *Yooper Annie, in Escanaba, Michigan*

CUT UTILITY COSTS

Dear Heloise: Reducing my electric bill is important to me, so I've developed some helpful habits that save me money every month:

With my dishwasher, I skip the heated dry cycle. When the final rinse is finished, I open the door and let the steam escape. If I give the racks a gentle shake to knock off excess water, the dishes usually air-dry quickly while they're still warm.

For laundry, I wash most loads in cold water. Modern detergents work just fine and save energy. When I can, I hang clothes to dry on hangers or racks. In the winter, the extra indoor moisture even helps with dry air.

I also wipe condensation off the toilet tank during humid weather so that it doesn't drip onto the floor over time. These small steps add up on my monthly bills.

-- Harvey Versteeg, in Augusta, Maine

Do you have a furry friend to share with our readers? Send a photo and a brief description to Heloise@Heloise.com.

-- Heloise

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

3	9	5						2
8			9	3		1	7	
	6	7			4		9	
4				5				
	2					7		
					6	2	4	9
9	8	6	5	2			1	4
5		4	8	6		9	2	7
			1	4				

Level: Beginner

8	5	6	9	4	1	3	7	2
7	2	9	3	6	8	4	1	5
4	1	3	7	2	5	6	8	9
9	4	2	6	1	3	8	5	7
5	3	7	8	9	4	1	2	6
1	6	8	2	5	7	9	3	4
3	9	5	4	8	2	7	6	1
6	7	1	5	3	9	2	4	8
2	8	4	1	7	6	5	9	3

CROSSWORD

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Noah's vessel
4 Winged creature
7 "Famous" cookie-maker
11 Swindle
12 Solemn promise
13 Lois — of "Superman"
14 Hasten
15 Skedaddle
16 Ancient Peruvian
17 Chooses
19 Wild blue —
21 Stack
23 "Narcos" org.
24 Mellow
27 Letter after pi
29 End
32 Seemingly (2 wds.)
33 Anchor
34 Japanese sash
35 Type
36 Out of harm's way
37 Seed appendage
38 Born (Fr.)
39 Fragrant garland
40 Bonnie's partner in crime
41 — -fi
43 Sour
45 Straw floor mat
48 "A — of Their Own"
52 Culture medium
53 Leak
55 Mean (Abbr.)
56 — of the party
57 Shoestring
58 Table part
59 Space under a roof
60 Needle's hole
61 — Vegas

DOWN
1 Patient's complaint
2 Stir up
3 Place for a patch
4 Light wood
5 Supped
6 "The bigger — are ..."
7 Skirt shape (Hyph.)
8 Required
9 A single time
10 Burn
12 Frequently
18 Kitchen leader
20 Smell
22 Investor's goal
24 Drizzle
25 — of Wight
26 Spiked stick
28 Farm implement
30 Abbr. in footnotes
31 Heap
33 Actress — West
36 Slender
37 Prov. in Canada
40 Thin pancake
42 Insert mark
44 Wonderland girl
45 Lofty
46 Exchange premium
47 Inactive
49 Effrontery
50 Eye part
51 Brunch fare
54 Sunbeam

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			■	12				■	13			
14			■	15				■	16			
17			18			■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26			■	27	28		■	29	30	31
32				■	33				■	34		
35			■	36				■	37			
38			■	39			■	40				
■	■	41	42		■	43	44			■	■	■
45	46				47	■	48			49	50	51
52				■	53	54			■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60			■	■	61		

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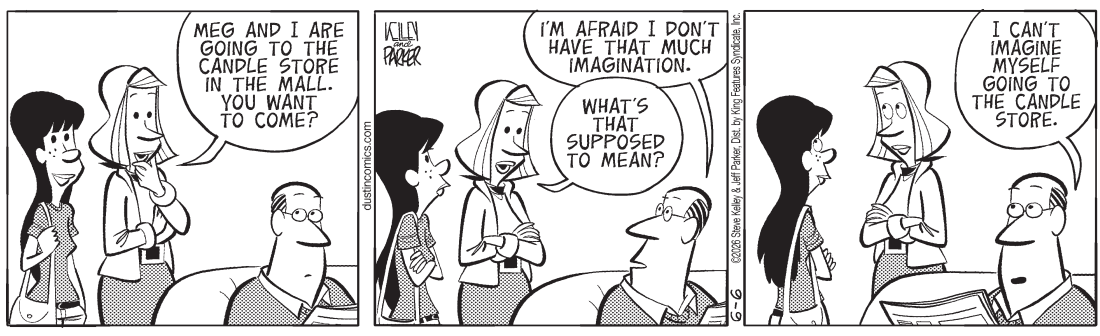
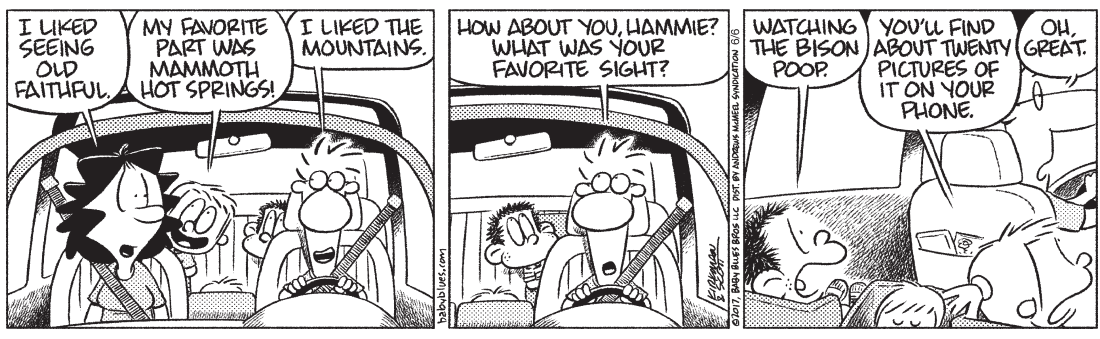
DUSTIN



BABY BLUES

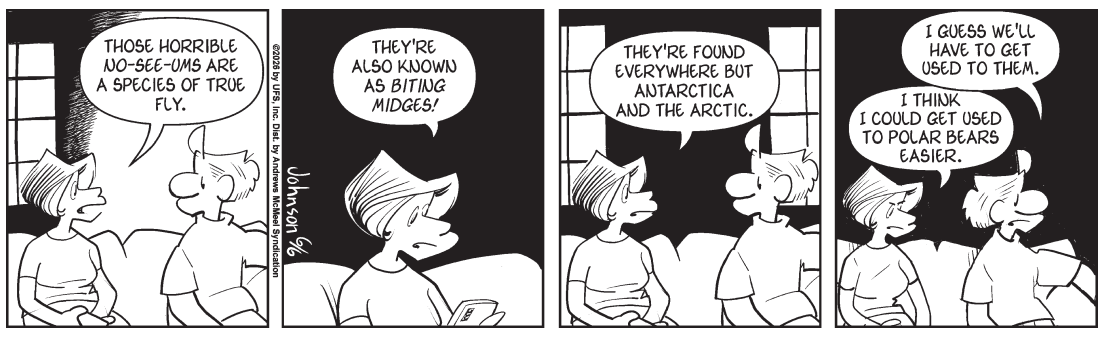


RHYMES WITH ORANGE

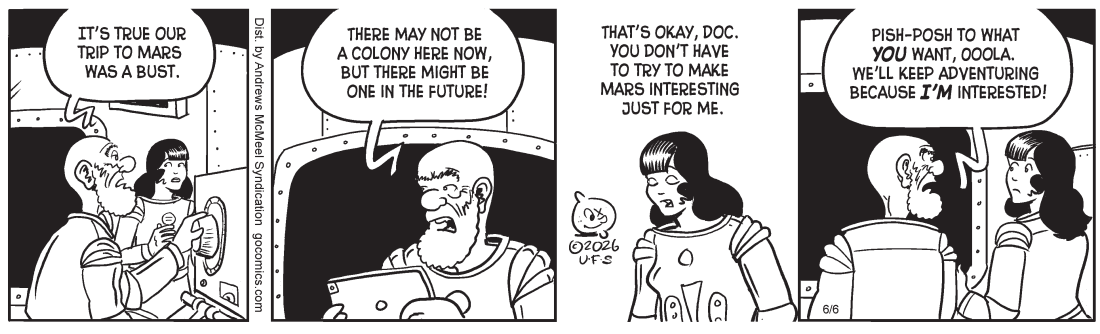
CRANKSHAFT

ZITS

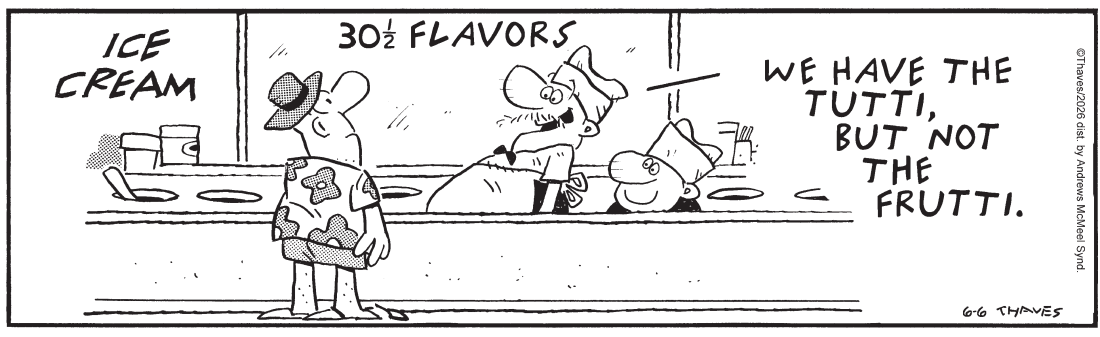
ARLO AND JANIS



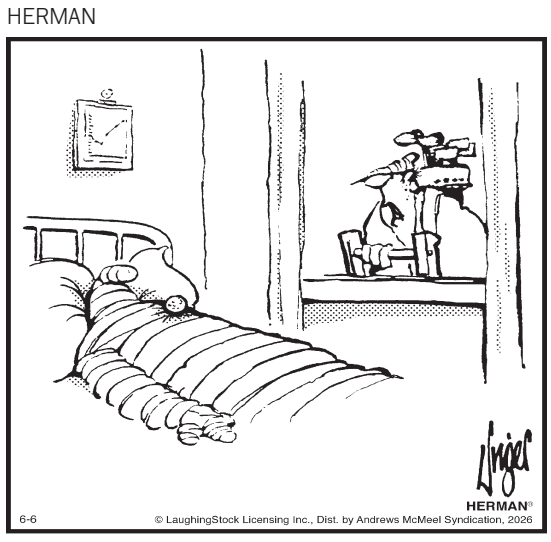
ALLEY OOP



FRANK & ERNEST

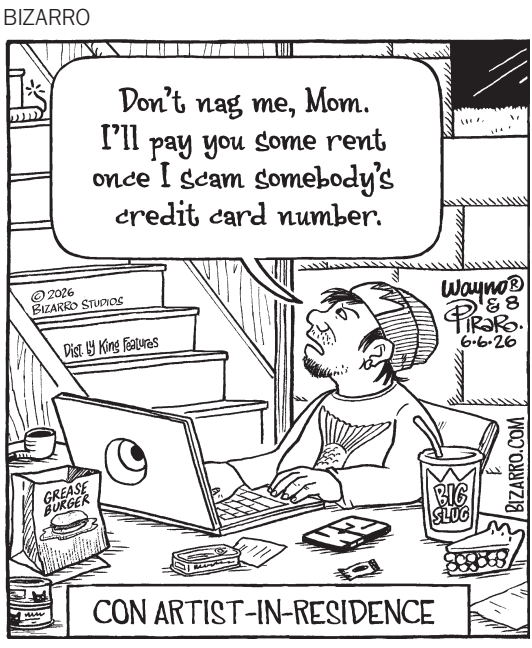


HERMAN



"Don't move."

BIZARRO



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