

Honor nation's flag today

Dear Readers: Today is Flag Day. We promised to print some of the patriotic poems that readers have been sending in for July 4, but we thought this one would be perfect for today. The author is Audrey Bashlor.

Honor our flag of red, white and blue, remembering our war heroes brought freedom to you.

Men and women of today and years past fought with valor so our freedoms would last.

The colonials bravely fought the British redcoats; our warriors fought the Nazis and their U-boats.

Many wars have been fought through the ages filling our history books with a great many pages.

So very long ago our independence was declared; something for over 200 years we have all shared.

Raise the flag, rejoice this day, strike up the band, people of many races enjoy freedom in this land.

Remember our brave men and women who fought



giving their lives to keep the freedoms we sought.

Give thanks to those in our armed forces today

Respect our flag and to them a "thank you" say.

Dear Annie: The use of hyphenated names seems to be becoming too commonplace. Once the domain of Britishers yearning for social distinction, is this what is happening in the States? What is the rationale for thus naming oneself?

Having both memory and hearing problems, it is often difficult for me to comprehend and repeat both names. Is it acceptable to select one name instead of using both? Is it possible for those who introduce others to actually say the word "hyphen"? For exam-

ple, "This is Mr. Jones hyphen Smith." Not only would it help to select between the names, it would increase my awe of what surely must be a distinguished person. — Bryan, Texas

Dear Bryan: Had your fun, have you? The point of a hyphenated name in this country is neither to display one's elevated social status nor to become burdensome to others. It is to acknowledge that two people have joined their names, as well as themselves, in marriage, or to denote that two people produced a child.

It used to be that only the man's surname counted. We agree that, sometimes, those hyphenates can be overly long or complicated. But people are entitled to be addressed by the name they prefer. Please do your best with it. Of course, if you fumble too much, the person is likely to say, "Please, just call me Tom."

Dear Readers: Today is Flag Day and the 37th Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 p.m. (Eastern time). For more information, log on to americanflag-foundation.org.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People who go to work merely to earn money are thinking much too small. The work you'll do today is an opportunity for you to express yourself. The nature of the job doesn't matter; every job is an expression of your spirit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The mistake was an honest one, but that doesn't make it all OK. Forgive but take the time to examine and make a plan that will prevent the same problem from happening in the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Get the hard work out of the way first. Handle that phone call you're dreading or an unpleasant bit of tedium. There will be something juicy to escape into this afternoon.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've admiration for the people you're close to. You choose them for a reason, and that reason will be apparent as the day unfolds. Your life gets a little easier with each positive thought.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It takes guts to ask for what you need, and the more you need or want the thing the harder it is to ask for it. That's why this afternoon's move is remarkable — valiant even.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love shouldn't hurt this much. Consider that what you're going through isn't really about love at all. Rather, it's about working out power dynamics. And don't worry; it doesn't have to be solved in a day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone has taken a liking to you and wants to see where the relationship will lead. Wherever it's going, it will get there fast as circumstances roll your common needs and interests together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you're not where you want to be, but you'll get there. There are always taller peaks to climb. Stop and enjoy your current elevation. Life doesn't have to be all struggle and striving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get calm and centered, and you'll think about what's best for the whole community, realizing that it doesn't matter who is first or last. What matters is that everyone is taken care of when it's needed most.

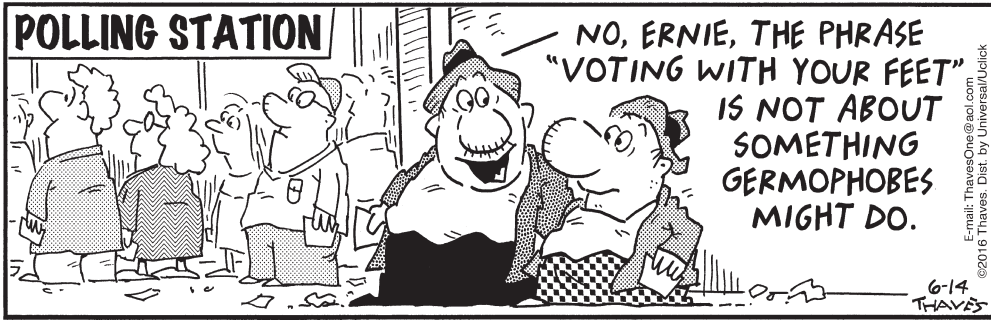
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are these small acts that go against what you're trying to achieve. Mostly, this is about habits and/or unhelpful patterns of thought you really don't need anymore. You're ready to give it up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Knowing what to ignore is extremely important today. You can't take it all in — or even take most of it in. With every selection you make, you'll be building a signature style.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your friends won't disappoint you. You have been so faithful and loyal and constant. They only want to give you the same. Let them take care of you for a change.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 15). Love at first sight isn't so uncommon, and you'll experience it before August is through. Also, you'll experience the wonderful kind of love that comes through years of gazing on the same face. July and November represent financial opportunity. September and January are the best for travel. The last Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 39, 11, 22 and 18.

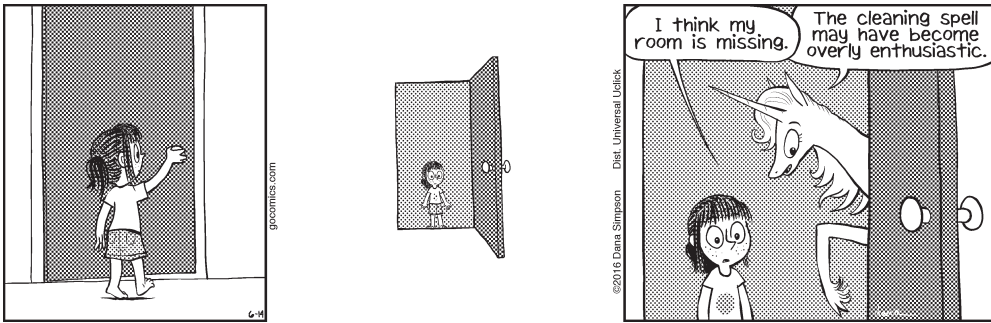
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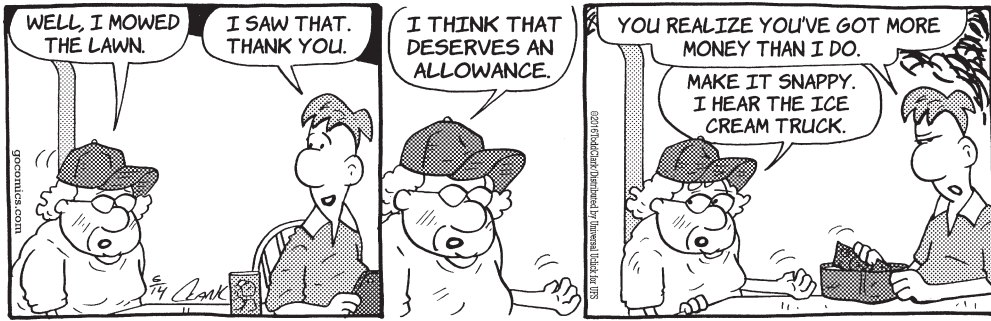
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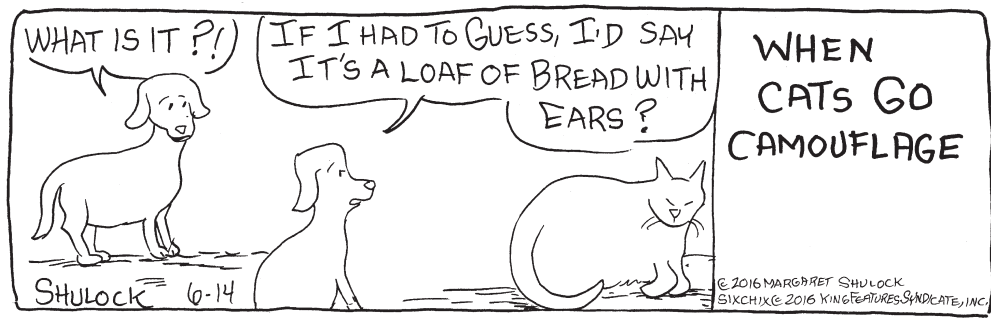
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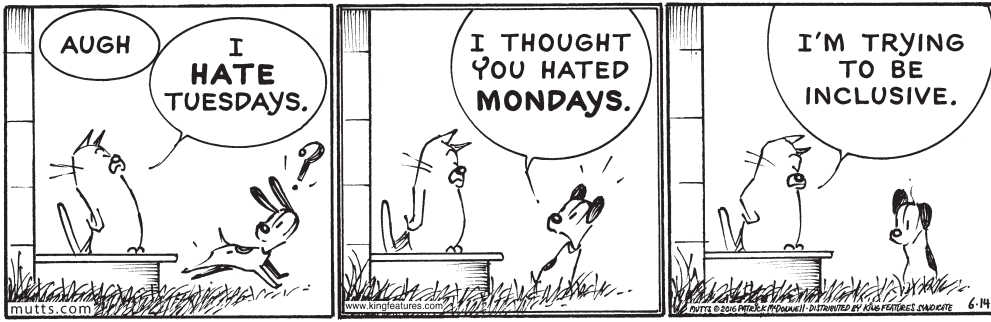
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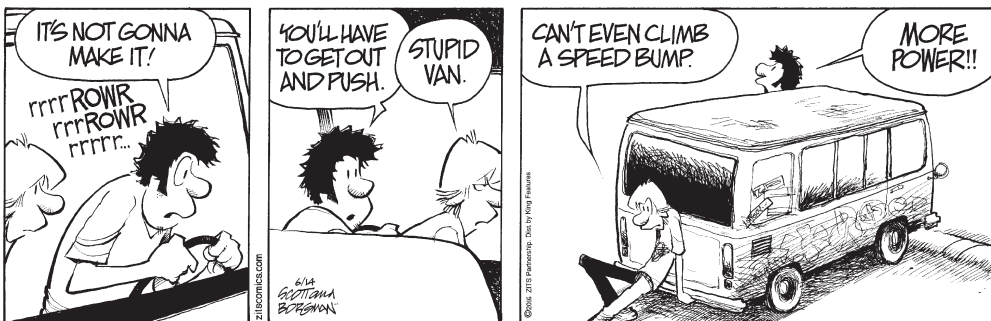
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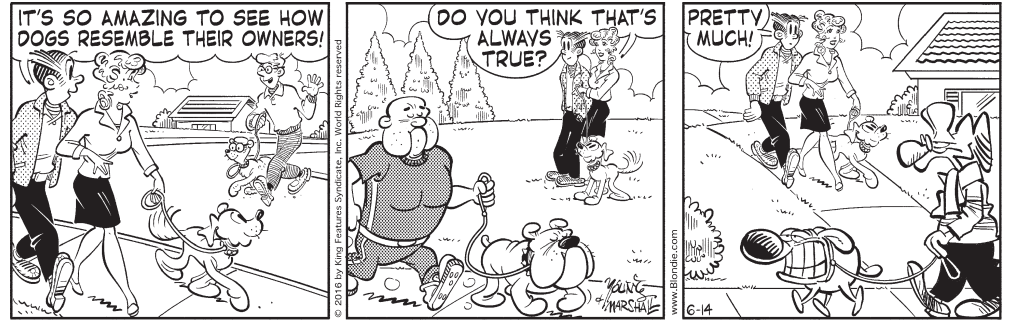
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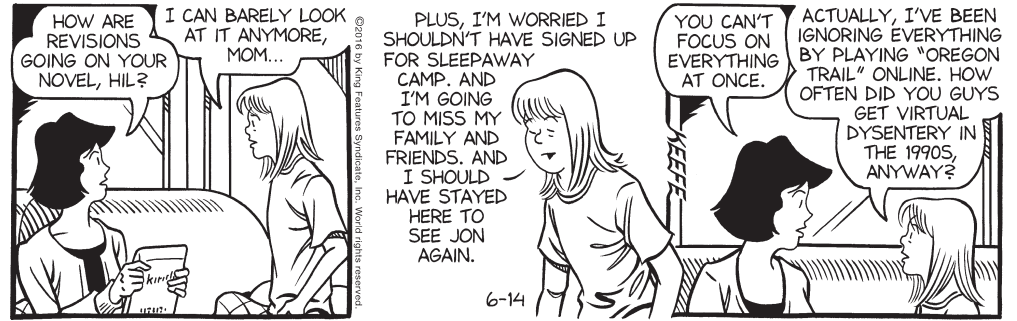
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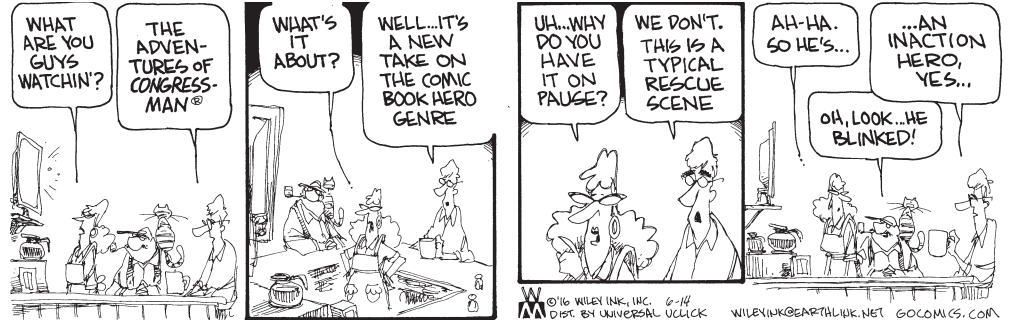
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