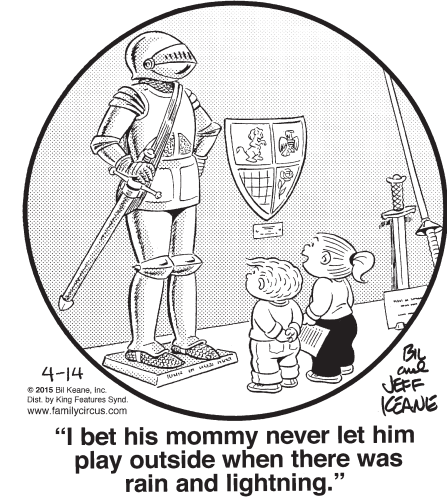


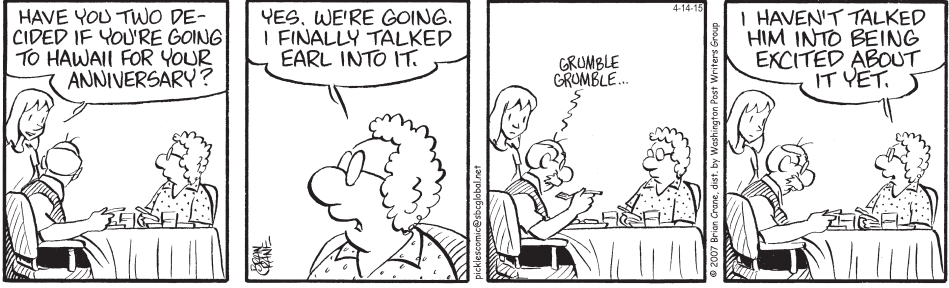
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



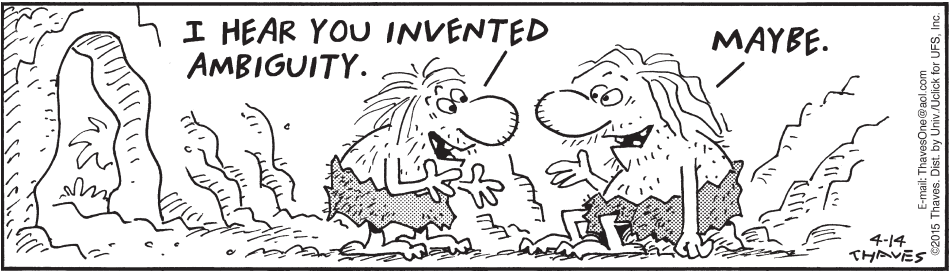
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



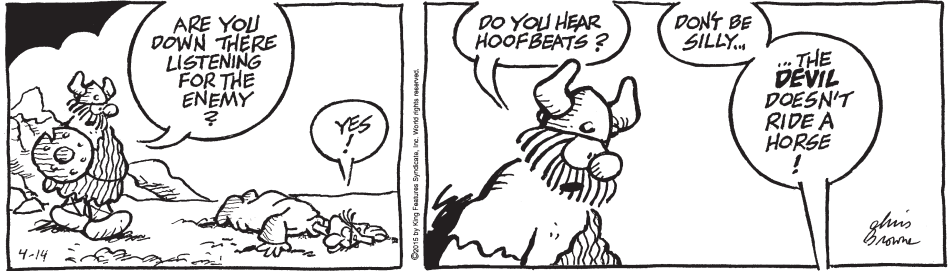
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



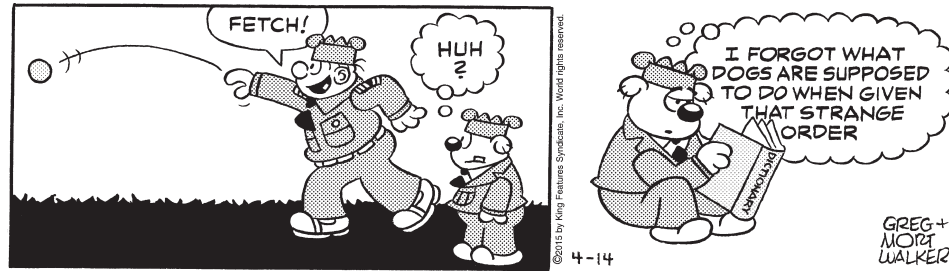
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



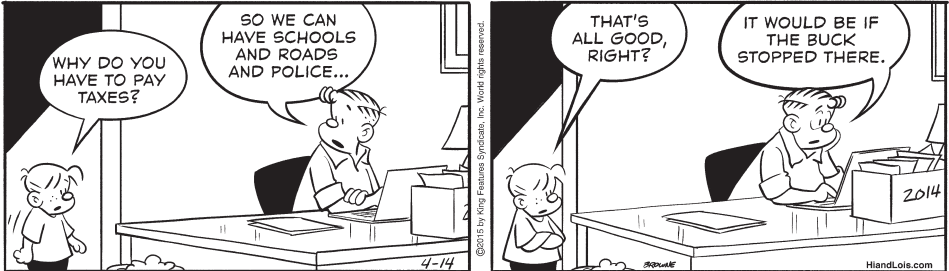
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



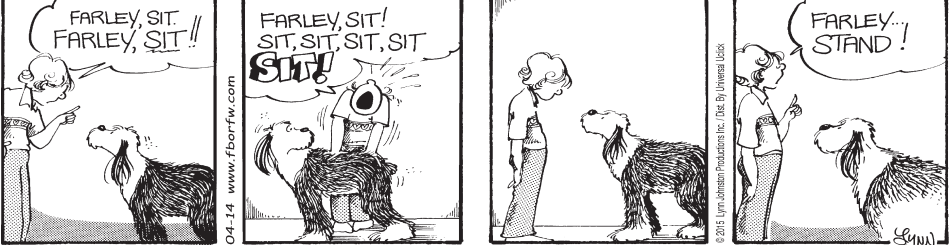
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Husband's Family Meetings Leave Wife Out Of The Loop

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Rory," and I both come from close families. Whenever something is wrong, troublesome, etc., in either of our families, we have meetings where the entire immediate family comes together to discuss the issue.

The problem is, I am not invited to his! It's not like I'm a recent addition to this family. Rory and I dated for 15 years before getting married. My family started inviting him to our meetings after we had dated for a year, including discussions about my dad losing his job, my brother's stint in rehab and more.

Rory's family has had lots of similar meetings, but I am excluded because I am not a blood relative. Even when my husband lost his job, I was not invited to attend. I was left sitting out in the hallway with the children and the boyfriend of one of his other siblings.

I am Rory's WIFE. Shouldn't I be allowed in on the family discussions now that we're married, especially ones that center on my husband? Am I overreacting because I'm so angry about this? How can I overcome this exclusion from his family? — WANTS TO JOIN IN

DEAR WANTS TO JOIN IN: You are not overreacting. If you haven't done so already, discuss this with your husband. He is the one who needs to make his family understand you are now a full-fledged member of the clan. If their line of thinking is followed to its logical conclusion, then no man or woman who marries in is fully accepted. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder," the saying goes. The tradition in Rory's family creates division, and it isn't healthy.

DEAR ABBY: I have a suggestion for your readers. When you attend a funeral or a wake, or meet a friend or relative who has

been recently widowed, DON'T say, "If there is anything I can do, just ask." Call the person in the near future and invite him or her to dinner with you. It doesn't have to be a steak dinner or anything fancy. A home-cooked pot roast would be wonderful.

Of all my friends, only one has done this several times. The phone rings and he'll say, "We're having spaghetti tonight. Would you like to come over? We'll throw in another meatball." I get so tired of going out alone to eat, or settling for a sandwich. — GRATEFUL WIDOWER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR GRATEFUL: When a death happens, sometimes people are well-intentioned, but they feel awkward and don't know what to do. Thank you for writing and giving me the opportunity to remind them that it isn't the FOOD as much as it is the FELLOWSHIP that matters at a time like this.

DEAR ABBY: The subject is email, which is how so many of us communicate nowadays. When one gets an email from a friend or relative, it seems to me one common courtesy in most cases to acknowledge it with a response, if only to say thanks. The reply need not be immediate, but there should be one, I think. Many people just don't reply. What do you think? — TOM IN PALO ALTO

DEAR TOM: I think some people may be too busy to respond, particularly if the communication doesn't seem important or contain a question.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Aries and a Moon in Aquarius if born before 1:12 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015:

This year you often go from being emotional and caring to being cool and detached. You will choose to express your compassion in a more meaningful way, and others naturally will respond to you. Your ideas of spending will become more grounded as well. If you are single, you are in a period where you could meet someone of significance. If you are attached, the two of you open up to more vital communication than you have in the past. You also will become more expressive as a result. PISCES understands you a little too well for your own comfort!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★Use the morning well, as your energy will dwindle as the day ages. It's as if all the late hours you've been putting in are now catching up with you. Listen to your instincts. Sort out the gossip from the facts. Someone might be difficult to speak with. Tonight: At home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★The morning could be filled with challenges beyond your imagination. How you handle a personal matter with a higher-up might have some serious ramifications. Proceed with care. Your precision and thoughtfulness will speak for themselves. Tonight: Go for what you want.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★See a situation through new eyes and detach. You will find that the issue at hand is not as toxic as you might have thought. When in discussion, don't throw out all your ideas at once. You will like the reaction you get if you present your ideas one at a time. Tonight: Get some R and R.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★Work with a loved one, and refuse to let different stances become more important than the long-term goal. Learn from your differences. Detach in the afternoon, find a quiet spot and imagine where this person is coming from. Tonight: Visualize what you want, then act on it.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★You need to work with others in order to achieve what you want. Though you might not be

able to tame your strong personality, you do need to be more compliant. Afternoon chats need to be on an individual level if you are to succeed. Tonight: Do your best to make it memorable.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★Get as much done as possible in the morning. You can count on distractions knocking on your door sometime in the afternoon. A boss or parent could have so many thoughts that you might feel overwhelmed. Try to address one at a time. Tonight: Go along with an idea.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★How you handle a personal matter could be disappointing to some people. You'll want to loosen up and enjoy what is happening between you and someone else. Open up to new possibilities, and listen to what others are saying. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★Your stress level continues to be high right now. You might want to change focus in the afternoon. A loved one is likely to amuse you so much that your creativity opens up. You will feel a renewed sense of vitality, so be sure to express it. Tonight: With loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★You have a distinct style of communicating that often attracts others. When you speak, people listen. As a result, you have more influence over others than you might realize. Be aware that someone could jam the airways with his or her opinions. Tonight: Happily at home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. Tension seems to build, both professionally and personally. You have a caring style that draws in many people; however, you can do only so much. You always are expanding your options. Tonight: Respond to a call.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

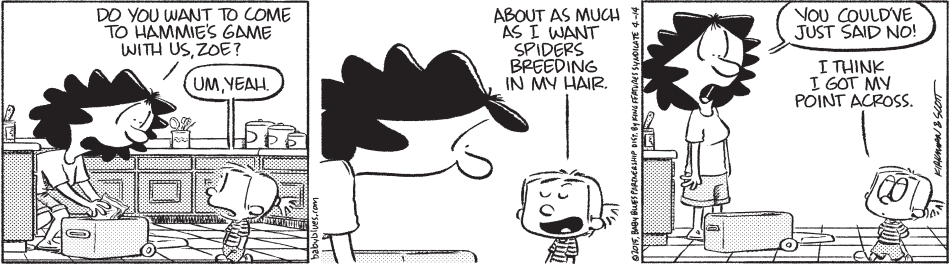
★★★★Ideas will flow back and forth between you and a partner, which will make you feel more energized. Make sure that all your funds are where you want them before paying any bills or making any purchases. A family member finally might open up. Tonight: Indulge a little.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★You might have difficulty balancing the pros and cons of various situations, especially one that is meant to be kept hush-hush. You might want to ask for advice, but you must remain silent. Act on decisions made in the afternoon. The Force is with you! Tonight: All smiles.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

