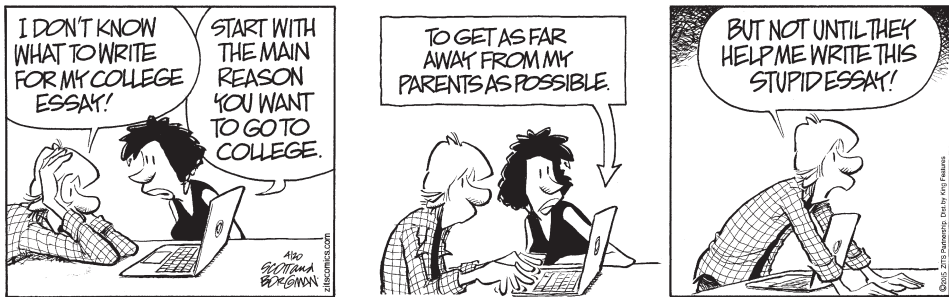


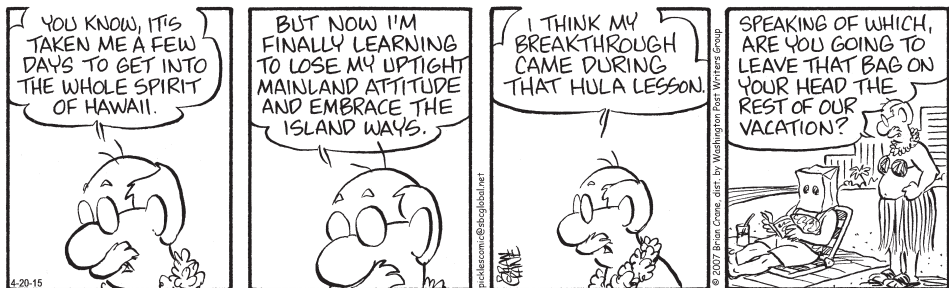
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



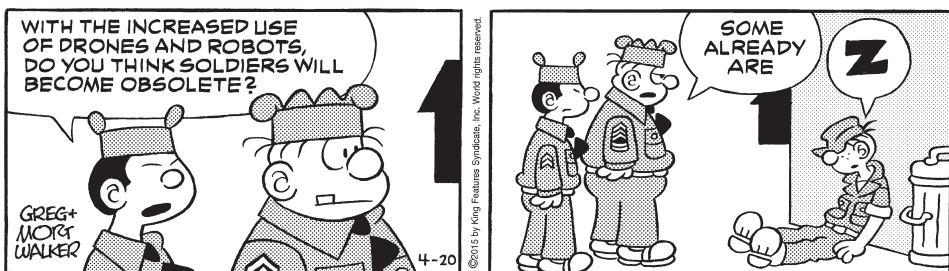
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



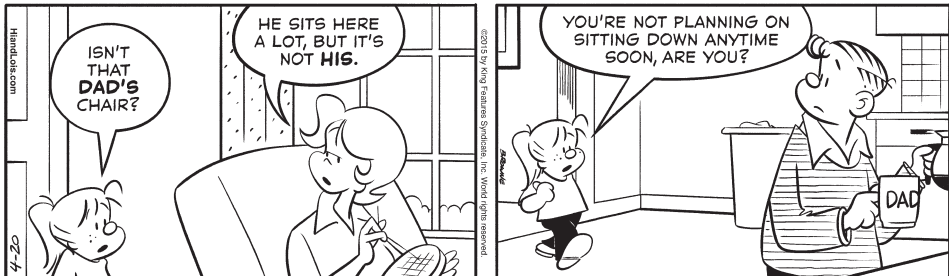
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



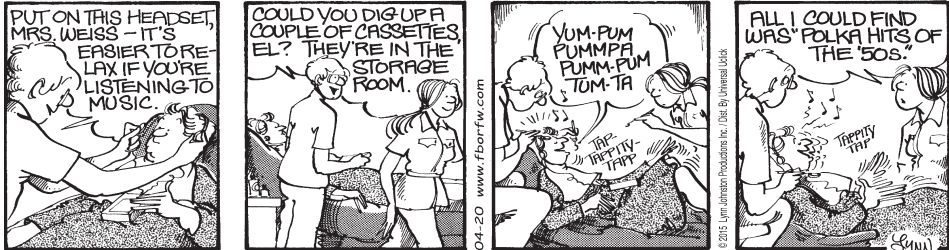
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



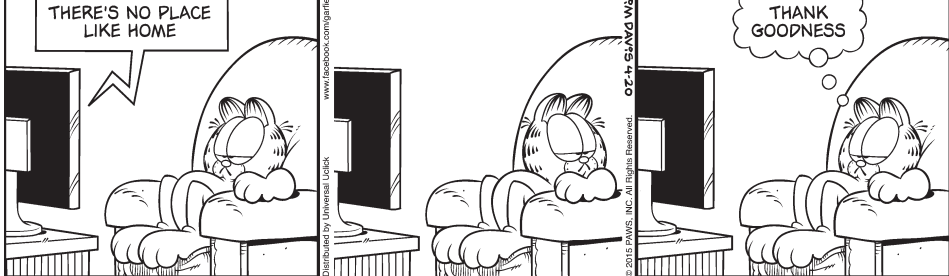
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Woman's Explosive Boyfriend Must Learn To Control His Fuse

DEAR ABBY: I have known "Dean" for 10 years. We have been living together for two. Since the beginning, he has struggled with depression, anxiety and anger issues. Occasionally he has explosive episodes where he'll throw things and punch or kick inanimate objects.

Recently things escalated. He was angry with himself after getting angry with me for disturbing his "process" while making dinner, and he threw a potted plant across the room.

I'm not an idiot. I know these are serious issues. Every friend or family member of mine who knows him believes he's a good guy deep down. But they all tell me to leave him. I talked with him after the incident. He called a therapist, set up an appointment and has promised he won't drink anymore.

I'm struggling with the judgment I'm feeling from my friends and family. Dean is a man I see a future with, and I don't want to give him up when he's finally seeking treatment. My friends are concerned about me getting hurt, either in the crossfire or when I try to stop him from hurting himself. Am I an idiot for not walking away? – NOT READY TO WALK

DEAR NOT READY: If all your family and friends are worried about your physical safety, for your own sake, you may have to stop trying to save Dean and concentrate on yourself for a while.

He may have many fine qualities, and the fact that he is willing to seek help for his explosive temper says a lot for him. That's why I'm suggesting you and Dean pay a visit to his therapist together and ask whether it would be better if you live apart until he learns to recognize and manage his "triggers." It may

give him the incentive to work harder on his problems – because it appears he has more than a few to deal with.

DEAR ABBY: Recently my 11-year-old son, "Jackson," was at a neighbor's house playing with another boy a few years younger. The boy told my son he plays with him only because his parents make him, and he said he isn't Jackson's friend and never wanted to be.

Jackson came home upset, and I was heartbroken for him. I comforted him and told him at least the boy was honest. I advised Jackson to find another friend to play with.

I'm at a loss on what to do next, if anything. Do I talk to the parents? Or just let it go? Friendship shouldn't be forced, but my heart aches for my son. Please give me some advice. – MAMA BEAR IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MAMA BEAR: Tell the parents what happened if they ask again for Jackson to come over. While children say all kinds of things in the heat of the moment, it would be better for your son if you found some other activities for him – group activities involving sports or science or the arts – for at least a while.

While it's understandable your neighbor's son may resent being forced to play with Jackson, it is equally understandable that Jackson might be reluctant at this point to have anything more to do with him. Don't push it.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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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 if born before 2:42 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Taurus. The Moon will be in Taurus until 4:08 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, it will be in Gemini.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015:

This year you encourage yourself to take risks. Your creativity and ability to understand helps you get past problems far more easily than in the recent past. Others often note this ability and will seek you out to brainstorm with you. You'll discover what a fun and meaningful year this could be. If you are single, someone of interest could enter your life sometime after mid-August. If you are attached, accept your sweetie as he or she is, and things will go smoothly. Make the most of the good moments. GEMINI knows how to encourage you to shop. Be careful!

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)

★★★ Your instincts serve you well. Be aware of your limitations in a situation, and don't push boundaries. By the midafternoon, you could become more inquisitive. Allow your imagination to fill any gaps and come up with ideas. Tonight: Have a long-overdue chat.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Use the morning to the max. You know what you want, and others will respond once you decide to go for it. A matter surrounding your home life will take a turn, most likely for the better. Open up to possibilities that someone else offers. Tonight: Put your best foot forward.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could feel a bit off in the morning, but by late afternoon, your energy surges. Keep negativity on the back burner, and you will be able to accomplish a lot more. Pressure could build in a relationship, which will force to head in a new direction. Tonight: Demand the stage.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might believe that you are on the right path and could become a little careless. You could get tripped up over a detail you have overlooked. Avoid being too exacting in what you do. You might feel as if you are being confronted over nothing. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might decide to change your focus and head in a new direction. Complete what you have started, and by the end of the day, good news will greet you. Whether you are in a meeting or at a planned get-together, you end up with friends. Tonight: Find a good excuse to celebrate.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Encourage yourself to take in the big picture, especially if you feel triggered. You might want to approach a situation differently. Others look to you for guidance and suggestions. Know the importance of being a role model. Tonight: Pressure builds.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Let your sensitive and caring side emerge. You might be more tired than you realize, which will affect your words and actions. Go for a walk and/or recharge your batteries by going to the gym. You will feel much better as a result. Tonight: Detach and relax, then decide.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Step back and acknowledge what is happening around you. Defer to someone else, and make sure that he or she is willing to carry the ball. Clearly, you feel as if you have your hands full. You need to be more dominant in other areas for now. Tonight: Handle money with care.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might be very put off by someone's words, and your expression will say it all. Be willing to approach a matter differently for your sake, and try to resolve a hassle. Accept the fact that you can't change other people. Tonight: Try not to shut down.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to have a discussion about what you expect from someone. Otherwise, this person most likely will let you down because of your high expectations, which he or she is unaware of. Use your creativity for solutions. Tonight: Clear out an errand first.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

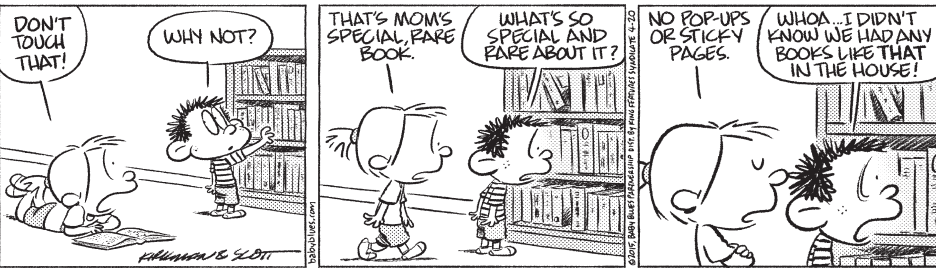
★★★ You might be more reluctant than you realize. Deal with a personal matter first. A partner or loved one could be challenging, and it might force you to rethink your stance. Your childlike side emerges when dealing with a heavy matter. Tonight: Act as if it's not Monday night.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

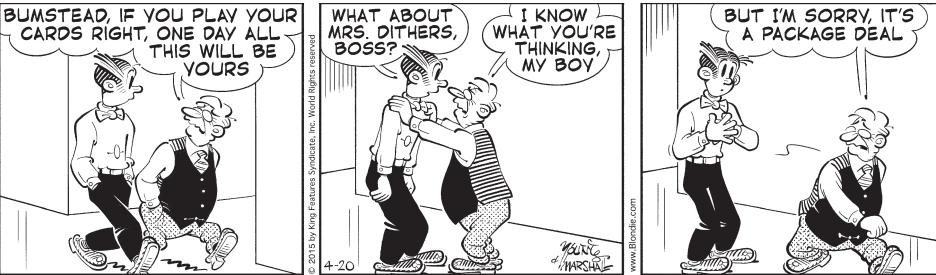
★★★★ Express your thoughts with the expectation of being heard. Your attitude most likely will provoke the response you desire. Honor a change, and be willing to move away from a loved one who could be too challenging at the moment. Tonight: Head home. Keep it calm.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

