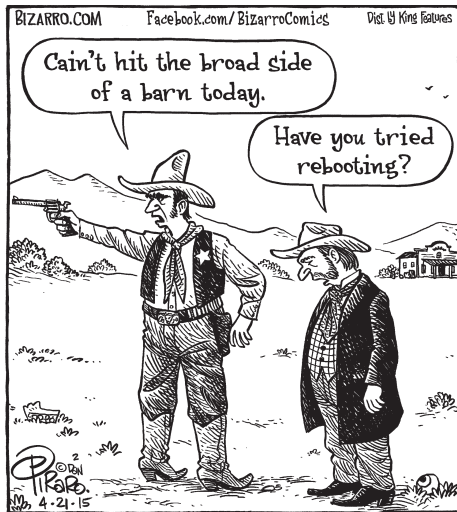


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



4-21
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"Pretty much everything at my age, Grandma."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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Cain't hit the broad side of a barn today.
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4-21-15

Readers Have Strong Views On Claiming Seats In Church

DEAR ABBY: May I comment on your response to "Got Here First in Pennsylvania" (Jan. 7), who asked whether someone sitting at the end of a church pew should move if someone comes and says it's his or her "favorite seat"?

There are many reasons why people remain sitting at the end of a pew: an allergy to perfumes can be overwhelming if you're sitting in the middle of a row; claustrophobia; weak bladder; physical limitations; the need for more leg room; and the need to use the armrest to stand up and sit down.

The early bird DOES get the worm and shouldn't be expected to give it to latecomers. Likewise, possession is nine-tenths of the law.

If people have a favorite seat, they should arrive early to ensure they'll get it. That's what we do. And when someone wants to sit in the same pew, we smile, step aside and let the person in while retaining our end seats. - OVERLAND PARK, KAN., ATTENDEE

DEAR ATTENDEE: Thank you for making your strongly stated case. When I told "Got Here" to be an angel and shove over, readers were quick to offer me "chapter and verse":

DEAR ABBY: I'm 6 feet 2 inches, weigh 350 pounds and have size 15 feet. I am not the guy you would want to have to crawl over, or have crawl over you in church.

When sitting at the end of the pew, I can easily step into the aisle to let people in and out. I also take a medication that causes me to use the restroom often and on short notice. Again, I can easily move about without worrying about trampling some little old lady.

I arrive early and take my end seat not to

be rude, but to make things as convenient as possible for others. - DOUG B. IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR ABBY: As a pastor, I believe good behavior should come first and foremost from church members who respect others and don't insist on their own way. Nobody "owns" a seat in the sanctuary. As creatures of habit, we tend to sit where we usually sit. If someone else happens to be there, we simply find somewhere else.

If "Got Here" was just starting to visit that church, I'd suggest he/she find a more charitable and hospitable congregation and leave those territorial folks behind. - JEANNE IN AUSTIN

DEAR ABBY: How can you say that one person, in the house of God, is more right than another in this situation? Is the shovee not committing the sin of coveting that seat? - MISSOULA, MONT., READER

DEAR ABBY: If you are first to arrive at an empty pew, take a place in the middle. Thus later arrivals won't have to climb over you. It's common courtesy! - PAT IN BLOOMFIELD, MO.

DEAR ABBY: Having worked in a fire department for many years, I always sit at the end of the pew. That way I won't have to knock over any fellow parishioners when my pager goes off! - LOUIE IN SOMERSET, OHIO

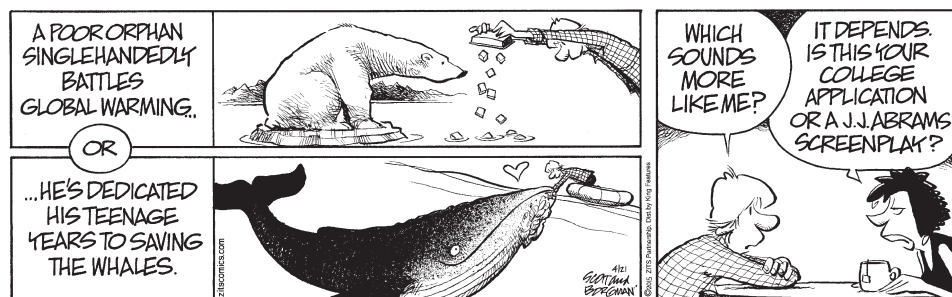
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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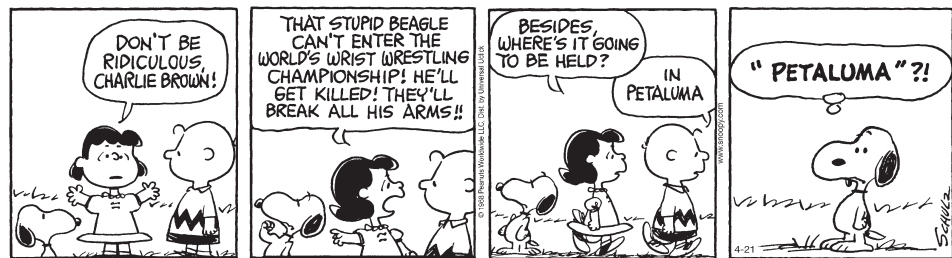
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



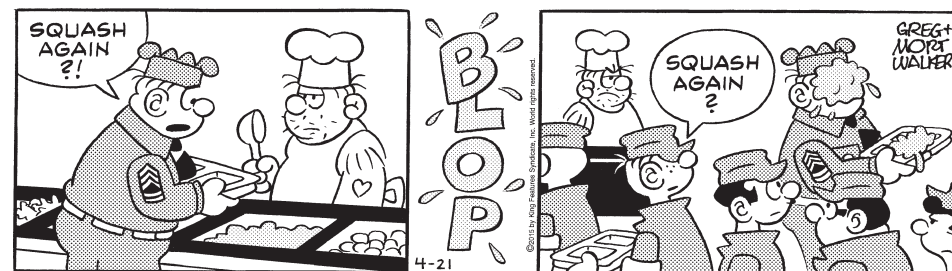
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



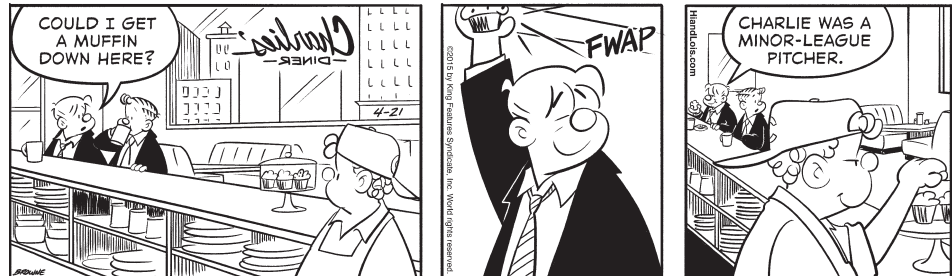
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 Taurus and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015:

This year you open up to a new ability to see many options simultaneously, especially if they pertain to your finances. You would be well-advised to test out the different possibilities with an expert. If you are single, look to meet someone who knocks your socks off any time from the end of summer on. If you are attached, you are looking at the possibility of a major update or change with your home. You enter a very romantic period come fall. You won't be able to get enough of each other. GEMINI is always full of humor and wit.

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)

\*\*\*\* You'll hear good news that makes you smile, but sharing it could cause an odd reaction from one of your friends. It might take a lot of effort to calm you down after this experience. Distract yourself with a fun conversation. Tonight: Spend time with someone you admire.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

\*\*\*\* You could get a little hot under the collar when you hear someone's news. In a sense, you might feel jeopardized. Detach, and take a hard look at the big picture. You probably will want to rethink your response. Find out the reason behind an odd reaction. Tonight: Make it your treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You could be more out of sorts than you realize. You have a way of expressing your caring that delights many people. You'll express a lot of positive vibes, but if you hold in anger and frustration, you could encounter a problem. Tonight: Ask for what you need.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

\*\*\*\* Pressure builds if you are dealing with a friend who could do a last-minute reversal. Do not mix business and pleasure. It also would be wise not to make a money agreement with this person. Keep some of your opinions to yourself. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

\*\*\*\* You beam even when you are not happy. A lot of responsibilities could be dropped

on you. Laughter surrounds a personal matter. You will lighten up more than you believe is possible. A change of scenery could prove to be very helpful. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

\*\*\*\* Others seem to be pushy. You have your own ideas for which direction might coincide with people's expectations. Do some needed research, make a call and have a discussion with someone to make sure that you both are on the same page. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

\*\*\*\* You often defer to someone else. This person has a very different style and perspective from yours, so be aware that you might not like the results. Make a point of understanding how a loved one feels, and try to identify with him or her. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

\*\*\* Others could keep you going with requests, as they seem to need your advice. Deal directly with one person who is very important to you. In your mind, you cannot be undermined. Put out your terms, and be ready for a strong response. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* Expressing exhaustion at being pushed so much is normal. Ask yourself why someone would push you so hard. Conversations need to have the fine touch of a diplomat if you are to root out the issue. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer, even if you are a bit ambivalent.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

\*\*\* Deal with a loved one directly. You might feel overtired because of a situation that keeps repeating itself. Your creativity soars and your energy rises when confronted with an intriguing situation. Detach and confirm your thoughts. Tonight: Lighten the mood.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

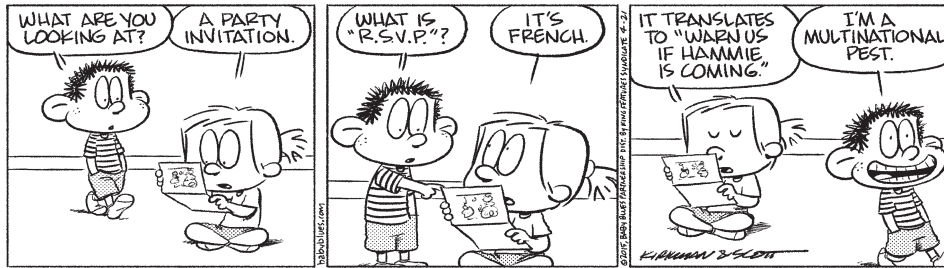
\*\*\*\*\* You have imagination and the willingness to break past mental barriers. You can be counted on for coming up with unusual answers that work. Be willing to blaze your own trail. Know that a flirtation could sidetrack you. Know what you are doing. Tonight: The romp begins.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

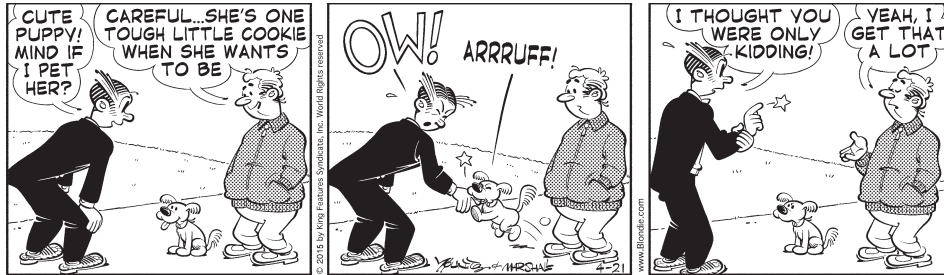
\*\*\* You might feel the need to deal with a source of stress immediately. With a clear mind, you will approach other matters with greater efficiency and clarity. Take time to walk the dog or fit in some other form of activity that lessens stress. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

