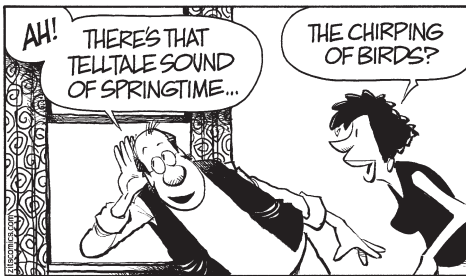


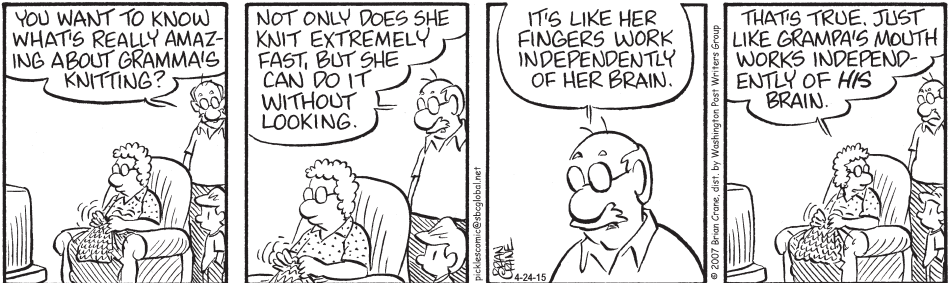
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



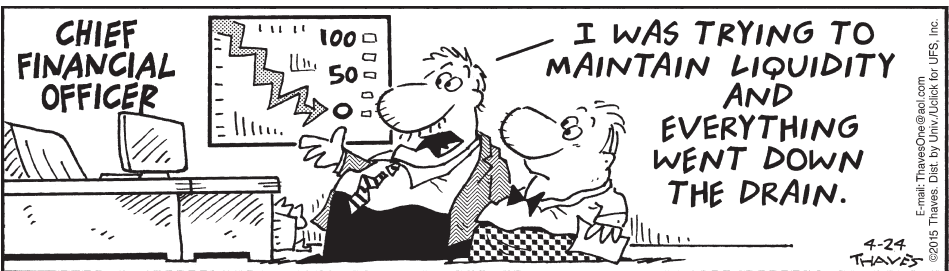
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



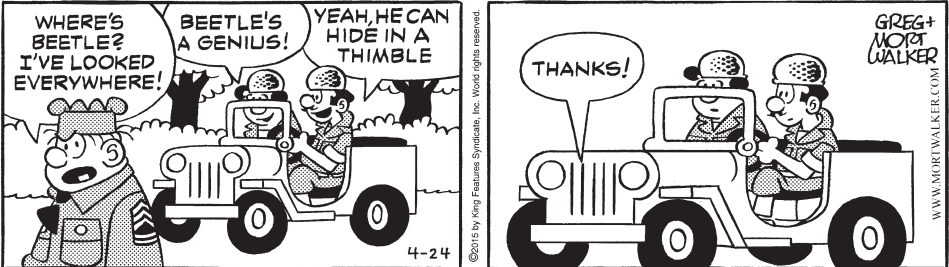
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



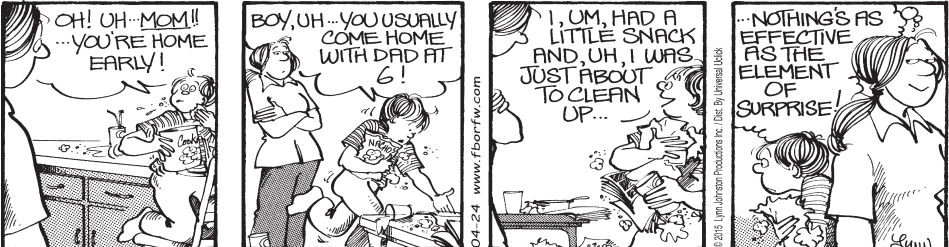
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Timing Is Right For Plastic Surgery, But Parents Object

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 years old, working full-time as a teacher and I'm about to move out of my parents' house. I have decided to have breast augmentation surgery, and I know the best time to do it would be this summer so I'll have time to recover before school starts.

The problem is my parents are adamantly against my having this surgery. I've heard it all: "I wish you loved your body the way it is." "That's so superficial," and "You'll regret it!"

I would wait until I move out, but my new place (which is being built) won't be finished until the end of the school year. I have postponed this surgery for several years, and now I have the money and I'm ready. How can I please my parents and also please myself? – TIRED OF WAITING

DEAR TIRED OF WAITING: Have another talk with your folks and explain that while they may wish you loved your body the way it is, you don't. Tell them that you don't feel wanting the surgery is superficial and that you feel it will give you confidence about your appearance that you don't have now.

The decision about whether to have plastic surgery is a personal one. No one should make it "for" you; the choice should be yours and yours alone. If you decide later that you regret it, you can have the implants removed. Some women have done that – but most women don't.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning a wedding this summer. My fiancé and I are paying for it ourselves, so we are trying to keep it within a budget. I'm so excited I want to shout it from the rooftops because I thought this day would never happen.

My problem is, when I have shared the news of our engagement, some people have told me, "I can't wait to get my invitation." We have already made up our guest list and they aren't on it, so how can I tactfully reply without offending? My fiancé and I have even discussed whether it would be worth the extra money each guest will cost in order to keep the peace

and not have anyone carry a grudge against us. – STRUGGLING TO BE POLITE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR STRUGGLING: When someone who is not on your guest list says he or she can't wait to receive an invitation, that's your cue to explain that due to budget constraints, your wedding will be small – pretty much immediate family only. No one can argue with that.

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday I spent the afternoon with a friend who was in town for her husband's business conference. Her 20-year-old son called her because he had broken the screen on his cellphone.

Over the next two hours as we visited, she took phone calls from him, researched places to get his phone fixed, then proceeded to fill out insurance forms on her phone for the repair while I sat there. I finally stood up and said I was leaving because she seemed to be "busy." She immediately became offended and rudely said, "Well! Sorry I p-d you off!"

Abby, it was a broken cellphone, not a broken arm. Am I wrong for feeling the way I do? We have been friends for more than 30 years. – INSULTED IN RENO

DEAR INSULTED: You're not wrong. Your friend must have thought her son's predicament was an emergency, which is why she felt compelled to deal with it immediately.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Taurus and a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015:

This year you often stand up to others' manipulations. You will start walking away from controlling people. You also will gain a new understanding, which will lead to enhanced communication skills. Your energy remains high. If you are single, you will apply your strong drive to meeting someone. Come late August, a significant person could enter your life. If you are attached, the two of you need to keep talking and accepting each other. You will want to spend some money on a special vacation for the two of you. Make sure you both are on board with this idea. CANCER always seeks you out.

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 might feel as if someone is intentionally working against you. This person will do whatever he or she thinks will work. Do yourself a favor and pull away quickly. Review your finances before you engage in an expenditure. Tonight: Keep your distance from a control game.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your desire to have a situation play out the way you want it to could cause a rift. You might not realize how damaging your manipulation can be. Let go, and trust that your thoughts will be evaluated once the power play ceases. Tonight: Indulge a friend or loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Someone could be trying to pull you into a power play. Be smart and refuse to be part of the game. A friend will add an unexpected quality to your day. Use some of your innate charm and wit, and success will follow. Tonight: Buy a new item for your wardrobe.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might sense that much is going on behind closed doors. Consider breaking past a barrier. If you succeed, communication will excel. Be aware that someone around you has a crush on you. Could you have a secret admirer? Tonight: Let go, and have fun.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You easily could be overwhelmed by what you are hearing and sensing behind the

scenes. Someone you look up to might be on the warpath. Know that you can't stop this person, but you can withdraw your energy from the situation. Tonight: Paint the town red.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A new friend suddenly could become contrary. You can't control this person's mood, but you can control your response to it. A meeting will allow your inventive mind to flourish. Stay on top of what is needed, but avoid becoming controlling. Tonight: Find a spot with great music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Listen to news with openness, and attempt to deal with a problem. You might need to take the lead, whether you want to or not. Allow greater give-and-take. Your ability to see past the obvious will help you eliminate what is unnecessary. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. You could be delighted by the conversation, though you might hear some unexpected news. A loved one could be difficult. Schedule some one-on-one time with this person if you can. Tonight: Flow with the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Deal with individuals rather than groups. You can be more open and get a better grasp on the other party's thoughts. A child or new friend could surprise you. If you are single, someone you meet today will have a strong effect on you. Tonight: Head out with friends or co-workers.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Go with the flow, even if a suggestion sounds a little silly. It might be good for you to head into less-predictable situations. A loved one finally will decide to open up rather than resort to making argumentative comments. Tonight: Choose a favorite stressbuster.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

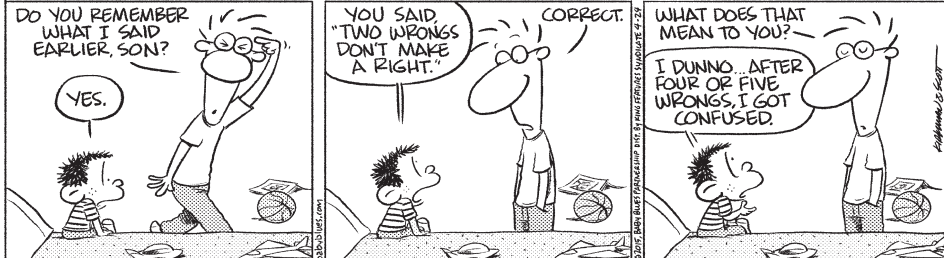
★★★★ Allowing more give-and-take would help you get past an unexpected communication. Understand that others could be a little out of whack and more volatile than usual. Let go of judgments, especially when dealing with a powerful friend. Tonight: Lighten your mood.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

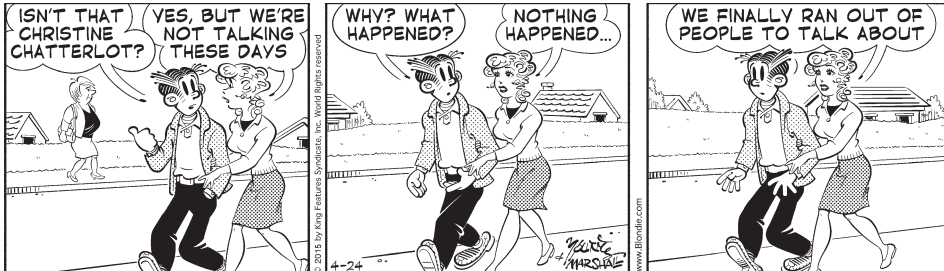
★★★★ Your creativity will emerge when dealing with an associate who could cause some uproar. A roommate or family member will express his or her caring in a significant way. Your intuition is likely to help you make a choice. Tonight: Your words will make a friend smile.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

