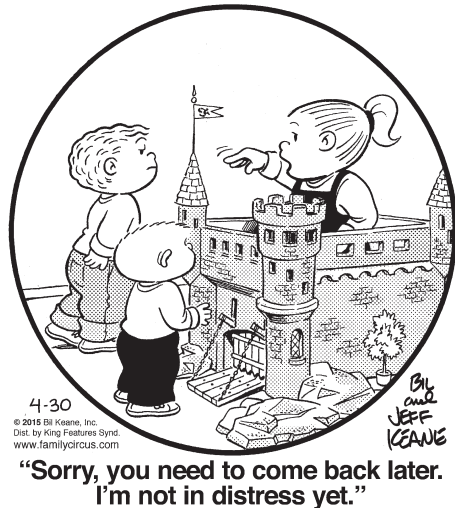


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



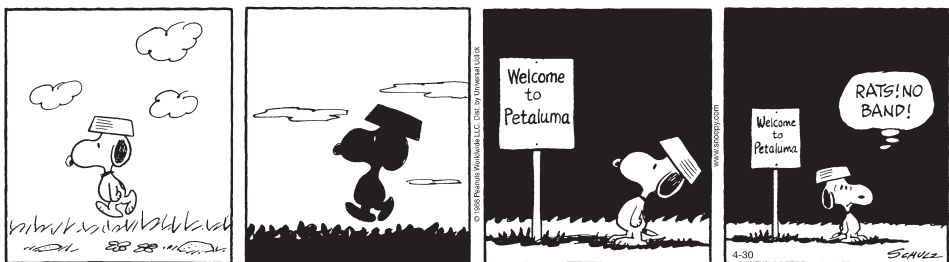
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



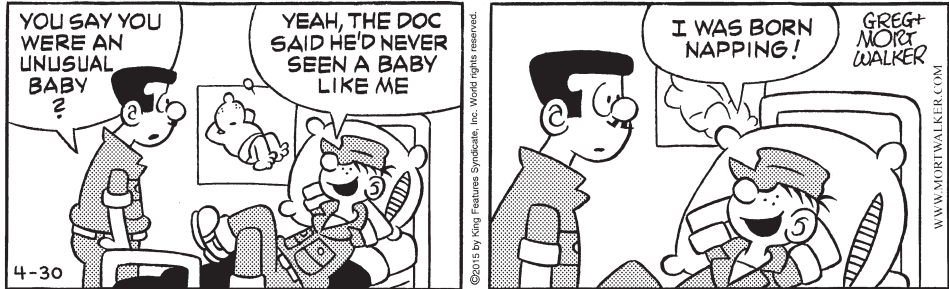
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



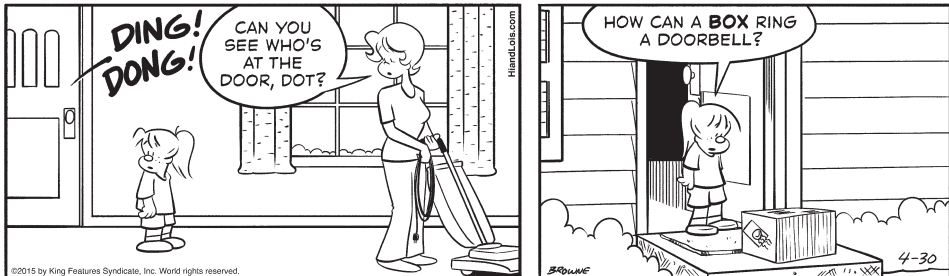
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Life Of Contentment Doesn't Seem Normal By Comparison

DEAR ABBY: I'm 45, employed and earning plenty of money. I'm in a great relationship, my kids and grandkids are healthy and happy, and my parents are alive and well. I enjoy the small things in life, fishing, reading, the beach, mini vacations, bowling, etc. I raise funds to feed the homeless.

So what's my problem, you ask? Abby, I'm not really sure what my purpose is in life or if the way my life is, is normal. I feel content – even happy at times – but I'm troubled because it seems a lot of people do the exact opposite of what I am doing and they all have a purpose. Some of them are going to school, raising kids, having relationship problems, money issues, etc. They seem to be doing so much, and I feel like I'm doing so little.

What is normal for my age? Should I be doing more? Most times I feel happy, but on a day like today I feel unfulfilled. Do I need to do more? – WHAT IS NORMAL?

DEAR WHAT: Doing so little? Count your blessings! You hold a job, have a family I presume you regularly interact with, have a great relationship, hobbies you enjoy and contribute to those who have less than you. I would say you are productive and successful.

However, if YOU think you need to do more, then it's possible you do. Take some time, decide what it is and reallocate your time if you feel you need something more to fulfill you. But please stop measuring yourself by anyone else's yardstick because people who do that are rarely happy.

DEAR ABBY: I fell in love with "Alex" during my last year of college. We had known each other for 18 months. One month before our wedding, he broke up with me. He says I was verbally abusive.

I admit I had anger issues. I had to plan most of the wedding alone because we were four hours apart. When we argued, he would say one thing and then something different

later. He would also tell his mom stuff about me and our relationship that I considered private. After the breakup, I found out he had lied to me about his religion.

I had a hard time with the breakup. I tried hard to reconcile or find solutions, but he rejected all of them. Now he's blaming me and throwing things in my face.

I am heartbroken and depressed. I don't know if I should be mad at him for the lies and the heartache he has caused me, or mad at myself for messing up. I have lost my confidence and self-esteem. What do I do? – STILL IN LOVE

DEAR STILL IN LOVE: Take off the rose-colored glasses for a moment and consider what the reality of a marriage to Alex would have been like. You would have had a mama's boy for a husband, one you couldn't count on to tell the truth and who

blamed you for anything that went wrong. Don't you realize you dodged a bullet? If things had turned out differently, you'd be writing me as an unhappy wife, probably with children to support.

Let it go, get help for your anger issues and don't waste more time brooding. There are times it is better that we don't get the things we wish for, and this may be one of them.

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.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, 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 Virgo if born before 7:03 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015:

This year you are more balanced and sensitive than you have been in a long time. Your approach and demeanor will be more gentle, sensitive and caring. You will see a difference in how others respond to you as well. Your presence counts. If you are single, romance knocks on your door in the second part of your birthday year. You will know almost instantly when you have met this person. If you are attached, the two of you discuss finances often, with an eye to creating greater security and better quality of life. Romance is always present between you. LIBRA understands much more than he or she lets on.

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 will be more subtle and practical in the morning; however, by the afternoon you'll be quick-witted and direct. Nevertheless, communication will soar way beyond your expectations. Be careful about how you display your humor. Tonight: Have a long-overdue conversation.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Applying your thoughts could be challenging, but it will be worthwhile. You are overly serious and directed. Take time to focus your attention on the immediate issues; you do not need to discuss them yet. Your finances need to be scrutinized. Tonight: Reach out to a loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Express your caring to others. A partner might be very serious and withdrawn. You can choose to be warm and expressive. A token of affection will go a long way with this person. Your mind will work overtime and allow many new possibilities. Tonight: Be romantic.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Express your thoughts, and count on being heard. Your focus might be on a domestic matter, regardless of whether you want it to be. You'll need to clear up this matter quickly, as it has become a source of tremendous stress. Tonight: Homeward bound.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ No matter what you do, you will get

ahead and accomplish your fair share of the work. You need to maintain your focus. Communication excels to an unprecedented level. Allow your imagination to emerge more often; don't hold back so much. Tonight: Chat the night away.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of how much you have to offer. You often want to back away and do a project your way. At those moments, you might not feel like a team player, as your concerns will be elsewhere. Consider spending some time with a family member. Tonight: Make it your treat.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You beam, and others respond to your energy. Try to complete a conversation revolving around a key matter more carefully than usual. You could be slightly out of sync. Fatigue is likely to force you to take some time to yourself. Tonight: As you like it.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You know when to withdraw and when to come forward. Please use that knowledge today. You often question the pros and cons of a personal situation that keeps causing you pain. Understand that you don't have to be so closed-off emotionally. Tonight: Think before you leap.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Emphasize what is important to you, especially in a meeting. You have been rather quiet as of late, and you'll need to be more expressive. Others will respond, especially as you have been so taciturn. They appreciate this change more than you realize. Tonight: Hang with friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Others observe your actions, and many naturally follow your lead. This nearly automatic behavior testifies to your sound judgment and strong decision-making skills. A conversation is likely to occur later today, when you are relaxed. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

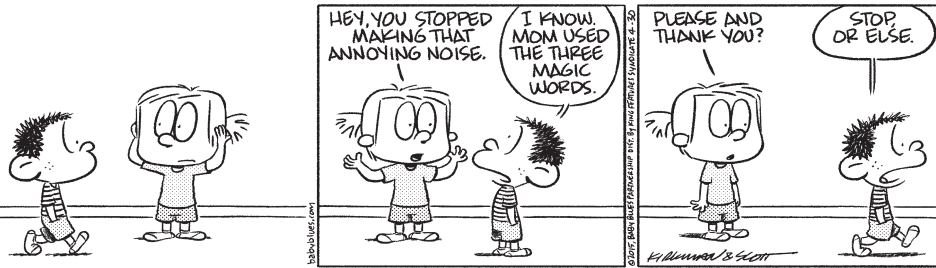
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You will gain a different perspective as a result. A friend who has been rather withdrawn could be opening up. Use care in how you approach this person. Romance heats up for those who are unattached. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. One-on-one relating will reveal a whole new set of facts and emotions that you previously had not even considered. A respected person in your life might say little, but you'll like what he or she does say. Tonight: Togetherness works.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

