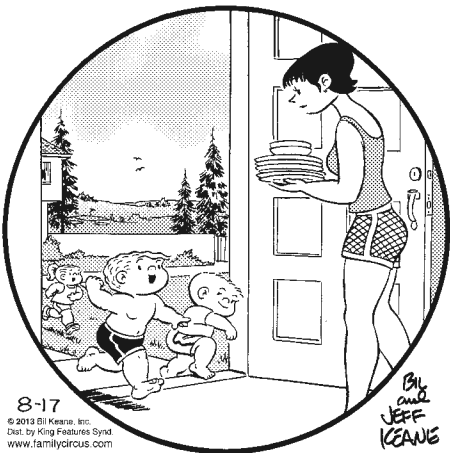


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



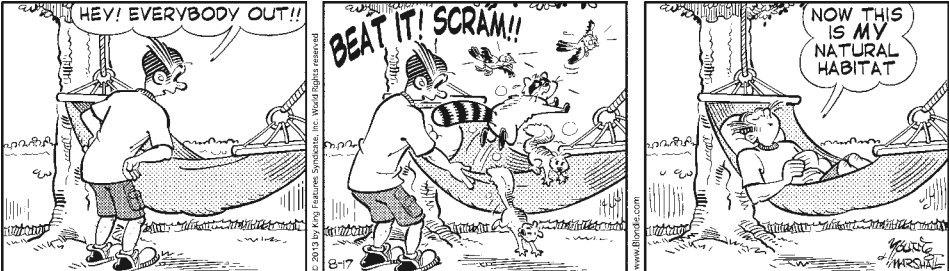
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



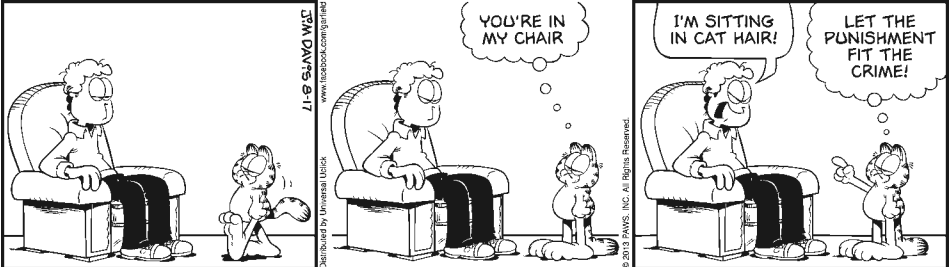
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



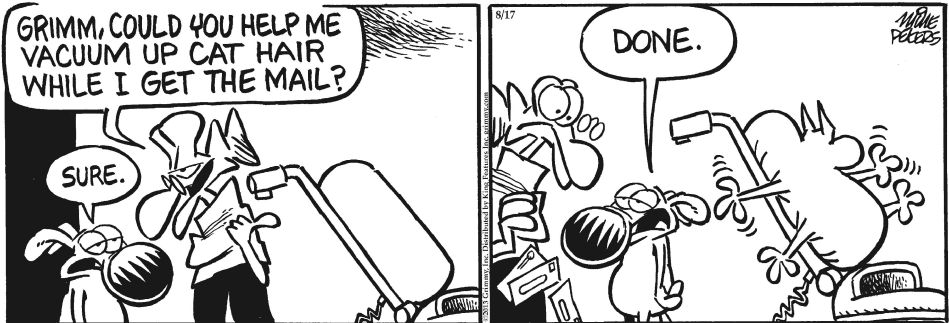
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Language Barrier Leaves Girlfriend Out In The Cold

DEAR ABBY: I recently started dating one of my graduate school classmates. We come from different cultures, but we get along great and I really like him.

My problem is he's very close to his family, who seem to like me very much, but I always feel left out around them. An example: The nine of us went out to dinner and the whole time they were speaking to each other in their native tongue while I just sat there. Then, after dinner, his parents asked why I was so quiet.

The family speaks English fluently and are otherwise nice to me. When I confronted my boyfriend about it, he said it would be disrespectful for him to speak to his elders in English.

I want a future with this man, but I know it won't work out if I can't be included in his family. Am I wrong to think they should involve me in the conversation? – OUTSIDER IN NEW YORK

DEAR OUTSIDER: In light of the fact that everyone knows you don't speak the language, their behavior does seem inconsiderate – particularly if it's happening often. Perhaps you should speak to them about it and ask to be included in the conversation. An alternative would be to take a crash course in their native tongue so you'll have some idea about what's being said. (And won't they be surprised when you respond!)

One thing about your letter does concern me, however, because it raises a potential red flag. Does your boyfriend's unwillingness to stand up for you foretell a pattern of always deferring to his parents? If that's the case, it could be a source of frustration and conflict for you in the future. Please think about it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a steady, committed relationship with my boyfriend, "Carey," for four years. We have discussed our future and have agreed that we want to get married and start a family soon.

As a child, I always dreamed of a big,

fancy wedding. Carey, on the other hand, says he doesn't want one. He feels it would be a waste of money. After a lot of discussion, we decided to compromise and have a courthouse wedding followed by a small, simple reception.

My biggest issue is he insists we don't need rings, and he refuses to get me one. Although I have explained that a ring would symbolize our love and life together, and it would mean a great deal to me personally, he won't budge. Now I'm beginning to doubt whether I want to marry him.

What should I do? Am I being superficial? – CONFUSED ABOUT MARRIAGE

DEAR CONFUSED: I don't think that wanting a wedding ring is superficial. It's normal. Furthermore, if you have any doubts about marrying this young man, you should put the wedding on hold until the two of you have had premarital counseling. Arguments about how money should be spent have ruined marriages, and it appears the two of you are planets apart on this important issue.

DEAR ABBY: What is proper when opening gift cards with money enclosed? My family has made it a habit for the nieces to open their cards in front of everyone. I feel it should be done in private. – UNCOMFORTABLE IN PENNSYLVANIA DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Opening the card is fine. Reading the sentiments inside is also perfectly acceptable. But to reveal the amount of the check or money enclosed is a no-no.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Angus 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 the Sun in Leo and the Moon in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 17, 2013:

This year you move forward with a venture that might be very important to you. Use good sense with those you choose to involve, eyeing loyalty and knowledge as important traits. Your endurance counts more than you realize. If you are single, use caution committing, as many people want to be your sweetie. In order to impress you, a suitor might distort who he or she is. If you are attached, make sure to include your sweetie in your outside life. Also make time for you two alone. CAPRICORN pushes nearly everyone hard. He or she expects only the best.

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 fiery spirit and upbeat manner could be tamed by some fierce realities. You have an opportunity to revamp a project or situation. Once you do, possibilities open up. You still might opt to toss out the present set of circumstances and head in a totally new direction. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You often become quite stubborn about what you want. To get you to budge is like fighting city hall. Frustrated, others head in another direction, making a new set of decisions. Once you see those results, you might get a better idea as to how much flex you have. Tonight: Make a gesture through an invitation.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by certain ideas and decisions. How you handle a personal decision could be impacted if it's made at this time. Your sense of direction keeps you on an even keel more than you realize. Respond to another person's invitation. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Your awareness as to what could happen helps you make the correct choices. You also see a partner revamping his or her thinking. He or she is willing to give more than in the past. The waiting game probably will pay off, if it's combined with patience. Tonight: Sort through offers.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself. If you feel the need, adjust your plans accordingly. Your ability to flex could

prevent a problem. Make special time for a dear friend or loved one. You will be able to relax in a unique manner. Tonight: Unexpected news might surprise you. Stay level.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to help another person, child or loved one to relax, which oddly could draw a negative response. Use your creativity, and give the person the space to work through an issue. A partner also has an unpredictable quality, as you will see. Tonight: Let your hair down.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Stay focused on the basics. You know what you want and desire. Don't hesitate to try out an idea or suggestion that might make you happy. Others might appear to be very unpredictable when having a strong reaction. You might want to give them space. Tonight: How about a cozy get-together at your place?

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Stay on top of a personal matter. You might not be as sure of yourself as others might think. When a practical issue unveils itself, you could be surprised. Try to detach and look at the whole situation, which is in flux. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter more openly, especially with someone whose opinion you respect. Your ability to get past a problem is rather remarkable, but still, getting some feedback is helpful. A child or loved one could act in a most unpredictable manner. Tonight: Indulge a little.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Don't get upset if others cannot keep up with your rapid-fire ideas and movement. You are able to catch up on news, errands and still make time for an important loved one. Get together, but be willing to flex when someone else appears or needs your time. You have your hands full. Tonight: Seize the moment.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

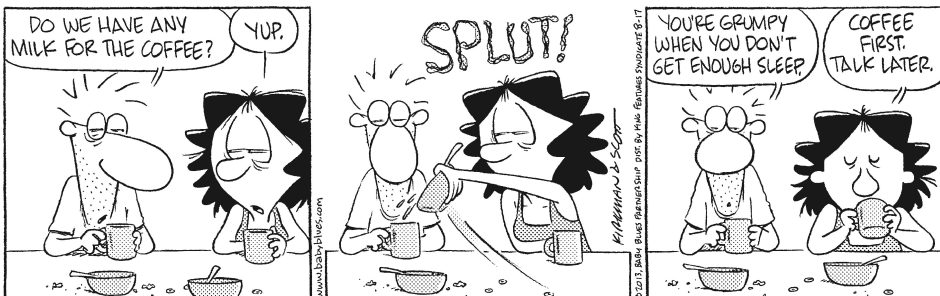
★★ You might want to back off and do some thinking. A parent, older relative, friend or boss pushes you to do otherwise. You might come up with an unusual suggestion. Apparently you will be forced to be a little more quirky and creative. Tonight: Vanish if you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Zero in on a long-term desire. Have a discussion with the person involved with this wish. Together you can decide on the validity of your thoughts. Use care with funds. Count your change. The unexpected plays out. Tonight: Fun with friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

