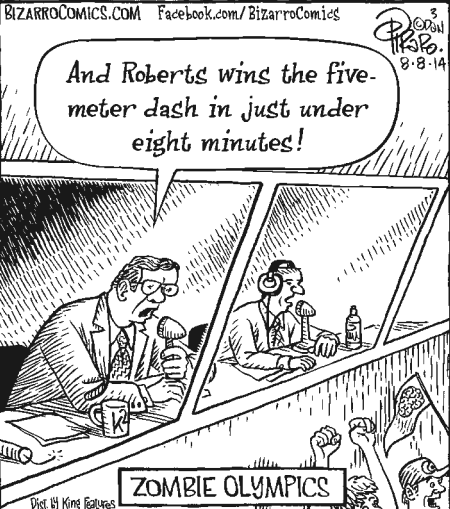


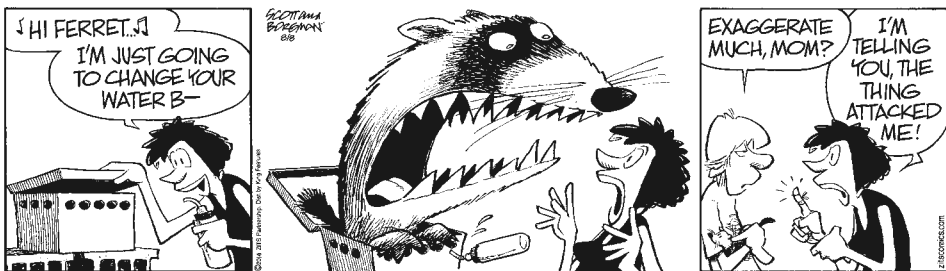
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



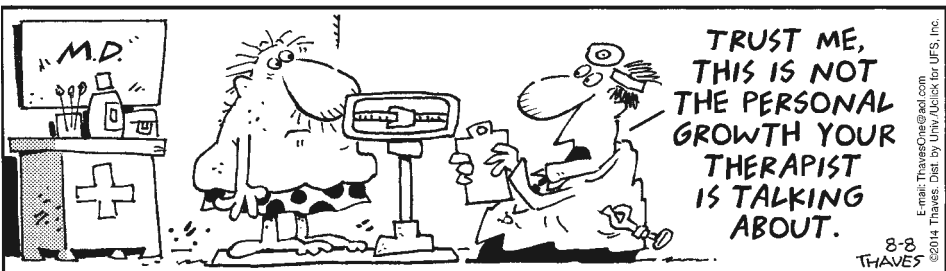
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



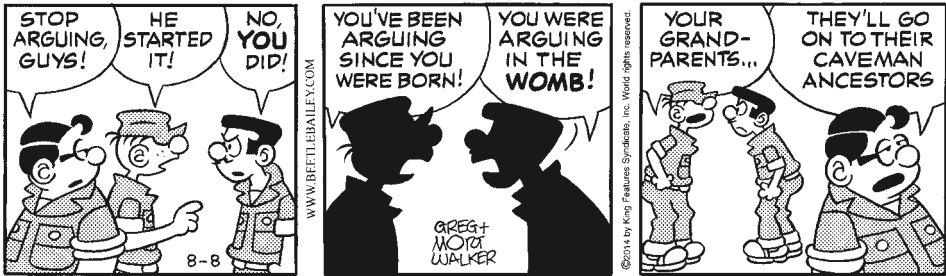
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



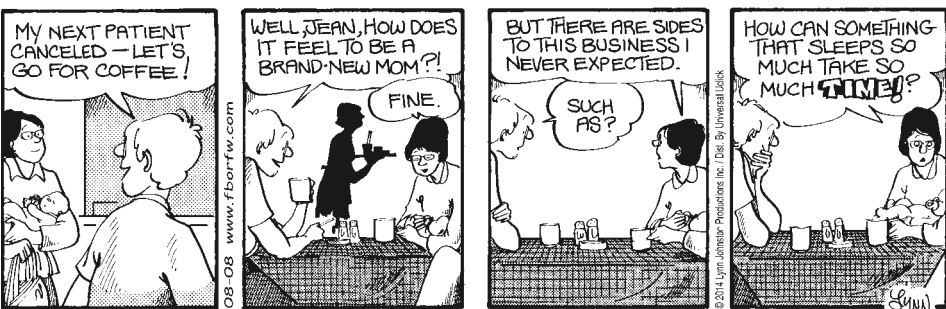
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



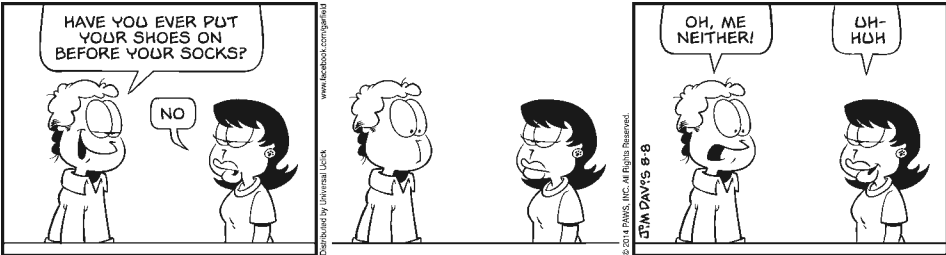
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Woman Treats Friend's Kitchen Like All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who will help herself to anything in my fridge, pantry, etc. without asking. She also will eat most if not all food that's meant to be shared, such as appetizers and snacks at a social gathering. Once she literally polished off an entire plate of appetizers before my guests arrived and I had nothing to feed them.

After she finishes the food, she often says, "Oh, I was starving!" I find myself hiding food from her when she comes over, or delaying putting treats out for guests until later in the party.

The most recent episode was when I was preparing food for my toddler. While it was cooling on the counter, she helped herself to all of it. She told me afterward she had consumed it.

So you see — nothing is safe, not even a child's meal. Abby, how can I tell her what she's doing is wrong and rude? — STUMPED IN STUDIO CITY, CALIF.

DEAR STUMPED: Your friend may be a compulsive eater, but that's no excuse for what she has been doing. Tell her in plain English that you don't like it when she helps herself to food without first asking, or hogging it when it has been prepared for a party. Taking something that was meant for your toddler was over the top. Say that if she's feeling "starved" when she's headed for your house, she should have a snack to take the edge off before arriving. And if you see less of her because of your frankness, consider yourself lucky.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I and our toddler son were recently out to dinner. A woman walked past our table to the family next to us and gushed about how "beautiful" the couple's daughter was. Their child was the same age as our son, who is just as well-behaved.

I found it hurtful that a stranger would compliment one child and ignore the family seated at the next table. My husband disagrees. Am I wrong to be offended? Do you think this was rude? — FURIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR FURIOUS: I agree with your husband. I doubt the woman deliberately meant to slight your son. All her attention was simply focused on the little girl.

DEAR ABBY: I always take my shower before I go to bed. My friends take their showers in the morning. Which one is correct? I wouldn't want to go to sleep dirty. — GARY IN BROOKLYN

DEAR GARY: The time of day one takes a shower is a matter of personal preference and lifestyle. If you are a mechanic or do heavy physical labor, showering before you go to bed makes sense. However, if your job requires working closely with the public or co-workers, then taking a shower in the morning before work is considerate.

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.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Leo and a Moon in Capricorn.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 8, 2014:

This year you might find yourself stressed and tired. Get plenty of exercise, and follow healthy eating patterns. Be careful about how many responsibilities you take on. If you are single, someone who admires your sense of commitment and appreciates everything you have to offer will want to be your sweetie. Romance is a big part of your year. If you are attached, the two of you have similar interests that will blend well together. In fact, your commitment to each other will become even stronger. CAPRICORN tests your strength, devotion and endurance.

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)

★★★ A new beginning becomes possible with someone you respect. It would be helpful to understand what you really want from this person. Your actions could surprise others. A key person will share his or her conservative view on a fiscal matter. Tonight: A must appearance.

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

★★★★ Keep reaching for what you want. You might need to take a class or do some type of workshop. Travel and foreigners could play into the scenario. Even if you feel insecure, you will do your best to put up a positive front. Tonight: Try a different spot.

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

★★★★ Deal with a partner or loved one directly. You might think you know what this person is going to say, but you will be wrong. In fact, try to eliminate second-guessing others altogether, and a more creative dialogue is likely to occur. Tonight: Start with TGI.

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

★★★★ Deal with someone as directly as possible. You might want to lie low a bit and let others do most of the initiating or talking; you will receive more answers to your questions that way. A boss or older friend continues to act unpredictably. Tonight: Defer to others.

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

★★★★ You might need to make some time to run errands or do other important activities. You

could be overwhelmed by everything you need to get done. Use this day to lighten your load so that you can relax more over the weekend. Tonight: Continue to clear out tasks.

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

★★★★ You might be hard-pressed to follow your routine. You typically are such a dedicated and responsible sign. Make it OK to be a little frivolous and less rigid. Take off early to start your weekend. Tonight: Accept an invitation only after you have sorted through all the possibilities.

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

★★★ If you can stay close to home, do. You will be able to get past an immediate hassle or two just by being there. You might be surprised by someone's response. A child or loved one will be delighted by your availability. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

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

★★★★ You might want to see a situation from a different point of view. Open up a conversation and allow yourself to have greater give-and-take with others. Don't put any ideas down; instead, work with each one and get feedback from others. Tonight: Join friends as soon as you can.

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

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision more carefully, especially as it appears to have monetary implications. Try to move past a problem or look at it from a different perspective. Your decision could be different from your original one. Tonight: Use care with funds.

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

★★★★ You'll sense that the weekend is approaching. In fact, you might have taken off for the day and will be heading to a favorite summer spot. Put yourself first, and you will be just fine. Understanding evolves with a key loved one. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

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

★★★ You could feel a bit off. In fact, you'll find that you are happiest with your own company at home or off doing some kind of solo activity. You don't need to give an explanation; others are likely to have a similar experience. Tonight: Time for your vanishing act!

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

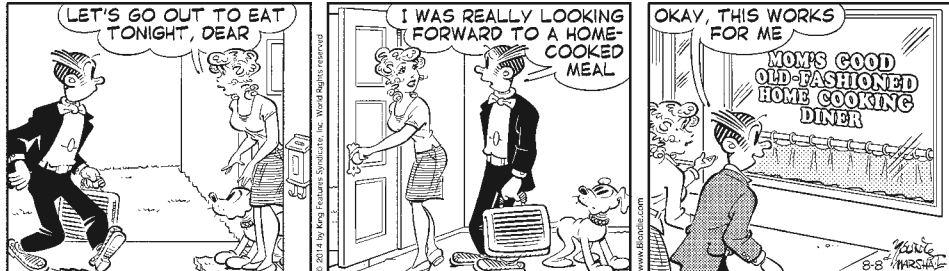
★★★★ Friends surround you. You can be supportive to those around you, but your agenda might require someone else's interest or involvement. Do not pressure this person to collaborate with you. Just let him or her see what you're capable of. Tonight: Time for festivities.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

