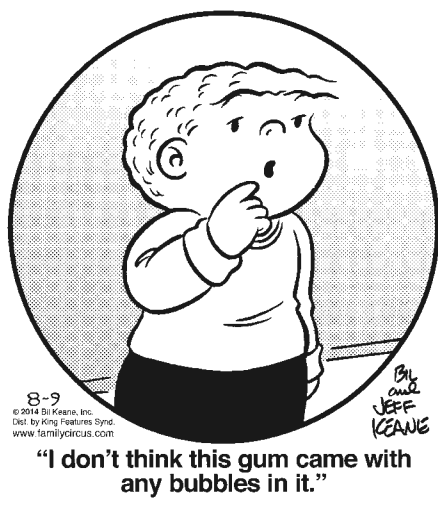


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



8-9 © 2014 Bil Keane, Inc.
"I don't think this gum came with any bubbles in it."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

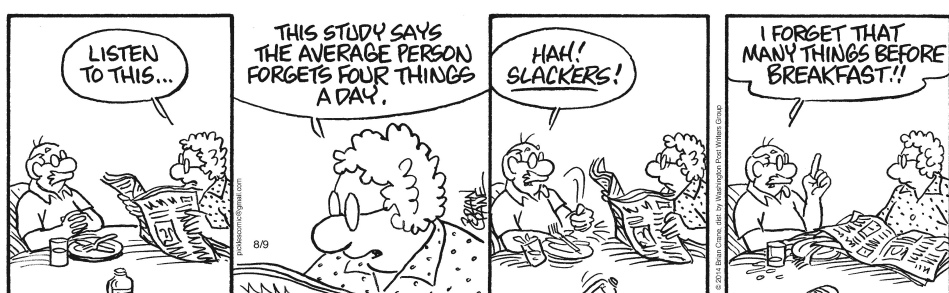


THE FIRST VENTRILOQUIST

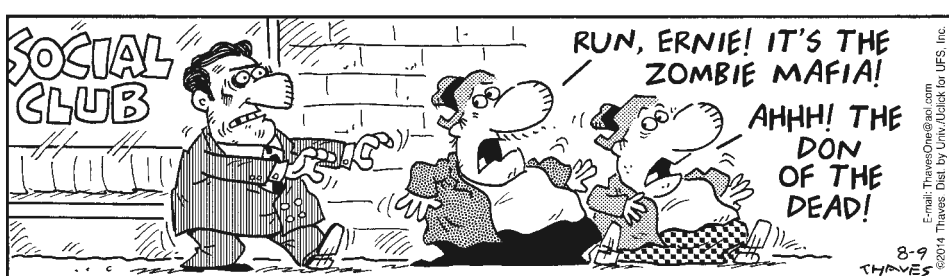
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



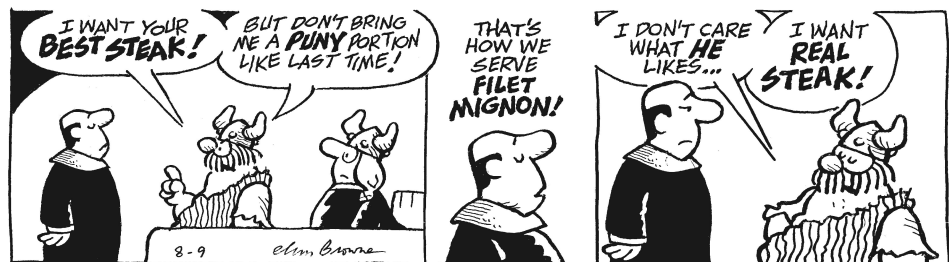
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



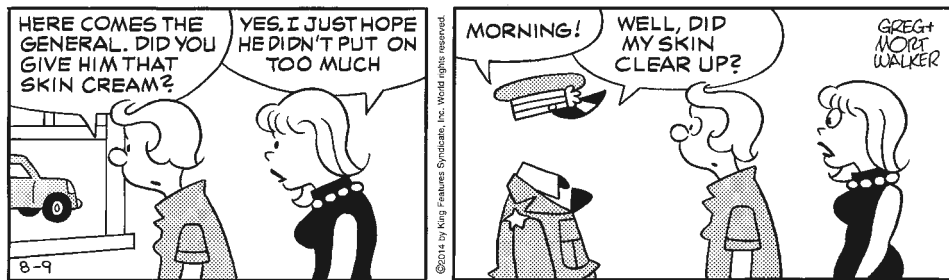
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



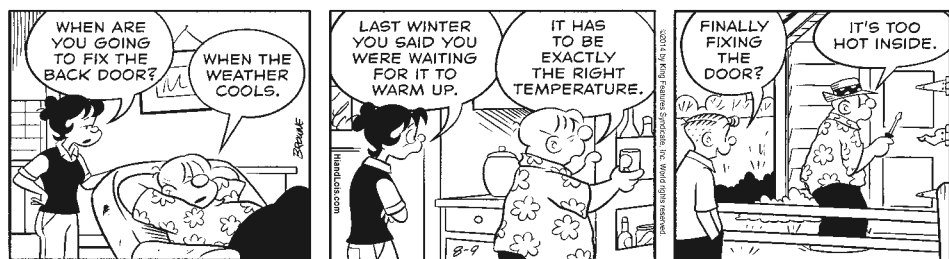
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Teen Begins To Recognize Parents' Emotional Abuse

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl who has two younger brothers. My parents are good people, but they can be extremely harsh and cruel. They curse us out and scream at us for petty things almost every day.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

I have always been told that every parent yells at their kids. Maybe not every day, but regardless, everyone gets mad sometimes. I honestly didn't even think there was such a thing as emotional abuse.

I don't know what to do. I have been suffering this almost my entire life. I didn't think that it was abuse. AM I being emotionally abused? I would appreciate your help. — TIRED OF THE TIRADES

DEAR TIRED: The answer to your question is yes, your friend is correct. Because your parents have been doing this on a regular basis, it qualifies as verbal/emotional abuse. Be glad you now recognize it, because their lack of control isn't normal.

Their anger and frustration may have nothing to do with you and your siblings. The problem with this kind of abuse — as opposed to physical abuse — is that although it is damaging, it is often not taken seriously.

If there are family members or close friends who can intervene, help your parents to see how damaging their lack of control is and convince them to get help, you should confide in them. It might be a good idea for you and your brothers to spend as much time with friends in healthier families as you can. This will get you out of the line of fire and enable you all to see what normal family interactions are like.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a divorced man, "Chris," for four years. He has a son who is 16. On the weekends Chris has his son, I become the "invisible girlfriend."

times the three of us will go to a movie or out to eat, but I am NEVER welcome to spend the night.

Chris and I have talked about living together, but never in depth. Unless I bring it up, he never says anything about it. When Valentine's Day came around, Chris asked if we could celebrate it a few days late because he was scheduled to have his son that night.

I am beginning to think there is no future with Chris. He seems fine just dating and seeing me every other weekend as someone to hang out with, but not to commit to. Suggestions? — DISMISSED IN DENVER

DEAR DISMISSED: When you started dating Chris, his son was 12. It seems to me that what he has done is put his parenting responsibilities before anything else, and I respect that.

If romance and marriage are what you're looking for, I suggest you stop asking Chris about living together and ask instead about whether the two of you have a future. Chris has been treating you like a friend with benefits for four years. The pattern is set and it isn't likely to change by itself.

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.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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.

You are more upbeat than you have been in a while. Your fiery side emerges and allows greater give-and-take. Don't take someone's comment personally. Tonight: Accept a special invitation.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll feel your creativity wane. You might be more tired than you realize and need some personal time. Perhaps a massage, haircut and/or workout could revive you. Don't hesitate to take an extended nap. Tonight: Do not create a problem where there is none.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are full of energy with a loved one. When you get silly, you tend to delight a child or someone you care a lot about. Investigate the possible plans that surround this person. Together, you can choose what will be most fun. Tonight: Let your hair down.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could feel as if you have too much to handle with an unexpected change involving your domestic life. You might have to make an adjustment in order to help someone out. Try to clear out some negativity by taking a walk. Tonight: Order in — keep it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Return calls and bring friends together. Someone might be more difficult than you had anticipated. Having a group of friends around you will help ease the pressure of this situation. Be positive, even in the face of negativity. Tonight: Catch up on some interesting news.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might not be able to see where to cut back on spending, especially if someone else is involved. As a result, you could call a halt to spending. Try to explain your actions. The other party should know that there are limitations. Tonight: Maintain your budget.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You'll smile, and others will find you irresistible. Knowing that you have this power, you'll want to go out and pursue your personal goals. Be prepared when someone becomes irritated, as you might have to shift gears quickly. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Don't venture out of your immediate boundaries too quickly. You might want to make plans with friends, but be sure to keep the activity close to your home. Try to make sure that you're not out till the wee hours. Tonight: You will be happiest being somewhat of a homebody.

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A baby born today has a Sun in Leo and a Moon in Capricorn if born before 9:52 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 9, 2014:

This year you move into a new phase of life. You are in the first year of a 12-year cycle, and it is considered to be one of the luckiest. You learn to see situations as passages. If you are single, you are in a perfect period to meet Mr. or Ms. Right. You will encounter this person naturally in your day-to-day life. If you are attached, the two of you often disagree, but the underlying issue for both of you is the same. Respect your differences. AQUARIUS can be quite provocative.

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 consider taking a look at what you really want to do. Use this information and create a very special day with key friends. The more people around you, the happier you will be. Listen to what is going on with a lively child or pal. Tonight: The party goes on and on.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ A call could be provocative enough to force a change of plans. Take charge of a get-together. No one can organize quite like you can! A loved one might have great expectations when you plan an event, and he or she will watch you in action. Tonight: Accept an offer.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. This person is very important to your well-being. Before you know it, you will have plans to get together. Express your wit and sense of humor with others. Tonight: Go to a movie, concert or play. Be entertained.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Someone will make it clear that he or she has something to share. This person will let you know how much he or she wants to be with you. You could be excessive and go overboard once you relax and decide to let go. Enjoy this period with a good friend. Tonight: Make it your treat.

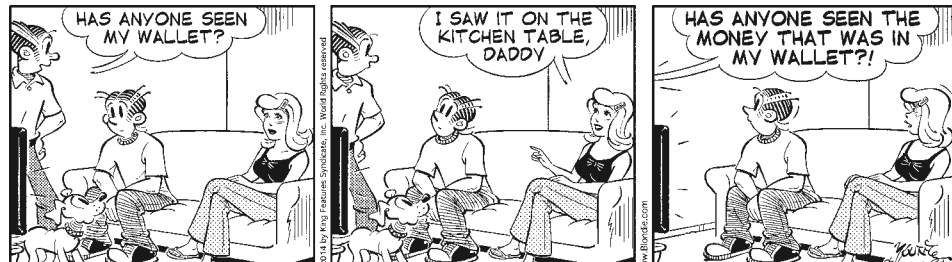
LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be delighted by the sudden flurry of energy that surrounds you this morning.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

