

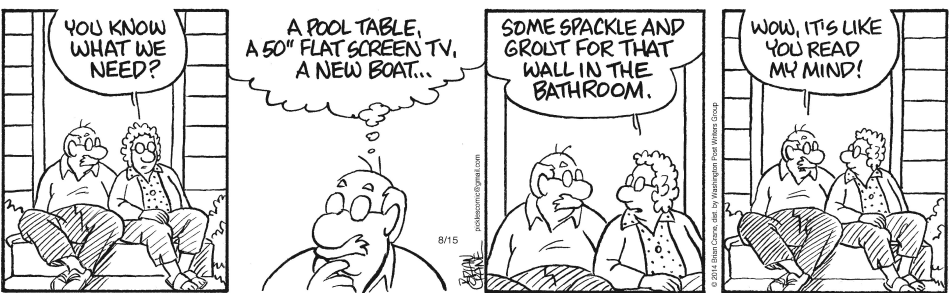
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



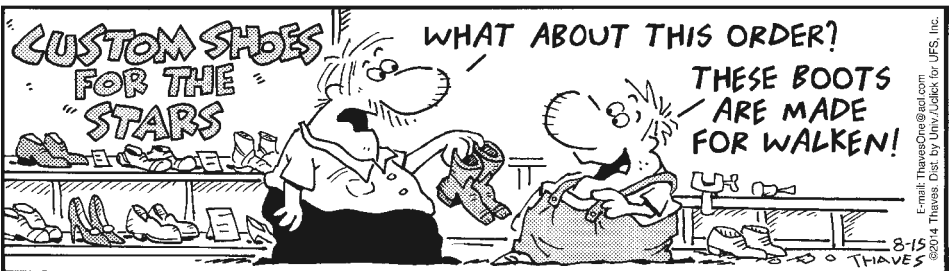
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



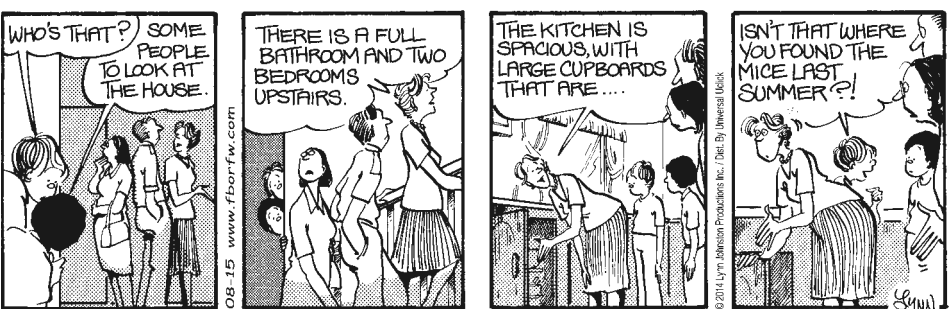
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Man's Affair Has Ended But Marriage Remains In Limbo

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 30 years had an affair a year and a half ago. We struggled through the aftermath and are trying to restart our relationship. He remained in touch with the other woman until she finally pulled the plug on him, and now he has no interest in talking with me about our relationship or how to improve it.

He is distant and refuses to say "I love you." He doesn't initiate hugs or kisses. He will initiate sex every so often, but I am usually the one who seems to need more contact.

When I question him, he tells me everything is all right and I am making a mountain out of a molehill. We have good times, but I really feel his lack of affection.

I don't want to leave this man. I love him dearly and have for many years. Should I keep waiting for the renewal or has my membership here lapsed and I'm just kidding myself? — FROZEN OUT IN ALASKA

DEAR FROZEN OUT: Because you love him dearly and don't want to leave him, stay put. However, everything isn't all right, and you are not making a mountain out of a molehill. Your husband appears to be punishing you for something, and unless you get to the bottom of it, your relationship with him will remain icy cold.

A licensed marriage counselor may be able to help you rebuild your relationship, but it won't happen unless he is willing to try. If he isn't, then you should go without him and let the therapist help you decide if this is the way you want to live the rest of your life.

DEAR ABBY: If you will print this, it would help pharmacy technicians everywhere.

Drive-thru windows are for convenience, not SPEED. We are not handing out hamburgers. But if you have new insurance, questions for a pharmacist, a large order or anything out of the ordinary, please come into the store. To do otherwise is rude to the people in line behind you who will blame us because they had to wait.

You take a new insurance card to your doctor, and you should do the same at the phar-

macy. We're not psychic and we don't automatically know your insurance has changed. Entering new data correctly is time-consuming, and you are not the only one who "forgot" — so refrain from directing your impatience at us.

Don't hang onto a new prescription for weeks and present it to us in a hurry. Bring it to the pharmacy to be placed in your file, then call a day ahead to say you want it filled. Call in advance for maintenance drugs, too. That way, you won't have to wait for your medication.

Do not panic about holidays, weekends or weather. WE ARE OPEN. We will need the prescription number or name to fill it correctly.

Pay close attention to the number of refills and the expiration dates on each vial. If you are out of refills, obviously we can't fill it without a new prescription from your doctor.

Abby, we start early, stay late and skip breaks to help the sick. Common sense and accountability are needed. We are here to help patients efficiently and courteously. Please remind your readers that pharmacy employees deserve the same in return. — STRESSED TECH IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STRESSED TECH: My hat is off to you and I'm glad to help. Your suggestions are sensible. Customer service is one of the hardest jobs in the world, and working with people who are sick, hungry or stressed can make it even more difficult.

Readers, losing one's temper and being rude will not improve service, and may impede it. I have found that the process of picking up and dropping off prescriptions goes more smoothly if it's done at other than peak hours.

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.

© 2014, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Aries until 11:58 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 15, 2014:

This year you are more creative and full of ideas than you usually are. You are in the first year of a new life cycle. Know what you want and go for it. If you are single and ready to settle down, you are likely to meet Mr. or Ms. Right. Look carefully at potential suitors to see if they can offer you the type of relationship you want. If you are attached, the two of you will want to add to your life together. Look at one of your mutual long-term goals. Some of you will buy a new house, whereas others might welcome a new addition. There could be many other options as well. TAURUS likes the good life, too.

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)

★★★★ Use the morning for handling any important matters. By the afternoon, you might want to take off for a fun summer weekend or at least a get-together. Be careful, as you could enjoy yourself at the cost of making a loved one or admirer jealous. Tonight: Party on!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might decide to head in a direction that is different from a dear friend. This person could be difficult right now, and you might wonder what to do. Just give him or her some space. You will tend to go overboard in your conversations. Tonight: Your friends.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to move past a problem, and you will — especially if this matter is handled in the morning. Later on, you could feel as if someone is pushing you too hard. Make it OK for you to play the role of the recluse. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you have no other choice but to complete what someone else seems to have left unfinished. Once you have done what is necessary, give up being so responsible and get into the weekend spirit. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ If you can take off from your routine,

do. You might opt to go on a drive to your favorite getaway. Communication seems to flourish, and you'll need to explain where you are coming from financially to a roommate or loved one. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You understand much more than you let on. Your detached demeanor could emerge, and you could choose to discuss your perspective. Someone will let you know how much he or she appreciates your feedback. You might want to respond appropriately. Tonight: Opt for an escape.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Others might not be aware that they are testing your limits. Be willing to listen. You will discuss the issue, but if someone pushes you too far, you are likely to explode. Try to hold back, because words said are impossible to take back. Tonight: Respond to a loved one.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Get as much done as possible in the morning. Later in the day, others are likely to seek you out. Take a look at your long-term goals and decide what to do. A meeting could be more important than you realize. You might find solutions. Tonight: Let someone else dominate.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to reach out to someone, but you must handle certain tasks first. You could feel concerned about an authority figure. Start a conversation and see what is on this person's mind. You could find it difficult to relax. Tonight: TGIF!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might be slow to get started. Once you get going, others will pick up on your energy. As friends seek you out and invite you to various happenings, you will consider how you can get everything done that is needed. Tonight: Unleash your playfulness.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

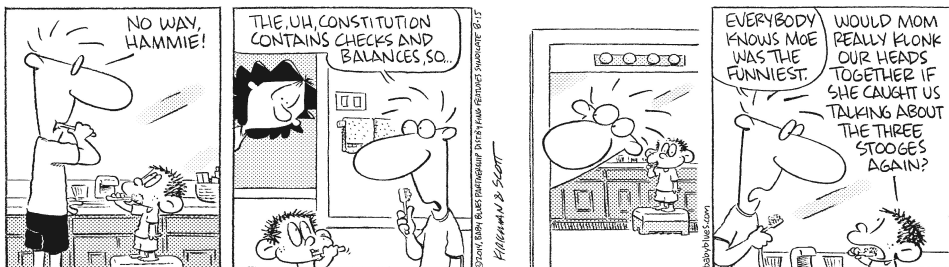
★★★★ Get on the phone quickly and return calls. Move up meetings to the morning if possible. You will want some thinking time before you leave for the weekend. Remember that you are coming to the end of the summer season. Use the coming weekend well. Tonight: Just relax.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

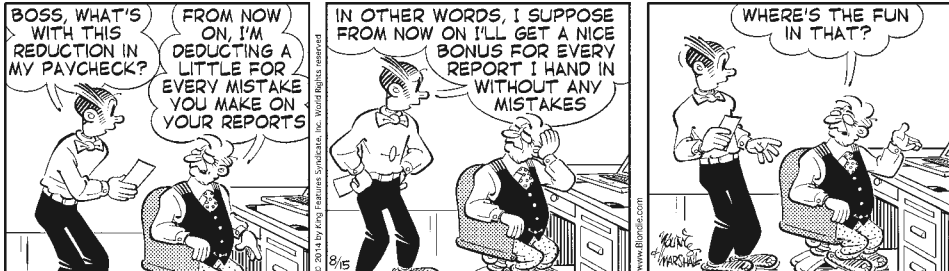
★★★★ Reach out to a friend, but refuse to get hung up on various details. An offer could be made that feels too good to say "no" to. Don't push a relative or neighbor too far, as this person could be a little more ornery than you might realize. Tonight: Hang with friends at a favorite spot.

© 2014, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

