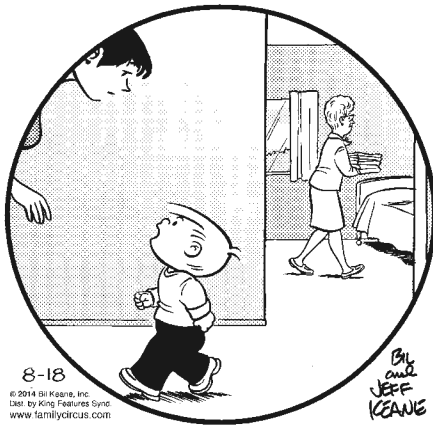
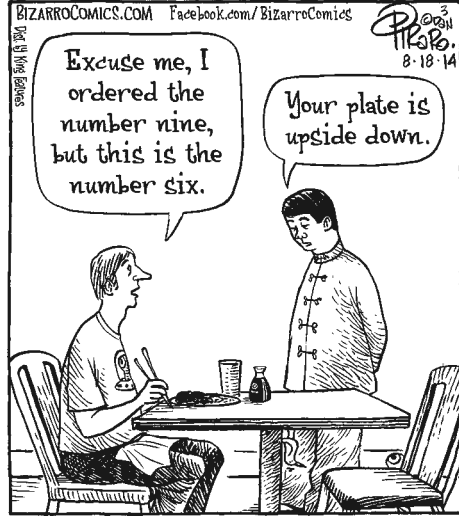


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



8-18
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Grandma says she's seen it all, done it all, and heard it all. She just can't remember it all.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Excuse me, I ordered the number nine, but this is the number six.
Your plate is upside down.

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



MEDITATION IS SIMPLE, REALLY.
YOU JUST NEED TO SIT QUIETLY, BE MINDFUL...
...AND TURN YOUR PHONES ALL THE WAY OFF, NOT JUST TO VIBRATE!

PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH THAT PENCIL, GRAMPA?
JUST LOOKING AT IT.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED PENCILS. I LIKE THE WAY THEY FEEL IN MY HAND.
AND I LOVE THE WAY THEY SMELL WHEN YOU SHARPEN THEM. I EVEN LIKE CHEWING ON THEM.
I GOT A PENCIL STUCK IN MY NOSE ONCE.
I HOPE I DIDN'T CHEW ON THAT ONE!

FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



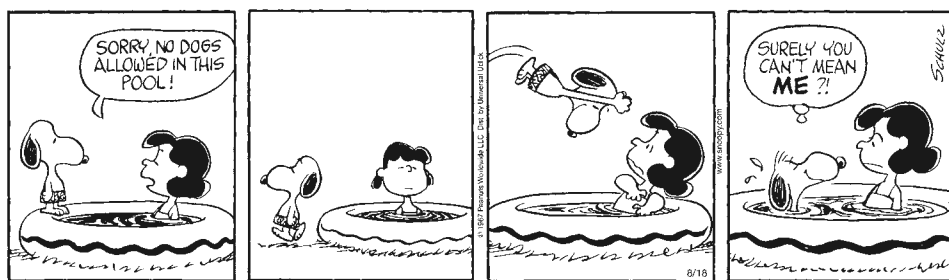
A "DOWN MARKET" IS MORE FRIGHTENING TO ME THAN IT IS TO YOU!

THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



COME TO THE POOL WITH ME, GLADYS - IT'S A FINE DAY FOR A SWIM!
GOING TO THE POOL SCARES ME!
ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE WATER?
NO - I'M AFRAID OF MY BATHING SUIT!

PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



SORRY, NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THIS POOL!
SURELY YOU CAN'T MEAN ME?!

HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



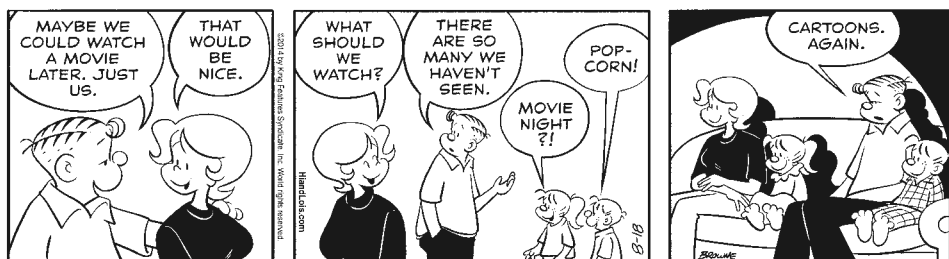
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE POPULAR!

BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



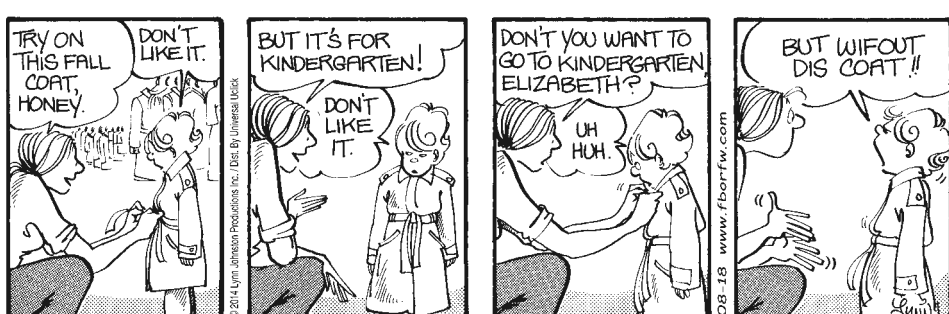
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, BETLE!!
NO FAIR!
YOUR BREATH MADE MY CAMOUFLAGE MELT.

HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



MAYBE WE COULD WATCH A MOVIE LATER, JUST US.
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
WHAT SHOULD WE WATCH?
THERE ARE SO MANY WE HAVEN'T SEEN.
POP-CORN!
MOVIE NIGHT!
CARTOONS, AGAIN.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



TRY ON THIS FALL COAT, HONEY.
DON'T LIKE IT.
BUT IT'S FOR KINDERGARTEN!
DON'T LIKE IT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO KINDERGARTEN, ELIZABETH?
UH, HUH.
BUT WIFOUT DIS COAT!!

GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



SIP
SIP
ZANG ZONG
OJOOO
WE LIKE OUR COFFEE STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT CRIME

Angry Wife Resents Husband For Hiding News Of Health

DEAR ABBY: When my husband is sick or needs to have surgery, he refuses to tell his family and doesn't want me to. This puts me in a very awkward position. I'm damned if I do tell them because he will be upset with me, and damned if I don't because his family won't trust me, and I don't want things that way.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

Invariably, when he gets home, he calls his family and tells them all about his surgery, and I'm left looking like I withheld the information, when it's not me at all. I have asked him what if he DIES? His family will be upset not only by the tragedy, but also at me for having kept them in the dark.

As it stands, we speak only a few times a year, and I'd like her undivided attention. I have tried bringing this up a number of times, but she feels life doesn't stand still for anyone.

Is it too much to ask for 30 minutes, three times a year? We live several states apart, so having a face-to-face isn't an option. Any help would be appreciated, because I'm hurt. — MISSING MY SISTER IN GEORGIA

DEAR MISSING YOUR SISTER: I don't blame you for feeling hurt, because apparently your sister isn't interested in having the kind of contact you would like. It may be that her husband is ultra-controlling — hence the constant interruptions from him — or that her household is so disorganized she's in the middle of a whirlwind.

I'm considering leaving him over this. I don't deserve this from him. And no, he won't see a counselor and I won't do it alone, so do you have any other advice than that? — IN A DIFFICULT POSITION

DEAR IN A DIFFICULT POSITION: You should not be made to feel that you're stuck in the middle. It would be nice if your husband understood that when he is sick enough to be hospitalized that YOU might need the emotional support his family could offer. But since it's not going to happen, he should make plain to his family that HE prefers to be the bearer of this kind of news, and the reason they aren't hearing it from you is because he wants it that way.

If you haven't already, write her a letter and express your feelings. It's one way of getting your thoughts across without being interrupted. I don't think 30 minutes three times a year is a lot to ask of her. Propose setting a specific time to talk when her kids and husband aren't around. Then cross your fingers and hope she sees the light.

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.

DEAR ABBY: I love my sister and enjoy chatting with her, but our schedules make it difficult to connect. When we do speak, her husband often interjects or starts another conversation with her, as if she isn't on the phone. She also settles spats between her toddlers and other things her husband could manage while we're talking.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

When this happens I say, "I can tell you're tied up. Can we talk later when things settle down?" Her reply: "We can talk now. Things are ALWAYS crazy around here."

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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.

expressions are what draw others in. Your upbeat approach allows you to have your way, perhaps more often than you might realize. Tonight: Enjoy a surprise call or event.

A baby born today has a Sun in Leo and a Moon in Gemini.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
★★★★ Deal with someone in power directly. Your instincts guide your thoughts and actions. You could be surprised by what emerges. Listen to a different point of view more openly. A partner or loved one could surprise you with his or her actions. Tonight: With favorite people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 18, 2014:

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)
★★★★ You absolutely know what you want. Someone else might not be as predictable as you would like. Look past the obvious, and you will understand a lot more about what needs to happen. Don't fight an adjustment on the homefront. Tonight: Opt for a different experience.

This year you express your feelings more openly, and your increased vulnerability draws many people toward you. In a sense, your openness makes it more difficult for people not to be authentic with you. If you are single, you will be surrounded by quite a few potential admirers. You will meet someone who will knock your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you become even better friends, and you will experience a great deal of closeness. Use care with financial matters, as there could be some confusion between the two of you. GEMINI can be very chatty.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)
★★★★ You might find yourself in a competition to seize the limelight. Before you act, consider the ramifications; they could be more costly than what you are willing to deal with. You'll get what you want, even if you don't partake in today's games. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
★★★★ You might want to try a different path to the same end result. Listen to a suggestion from someone who has a vested interest in the outcome of a present situation. Tension might cause a misunderstanding. Be clear in your communication. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
★★★★ Say what you feel, and you will set the stage for a dynamic interaction. Others could be in the mood to talk. If someone says something strange, ask for confirmation. Confusion's tendrils might weave through your day. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Tell it like it is.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
★★★★ Your ability to organize and be effective will be tested. Know that there is a possibility of a misunderstanding. Clarify what is being said, and don't allow someone or a situation to distract you. Tonight: Take a long walk or get in a good workout at the gym.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
★★★★ Be more sensitive to the possibilities that surround you on the homefront. You might be considering remodeling or changing locations. Your love of beauty is likely to emerge. Tonight: Pay bills, and look at your budget before you make any decisions.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)
★★★★ Defer to someone you trust. Be aware that this person might have a bit of an attitude or seem preoccupied. As a result, he or she might not be able to give as much helpful feedback as usual. Confirm a financial agreement. Tonight: Be like a kid in a sandbox. Playtime!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
★★★★ You might not believe the reaction you get from others, but you certainly won't be displeased. An element of confusion could run through your day. Make sure that any important agreements are signed. Tonight: If you can dream it, you can manifest it.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)
★★★★ You could be pushing a lot harder than usual in trying to avoid a personal matter. Understand that you need to deal with this situation before you can free yourself up to enjoy your life and be more present with others. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
★★★ You might feel lazy and self-indulgent. Set the stage and make plans accordingly. If you work, try to take a personal day rather than push yourself while in this indifferent mood. A call from a loved one could stir up a lot of feelings. Tonight: Go for the moment.

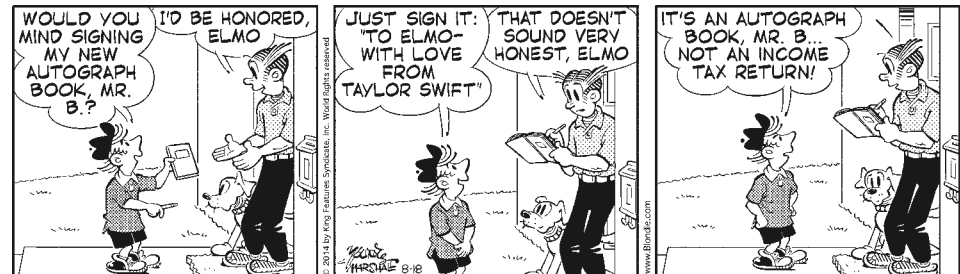
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LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
★★★★ You instinctively know which way to go when dealing with a friend. Your voice and facial

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

