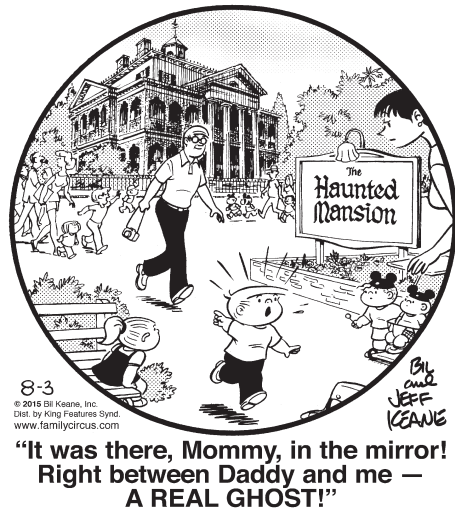
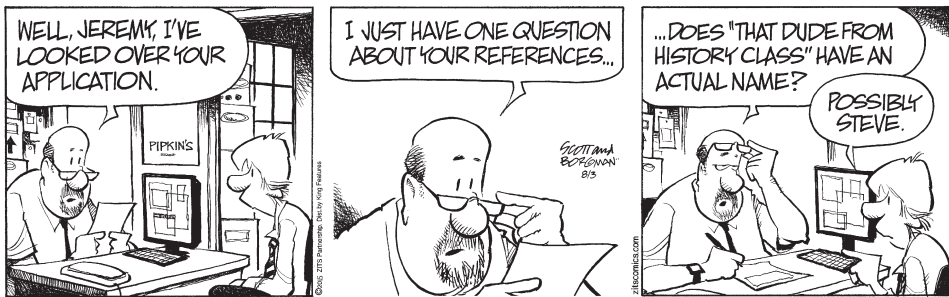


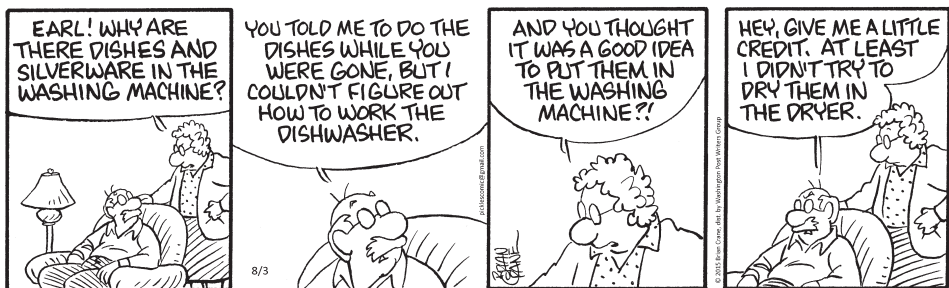
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



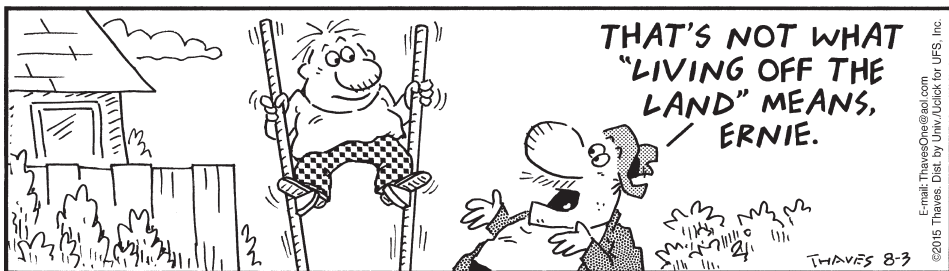
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



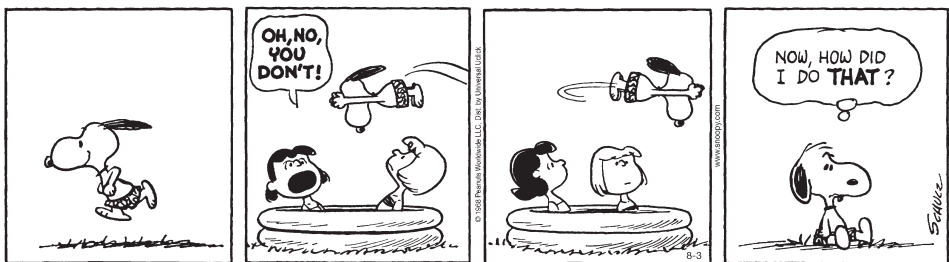
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



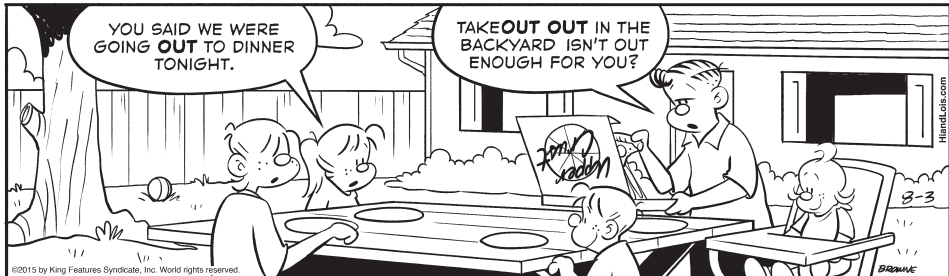
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



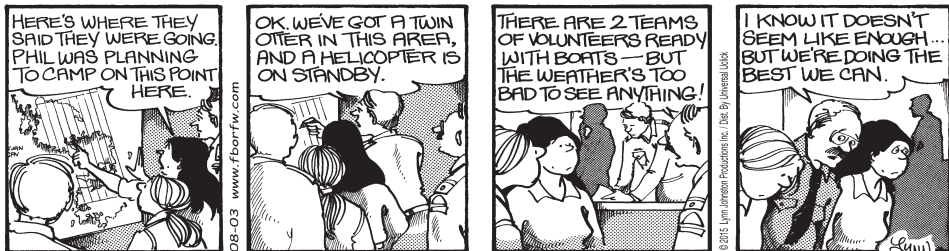
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Lesbian Mom's Son Hesitates To Accept New Kids As Siblings

DEAR ABBY: I am a 22-year-old male and my brother, "Brian," is 14. When I was 9, our parents split up. After a year, Mom realized she was a lesbian. She is married now to a younger woman, and they are starting a family through in vitro fertilization. Mom's wife is carrying twins — a boy and a girl.

When I first heard about their plans to conceive, I was devastated. After a few months, Mom and I were able to reconnect and talk about it. I'm happy they're happy, but I'm still uncomfortable with the situation. When the children are born, I am unsure how I will be known. Mom says Brian and I will have "a sister and a brother."

Brian is excited that he will no longer be the youngest. But at my age, as a business owner and in a serious relationship, I prefer to consider Brian my sibling, not the twins. I will love the babies because they are connected to me, but I'm leaning toward being called their uncle or cousin because the twins will not be my blood relations.

I guess I'm "old school," and with all the changes I've experienced in my life I'm not sure I want all of a sudden to say I have new siblings. Is this OK? — FINDING MY WAY IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR FINDING: I don't think you have to announce anything when your mother's children are born. As long as your relationship with them is a loving one, I don't think the "label" matters.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Patrick," and I have been dating for a year and a half. He's an incredibly sweet guy who treats me right. My family loves him and his family loves me. I can't see myself being with anyone else.

The problem is, he's very stubborn about certain things — like his health. It's a con-

stant battle to get him to go to the doctor or dentist. I worry about him sometimes when he is ill. When he insists he doesn't want to see a doctor, it makes me feel like he doesn't care about making sure he's healthy enough to spend the rest of his life with me.

Patrick is my first serious boyfriend, so I'm not sure if this is just a "guy thing" or if it's just HIS problem. Am I wrong to be upset that he cares so little about his health, or should I let him be? — PROACTIVE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR PROACTIVE: You appear to be wrongly attributing your boyfriend's reluctance to see a doctor or dentist to a personal rejection. It may be a "guy thing" — or there may be other reasons for it. Have you asked him if he even has a health care provider he could contact, whether he has insurance to cover it, or whether he is afraid of doctors? Some people are — and the same goes for dentists.

It's important that you know what you're dealing with. Until you understand the reason for his resistance, you won't be able to help him resolve the problem.

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.

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, Anger 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.

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A baby born today has a Sun in Leo and a Moon in Pisces if born before 7:24 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 3, 2015:

This year you become much more verbal, but others often don't get the gist of what you're saying. Learn to clarify your ideas in terms that suit the person to whom you are speaking. You will relate best on a one-on-one level. Travel, education and/or a foreigner could play a significant role in your year. If you are single, you are likely to attract someone from a very different background from yours. If you are attached, you might be surprised by how much the relationship flourishes. PISCES loves romance as much as you do.

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 could feel out of sorts until later today. You would be well-advised to play it low-key. Swap ideas, but be sure not to push anyone too hard. Use this time to brainstorm or to do something for you. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Zero in on an important matter. You might not be able to convince a key person of the rightness of your ideas just yet, but trust that you will, given some time. You have the gift of patience; you will need it here. Tonight: Make it early.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Assume responsibility when someone else refuses to. An element of fatigue runs through your day. You might not be able to engage others in a conversation as you would like to. Use caution with spending. Tonight: Catch up on news.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your mind pushes past certain boundaries, and you'll be able to detach. As a result, you will see matters in a new light. Be willing to let go of self-imposed restrictions. Indulge yourself a little more. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You will be part of a one-on-one conversation. A family member might be hesitant to get feedback. Open the door to a meeting of the minds. You'll be in the mood for a change of pace later in the day. Tonight: Listen to some great music.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ No matter what you do, you need to listen to your instincts. Follow through on a personal matter that could affect you financially. An associate might push you hard. Understand your limits. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Tap into your enthusiasm and high energy. Understand that someone could be jealous and acting out. Let it go; don't even consider pursuing a conversation. This person might not be in tune with his or her feelings. Tonight: Frolic into the night.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your mind keeps coming up with unusual and creative ideas. With the help of a trusted friend, decipher what will succeed. Focus on an important relationship. Know that you are not in control. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be in a position where you will need to deal with stress on a personal level. You might come to the conclusion that there is no other solution than just letting it go. Tonight: Your imagination proves to be a wonderful tool.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You have a way of intuitively knowing what to do next. You could feel as though someone doesn't appreciate or understand the seriousness of a personal matter. Lighten up and note the issue here. Tonight: Happily head home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Deal with a money matter without causing yourself a problem. A boss could be extremely difficult, as he or she might want to have a situation handled a certain way. Be smart, and go along with this person's ideas. Tonight: Return calls.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

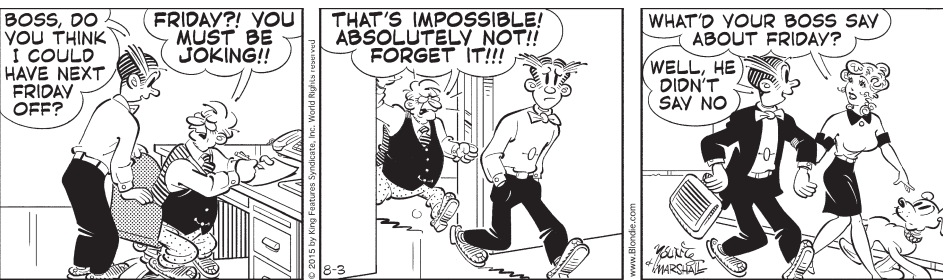
★★★★ Today, you'll have an edge over others. How you see a situation could change radically because of a conversation and an interaction. Be aware of your influence, but don't run someone over just to get your way. Tonight: Your treat.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

