

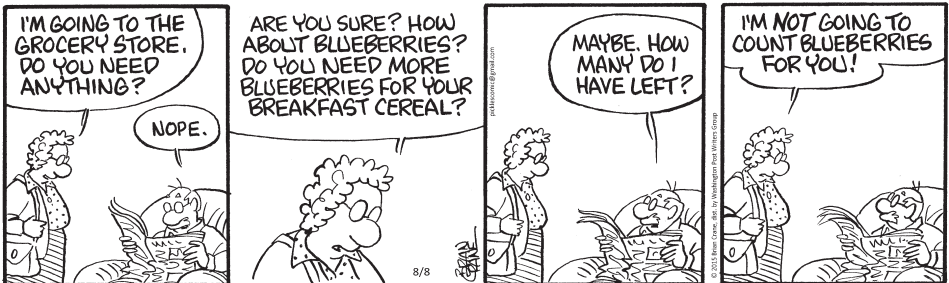
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



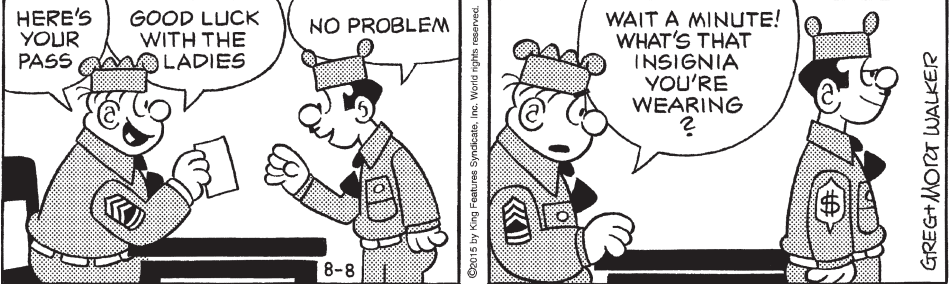
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



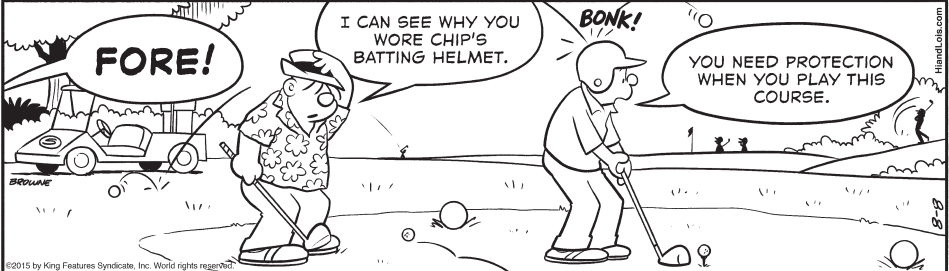
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Teen Fashion Victim Dresses For Effect, Not For Comfort

DEAR ABBY: I have a grandson who is 13. He insists on wearing a hoodie, leather jacket and long jeans no matter what the weather. It is 80 degrees outside today and he's wearing them to a picnic. I have given up arguing with him on this. What gives? – MYSTIFIED GRANDMA IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Arguing with your grandson is a waste of your time and energy. He's more concerned about the image he wants to project than he is about his comfort. Some lessons have to be learned from experience, and this may be one of them.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 21-year-old son, "Jeremy," who doesn't like me much unless he needs something. I suspect it may have something to do with my tough parenting during his rebellious high school years.

He lives in another state with his girlfriend and their child, who will be a year old. Jeremy cuts off communication with me over the simplest disagreement. When I try to contact him, he won't respond, and it can go on for months. It hurts me, so I back away because I don't know when it might happen again.

Do you have any advice on how I can handle this and be part of Jeremy's and my grandchild's lives? – RETREATING FROM THE PAIN & STRESS

DEAR RETREATING: Healthy people back away from painful situations, so it's no wonder you're "retreating." What's happening is you are on the receiving end of a dose of passive-aggressive behavior from your angry son. Jeremy's manipulation is hostile and deliberate.

Family therapy might help, if Jeremy and his girlfriend are willing. But as it stands, it appears the only way you will be a part of his (and your grandson's) life may be to buy your way in. However, do not mistake it for

respect or affection, or you will only position yourself for more heartache.

DEAR ABBY: What are your thoughts on calling friends or family while they're on vacation?

Last week, my husband and I had a much-needed getaway. While there, I was called several times by a friend who knew I was on vacation. After I ignored several calls, I got a frantic text from her requesting I call back immediately because she was concerned because I wasn't answering. I texted back that I was fine, but on a noisy beach and unable to talk.

When I spoke with her after I returned home, it turned out she had wanted to chat about her boyfriend problems. I let her know that my vacation time is so limited each year that I usually don't check my phone.

I personally think making a non-emergency call to someone on vacation is rude and annoying. Am I right on this? – DO NOT DISTURB IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR D.N.D.: I think so. That's why vacations are referred to as "getting away from it all."



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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.

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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 GEMINI.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 2015:

This year your imagination inspires you to dream up wonderful adventures. You might decide to act on one of these fantasies with a friend or loved one. If you are single, you are likely to meet potential suitors in odd ways. As a result, a special person will enter your life. If you are attached, this could be a memorable year for both of you. You might opt for a major change in your relationship. GEMINI always catches your attention.

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 have set plans, but if the activity doesn't appeal to you, you will lose interest quickly. Make sure you get to choose what your plans look like, and ask others to join you. You will enjoy yourself as a result. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might consider a different way of handling a financial matter that keeps coming up for you. At times, when you are out shopping, you tend to lose all sense of what you have spent or can spend. Tonight: Do what pleases you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be very concerned about getting through a matter involving your home. Understand what is happening around you that might be upsetting you. Let it go, and make the most of your renewed energy. Tonight: Not alone.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be at your wits' end when trying to deal with a child or loved one. It is possible that you are making a problem worse by ignoring it. Use caution with spending, as you are likely to go overboard. Tonight: Make it intimate.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be tired, but your friends will drag you out the door anyway. A loved one also

might want you to join him or her. Do not fight the inevitable. Your sense of humor will make the next few days special. Tonight: Out on the town.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll wake up feeling as though today is special. Think of your perfect Saturday, then go off and play it out. You might want to reach out to a favorite person or two to join you. You will be happy you did. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might wonder what to do with a family member. Listen to a suggestion that comes from out of the blue. You are best off playing this situation out and making the most of it. Tonight: Do what you most would like to do.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Understand what needs to happen with a child or new friend. Try to imagine what this person would most like to do. Better yet, let him or her choose. Once in a while, it's a good idea to let others call the shots. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Someone close to you will want your time and attention. You are likely to be delighted by this request. Though you might not prefer to do what this person suggests, you'll have a ball if you do. Tonight: Just go along for the ride.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might be surprised by how fast a friend loses his or her temper. You might not want to get involved, but ultimately you must stand your ground. Once peace is made, you both will be much happier. Tonight: A romantic dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Be more forthright in your dealings with a new friend. In response to spending the day with this person, you'll become more authentic. Spontaneity needs to be the theme at this moment. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

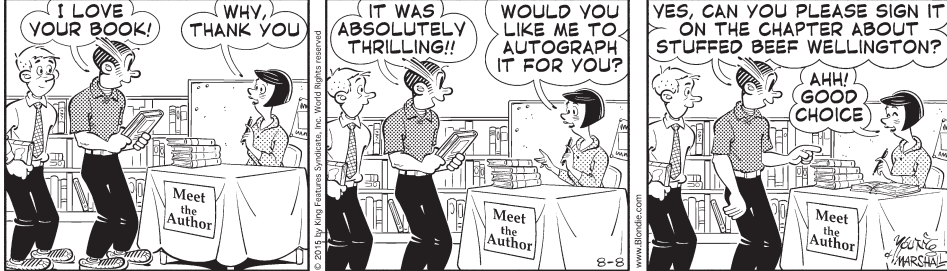
★★★ You might be out of sorts when responding to someone else's needs. You easily could opt to spend the day at home without too many plans. The role of spontaneity becomes clearer as the day goes on. Tonight: Order in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

