

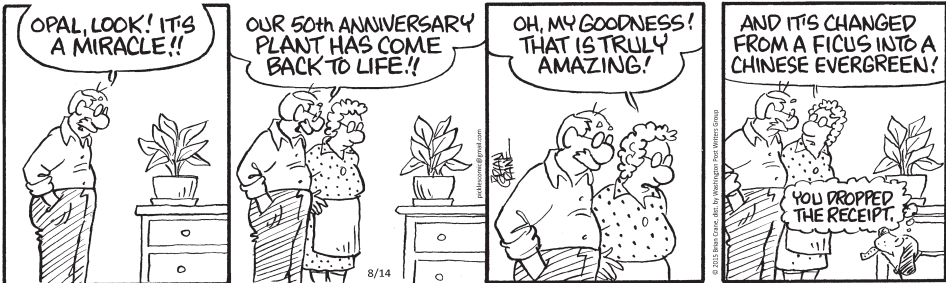
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



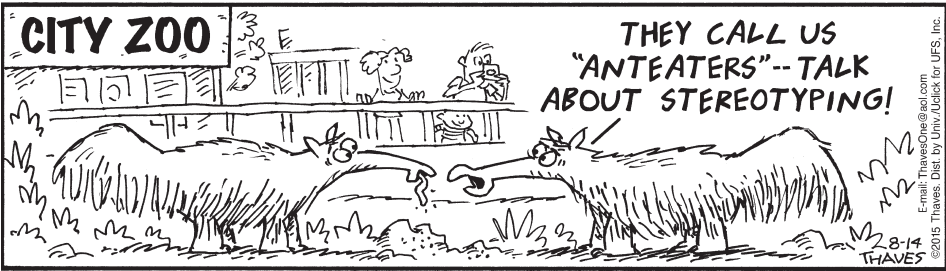
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



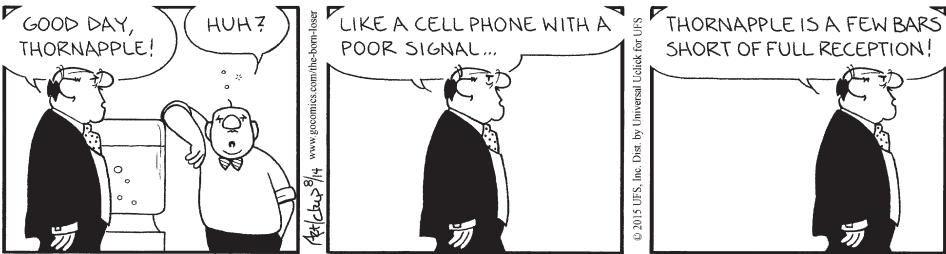
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



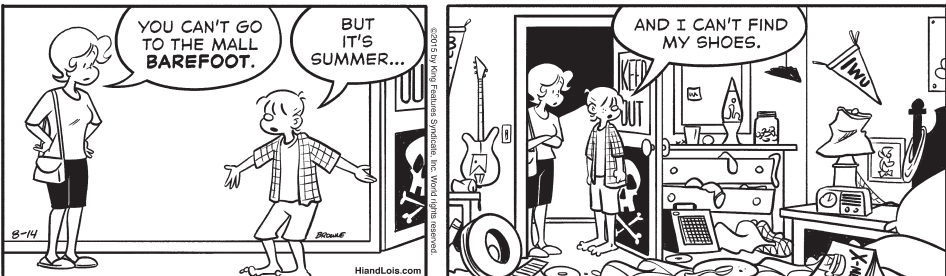
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



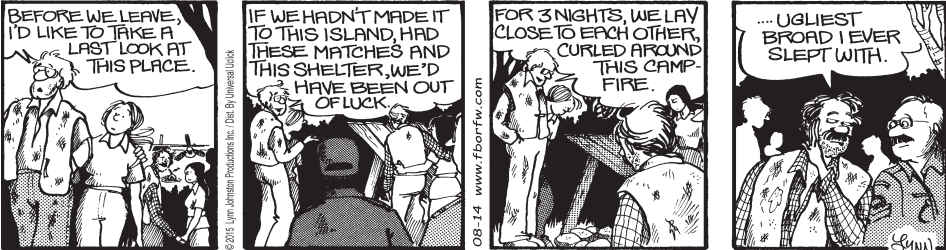
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Ex-Friend Takes Woman's Place At Holiday Dinners

DEAR ABBY: I had a close friend from middle school into adulthood. (I'll call her Lacey.) We were each other's maids of honor and best friends for years. A few years ago we had a falling out. She was going through a tough time and lashed out at me. When I tried to have a conversation with her to tell her I didn't like how she was treating me, she told me to "have a nice life."

Shortly after that, my youngest sister struck up a friendship with her and insisted that my parents invite her for Thanksgiving dinner. I told my mother I wasn't comfortable with Lacey joining our family dinner, but Mother said it would be rude to not invite her.

I no longer join my family for holiday dinners. Is it wrong of me to not want my family to be so friendly with someone who was unkind to me? It seems odd to me that my former friend would pursue relationships with my sisters and parents, and odder still that my parents and sisters would encourage it. Is there a positive and constructive way to address this situation? – DISCOUNTED AND EXCLUDED IN NEVADA

DEAR DISCOUNTED: It seems odd to me, too, that your parents would continue including Lacey at holiday dinners knowing how uncomfortable it would make you. Of course, you can't dictate whom your sister(s) can be friendly with, but you should explain to your parents how her inclusion has made you feel, so they'll understand why you are absent.

When Lacey advised you to "have a nice life," I hope you took her up on it and have made other friends. I also hope you don't sit around alone when the holidays roll around. Sometimes the most rewarding and loving experiences and relationships we have are with the "families" we build for ourselves.

DEAR ABBY: I was taught that punctuality is important. My husband and I are almost

always at least a few minutes early for everything we do. I realize not everyone can be – or wants to be – early. However, it seems that almost everyone we know is late. Sometimes it's five minutes, others it's 20 to 30 minutes. And it's not just people we know. I was kept waiting for 25 minutes by someone who was buying an item from me.

Why do people think this is OK? I was taught that it's rude to keep someone waiting for you. What are your thoughts on punctuality?

P.S. I'm not talking about running late once in a while. I'm talking about people who are consistently late everywhere they go. – AMBER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR AMBER: I was raised the same way you were. My parents impressed upon me that it is disrespectful to keep people waiting, and that if a delay is unavoidable, the person who's expecting me should be informed that I will be late. I'm not implying that someone must make an appearance at the stroke of the hour – a delay of 10 or 15 minutes is understandable. But to keep someone waiting longer than that is rude, disrespectful and bad manners.

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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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 and Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 14, 2015:

This year you experience a new beginning in a chosen area of your life. You might feel as if you have waited a long time to get to this point. Be more clear and direct in how you deal with a personal matter. You need to open up discussions with others. If you are single, you can't seem to clear out your admirers fast enough. You'll find that a certain connection will grow into more, given some time. If you are attached, the two of you will experience more romance, somewhat like you did when you first met. Be open about your feelings, and your sweetie will respond in kind. A fellow LEO likes your flare and style.

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)

★★★★★ Make a resolution today that involves a loved one. You feel as if there is no time like the present to clear out a hassle. Tap into your imagination, and you will produce a different type of interaction. Be more upbeat than you have been in the past. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Express your caring to someone you really care about. Finally, you seem to have accepted this person as he or she is. A newfound peace has allowed this bond to evolve to a new depth and level of understanding. Tonight: Let the party begin.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You have a way of expressing yourself and knowing what you need. You might decide to change your communication style with one person. In doing this, you are giving both of you the space to grow. Often your expectations limit you. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You have become more aware of your budget and of the direction you would like to head in. Even still, you might have a hard time restricting your spending. Know that you have what it takes. You can make what you want happen. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost much.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ A decision you make today is likely to last. Make choices that suit you, but also remain

aware of the long-term implications involved. You have a good sense of direction that will guide you. Don't allow someone to rain on your parade. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Take your time, and don't feel as if you are being restricted. If your energy seems to be off, know that it could be because you're exhausted. Take a break from the here and now. Decide to do yoga or some other relaxing activity. Tonight: Forget tonight. Think "weekend."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision regarding an important friendship. You also might want to jump on a situation and move forward with it. Follow through, and you will be delighted by the results. Don't discourage a child or loved one. Tonight: Where your pals are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might be more in touch with your needs than you had thought possible. Nevertheless, you'll have to put your best foot forward when dealing with a higher-up or older relative. Not everything is as it seems. Discussions are likely to be animated. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You will open up to a new conversation revolving around a potential trip and/or different cultures. You could be involved in a personal matter that causes a lot of activity. You might want to head in a new direction. Don't allow someone to stop you. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are more concerned about a loved one than you realize. Your conversations with this person might not be effective, but only time will tell. Slow down and take time for yourself. Reassess the liabilities of a financial partnership if need be. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

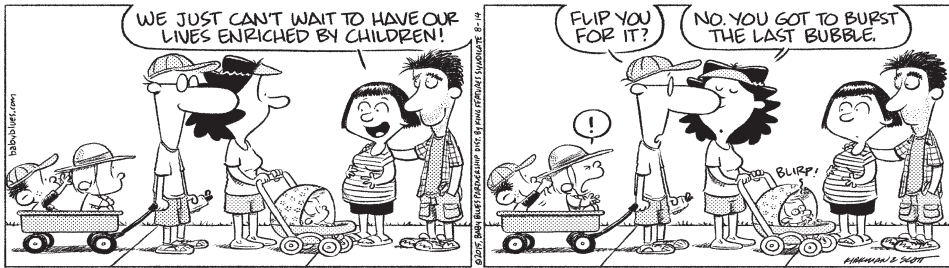
★★★★★ You might need to defer to someone else, even though you would rather not have to. Sometimes allowing others to see the results of their ideas is more important than letting them know that you feel they are heading in the wrong direction. Tonight: So many invitations.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

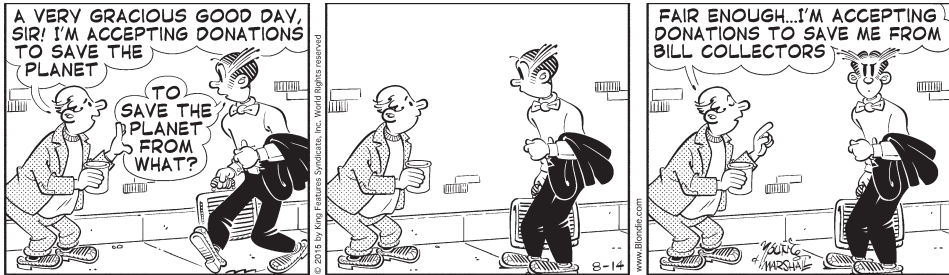
★★★ You will accomplish a lot. Listen to what is being shared about a key project. Though you might want to relax and head out, you are better off completing what you are doing. You will start the weekend in a clearer frame of mind. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

