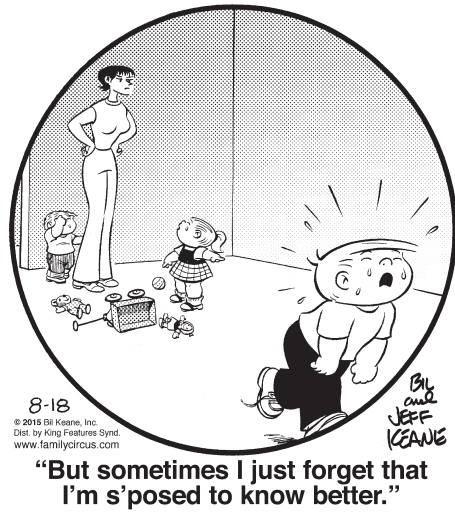


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



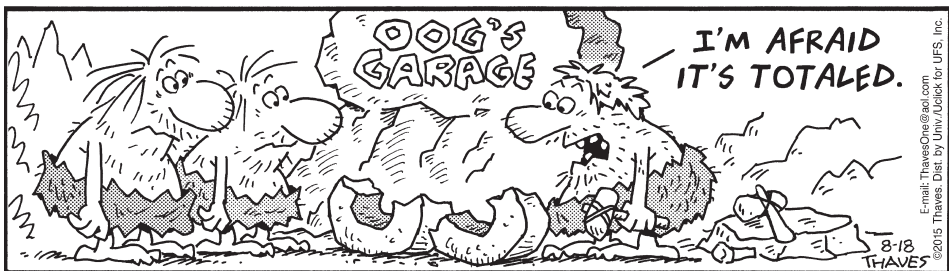
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



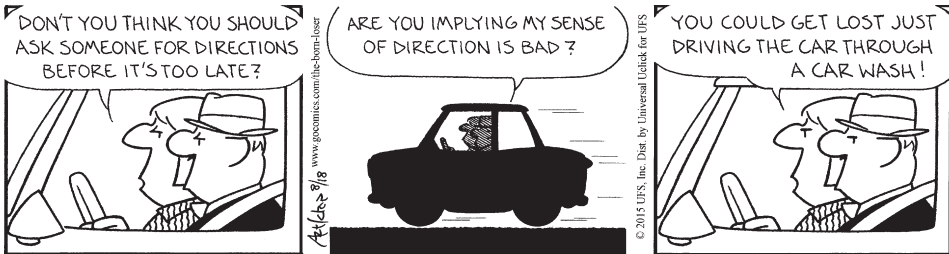
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



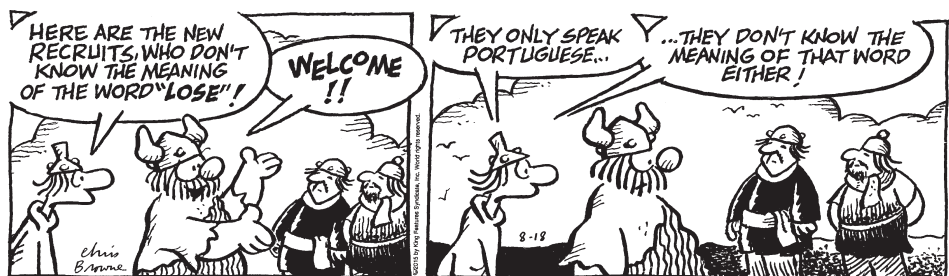
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



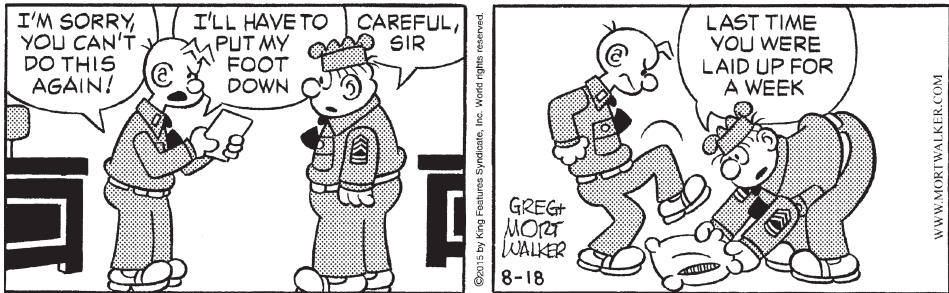
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



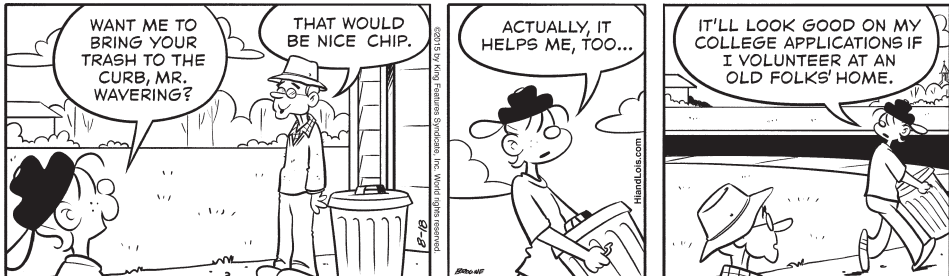
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



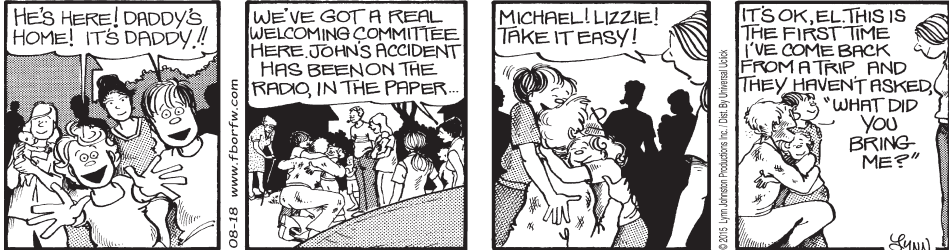
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Woman With Abortion In Past Is Stung By Man's Accusation

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I met a gentleman, and he eventually decided we were "soul mates." I agreed. Over time, we shared our life stories, good and bad. I confided that I'd had an abortion at the age of 18, which has haunted me all my adult life.

Recently he was reciting a chronology of my life. When he got to the abortion, he said, "... and then you became a child murderer." His comment stunned me. He finds nothing wrong with it. Was this total disrespect, or am I overreacting? — STUNNED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STUNNED: That "gentleman's" remark was not only disrespectful, but also incredibly insensitive and wrong. It is not against the law to terminate a pregnancy in this country. It is a right that many women — and men — fought hard to achieve.

Because each woman's circumstances are unique, this deeply personal decision is made for a variety of reasons. Like yourself, women experience a range of emotions afterward — including feelings of sadness and anger, but also relief. For this person to have made such an insensitive comment should be a clue that he may not be your soul mate after all.

Because of stigma that, not surprisingly, can cause feelings of shame, many women choose to remain silent about their decision to have an abortion. A resource that could be helpful to them — and to you — is Exhale (exhaleprovoice.org), a nonpolitical, nonjudgmental support organization for women who have had an abortion. Please check it out.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 33-year-old man in academia, and it has been two years since my last relationship ended. (Her name was "Erica.") I have always been with older women, the most significant ones being 10 and eight years older. One ended because, in a night of depressed, alcohol-fueled self-

loathing, I cheated on her. I don't make those choices anymore.

I have had chances to date, but none has drawn my interest the way Erica did — until recently. "Angie" is a sweetheart with a good sense of humor. When I'm around her, I start feeling twinges of how Erica made me feel.

I'm surprised by my attraction to Angie because she is only 19. Previous older mates were in education as I am, and Angie is, well, 19. I can't figure out if this is a genuine attraction, or if I'm trying to prove to myself that I can be involved with someone younger. I admit I'm intrigued by the idea of assuming the role of teacher instead of student.

I don't want to see Angie hurt by a mistake in judgment on my part. Is it healthy for a 19-year-old to be interested in significantly older men? Should I stop overanalyzing this and give it a try? — MR. X IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MR. X: I think it depends upon what you mean by "it." Young women can be attracted to older men for a variety of reasons. If Angie is one of your students, I'd advise against a romantic involvement until after she has left your class to avoid any possible accusations of favoritism or even sexual harassment.

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.

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.

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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 Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 18, 2015:

This year you discover that you are full of energy — much more than usual. It will be imperative that you have a good outlet for all this vitality. If not, you will find that you easily could get into all sorts of conflicts. Make sure to get plenty of exercise. If you are single, you could meet someone who brings to light how possessive you can be. Try to understand what is making you feel insecure. If you are attached, the two of you often get into conflicts that you believe are important but really aren't. Remember, you are with the one you love. LIBRA loves to be around you.

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 be in the position of making a difference through your actions and leadership. Your fiery temperament is likely to take you down a new trail, but you will have to stay on good terms with others regardless. Avoid a power play. Tonight: Plan on being in demand.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You'll want to get more involved with an issue, but you might not see a better path. Steer clear for now; you know when enough is enough. Zero in what you want. A friend will be significant in helping you decide what to do. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Remain easygoing when dealing with a fiery relative, neighbor or friend. On top of this issue, you could discover that someone is taking a strong stance. You might feel as though this is some kind of control game. Tonight: Opt to handle a problem as a team.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You could opt for a dynamic change regarding a personal issue. You might not agree with a partner, but you realize that you need to compromise in order to get past the problem. A positive attitude would be better than getting into a power play. Tonight: Head home early.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Reach out to someone you care a lot about. You often let this bond slide and just assume it will be OK. Your assumption is faulty and needs to be revised. You will see that this person is waiting for you to make contact. Tonight: Make a couple of calls before you make plans.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Curb your anger or frustration. You are more powerful and connected than you realize. Assume a more relaxed temperament. Express your thoughts clearly, especially with a child. Caring evolves between you and a loved one. Tonight: Be content.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could feel as if you have a lot to do, and it is important to do it quickly. A call is likely to encourage a deviation from plans. Someone who cares about you will reach out to you. You might want to take some time with a special person. Tonight: Let the party go on.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You might need to confide in a close friend who will keep your words and secrets to him- or herself. Find a way of letting this person know how much you care about and appreciate him or her. Nothing can replace this type of loyalty. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You are a people person, and nothing that occurs today will prove otherwise. You have a lot of pressure on you to deal with a matter involving your domestic life. Be willing to say "no" to a request. A friendship plays a significant role in your life. Tonight: Let go of stress.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might want to consider an option that could prevent a conflict with an older relative or an authority figure. You will need to step back from a hassle at the moment. Remember that it is more important to win the war than it is to win the battle. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Others might wonder why you have little to say right now. You have a way about you that makes a child or loved one think before he or she leaps. You understand that sometimes the less said the better. Be open to a conversation. Tonight: Start planning the weekend.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

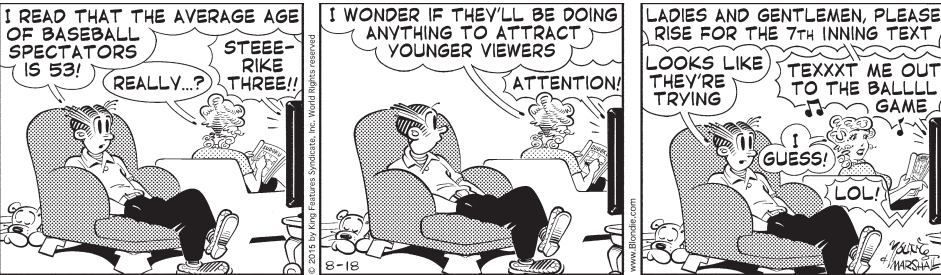
★★★★ You might want to listen carefully to a partner's emotional and financial needs. This person seems to have a very different point of view from you. Neither of you are right or wrong; you both simply have a unique way of approaching matters. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

