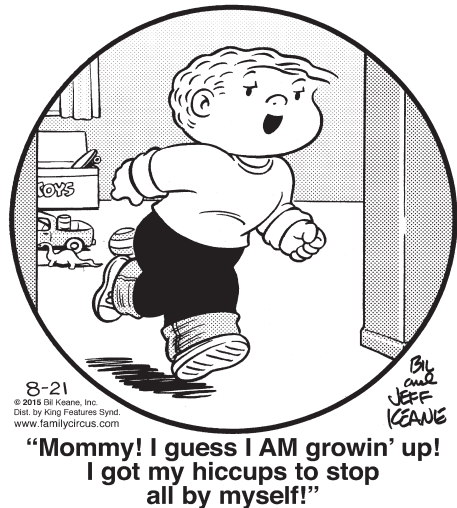


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



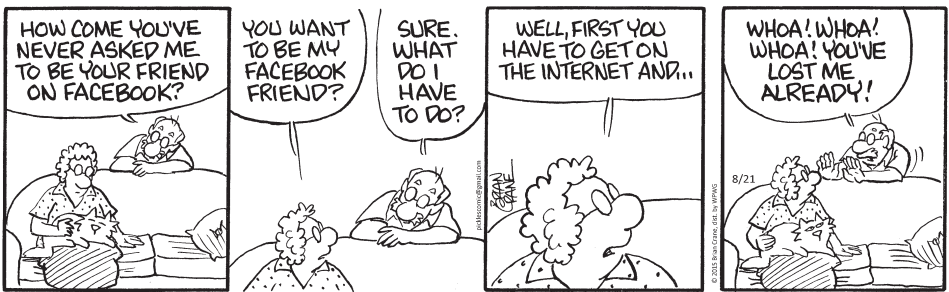
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



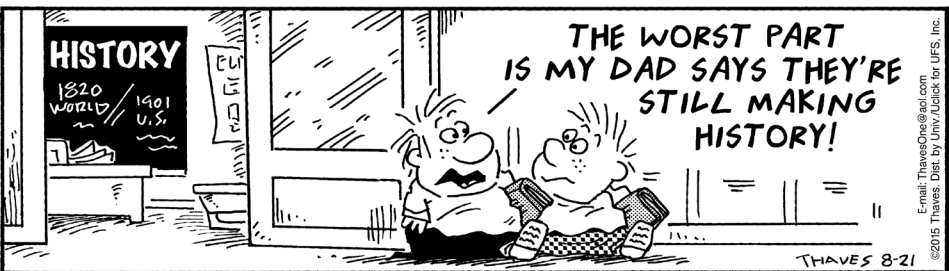
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



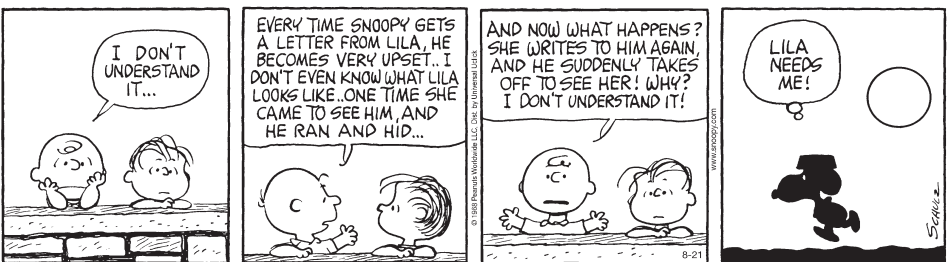
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



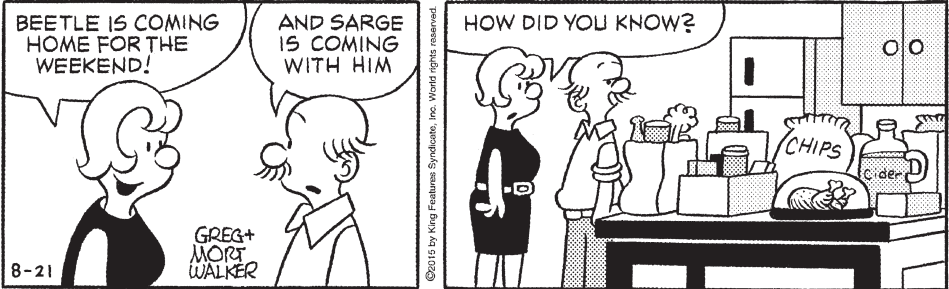
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



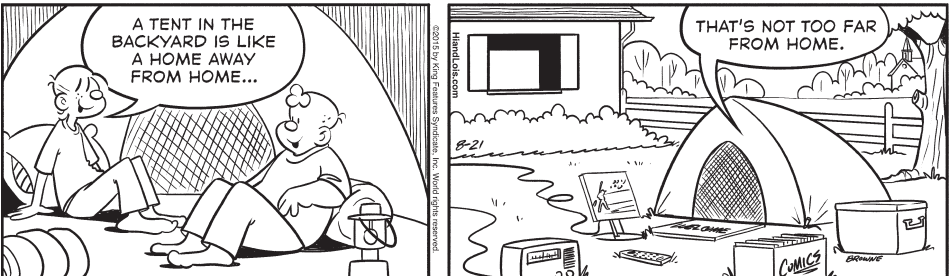
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Man Suffers A Sense Of Loss After Returning Dog He Found

DEAR ABBY: A man I work with found a dog on his way to the office. He picked it up, took it home and was immediately talking about what a good playmate the dog would make. He said he tried to call the local animal shelter, but was put on hold twice, so he gave up.

I felt he should have made more of an attempt to find the owner before claiming it as his own. I immediately posted a free "found dog" ad online and, three weeks later, received a message.

It turned out the dog belonged to a 72-year-old woman who lives alone. She discovered her back door open one day and her dog missing. I put my co-worker in touch with the lady and said I'd leave it to him to do what he felt was best. After confirming the dog was indeed hers, he reluctantly returned it to her.

He is now telling everyone he's very sad at his loss and that it was "almost as hard as having a dog put to sleep." He's receiving major sympathy from some of our co-workers who seem to be upset with me for posting the found dog ad. Am I wrong to think this small effort should have been expected in this situation, and what I did was the right thing? – DID THE RIGHT THING IN TEXAS

DEAR DID: I don't think you did anything wrong, and I'm 100 percent positive that the dog's owner would agree with me. She was probably worried sick, wondering if her beloved companion was lying injured or dead in a ditch somewhere.

While I appreciate your co-worker feeling a sense of loss at having to return the dog, he should be comforted in the knowledge that it's in a home where it is loved and cared for. And that is NOT comparable to having to have one euthanized. However, because he is grieving, suggest he ask the owner for visitation. Out of gratitude, she may agree.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my partner, "Pat," for 10 years. For personal reasons, we have chosen not to get married. I call him my partner because, for the majority of our 10 years together, we have lived together. We

share multiple financial commitments, and he is truly my partner in life.

My problem is, when I refer to Pat as my partner, people immediately ask me if I'm gay. I'm less worried about people thinking I might be a lesbian, but more that people might think Pat is a woman. Even his family members have remarked when I refer to him as my partner.

I know our friends and family respect our choice to not be married, but I'm not sure what to call him other than my partner. I feel that "boyfriend" is too casual for our level of commitment. I don't have a problem calling Pat my partner. I do have a problem with all the unnecessary confusion that follows.

What should I call the man I am committed to and who is equally committed to me, when we have chosen to take the "no ring" route together? – NOT SINGLE IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR NOT SINGLE: You could use "better half," but I think the word "partner" describes your relationship very well. If someone asks if you are gay or if Pat is a woman, don't be defensive – just say no. Giving more information to someone who isn't close enough to you to already be aware of your situation is oversharing.

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 an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 21, 2015:

This year you open up to a new level of understanding. Your willingness to accept greater responsibility and move in a new direction is admirable. You are likely to witness great financial security through a pay raise or a lucky break. This could occur as soon as next month. If you are single, you have a great depth and intensity about you that attracts the opposite sex. Refuse to give too much away too soon in a relationship. If you are attached, the two of will experience greater flexibility with money and are likely to make a major purchase. SCORPIO can rain on your parade.

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 a place where you feel oddly out of sorts with several people. The real issue is the unknown of how long it will take until you feel comfortable with this group again. Loosen up and relax as much as possible. Tonight: Make time for a one-on-one chat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You mean well, but someone else might not have the same intentions. Open up your baby blues to see what is happening. Ask important questions, but understand that you might be uncomfortable with the answers. Use care with anyone you meet today. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have received a sufficient amount of flak in your life. Quite clearly, you might want to head in a different direction. For some reason, though, you could feel obligated or locked in. A friend will help you get through this maze. Tonight: Make it an early night.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be in the mood to have fun, but you probably won't want to get into anything too crazy. A boss or higher-up could cast a shadow on that idea. Be realistic and deal with this person accordingly. There is always time for fun later. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You have a strong inclination to preserve the status quo, especially today. Should you sense

a setback in your plans, you could become frustrated and retreat. Many of your friends could be shocked by your immediate reaction. Tonight: By all means, entertain from home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could see a problem arise from out of the blue. How you deal with this matter will depend on your desires and objectives. Trust yourself to accept a little bump in a relationship and know how to keep it all together. Tonight: Go to a favorite haunt with a friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You have a tendency to overindulge. You could get upset with someone you really care about. You also might be in a situation where you have the ability to make an adjustment but don't want to. In any case, reach out for more information. Tonight: Play it easy.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your ability to get past an immediate issue will pay off. Others might struggle with the situation, but you won't. In your mind, you have created your own boundaries. Cut loose if you feel the need to. Someone close to you might want your time. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Be wary of anyone you meet right now, as people might not be who they project themselves to be. Take your time getting to know someone better. You might want to slow down the pace, even if the other party has different ideas. Tonight: Give yourself permission to go out.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Meetings are important, as they could point to the direction you need to follow. You understand people far better than you realize. You have the ability to get them to work well as a group. Use that skill, and everyone inevitably will benefit. Tonight: Take a walk.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

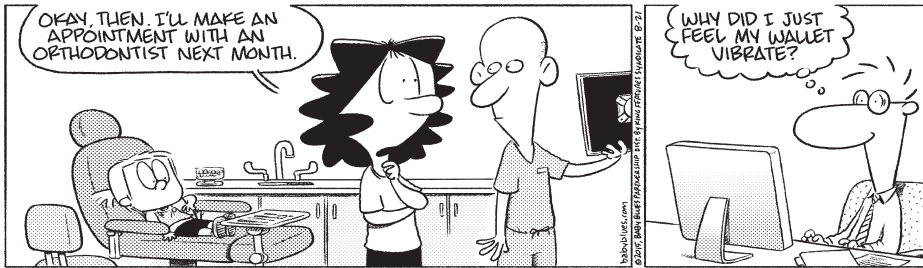
★★★★ You might want to reach out to a friend who can be distant. How you deal with this person will depend on your next interaction. You could place him or her in a less significant role in your life without even intending to. Tonight: Meet up with some work friends.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

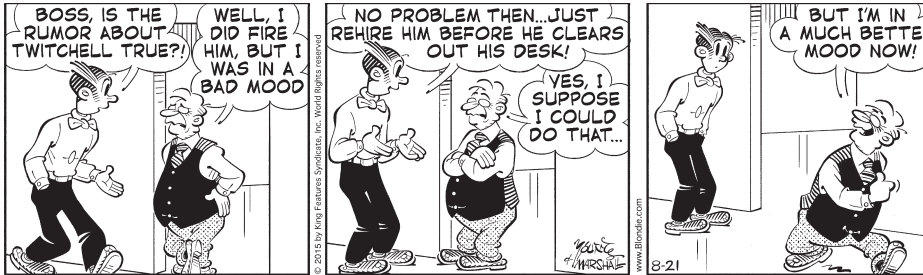
★★★★ You have a style that draws many people toward you. You might wonder what you need to do in order to gain the type of interaction you want. Do your best to be less vulnerable. Think carefully about a decision before you follow through on it. Tonight: Explore a new area.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

