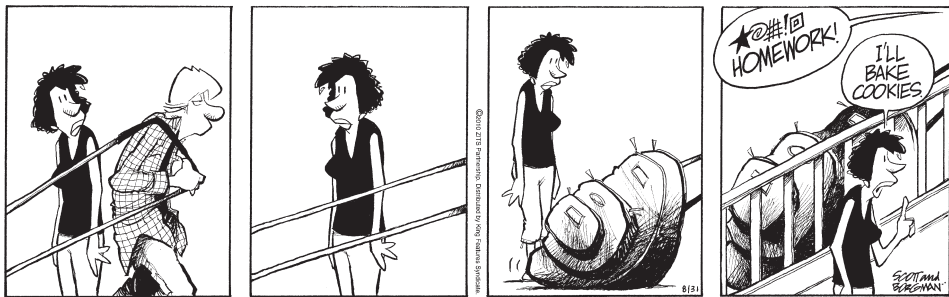


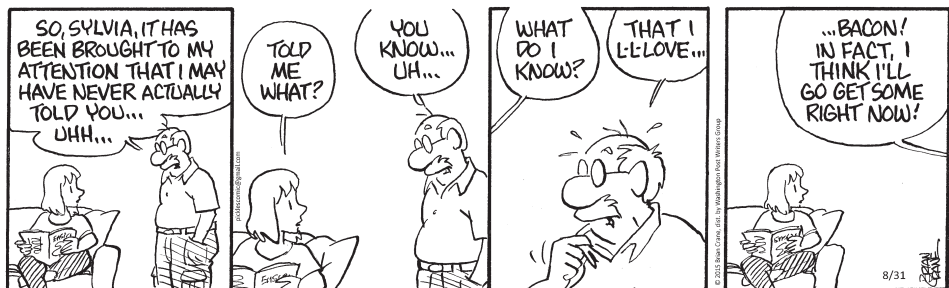
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



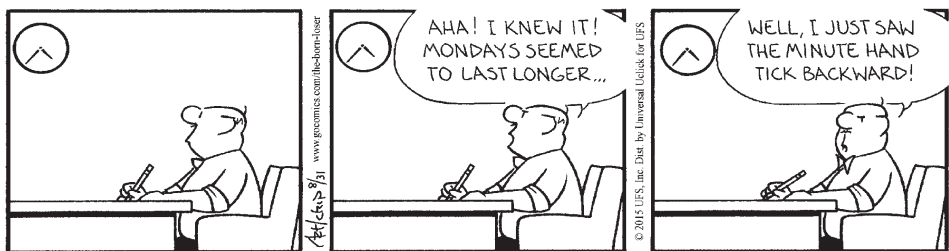
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



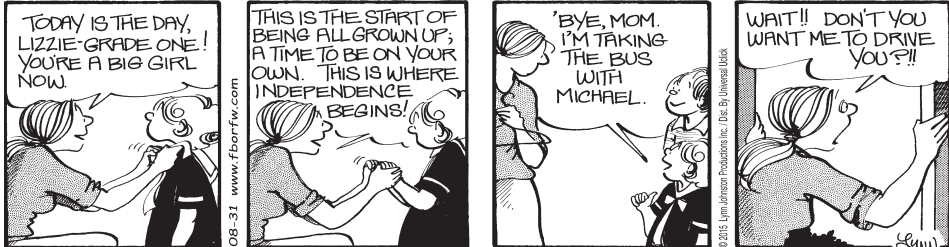
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



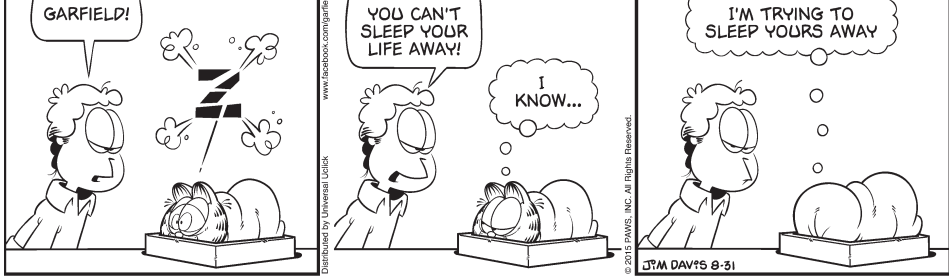
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Daughter Deep In Debt Needs Counseling, Not More Money

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago I gave my adult daughter, married with a child, more than \$16,000 to help pay off her debts because she couldn't pay her bills. She and her husband maintain separate accounts, which I find odd. He pays certain expenses; she pays others. Now I find she's deep in debt again and needs more help.

I'm 69, married and retired. We have some savings and I'd like to help her. However, I'm afraid if I take more money out of our savings, we may not have enough to cover an emergency or if either of us needs nursing home care.

She is a good and loving daughter, and I feel bad that I may not be able to help her. Do you see any solution to my problem? – DENNIS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DENNIS: You must stop enabling your adult daughter. Rather than offer more of your savings, it's important to find out what is causing her spending problem. (Drugs? Depression? A shopping addiction?) Then steer her and her husband to a credit counseling organization that can help her without placing your future welfare in jeopardy.

Legitimate credit counseling firms are affiliated with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, the Association of Credit Counseling Professionals, or the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies. This isn't your problem, and it shouldn't be. You have done enough.

DEAR ABBY: Last weekend we had our children and grandkids over for a family birthday. We looked after the children, cooked, waited on everyone and cleaned up afterward while the adults sat texting or playing on their cellphones.

Abby, this is not so much a question as an observation for anyone of any age who is invited to visit someone's home:

Spending time on the cellphone rather than socializing is rude. It says our company

is not valued. It says that neither we nor your children are important enough for your attention. It teaches children that it isn't necessary to be social, offer to help clear the table, or be gracious and appreciative when someone prepares a meal for them.

The visit left a bitter taste, and it will be a long time before we invite our children and grandchildren to our home again. I know cellphones are part of our culture, but adults still have the power to choose what is important and turn them off! – DISCONNECTED IN MIDTOWN, TENN.

DEAR DISCONNECTED: Now that you have vented, may I pose a question? While your children were sitting on their fannies after the meal, did you or your spouse TELL them you needed help, that their children needed minding and that their behavior was rude? Because if you didn't, please recognize that the behaviors you described do not spring up overnight, and you may be partly responsible for how your children turned out.

"Not inviting them for a long time" isn't the answer, because they may not get the "hint." If you say what's on your mind, you may startle them into modeling better behavior for their children before it's too late. Putting into words how their behavior made you feel would be more direct and more effective.

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.

A baby born today has a Sun in Virgo and a Moon in Pisces if born before 4:33 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 31, 2015:

This year you might sense that you have entered into a memorable and important period of your life. Jupiter, the planet of luck, is riding along with your Sun sign, making nearly anything possible. You have a tendency to take risks that you normally wouldn't. If you know what you want, you are likely to get it. If you are single, a special person could knock on your door at any given time. Don't settle, unless you're sure you have met the right person. If you are attached, your good luck flows into your sweetie's life, too. A renewed sense of confidence will make your interactions with him or her more enjoyable. ARIES has the same priorities as 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 might sense a serious tone coming from others. Realize that this energy is not directed at you, but it does serve as a warning not to push people too hard. A disconnect seems to exist between you and someone else. Share your feelings. Tonight: Stay mellow.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ A flaky friend easily could throw your day into chaos. You will want to blame this person, but perhaps you also need to assume some responsibility for the commotion. When making plans, take into account this person's nature. Tonight: Snuggle in at home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ A close loved one finally will take a step toward you. Be open to this person, as he or she often encourages and supports you in whatever you do. Honor the new possibilities that surround work or a new important person in your life. Tonight: Seek out a fun friend.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your ability to clear up a problem emerges. Take a back seat, and allow someone else to feel as if he or she is in control for now. You know better, but you don't need to let this person know that. In a sense, you'll be helping his or her self-worth. Tonight: Share a dream.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might be overly generous. Make sure you don't have expectations that aren't realistic. Detach from a difficult and/or awkward situation. You will beam in much more of what you want once you pull back some. Tonight: Consider a last-minute summer getaway.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ A relationship will test your self-discipline. You might be confused by a close friend or loved one who makes promises but often does not follow through. Listen to your inner voice, but also recognize that you generally accept this person's behavior. Tonight: Talks over dinner.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be in a difficult position. You might have company or some obstacle that prevents you from being 100 percent present. Focus on letting go. Remain supportive of others. Tonight: Remain positive, and tackle some of what you need to get done.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Observe, but be willing to get involved and help clear up a hassle. You might stumble into a situation where problem solving – your strength – is needed. Demonstrate that skill with sensitivity. Others don't like feeling inferior. Tonight: Pace yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your ingenuity emerges, and while others are frustrated with a boss or older family member, you'll move past the issue immediately. A child or loved one likes your ideas in general. Your originality delights him or her. Tonight: Forget hassles and enjoy the moment.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might not understand why you feel as if you're in a funk. When someone is as busy and responsive as you are, slowing down doesn't seem natural. Give yourself some personal time more often. When you turn on the switch, you will be all the better for it. Tonight: Ever playful.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Expect to be busy, and you won't be disappointed. You will need to prioritize. As a result, you likely will have to adjust your schedule. You might feel as if your circuits are about to blow – so much is going on. Tonight: Accept someone's caring invitation.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might find yourself in a situation where you need to understand what is happening with a matter that could affect you in many ways. Even with as much as you know, you can never know too much. Go to an expert, if need be. Tonight: Schedule a massage.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

