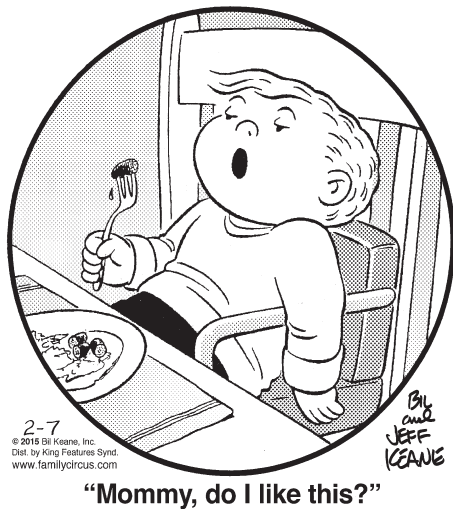


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"Mommy, do I like this?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



HUNTER GATHERERS

Troubled High School Friend Needs A Hand, Not A Handout

DEAR ABBY: I am 18, and like most of my friends, I have gone away to college. We have a friend whose life went off track during our senior year because of drinking, drugs and other misbehavior. She's now without a place to live or any support system.

She calls us from time to time, and we aren't sure what to believe or how to help her since we are all in a different place in our lives, and far away. We won't give her money because we are worried about what she might do with it, but we really do want to help her and be there for her. What is the best approach? — WORRIED FRIEND IN FLORIDA

DEAR WORRIED: I agree that you should not give her money. The best approach would be for you to advise your friend to get into a shelter with social services for homeless women. If she does, she may be able to get into a substance abuse program, receive government benefits and straighten out her life. I'm not saying her road will be an easy one, but it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: Is there a polite way to ask a colleague to stop bringing her kids to work? Our offices are next to each other, and the dividing wall doesn't reach the ceiling. I have to hear them yelling at each other (they are 2 and 4), crying, whining and their mother's attempts at discipline, etc. This isn't occasional — it happens often.

Should I ask her politely to stop bringing them to work? Or should I ask management to shift my office away from hers? — DISTRACTED IN DETROIT

DEAR DISTRACTED: Rather than risk a confrontation with your co-worker, this is something you should discuss either with your supervisor or your employer. While I empathize with the woman's difficulty in finding someone to supervise her youngsters, if their presence in the workplace is disruptive, your needs should be accommodated.

DEAR ABBY: I have a family friend whose son has been engaged twice, to two different women. The first engagement was broken off by him, and the second by his fiancée.

Each time, his family threw him an engagement party (which he wanted) — and I was invited to both. Each time, as is customary, I bought a gift for the happy couple. Neither one was returned after the engagement was broken.

The first party was a pleasure to attend. The second one I found slightly awkward, but I wanted to be supportive of my friend. I brought a gift the second time because I didn't want to be impolite.

If my friend's son becomes engaged a third time and has an engagement party to which I am invited, am I obligated to bring a gift? — POLITE PARTY GUEST

DEAR POLITE: No, I think by now you have given enough. And considering how your friend's son's luck has been after these engagement parties, I can't imagine his family inviting the same people a third time and expecting them to give him anything more than their good wishes.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and is 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.)

© 2015, Universal Press Syndicate

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



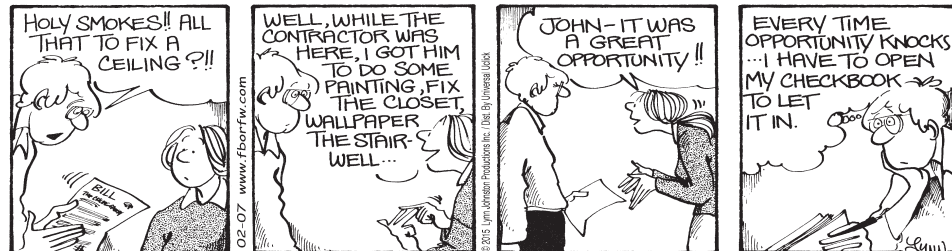
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



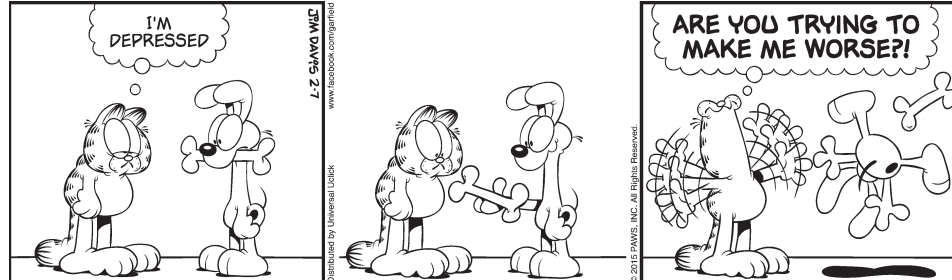
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 Aquarius and a Moon in Virgo if born before 10:44 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 2015:

This year you might be unusually lucky with others. You could expand your immediate circle of friends and add to the power of your career by networking. How you handle a needy friend will depend on how much you value this bond. Often, you might make emotional situations much more difficult than they need to be. Other times, you seem to clam up and refuse to discuss anything. Try to open up to a more neutral mindset. If you are single, a commitment is likely because of someone you meet this year. If you are attached, the two of you have a deep friendship as well as a romantic tie. Sometimes you are overly cautious when expressing your feelings. Work on better communication. LIBRA is a sensitive listener.

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)

After recent stress and demands, you'll appreciate a day where conversations are possible without strong reactions. An emotional or financial matter requires further discussion. Up to now, this seems to have been a volatile issue. Clear the air. Tonight: A long-overdue chat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You might be full of energy. You could be focused on finishing a project or on spending a fun afternoon with a child. You need the relaxation of not pushing yourself so hard. Try to make the most of company. Tonight: Just keep it light and easy.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Getting started might be difficult, but by midday there will be so much interest around you that your energy will soar. A loved one delights in your enthusiasm and feedback. Feel free to be distracted. Others will understand; they are, too! Tonight: Act like a teenager again.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Enjoy being home and doing what you want. True to form, you will make a special meal and invite others over. A loved one might need some extra time to accomplish what he or she needs to do. Be willing to help out. Tonight: The only place to be is around you.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Return calls in the morning. You might

want to catch up with a friend or family member to hear what he or she has to share. You could be more uptight than you normally are. Make sure to squeeze in some physical exercise at some point this afternoon. Tonight: Keep it intimate.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You could be taken aback by a financial matter. Whether you are doing your taxes or balancing your budget, you might feel a little put off. Don't take out your mood on others, specifically your family. A loved one will try to test your limits. Tonight: Pick up the tab.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could be taken aback by someone's reaction. You might have believed that you were having an open conversation, but the response you get will let you know otherwise. Be smart, and don't push so hard. Decide to order in or make a fun meal. Tonight: Whatever you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Use the morning to the max. You will enjoy being around others, whether you are at the gym or out for brunch. By the afternoon, you might want to cocoon and snuggle in bed. Follow through on this need; otherwise, you could be out of sorts. Tonight: Not to be found.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Take care of a responsibility or a need to drop by the office in the morning. By the afternoon, spontaneous plans could bring you and several friends together. The sense of camaraderie will make you smile and relax. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You'll want to use the morning for a personal matter, or just to relax and read. Later in the day, you could be coerced into shouldering someone else's responsibility. You might not be saying what you think, and others will be able to tell. Tonight: Liberate yourself.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

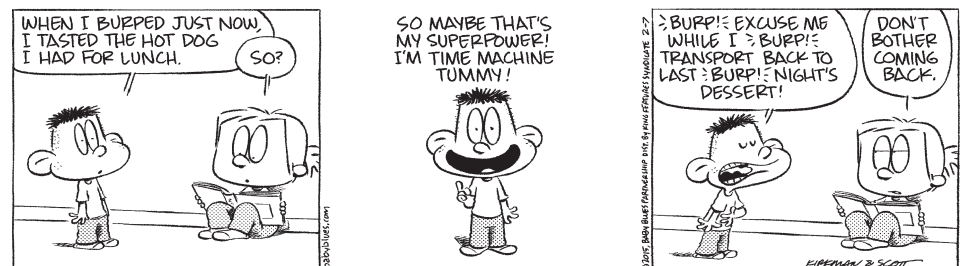
You could feel disappointed when you touch base with a friend. Adapt your plans accordingly. Your instincts will guide you through a difficult discussion. Detach, and you will understand a lot more. Let go of a need to be controlling. Tonight: Be entertained.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

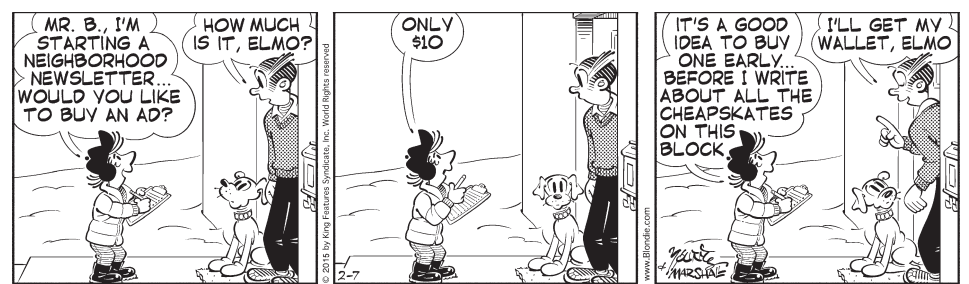
Adjust your plans with a loved one. You could have a great day going to a game together or sharing a favorite hobby or pastime. A friend could do a reversal that could be upsetting. Let it go. Don't make any assumptions right now. Tonight: Your choice.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

