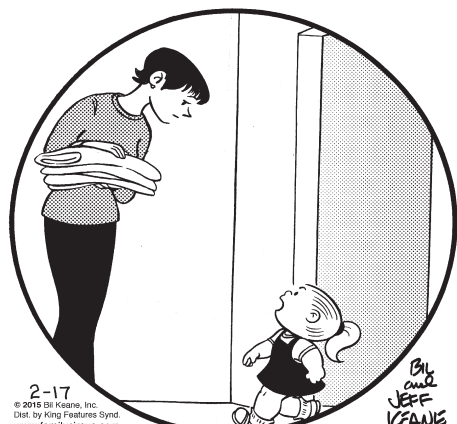


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



2-17
Remember that thing you told me to remind you of so you wouldn't forget? I forgot what it was.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



WELL GRAMMAR

Ultrasound Baby Picture Gets A Negative Reaction

DEAR ABBY: Do you know why people nowadays feel the need to announce their pregnancies via ultrasound pictures? I'm sorry, but I really don't want to see all that. I guess some folks think the image of a blurry, black-and-white fetus is "darling." But to me, all I see is an up-close-and-personal snapshot of a stranger's uterus. Even if we're best friends, I don't need all that detail. TMI, right?

I really wish people would deliver this kind of news face-to-face. Or call me, text me, whatever. It serves the same purpose and isn't nearly as graphic. - NOT READY FOR A CLOSE-UP

DEAR NOT READY: If seeing a sonogram is "TMI" for your sensibilities, all you need to do is scroll past it. It's not as if you're being forced to view the fetus. Being able to see the product they're manufacturing pre-delivery helps many couples to bond with their babies, and when people are happy, they often want to share their joy. So loosen up and let them.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for 10 years. Prior to that, we dated for seven. (We met when we were teenagers.) My problem is, my mother-in-law still misspells my name, which is Sara. After all these years, she still adds an "h" to the end of my name, regardless of how many times my husband has pointed out the correct spelling.

I don't know why this is an issue, because we send her cards on all the holidays, her birthday, etc., with my name spelled correctly. How should I approach this with her? - SIMPLY SARA IN ARIZONA

DEAR SIMPLY SARA: If the two of you get along well, just smile and ask her why she can't get the spelling of your name right. Then listen. However, if there is tension in your relationship, recognize that this may be a form of passive aggression, that confronting her will make her defensive, and she will

find some other way to needle you. P.S. Another thought. Tell her you've changed the spelling of your name to "Sarah" and she may drop the "h"!

DEAR ABBY: My best friend is dying from lung cancer, which I think has traveled to her brain. I am heartbroken over this. My question is, she seems different now - angry. She jumped on me when we were talking about her disease. Should I just leave her be? Or what should I do? - STANDING BY IN TEXAS

DEAR STANDING BY: Your friend may indeed be angry, and she has a right to be. She may also be very scared. Continue to stand by her because she will need your support and understanding in the months to come.

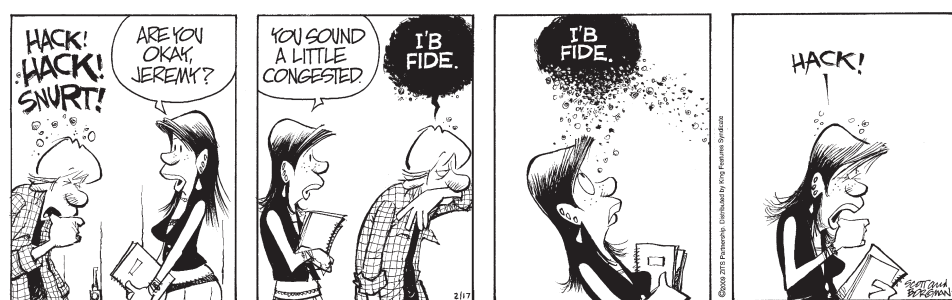
A diagnosis of metastasized cancer can make someone feel alone and isolated. If she wants to talk about her prognosis, be prepared to listen. If she is too ill to get out of the house, bring the news about what is going on in her circle of friends to her. (Gossip can be distracting.) Do NOT offer advice unless you are asked for it. And if she has a bad day, try to be understanding and forgiving.

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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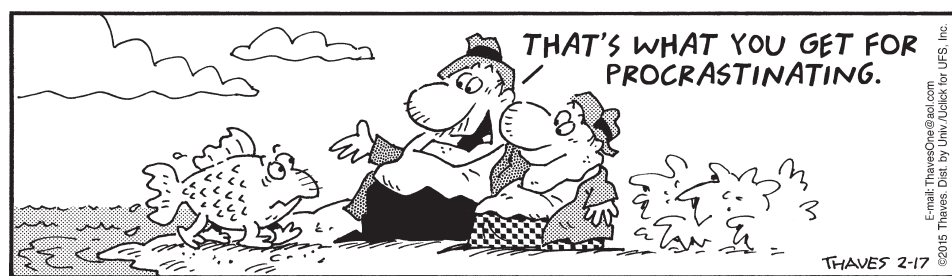
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



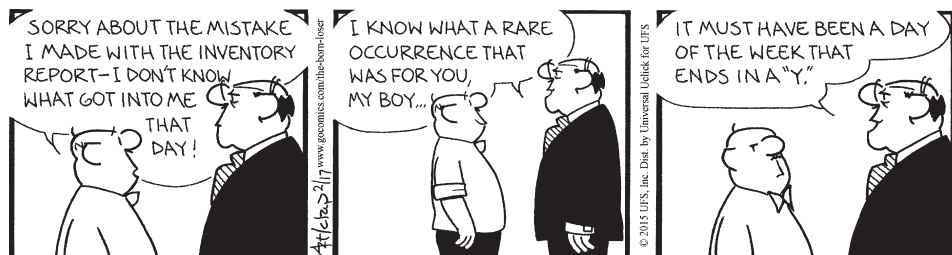
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



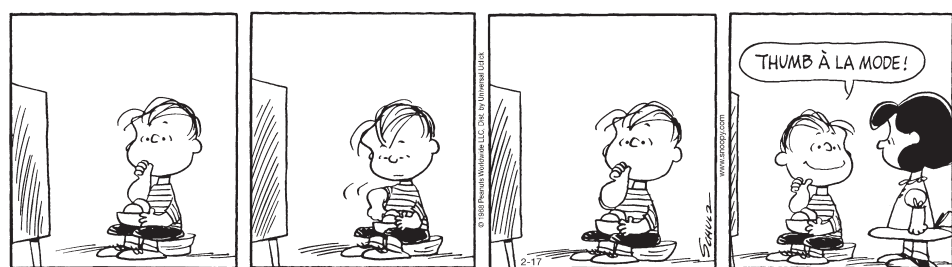
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



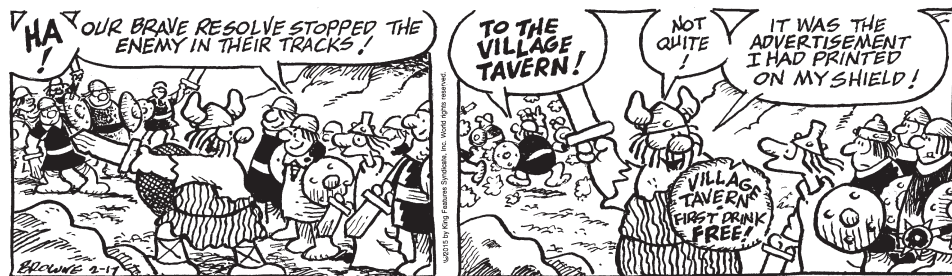
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



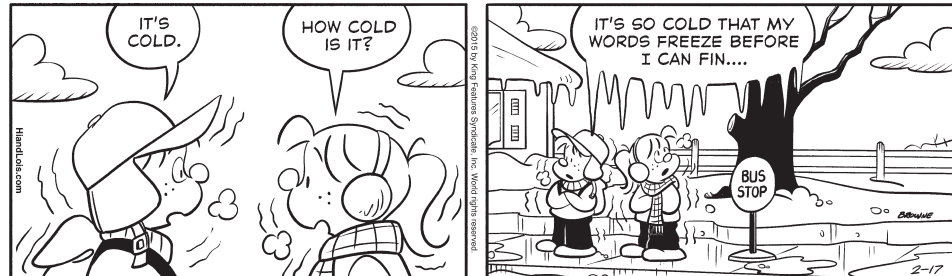
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



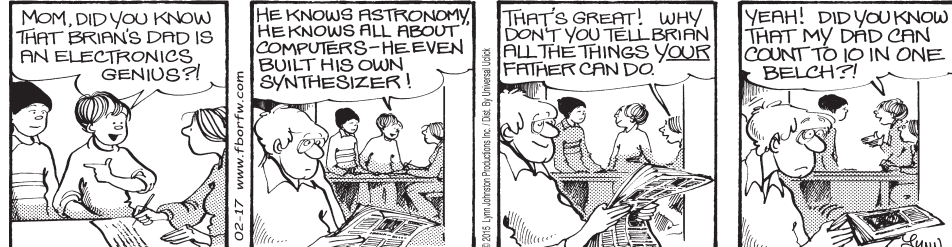
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



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 and Moon in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 17, 2015:

This year offers wild situations that arise from out of the blue. For the most part, it would be wise to follow up with these, as you will the love excitement of it. You'll get along with others much better than you have in recent years. Look within yourself to determine why. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone very special. You will know for sure when you meet this person. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your life a lot more than you have in the past. Your sweetie seems to blossom right in front of you, becoming a more fun-loving and spontaneous person. A fellow AQUARIUS makes an excellent friend.

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)

**** Emphasize your goals. Reach out to friends to see where it would be helpful for you to be more supportive. Warm feelings seem to be in abundance, which could make you feel as if you want to respond in kind. Your perspective will be valued. Tonight: With a favorite person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** You might want to understand more of what is motivating a key person in your life. Try not to verbalize how erratic you find this behavior; instead, say little, and be more of an observer. As a result, you'll gain a new perspective. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** Explore your options rather than accept the same old routine. You suddenly might realize how many choices you really have. Remain direct when dealing with someone at a distance. You might be surprised by what you hear. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**** Deal with a partner directly. Others will be flattered to have your time and attention, and you'll enjoy connecting with others on a one-on-one level. Even in unpredictable situations, you will land on your feet. Trust your judgment. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

*** You might wonder whether others are

ganging up on you. People will have so much to share with you that you could feel overwhelmed. You will hear some news from someone at a distance that puts a smile on your face. Tonight: Just do not be alone.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

*** You might be focused on your plans and on whom you want to spend time with. The unexpected will annoy you, as it is likely to slow you down. Know when enough is enough. Be willing to try someone else's suggestion. Tonight: Make it easy.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

**** It could be nearly impossible to keep your nose to the grindstone. You can't seem to change your sensibilities when it comes to others. No one will be able to stop you if you see someone you want to chat with. Tonight: Be the flirt you are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

**** When you hit an obstacle, just go around it. The unexpected tends to run through your plans, and you often find yourself on a very different track from what you had intended. A boss or parent might seem unusually happy. Tonight: Expect to burn the midnight oil.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

**** Be willing to share what is on your mind. How you say what you think has a lot to do with the way in which it is received. Understanding your limits might be more important than you realize. A fun call from someone at a distance will lighten the mood. Tonight: Out late.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

*** Other people seem to be more in touch with your assets and talents than you are. Sometimes you give too much of yourself. A close friend or associate might ask you to join him or her. You aren't likely to say "no." Whatever you do, you'll feel revived. Tonight: Let the party go on.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

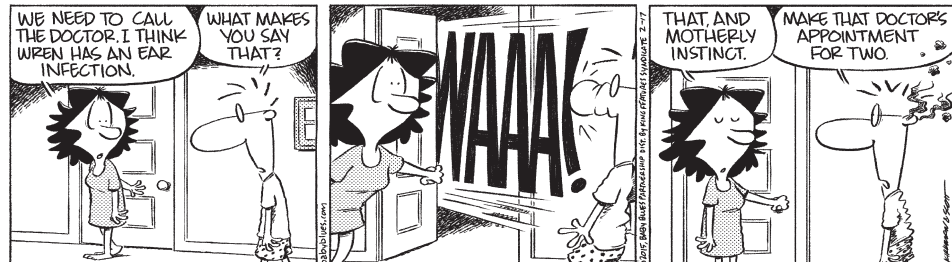
**** You might be about to take the next step in renewing a project or going forward with an offer. A sudden call could force you to verbalize your thoughts about a certain matter. You'll know the right thing to say without giving everything away. Tonight: Accept an offer.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

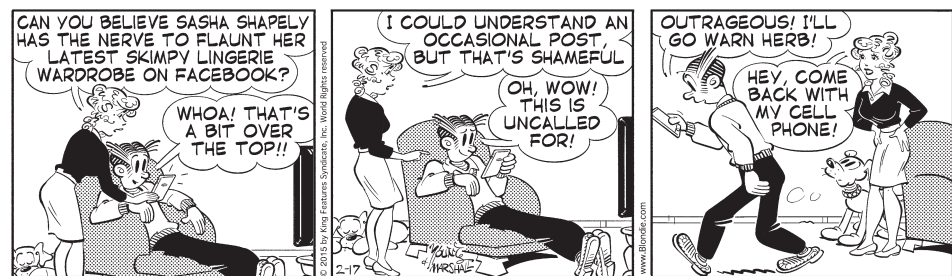
*** Whether you feel tired or off-kilter, you just might want to isolate yourself. Understand where someone is coming from and why he or she is making certain choices. You need some downtime right now. Laughter will surround you, once you relax. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

