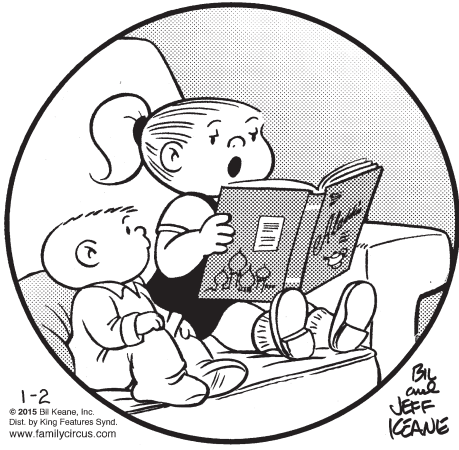


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



1-2
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www.familycircus.com
"...and then the beautiful princess read a story to her little brother."
By Jeff Keane

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1-2-15

Good Manners Are In Short Supply When Couple Eats Out

DEAR ABBY: I am recently divorced and now seeing a wonderful woman who is pretty much everything I was looking for except for a couple of issues, which concern going out to eat – which we do often. Not once has she offered to pay for a meal.

I make good money, but she is not financially strapped by any means. While I can live with her not paying, what annoys me is she rarely says thank you after a dinner date. Once, she ordered a to-go selection to take home to her daughter. I paid for it, but again got no thanks. When we arrived at her house, she gave the food to her daughter without mentioning that I had bought it for her.

Other than her manners, she's a great gal and I'm happy we're together. Am I being petty and overly sensitive? My ex-wife never appreciated me, so I guess it's a sore spot. How should I approach this without jeopardizing everything else? – HESITANT TO SPEAK UP IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HESITANT: Your great gal has poor manners. Approach it by telling her exactly what you have written to me. Then ask her why she never says thank you and didn't bother to give you credit when you did something nice for her daughter.

Either this woman never learned basic manners, or she takes you for granted. And if this is a pattern with all the women in your life, it's important you understand why and do something about it before you marry again or you will never be happy.

DEAR ABBY: I stepped into a public restroom with three regular stalls and a handicap/wheelchair-accessible stall. All the stalls were occupied, so I got in line. By the time it was my turn, the handicap stall was available. Behind me was a mother with a fussy baby and a toddler, and she needed to use the baby changing station, which happened to be located inside the handicap stall. I let her go first.

What I didn't realize was a woman in a wheelchair was also in line behind me. She got upset when I let someone else use the stall instead of allowing her. Someone else in line piped up and told her she had to wait in line like everyone else.

When situations like this arise, should disabled people be allowed to skip the line and go straight to the big stall? Even if the mother with the baby and the location of a diaper changing station were not a factor, is the right thing to do to let a wheelchair-bound person use the restroom first, even if he/she is at the end of the line? – TRYING TO BE POLITE

DEAR TRYING: Yes, it is. It's called a "handicapped stall" for a reason. The person with the disability should have been allowed to use it first – even if he/she was at the end of the line.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have two children from a previous marriage. We have a distant relationship. For valid reasons, they have been written out of my will. Should I tell them now, or let them find out after my death? – WONDERING WHAT TO DO

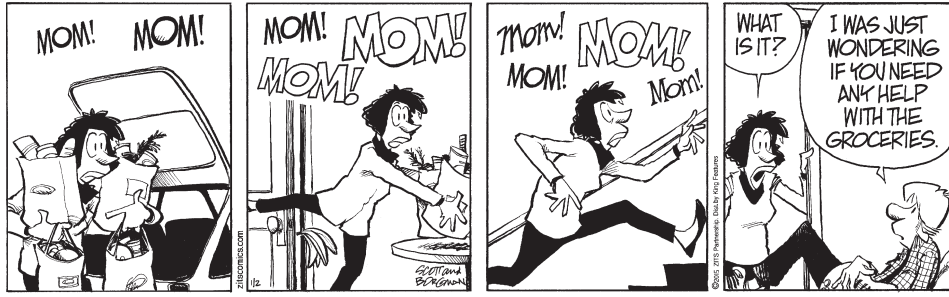
DEAR WONDERING: I see no reason to announce it now, because before you die you might change your mind.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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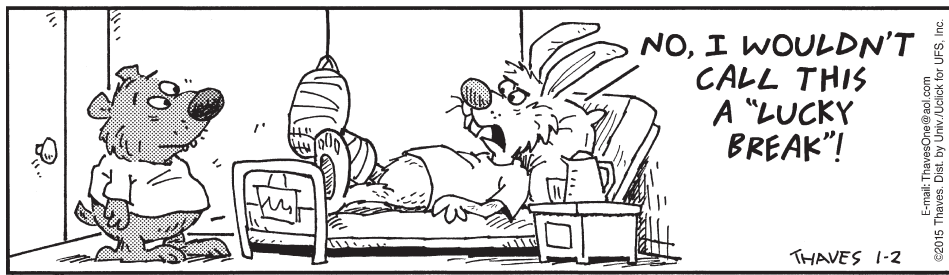
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



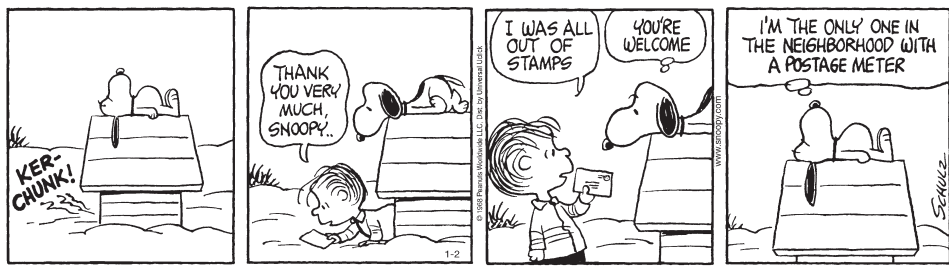
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



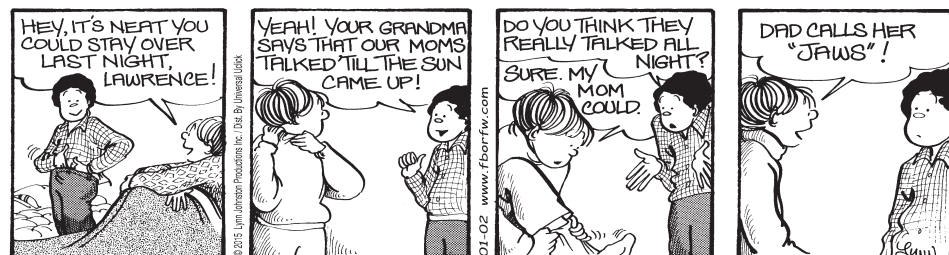
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



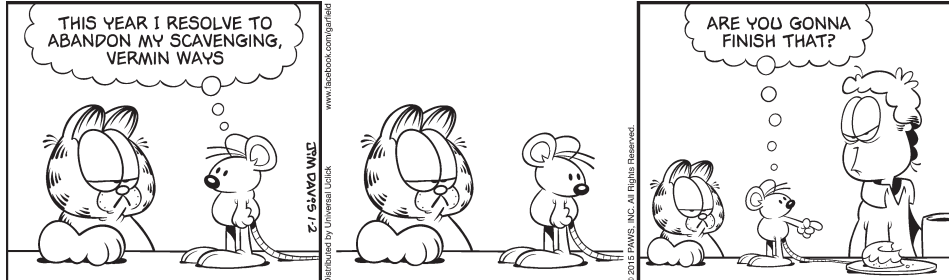
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



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 Capricorn and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR
FRIDAY, JAN. 2, 2015:

This year you are able to make a difference in what goes on. Your sense of humor will help you take situations less seriously. Your focus remains on your daily life. Some of you might decide to enrich your life with more activities, while others will feel the need to simplify. If you are single, you will meet someone in your daily routine. You initially might not even realize how interested you are in this person. If you are attached, the two of you often get irritated with each other. Curb a tendency to distort what is happening, and the two of you will communicate more effectively as result. You wish you had the high energy of GEMINI.

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)

Your desire to do the unexpected will keep others on their toes. You might notice how people's moods change swiftly. Your unpredictability forces them to take a stern look at their choices. Avoid a problem with a friend who might be unrealistic. Tonight: Meet up with a pal.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You might be too concerned with your finances at the moment. Whether you are facing a radical change to your income or you simply are moody about how to handle your budget, you have a choice to make. A friend might give you a difficult time. Tonight: Let someone else treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You sense that the Force is with you, and you're right. Knowing this, it would be in your best interest to follow your instincts. Those of you who are workaholics will need to free yourself up for a change of pace. Tonight: Be a party animal. Have fun!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You have a lot going on within you, and you might prefer to keep much of it to yourself. Detachment might seem like the best path, but you could just be missing one detail that would make a big difference. Seek feedback from a trusted friend. Tonight: Be realistic.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Emphasize what is important to you. Others might attempt to distract you unsuccessfully.

A roommate or family member might seem shut down. You could have difficulty opening this person up, though a token gift might help. Tonight: As you like it.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You might feel overwhelmed as you attempt to clear out your to-do list or domestic responsibilities. Interference from a loved one could cause a problem. A partner could be erratic and touchy at the moment. Tonight: Prepare to be noticed.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could be overwhelmed by someone else's perception of a situation. Realize that different worlds you were brought into and how very different your lives are. Do not be surprised at the differences in your thinking. Tonight: Strap on your seat belt.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You might be taken aback by someone's actions, as he or she seems to be much more erratic than usual. Don't get so upset about this person's behavior. A loved one or new friend could intrigue you today. Tonight: Be ready for a sultry moment or two.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Others seem to gravitate toward you. You might not share the same views as them, but you'll be willing to hear them out. Someone you care a lot about might be unusually moody. This, too, will pass. Confusion surrounds a domestic matter. Someone might not be in touch with his or her feelings. Tonight: The only mistake you can make is not to be out and about.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You will want to take some time to run some errands that you have been putting off. You also might need to schedule a checkup with your doctor. You easily could be misunderstood. Be careful with electrical equipment, as you could be accident-prone. Tonight: Hang with friends.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

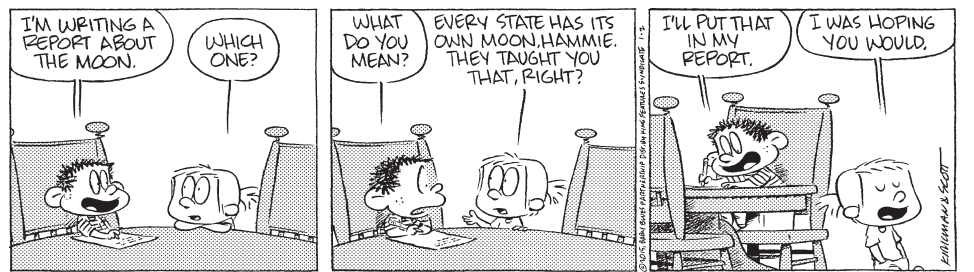
You are full of energy and excitement. It could be very difficult to change your plans, as the other party involved seems to be very uptight. Let your hair down. No matter where you are, be sure to carefully tuck away your money. Tonight: Frolic the night away.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

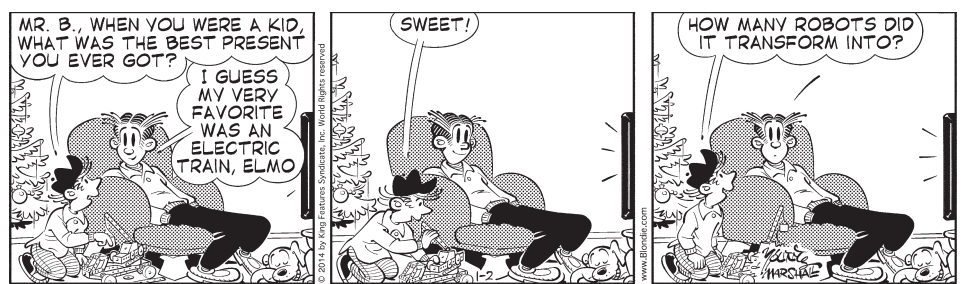
You'll want to change your schedule, but you could meet some resistance. Honor what works best for you. A friend might be unusually moody. Try not to be quarrelsome. You tend to be vague, and perhaps this person is just reacting. Tonight: Fun does not have to cost anything.

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DEAR ABBY | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

