

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



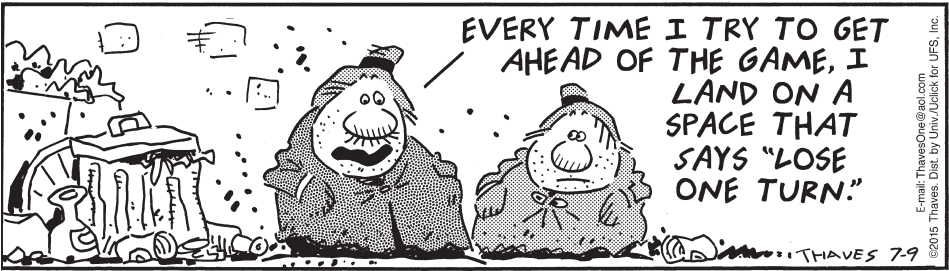
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



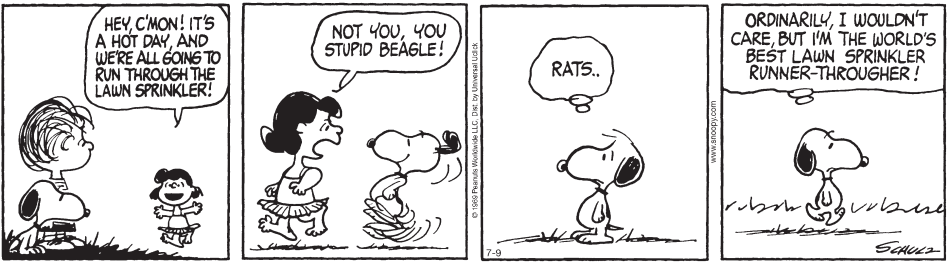
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



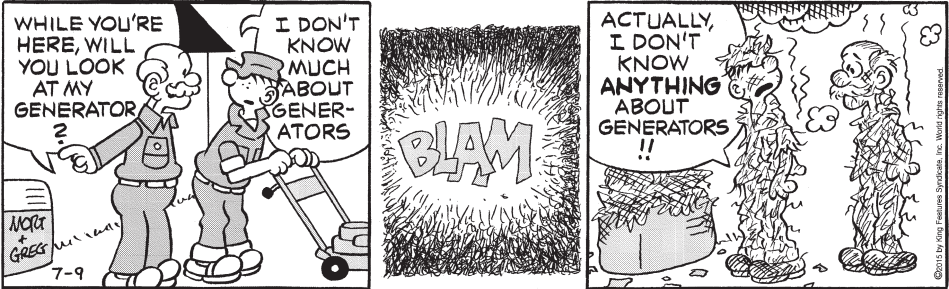
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



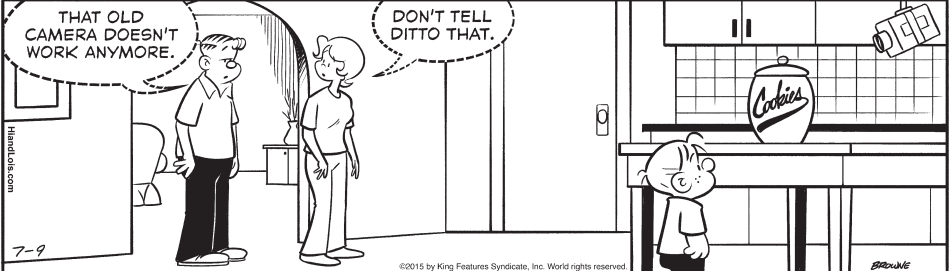
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



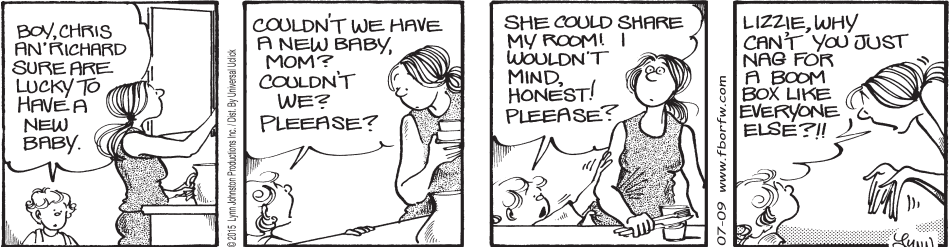
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Man Objects To Girlfriend's Family Vacation With Ex

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend has been divorced for two years. She shares custody of her two girls, ages 5 and 6, with her ex. She wants to remain friends with him for the sake of the girls. I have supported her friendly relationship with him despite the repeated lies he tells and the deceptive stories he makes up in an attempt to break us up.

Recently, he decided he wants to take his daughters away for a long weekend. He invited my girlfriend to come along and plans to pay for everything, including a hotel room with two beds they will share. I have said repeatedly that this vacation and the arrangements are a deal breaker for me. She assures me that her intent is to be with her daughters and she has no desire for intimacy with her ex. She refuses to change her mind and says I need to trust her. The fact is, I don't trust HIM based on his actions and many issues between them in the past.

Am I paranoid or obsessing over this? I'd appreciate your input. — UNEASY DOWN SOUTH

DEAR UNEASY: You are neither obsessing nor paranoid. You are normal. Because the ex seems intent on breaking you up and he seems to have no girlfriend in the picture, you have a right to feel uneasy. (I'm assuming that your lady friend is physically fit and if necessary she could defend her virtue.)

Questions that occur to me are: Why would she want to go away for a long "family" weekend under these circumstances? Why would she insist on it even though she knows it bothers the man with whom she has a relationship? And why, after informing her that this will be a deal breaker — which is an ultimatum — are you tolerating it?

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl about to head off to college. I have a great relationship with my father, but my mother and I are not on the best of terms.

Half the time, she's loving and supportive and willing to spend time with me. Other

times, she is verbally and emotionally abusive. She'll call me a failure and a disappointment, and cry for no reason (most likely to get attention).

She has done this since my childhood, and I want to escape her toxicity by shutting her out of my life as an adult. However, she has threatened suicide (she has tried it before).

My father is on her side and says he will refuse contact with me if I disown her. I want to keep them both in my life, but it has become too difficult to endure her abuse anymore. Please help. — COLLEGE BOUND IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR COLLEGE BOUND: You're an intelligent young woman. I'm sure that by now you have realized that your mother has serious emotional issues for which one can only hope she is receiving professional help.

When you leave for college, you will no longer be subjected to her mood swings or the hurtful comments she makes when she's not herself. Once you have completed your education you will be on your own, and will most likely make a life for yourself wherever your profession takes you. It isn't necessary to make any decisions about cutting anyone out of your life now. Time will take care of your problem.

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.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Cancer and a Moon in Aries if born before 3:40 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015:

This year you open up to fast changes and more excitement. You never seem to know what is going to happen next. Your public image will be far more important than it has been in the past, and you will open up to new opportunities. Success comes from your diligence. If you are single, you will meet someone who could make a big difference to your life. You won't need to work on getting to know this person; it will happen naturally. If you are attached, the two of you often are seen out and about. You likely share not only the same group of friends, but a mutual hobby as well. TAURUS often grounds you when you are emotional.

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)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward, and remain optimistic. A challenging associate who tends to have a bit of an attitude is not news to you. Express that you are making solid choices, and also be flexible with a changing situation. Tonight: Be more forthright about shared funds.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could feel a bit out of sorts as you try to switch gears. Keep your mind on what you need to do in order to manifest more of your desires. Don't hesitate to throw your thoughts and feelings into the mix. Tonight: Let your mind relax to a good movie.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Use the earlier part of the day for a heartfelt pleasure. Someone will manifest more of what you want. Listen to what you are hearing, but understand that you don't need to internalize it. A request from a friend could make you feel uncomfortable. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You are on top of your game, and others seem to understand that you know what you are doing. Your actions are likely to be greeted with success. Listen to what is being shared. You will be much happier with more support. Tonight: Touch base with a loved one.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Remain upbeat. How you visualize a

situation might be much different from how others see it. You come from a different space and are able to detach from the here and now. As a result, your perspective is unique. Return messages early in the day. Tonight: Mosey on home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could be looking at making a major change. Travel might be on the horizon. Your perspective is likely to change if you decide to visit far-off places. You also will be able to accept others' differences more easily. Tonight: Try something totally new.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating continues to be the way to go. You might feel as if there is a major difference in opinion regarding what goes on. Listen to needed feedback from someone you respect. Do more to stay on top of a personal matter. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be tired and withdrawn. You might not be sure which direction you should head in. Understand what makes this a different situation, and allow someone you respect to run it. You will achieve a lot more than you originally thought possible. Tonight: Where people are.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Others find you to be irresistible and full of fun. At some point, you will realize that you have forgotten to run an important errand. Once you shift gears, you will make this a priority. You might want to wait several days to negotiate a money matter. Tonight: Ever playful.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation more carefully in order to move forward. Someone you care about enormously will let you know where he or she is coming from. Think carefully before you act; you will find a better way to get where you need to go. Tonight: Happy at home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

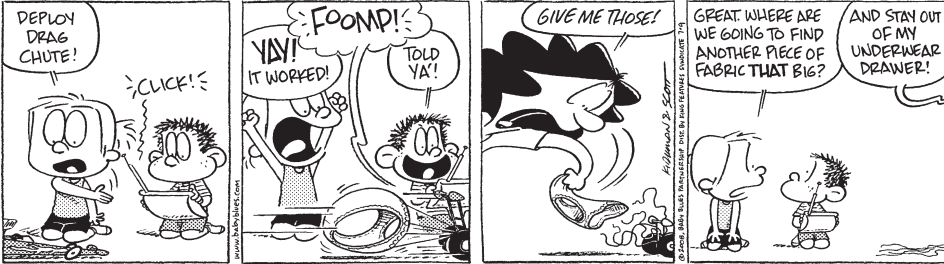
★★★★ You'll want to do something in a simpler way than you have in the past. Make calls and be brief in how you deal with others. You could feel a bit intimidated by a situation. You might be up for a change of pace. Deal with a personal matter as soon as possible. Tonight: Make it cozy.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

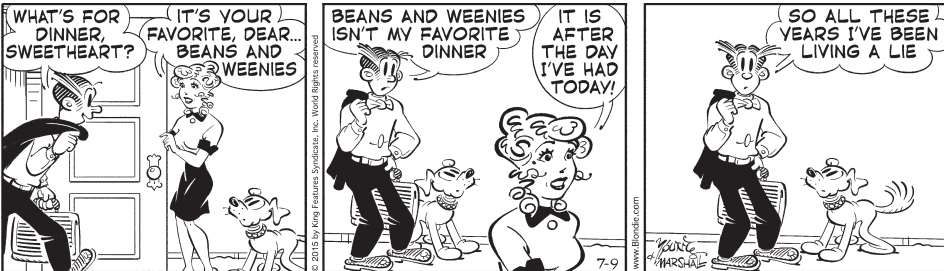
★★★★ Keep a conversation moving, and remain sure of yourself. Your ability to get past a problem emerges. Do your best to stay centered. Money matters could be more positive than you thought they would be. Be ready to negotiate. Tonight: Catch up on some gossip.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

