

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



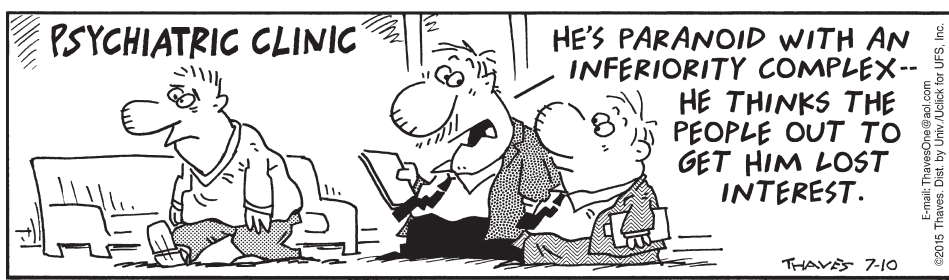
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



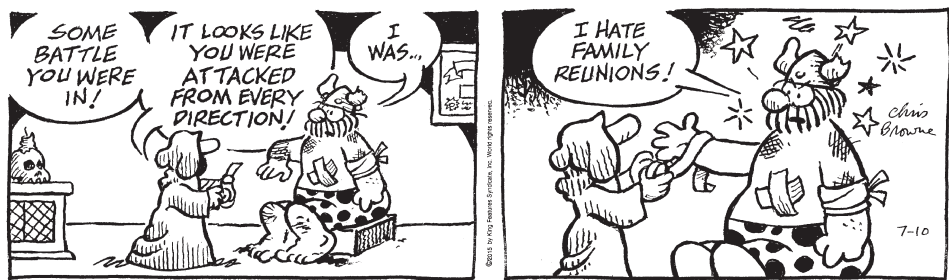
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



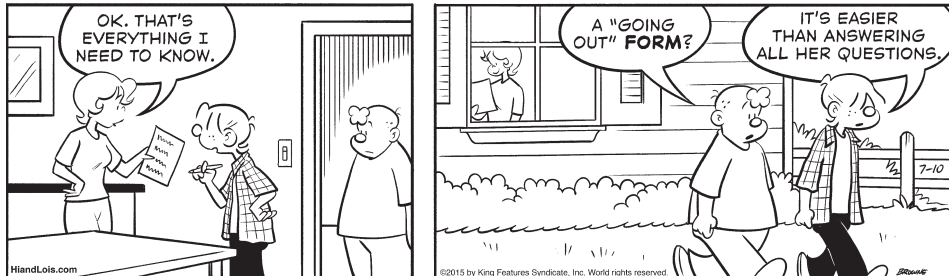
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



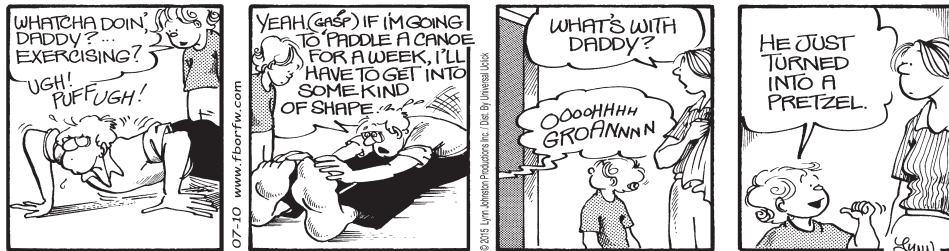
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



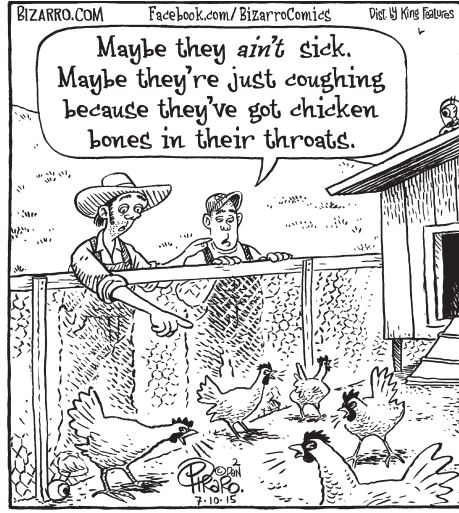
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Mom Regrets She Has Stayed In Abusive Marriage Too Long

DEAR ABBY: How do I forgive myself for staying with my husband "for the sake of the kids" and because I was afraid of him? Our children are teenagers now and both suffer from low self-esteem and depression. We lived far away from any family while they were growing up, and I was financially dependent and scared. I realize now that it wasn't the right thing to do.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

My husband is trying to do better, but the damage is done. The relationship between our children and their dad is very strained. I don't know how to move forward. Any advice? — IN PAIN IN WISCONSIN

DEAR IN PAIN: A way for your children to heal some of the damage your husband has caused would be for you to arrange for them to talk with a licensed family counselor. A way for you to move forward would be to find a job, take your kids and live apart from your abuser. If you haven't already done that, and you are still afraid he might be violent, then you should contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org, 800-799-7233) and ask for help in formulating an escape plan.

DEAR ABBY: Because I'm unemployed, I am currently living with my parents. I am 40, but my mother treats me as if I am an 8-year-old boy. Among other things, she forbids me to leave the house without her permission and considers my room to be a mess she must clean if even a single book is out of place on my desk. I believe my mother has obsessive-compulsive disorder. I have told her this and recommended she get herself evaluated. She refuses to listen, even after I gave her a month's worth of examples illustrating which of her actions meet the criteria.

I want to remain sane as I try to find employment and a way out of her house. Have you any suggestions? — GOING MAD IN SOUTH DAKOTA
DEAR GOING MAD: As an adult, you should not have to ask anyone's permission to leave the house. It's time for a man-to-man talk with your father. What does HE think of this? Has your mother always been this way? While

you're talking with him, bring up the fact that she is showing signs of OCD and see if he can convince her to be evaluated. If she does have it, there are treatments for it and it might greatly benefit their marriage, as well as your relationship with your mother.

DEAR ABBY: My two sons are 30 and 31. Both are married with families of their own. My husband has been their stepdad for 20 years, and a very good one.

Neither of my boys ever remembers their stepdad on his birthday. When I ask why, they say, "Oh, Mom, I'm really bad at remembering stuff like that." Well, this year I intend to "forget" THEIR birthdays so they — and their wives — will know how it feels to be forgotten.

Do you think I'm being petty? I think that at their ages, it's time they took responsibility for themselves. —

ON THEIR CASE IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ON THEIR CASE: I have a better idea. Ask your sons to program your husband's birthday into their electronic devices. With today's technology it is easier than ever to get a reminder about important events. Their wives might thank you for it, because if the "boys" forget their stepdad's birthday, there's a good chance they forget other important days — like their anniversaries or their wives' birthdays, too.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015:

This year you express some of your mental ramblings and desires. The possibility of traveling to a foreign country emerges. You won't always have an opportunity like this one, so act accordingly. If you are single, anytime from summer on, someone quite significant to your life could introduce him- or herself. How important this bond becomes will be determined by you. If you are attached, you will find that your sweetie seems to be changing right in front of your eyes. Know that this is a process — what you see now might not be what you see later. Go with the flow. TAURUS often proves his or her friendship with 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 could be taken aback by a situation that is changeable and somewhat touchy. Use your sixth sense with a money matter that is extremely important to you. Be aware that you might need to allot some social time for your friends. Tonight: Invite loved ones to join you.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ A friend or work associate will play a strong role in making plans for a short getaway. When you hear this person's ideas, you might realize that you are not on board. Revise your plans while you can. Be more direct with someone at a distance. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ It might be wise to pull back and understand what has to happen in order to make your life work appropriately. A conversation with a loved one will allow you to open up to a novel idea. Nearly anything could become possible. Tonight: Add some mystery to your image.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Be more detailed in your description of what you want. Somehow, you see situations differently from how others see them. Be sure to ask for more feedback, as you easily could make a mistake. A partner who has been difficult might loosen up. Tonight: TGIF!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might be focused on the coming weekend and opting for a more leisurely few days than what you have had in the recent past. Taking

time off will help you deal more effectively with others. Use this period to reflect on what you want from someone. Tonight: Schedule a massage.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ If you can, take off early and head to your favorite weekend spot. You might enjoy yourself much more than you realize. You have a way about you that draws a lot of attention, especially when you are out of your immediate circle. Tonight: Go for something exotic.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might decide to do something differently from how you have done it in the past. Follow through on your feelings; you will find that your plans become invigorated as a result. A friend has an unusual way of demonstrating his or her caring. Tonight: Add some romance.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might consider taking some time off from your usual style. You are likely to enjoy making plans and getting together with others. All you have to do is go along for the ride. Letting go of a need for control is good for you, though it could be difficult. Tonight: Say "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You will discover that you have little choice but to put up your feet and relax. You might try to stir up some fun; however, unless it fits into your normal routine, you could find yourself all alone. Someone you care about will appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Friday night rituals.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Whatever you touch has an element of creativity. A loved one might distance him- or herself, as he or she might not be used to seeing you in this manner. You could find that your feelings are changing about a friend. Tonight: Make amends rather than create an uproar.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You will be focused on a personal matter. Dealing with a family member could be somewhat difficult, and it might take all you've got to make it work. Your feelings could be changing about this situation, especially if you can detach. Tonight: Invite friends over.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

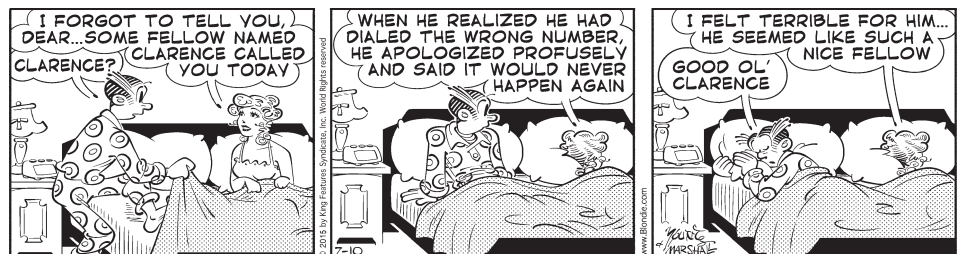
★★★★ A friend might be quite rigid. Be more laid-back and observant when it comes to this person. Know that you cannot change anyone but yourself and your reactions. Tap into your imagination when speaking with a child or new friend. Tonight: Let it all happen.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

