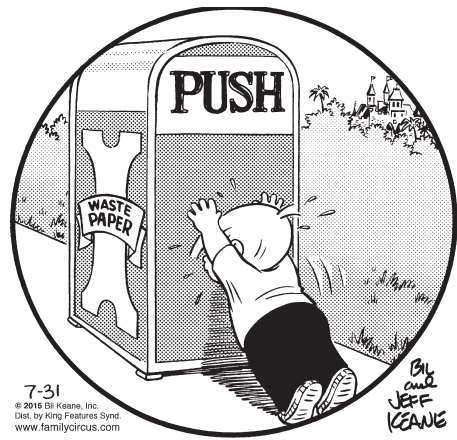


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



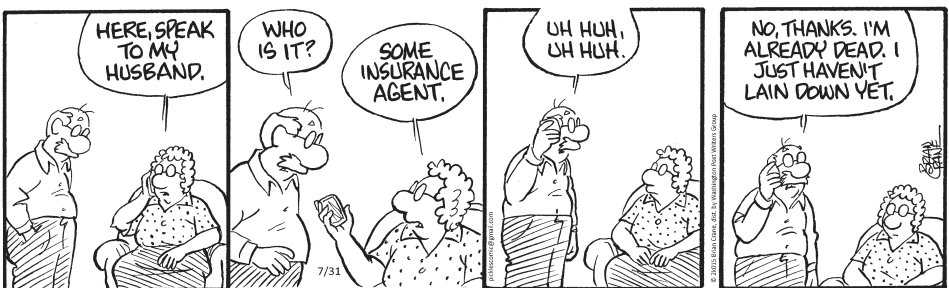
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



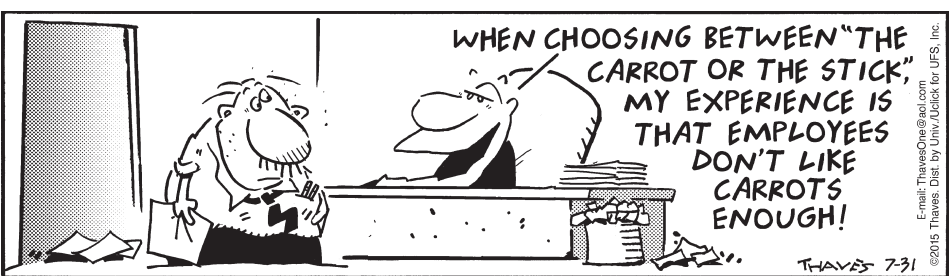
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



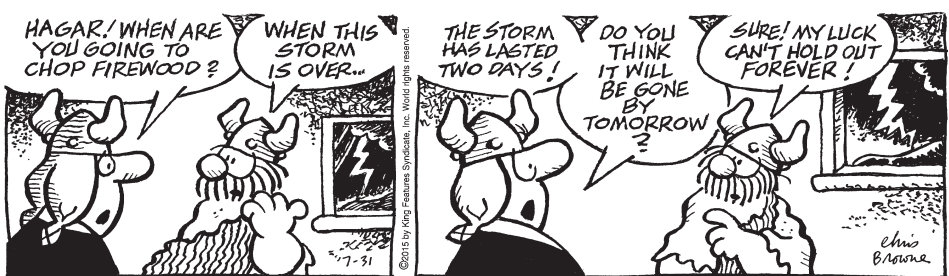
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



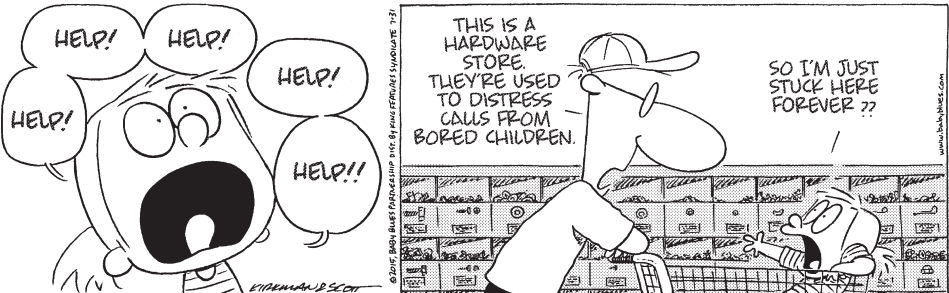
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



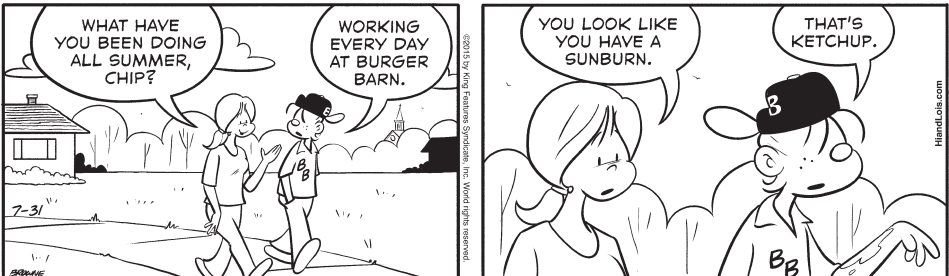
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



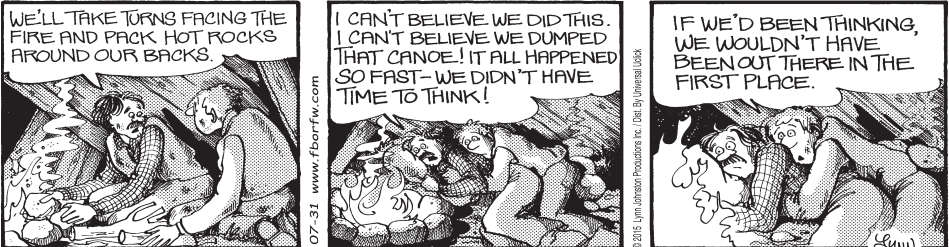
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Boyfriend Reveals That His Soul Mate Died Years Ago

DEAR ABBY: I have been close to my best friend for three years. A year ago we decided to date. We have a wonderful relationship on almost every level. The only issue I have is that he's reluctant to open up about his past. He is a very private person, and I know it's because of his upbringing. This has sparked many debates between us that have ended less than pleasantly.

Recently, he did open up, and when he did, he dropped a bomb. He asked me if I believed in soul mates, and I said yes. Then he told me about how in his past there was a girl he loved very much. Sadly, she died. He said he sees this girl as his soul mate, but he doesn't think it lessens any of his love for me.

This was the first time he opened up to me. Now that it has sunk in, I'm hurt. I already have self-confidence issues, and I worry that since I am not her, I'm not enough. I can't live up to a dead woman.

I always thought I could change his closed ways, but now, knowing the cause, I fear there is nothing I can do to help him. Maybe he's just too messed up for me. I don't know what to do. Can someone have two soul mates? — NOT HIS SOUL MATE

DEAR NOT HIS SOUL MATE: Please do not allow your self-confidence issues to ruin your relationship, because from where I sit, it appears you're looking for a way to push this man away. So what if he had a romance that ended tragically? She's dead — gone! And you're very much alive. Stop competing with her.

If there is one thing I have learned, it is that we cannot change other people. He doesn't need your help; he needs someone who will accept him the way he is and love him for it.

DEAR ABBY: I am the treasurer for my high school's upcoming 50th reunion. My senior class was large — more than 550 students. My problem is, 280 students have

not responded to our monthly emails or newsletters.

It takes a lot of time and effort to put on a reunion. We have been working on it for two years. I realize some classmates hated their senior year. Not all of us had a perfect time. But would you remind people that a simple

yes or no works well?

Frankly, I don't know why anyone would say no, unless medical or financial issues prevented them from attending. I don't look like I did at 18, and neither does anyone else. The clique clubs are gone, and the captain of the football team looks just like any other guy. Can you comment? — READY FOR THE REUNION

DEAR READY: Yes. There may be other reasons why some graduates don't wish to attend their high school reunion. They live far away, or there is no one they particularly want to see.

Rather than work yourself into a lather, in your next communication to the graduates, specify that only those who have responded to the invitation can be accommodated "because the committee is making arrangements for which they need an exact head count." If you don't hear from someone, do not plan on seeing him or her.

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.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Leo and a Moon in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015:

This year you can identify with both sides of an argument. You often see the pros and cons of a situation. Instead of falling into one camp or the other, why not just look at how you can bring the two sides together? At the core, the issue is the same. If you are single, your magnetism draws many people to you. Though you have many potential suitors, you might want to date more than commit. If you are attached, you often do not see eye to eye with your sweetie. Remember that you are with the one you love. Don't allow the details of the moment to distract you. AQUARIUS always makes a great 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)

***** A friend could trigger a lot of excitement with the full expectation of you joining in. A conflict might arise from out of the blue. The implication is that you'll need to make a choice, but that's not true — you just need to ride the wave of the moment. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** You might become more withdrawn the more someone makes demands. You see a personal matter very differently from how a boss sees it. Don't try to resolve this conflict; instead, think in terms of keeping the peace. Tonight: Join friends for a fun happening.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** Reach out to someone you care about. You might want to make plans to see each other soon. Know your limits. Count on being flooded with chatter and invitations. Realize that there are worse things. Tonight: Be careful about making plans, as you might want to change them.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

***** You might be a lot more in touch with what you need from a certain situation than you realize. Your financial savvy will be tested to the max. You have the wherewithal to handle a problem. Remain secure and sure of yourself. Tonight: Be ready for some tumultuous moments.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

***** Before you even can make a sugges-

tion, others will come forward with theirs. You might be overwhelmed when weighing the choices that are presented. You will see a personal matter differently from how a loved one sees it. Tonight: Juggle your needs with someone else's.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

***** You might be permitting all the recent stress to weigh you down. In fact, today probably would be the perfect day to relax and ask for something you want. You see life from a new perspective. Curb any negativity. Tonight: Make yourself unavailable.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

***** You might want to reconsider the possibilities surrounding a personal situation. A loved one might play a bigger part in your plans than you originally had thought. Don't overthink the situation, just relax and expect to be pulled in different directions. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

***** You have a lot of ground to cover, and many people seem to need your time. A family member could become quite demanding. Be willing to ask for more of what you want, but know that this person is not used to you making such requests. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

***** You might know what to do with a difficult loved one, whereas others seem to flounder. Your ability to communicate with this person is excellent at the present moment. Honor a change of pace if need be. Tonight: Take a walk or head to the gym for some exercise.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

*** Curb an innate possessiveness. It appears as though you might not be as secure about a situation as you would like to be. Relax and touch base with a loved one who has similar needs as you. The conversation that ensues could be very helpful. Tonight: Let someone else treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

***** The Full Moon accentuates what you have to offer. You could be stressed out by the sudden attention. A conversation with a friend or associate is likely to present a unique perspective. Tonight: Express your caring in a way that others will understand.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

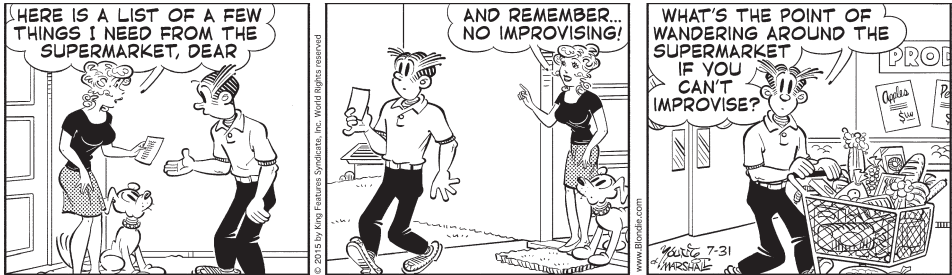
***** You might be overly tired and stressed out. How you set up a situation will be based on what you hear and not on what is really said. You might not even be aware of the difference yet. A smile from you helps others relax. Tonight: Be mysterious. Do your thing.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

