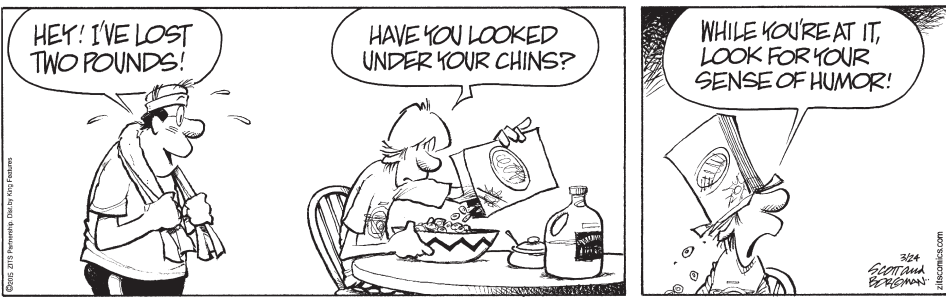


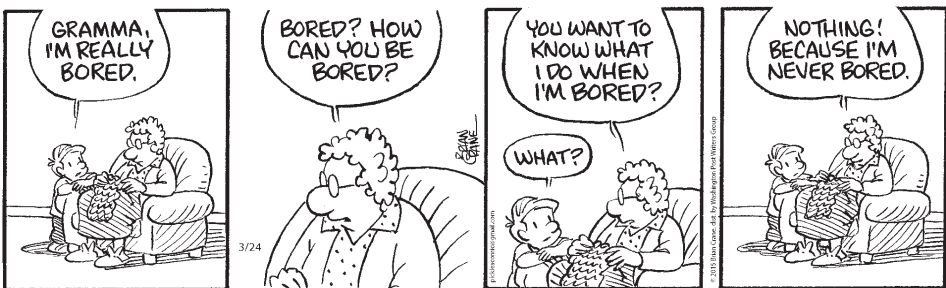
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



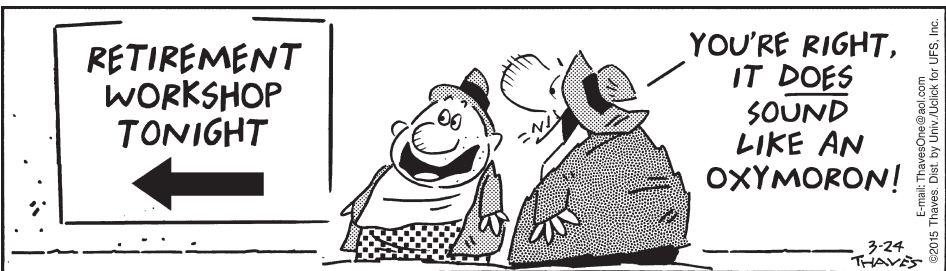
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



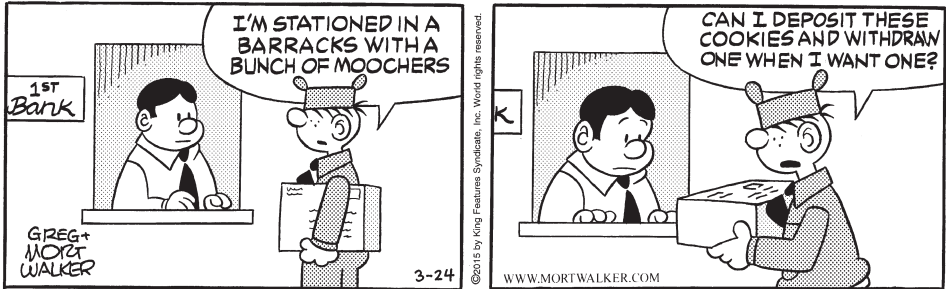
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



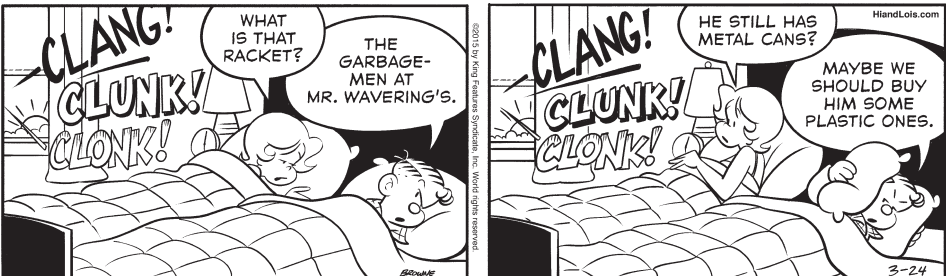
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



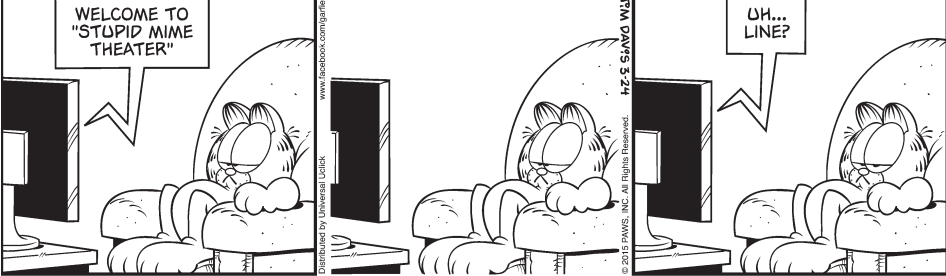
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Mom With Breast Cancer Does Not Need Shielding From Life

DEAR ABBY: My wife has stage 4 breast cancer. She is only 51, and our most optimistic prognosis is three to four more years. Our children, 15 and 16, understand her disease, but don't really have a sense of how much longer we all have together.

Recently we went out to dinner, and the kids started talking about my retirement plans and their college plans. Later that night, my wife told me how sad it was hearing the kids talk about things she knows she will never see.

I have been debating whether I should have a talk with the kids and perhaps suggest they avoid subjects that make their mother sad. What do you think? — NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

DEAR NOT TALKING: Before talking to your children, I think you should talk to your wife. Although your instinct is to protect her, I don't think you can. Sadness in her situation is normal. I'm sure if you were to ask her if she'd prefer the kids censor their remarks in front of her, she would tell you she wants to hear everything she can about what they are thinking.

When people have a terminal illness, they have a right to be sad when contemplating the things they will be missing — in your wife's case it will be seeing her children get married, her grandchildren and more. Let your children express themselves fully with their mother, and if she's having a bad/sad day, listen and let her unburden herself. A joy shared is twice a joy, and a burden shared is half a burden.

DEAR ABBY: As a gift, my boyfriend, "Seth," gave me a Chihuahua puppy. I like dogs, but have never expressed a desire to have one. In fact, I have repeatedly mentioned my dislike for small dogs and that I wouldn't have a dog due to my travel schedule for work. I'd have to pay for food, veterinary care, toys, boarding, etc., and the dog would be alone in my apartment all day

while I'm at the office.

Seth still chose to give me one. When I refused his gift, he yelled and left. My friends think I was rude, and that Seth was sweet for buying me a puppy. I tried explaining to them, but they were sarcastic and mean about my decision not to accept the dog.

This isn't the first time something like this has happened with Seth. For my birthday he bought me a smartphone, signed me up for a two-year contract and expected me to pay the monthly bill. I refused that, too. Am I wrong? — SIMPLE GIRL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SIMPLE GIRL: You and Seth appear to have a serious disconnect when it comes to communication. Is this the only area of your relationship in which he is tone-deaf? Your boyfriend seems to be the master of the "grand gesture," with no thought about the responsibilities his generous gifts will impose on the recipient.

Because you told him clearly that you dislike small dogs, he should not have forced one on you. In fact, he shouldn't have given you any living, breathing dependent creature without first having made sure it would be welcomed. You did the right thing — the humane thing — in not accepting the animal.

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.

A baby born today has a Sun in Aries and a Moon in Taurus if born before 9:07 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015:

This year you open up to more opinions, animated discussions and new systems of thought. As a result, your perspective on life is likely to change. You might want to update certain facets of your life. Be aware of how these transformations could affect others. If you are single, the person you meet today most likely will not be suitable in a year from now. Be open to dating, and you are likely to meet someone who could be important to your life history. If you are attached, the two of you revitalize your relationship. Your sweetie most likely will embrace the new vitality that seems to emanate from you. GEMINI is always a fun personality.

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 conversation will refresh your thinking and support your end goal. Someone you know might put down your thoughts and ideas. Don't engage this person in a discussion, because then it could become a bigger issue than it really is. Tonight: Discuss what is being said.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ A situation will evoke strong feelings; what you do with them will be up to you. Some of you might be subtle and sensitive, whereas others could be blunt or coy. Manifest a long-term goal through visualization. Tonight: Trust your abilities with a challenging situation.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You might have felt less than great upon waking up, but you'll change that scenario quickly. You tend to express what is best in you, no matter what you're up to. Use caution with bosses and anyone else whom you must answer to. Tonight: A whirlwind of energy.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might have little choice but to take a step back. Discomfort could emerge because of the role you must play. Use your imagination and create more of what you want. Listen to feedback, but know that you must follow your gut. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Touch base with friends before you

launch into action. Some of you might be involved in a special event or project. Your flexibility will be remarkable and could prove to be a source of inspiration. Tonight: Go to a jam session, or meet friends for munchies.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might have a problem with a parent or boss. When it comes to dealing with this person, understand that it is either his or her way or the highway. Depending on what you desire as the outcome, you'll have to decide the right approach. Tonight: Be less available.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Let your mind drift to other people and places. Doing so will allow you to relax and gain a new perspective. How you handle a loved one who keeps interrupting this process could be more important than you realize. Tonight: Put on some great music, or go for a walk.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Someone whom you are close to might express him- or herself in a fun and witty way, which will make you lighten up and laugh. You might have to increase your tolerance level in order to deal happily with this type of exuberant personality. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You know you are off-kilter right now. Deal with what seems like an unending onslaught of people asking you for favors. You might not lose your temper, but no one would be surprised to find you in an icy, distant mood. Tap into your creativity for answers. Tonight: Chill out.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ An associate will encourage you to share your thoughts and become more a part of the dialogue. Use your sixth sense with a friend who might be touchy. Know that you probably aren't ready to let others know how intuitive you are. Tonight: Reveal more of your zany side.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

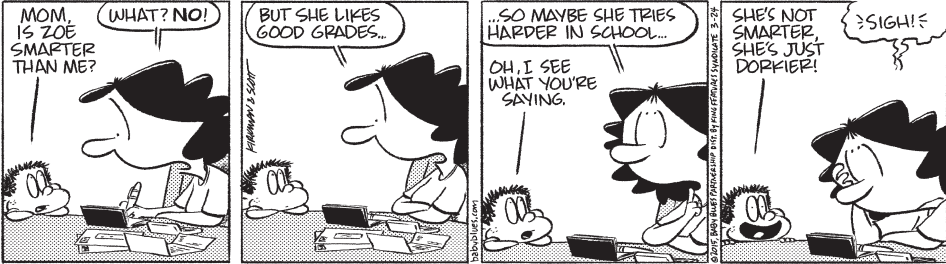
★★★★★ At times you are able to break down walls and get past others' limitations. Right now, your ability to cross age and gender barriers will help you to present a different perspective. Reach out to a friend who could be distancing him- or herself. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could feel a little more down or burdened than you usually do. Take a few days off and plan a vacation at home. Try not to answer the phone; instead, go off and do exactly what you want. Pressure builds because of a parent or loved one. Tonight: Out to dinner.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

