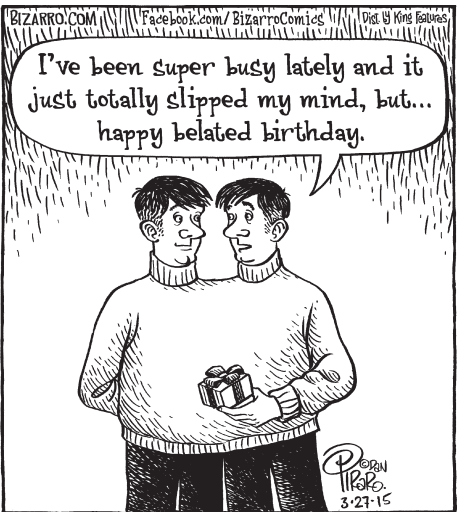


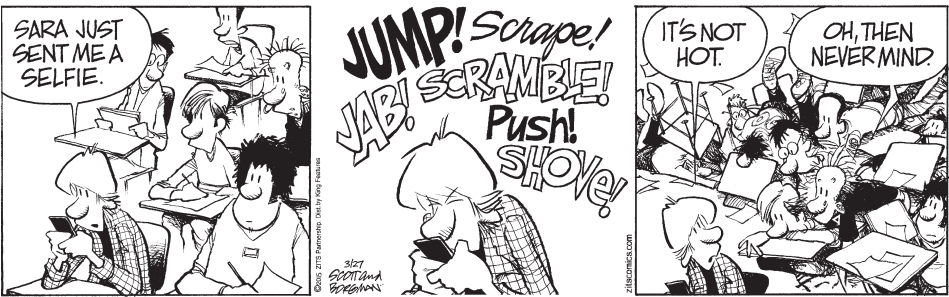
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



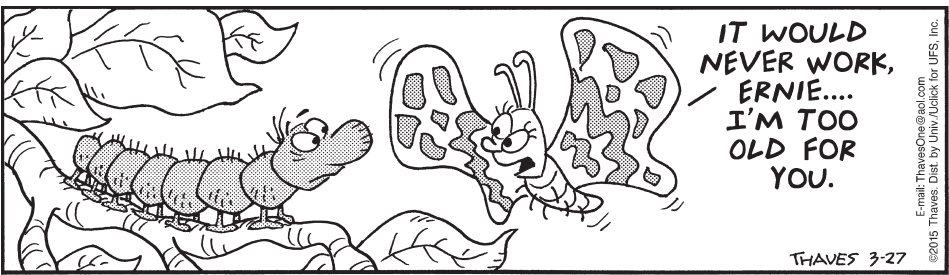
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



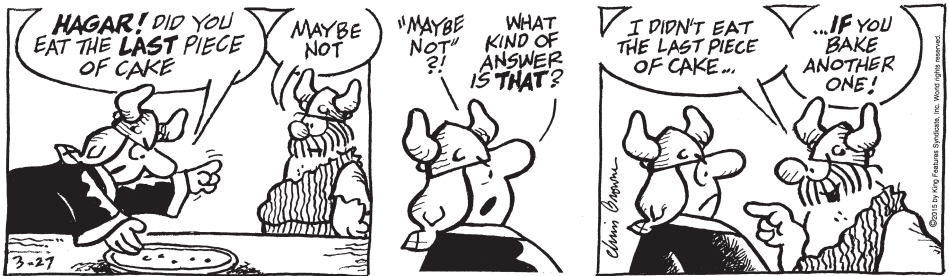
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



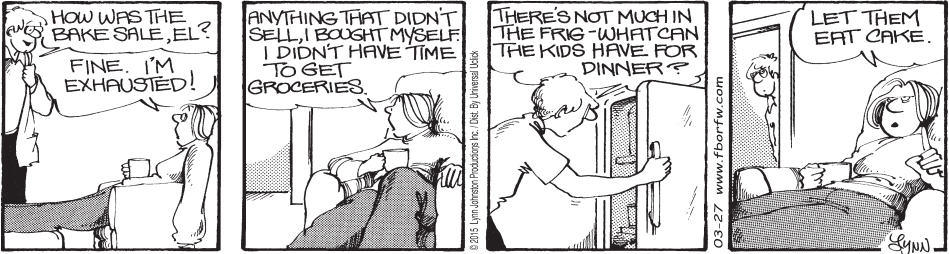
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



# The Time Has Come To End Sisters' Four-Year Silence

DEAR ABBY: I have been estranged from my sister for four years. She lives across the country, so it hasn't been difficult to hold a grudge. Either because I'm turning 50 this year, or maybe it's old-fashioned guilt, I have been feeling the right thing to do is to make amends.

My question is — how? Should I write a letter, send an email or call her? To be honest, if she made those efforts to me, I would rebut them. The two of us are similar, so what would be a good way to bridge the conflict? — HARD-HEADED HAWAIIAN

DEAR H.H.H.: If you call your sister, her knee-jerk reaction might be to hang up. If you email her, it's too easy to hit "delete."

Write her a letter. Tell her you love her, miss her and are sorry for the estrangement. If there is something you need to apologize for, do it in the letter. Wait a week, then give her a call.

If she is as similar to you as you think, she may be as glad to hear your voice as you will be to hear hers. And if she's not, your conscience will be clear because you tried.

DEAR ABBY: For the past few years, my mother, with whom I spend my birthday every year, has gotten into the habit of buying my birthday presents the day of. She waits until my birthday day, then buys them in a rush all at one store or suggests we go shopping together. She's not stingy on price. In fact, she tends to spend more than I think she should.

What bothers me is she makes no effort to prepare a gift in advance and just asks me then and there what I want. She also often buys me a number of things I didn't ask for.

The last thing I want to do on my birthday is go shopping. It has made me increasingly less excited about my birthday each year. How do I explain to her without sounding ungrateful that I'd rather receive one thoughtful present than a lot of expensive ones? — DOWN ON BIRTHDAYS IN HOUSTON

DEAR DOWN ON BIRTHDAYS: Excuse me, but you DO sound ungrateful. Your mother

may not be as emotionally invested in birthday celebrations as you are. Or, she may do this because she wants to ensure that you have gifts for your birthday you can actually use.

Rather than criticize her generosity, why not mention in the weeks before your birthday what you might like to have? If you do, it might save her some money and you some frustration.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married soon, and I have an enormous fear that I need some help with. I can't dance. At all. I took some lessons, but I have no sense of rhythm. Although I tell people I can't and won't dance, inevitably some guy has a little too much to drink and tries to drag me to the dance floor.

My husband dances and I encourage him to have a good time, but if he's dancing and I'm sitting alone, someone is sure to ask me. Please help me with a good comeback or a little white lie to keep me off the dance floor! — CAN'T DANCE IN COLORADO

DEAR CAN'T DANCE: I suppose the most common little white lie would be to plead a sprained ankle. But a more honest reply would be to thank the person and say you prefer not to because you're not comfortable on the dance floor. Said with a smile, it shouldn't offend anybody, even if he has had a few.

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](http://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 Aries and a Moon in Cancer.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015:

This year you and others often have many discussions, yet you might fully understand each other's ideas. Some of you could be signing up for workshops with an eye to better self-expression. You have a tendency to daydream at times. You find these short escapes relaxing and stimulating to your imagination. If you are single, fall could bring an intriguing suitor. Get ready! You will remember this person for a long time. If you are attached, the two of you will experience a relationship pinnacle as the weather becomes colder. Plan a special, long-discussed vacation during this period. CAN-CER can be emotionally draining.

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'll want to look at the big picture and consider your options. A sense of discomfort might be slowing you down. It would be wise to take your time before making a decision. Your instincts are right-on with an emotional domestic matter. Tonight: Get carried away!

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ At first, an idea might not seem realistic, but the more you discuss it, the more plausible it will seem. Work as a team, and you'll increase your chances for success. Someone at a distance might be controlling. Let this person take the reins for now. Tonight: Try a new spot with a friend.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Your ability to tap into your intellect will make you appear more grounded. The unexpected could cause a change in your plans. Take a moderate risk. A partner or associate will be maintaining his or her control over a situation. Tonight: Make it your treat.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You beam and bring others toward you. Try to work through some controlling issues that you seem to manifest. The only way to win a power play is not to play. Consider changing your schedule if you find that your daily life needs a little more excitement. Tonight: Early to bed.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Assume a low profile. A partner or loved

one might be very idealistic and could share a long-term desire with you. Have a discussion about how to make this goal a reality. Mull over this issue for several days, and you'll find a solution. Tonight: Happiest at home.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A meeting could prove to be instrumental in determining the path to a long-desired goal. Confirm that there are several ways to get there, and then take the one you are most comfortable with. A friend or loved one seems to be very idealistic about you. Tonight: TGIF!

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might feel unusually tense and need to reduce the stress. Make sure to schedule a little extra free time. Get some exercise or schedule a massage. Be sensitive to a partner, even if you and this person have very different ideas about how to have fun. Tonight: Let your hair down.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Understand someone's expectations, but realize that you might not want to meet them. How you tell this person that you don't want to get involved could make all the difference in your approach. Tonight: Listen to the other side of the issue.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Make time to relate directly to someone who makes a difference in your life. You might not be comfortable moving forward and clearing the air right now. In any case, stay on a one-on-one level with friends and loved ones. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Others can't seem to get enough of you. You'll want to consider canceling plans for the sole purpose of being able to let your hair down. A conversation could be uncomfortable at first, but you might be surprised by how good you feel afterward. Tonight: An intense discussion.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might want to make plans for several months ahead, but you could feel uncomfortable with a situation and the other parties involved. Go off and schedule a massage or some other type of stress-reducing activity, then address the issue. Tonight: Make it cozy.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

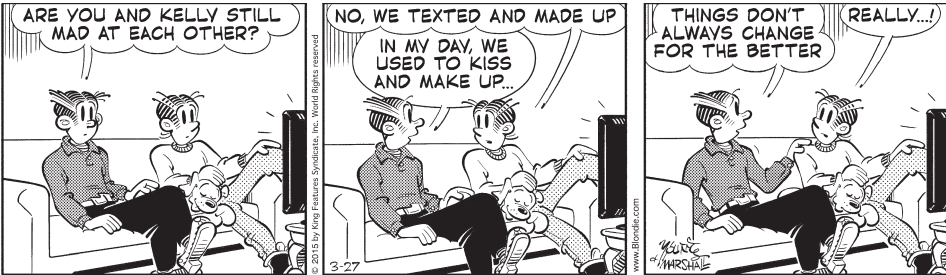
★★★★ Deal with others who want things to go their way. This attitude could cause a problem, especially if you are in the midst of a negotiation. Try to find some common ground. Let go of a need to be right. Tonight: Start the weekend with flair.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

