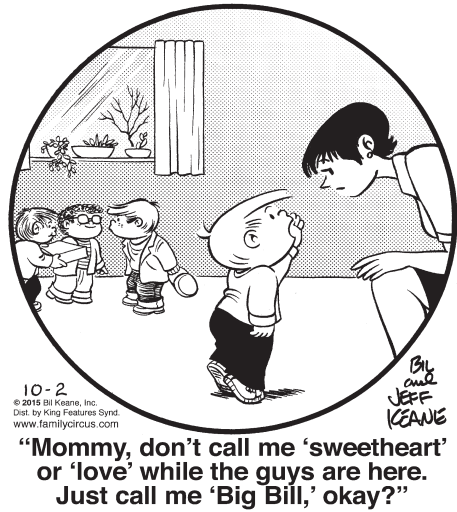
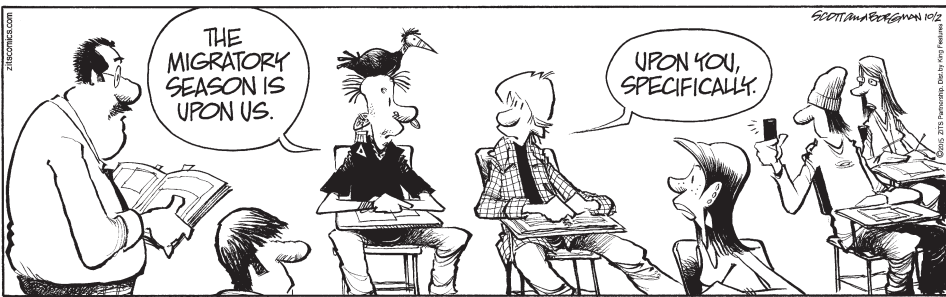


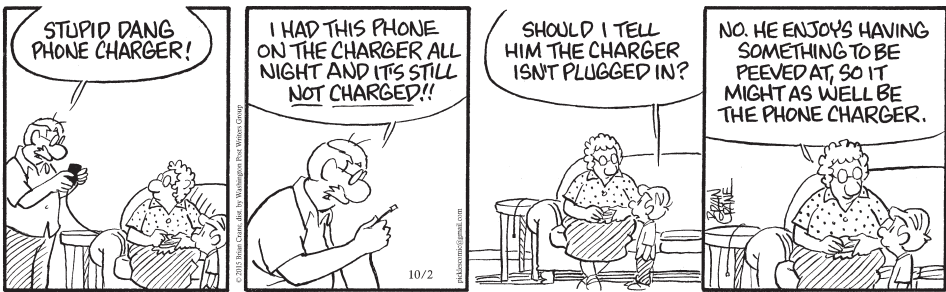
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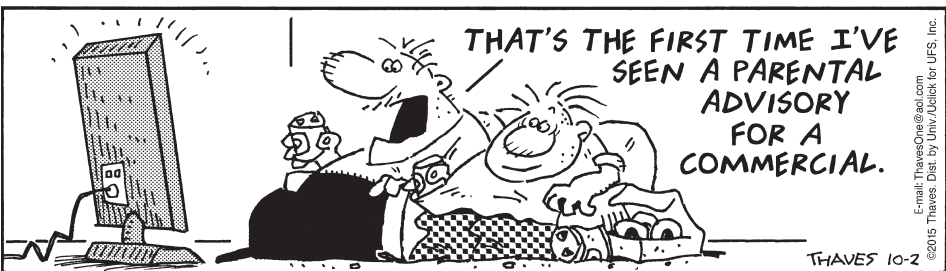
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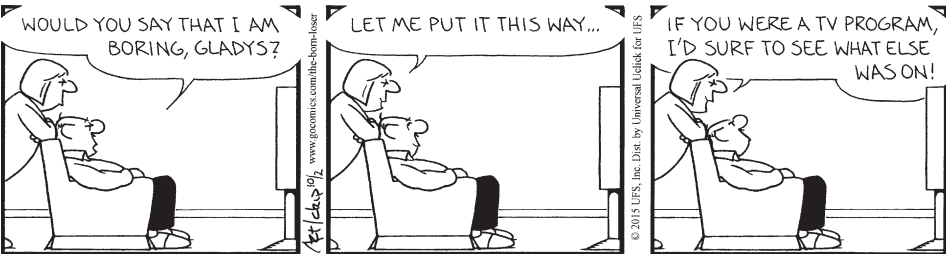
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



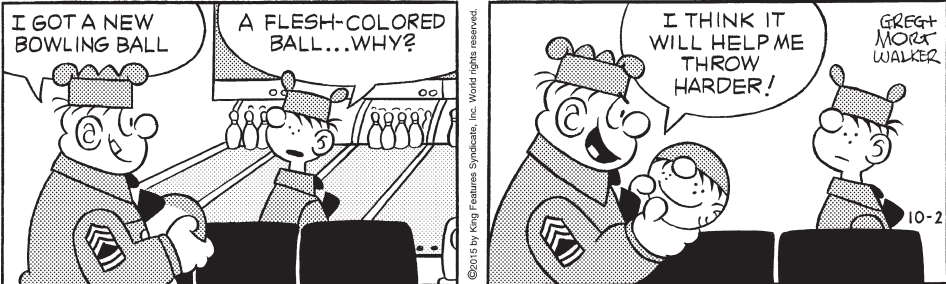
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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



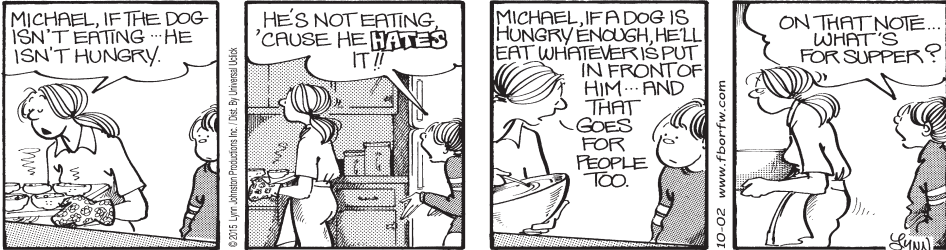
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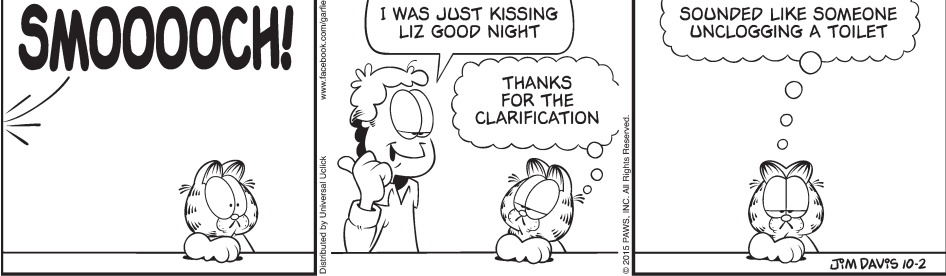
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Caregivers For Sick Pets Also Deserve Respite From Stress

DEAR ABBY: Our family dog recently passed away after a year-long decline. I had grown up with him. He had reached the point where he needed daily care for his body, even though his mind was 100 percent there. Near the end, things got very bad. I got only about four hours of broken sleep a night caring for him, and no one in the family would help me. During part of his daily care routine, he had a second accident all over the freshly cleaned floor. I lost it and hit him.

He's gone now, and I can barely live with myself. When I think about it, I get nauseated and dry-heave. I literally hate myself. In my book, exhaustion doesn't give anyone the right to do what I did. I'm old enough to know better. This makes me want to change my life plans and never have another pet or have children – just in case. Am I right? – LOWLIFE IN THE USA

DEAR "LOWLIFE": Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved furry friend. While what happened is regrettable, you are wrong to beat yourself up the way you are. There is something called "caregiver burnout," which I'm advising you to research. When caregivers are stressed and sleep-deprived, mental health advisers urge them to find respite care for their patient. Lack of sleep can cause people to react badly.

If your family had been more supportive and you had had proper rest, you probably would not have snapped. What happened does not mean you are doomed to repeat this with another pet or a child.

DEAR ABBY: I have a daughter-in-law I would like to get to know. "Karla" and my son have been married for four years. My dilemma is texting. Karla refuses to carry on conversations on the phone or in person. Everything has to be texted. When I have explained to her that I wanted to get to know her better and felt that texts were impersonal, she claimed that they are all she has

time for between working and taking care of the children.

I don't mind watching the children; I'd just like to know a day in advance unless it's an emergency. Abby, she is rude, disrespectful and treats me like a servant rather than a family member. Am I wrong to expect non-emergency things to be scheduled in advance, or is it acceptable to text and say, "Hey, I need you to watch the kids. Be here at noon?" – HURT FEELINGS

DEAR HURT FEELINGS: No, you're not wrong. The next time you receive a text like the one you quoted, send one back that says, "Not available then – need more warning. Ask sooner next time."

DEAR ABBY: I am blessed to be 70 years old and have few problems. Your column today got me wondering about something. You answered, "For Pete's sake..." to a question. I just wondered, who is Pete? I have heard the expression all my life and am just curious. – DALE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DALE: That's a good question, because I didn't know where the phrase came from either. "For Pete's sake" is a mild oath. According to my online research, it's a cleaned-up version of what was originally "For Christ's sake."

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 Libra and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 2015:

This year you seem to make the right choices, as you have the ability to detach from situations and imagine what it is like to be someone else. You will greet unusual success. If you are single, you could meet someone very different from you, who perhaps is from a different culture. Time is your ally; get to know this person better. If you are attached, the two of you might plan that special trip you both often speak about. Be willing to learn about other cultures and people. GEMINI amuses 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 have a lot of energy when it comes to communicating with others. You might want to clear out any details of the workweek or make plans for the next few days. You have a lot to say about your day-to-day life, but understand that it is subject to change. Tonight: Out and about.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might be worried, as your expenses seem to be soaring out of control. How you deal with a loved one could change once you gain a different perspective. You tend to go overboard when indulging someone. This person will love every moment. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Your hands are full, but fortunately you can process information quickly and come up with answers easily. Your smile will draw in someone closer. If you are single, use your innate charm well. Tonight: Wherever you are, trust that others are aware of your presence.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be in a situation that you would prefer not to be in. At the moment, try to detach and ride out the problem. You might be surprised by what comes up for you. At a certain point, you will feel as if you have had enough. Look for a better option. Tonight: Go for mystery!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You always make quite an impression, and today is no different. In a meeting, you'll show off your wit, intelligence and natural affinity for

people. Don't say "no" to an invitation that sounds too good to be true; it could go in your favor. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might feel pressured to take charge in your own way. You can do that, but be careful about creating much more work for yourself as a result. To pitch in one time is very different from having to do this same deed all the time. Be careful here. Tonight: The lead player.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ You might be at your wits' end and want to make a major change. Keep your eye on the long-term as well as the short-term effects of following through. You are more emotional than you realize. Follow your sixth sense -- it will point to the right choice. Tonight: All smiles.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ A conversation of depth between you and a loved one can't be escaped, and could be worthwhile. You might want to set the stage for this talk. Relax more, and ultimately you will be quite happy with the results. Tonight: Create the mood you want at a place you love.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be dealing with one or more key people in your life. A boss, though well-meaning, might create some uproar. Others seem to be rather touchy. Refuse to get involved, and go off and enjoy your weekend. A friend will lighten up the moment. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You have the ability to change your mind and head in a different direction. Your flexibility surprises people who look to you as an authority figure. Your self-confidence allows you to head down a different path from that which many others would choose. Tonight: Say what you feel.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Your playfulness will take you down a new path, but before you go too far, you might want to change direction. Is this where you really want to be? Make sure it is, because after a certain point, you won't be able to go back. A partner is very indulgent. Tonight: Be bohemian.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could feel tense around a domestic issue. You know what you want, so go for it! Are you aware of what you will need in order to deal with this issue? Think twice before you cause a rift right now. Be willing to listen to the other side. Tonight: Head home early.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

