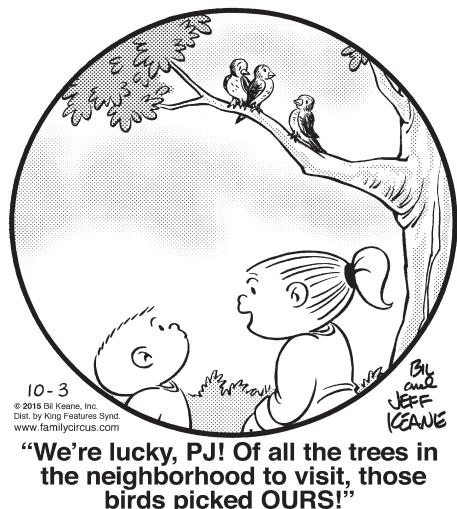


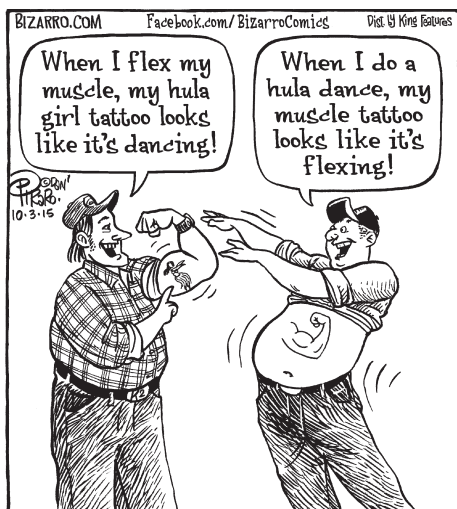
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



10-3
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'We're lucky, PJ! Of all the trees in the neighborhood to visit, those birds picked OURS!'

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



When I flex my muscle, my hula girl tattoo looks like it's dancing!
When I do a hula dance, my muscle tattoo looks like it's flexing!

Teen Becomes Tongue-Tied
When She Tries To Say Thanks

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl, and all my life I have had trouble accepting gifts, even inexpensive ones. I do believe it's the thought that counts, but I have trouble expressing gratitude.

An example: My brother was disappointed by my reaction when he got me soap shaped like a rock last Christmas. My smile was forced. I feel anxious when I get presents, no matter what they are.

I have started seeing someone, and I was planning to save up for a really nice present for him. But when he said he wanted to do the same, I felt uncomfortable. What's a great line I can use to express my gratitude - "I'm happy that you thought of me"? - SEARCHING FOR WORDS OUT WEST

DEAR SEARCHING FOR WORDS: Always say thank you. After that, you might express that the item is "beautiful" or that you like the style or the color. In a case like your brother's gift, you could have said, "Wow! This gift rocks!"

DEAR ABBY: I am 29, independent, single and have a steady job. I'm planning on going back to school to become a certified plumbing technician.

Here's the catch: I'm a woman, and because I'm female, some people make comments like, "You don't want to do that. It's working with other people's -!" Yes, this is really because I'm female.

I have tried explaining that plumbing doesn't just involve unclogging toilets and that I feel it's a good choice for me, but I still get these stupid comments. One woman in particular I work with won't stop trying to talk me out of it. I think it's my choice and she's being rude. Is there a polite way to convince her without being rude? - MS. PLUMBER IN LANCASTER, PENN.

DEAR MS. PLUMBER: Try this: "Plumbers make good money. Right now, I'm making

'this' much, but once I complete the course I'll be earning ( )" If that doesn't convince her, nothing will.

DEAR ABBY: Is there any hope for a man who refuses to turn off the TV during dinner? When I tell him dinner is on the table, he waits until it's cold and then continues to watch the program from the dinner table and ignore me. I have asked him to please turn off the TV during meals, but he won't.

He gobbles his food and doesn't close his mouth. Food drops out of the side of his mouth, and it's disgusting to see. Have you any suggestions? - OVER IT IN STOCKTON, CALIF.

DEAR OVER IT: Your husband's behavior is passive-aggressive, and I can't help but wonder what he's punishing you for. It's sad that he has such atrocious table manners and such little consideration for your feelings. I "suggest" you stop trying to serve him a hot meal, let him get his own food from the kitchen and eat it in front of the television when he's hungry, while you eat separately - preferably out with friends.

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.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

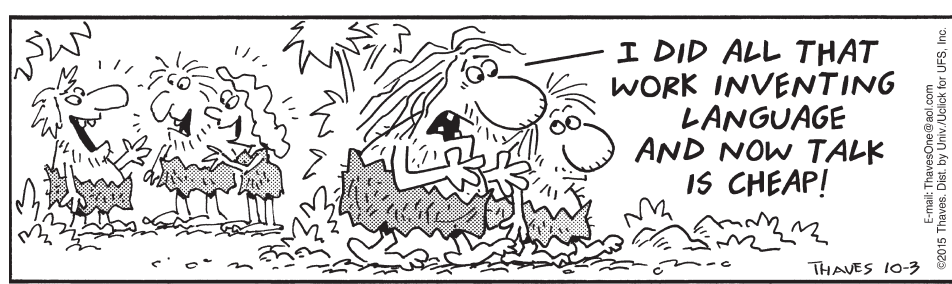
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



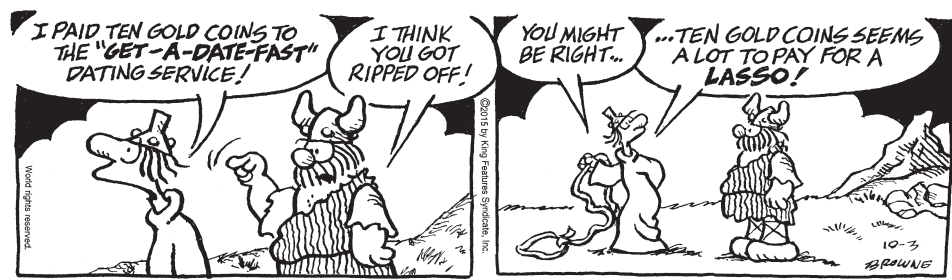
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



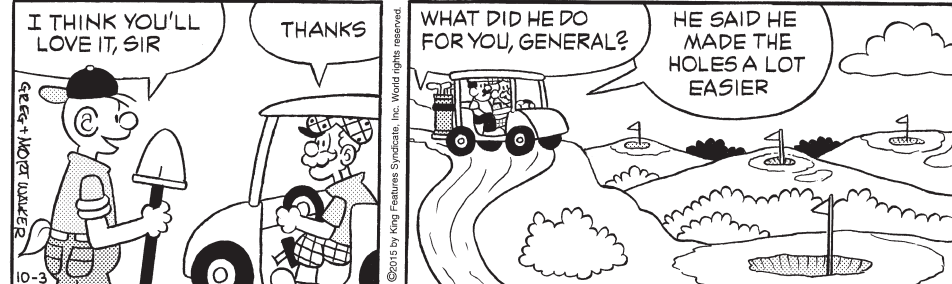
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



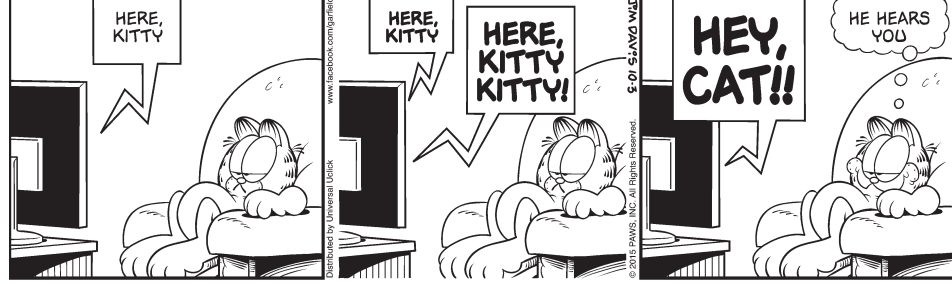
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 if born before 8:22 p.m. (EDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 2015:

This year you might want to break away often from your normal routine. When you do, you will gain a very different perspective. You will become more open to different lifestyles, and you even might want to become more knowledgeable about certain matters. If you are single, be discriminating until you really get to know the other person. If you are attached, the two of you have a similar need to explore different styles. Remember how important this person is to you. Be sure to express how much you value him or her frequently. CANCER can irritate you beyond belief.

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)
Clear out calls before making plans. At the same time, you might want to run some errands or handle a personal matter. Once you're free and clear, you might start acting like a carefree spirit. Enjoy catching up on everyone's news. Tonight: Be sensitive to a family member.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
You might be past the point of patience and ready to act. Go off and take a walk, rather than lose your patience. Once you are centered again, you will gain a substantial insight about the person you are dealing with. Tonight: Let a friend or roommate know how you feel.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Someone who cares about you could have difficulty keeping up with you. How you handle a personal matter might not meet this person's approval. Consider saying less. Open up to new possibilities with a partner who seems closed off. Tonight: Treat a favorite person to a fun time.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Indulging yourself usually translates to you doing something special for someone else. Stop and do something just for you. By the end of the day, the Moon will send you good vibes, extra energy and magnetism. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
You could be in a position of not know-

ing which way to go. Stop and ask yourself what it is you really want to do and whom you want to do it with. Plan accordingly. Take some much-needed personal time. You need to slow down sometimes. Tonight: Do your thing.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Check in with an older relative. This person might be unusually needy. Keep your cool and stick to your schedule, no matter what your plans are. Accept a last-minute invitation that could take you to a very fun happening. Tonight: Have fun with the people around you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)
One-on-one relating takes you down a new path that allows you to be more forthright and direct than you have been in a while. You'll finally understand where someone is coming from. You will enjoy yourself no matter what you do. Tonight: Others need you around.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)
Be willing to defer to someone else. One-on-one relating allows you to understand where a dear loved one is coming from. You could be tired of having the same conversation. Still, listen. Go with an innovative suggestion and witness the reaction. Tonight: Go for a goal.

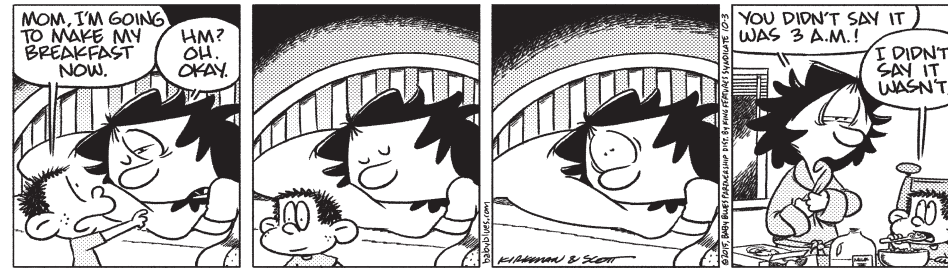
SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
Others seem more than ready to make plans and invite you along. Your independent side could become resentful, and you might decide on a solo adventure as a result. Go off on your own, but handle the invitations politely. Don't skip out on anyone. Tonight: Say "yes."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Opt for plans on your own. Don't feel the need to share your day's itinerary with others. You have some errands to run and your own agenda for the day. You don't need to explain yourself. Just go, do and be. Tonight: Make an effort toward a loved one or dear friend.

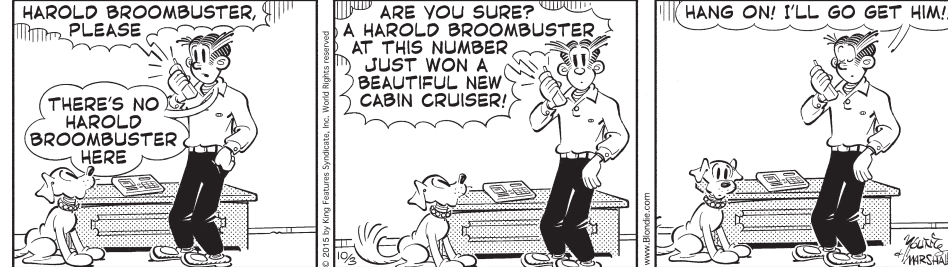
AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)
You might be sorry if you allow yourself the space to be spontaneous and do whatever you want. You can't orchestrate certain events, especially with a child or loved one. Let out your inner child, kick back and enjoy yourself. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)
You might want to deal with a personal matter first. Some of you just might decide that this is a perfect day to be lazy. Why not embrace it? Whatever you do, you will want your own space, at least during the daytime. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

