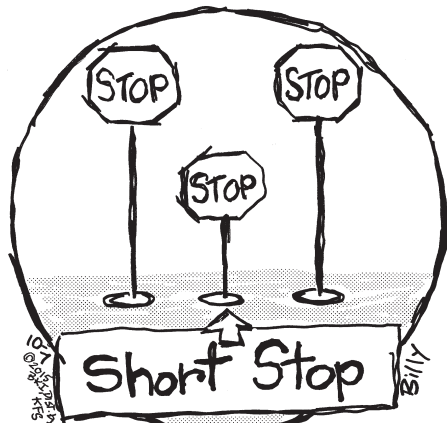
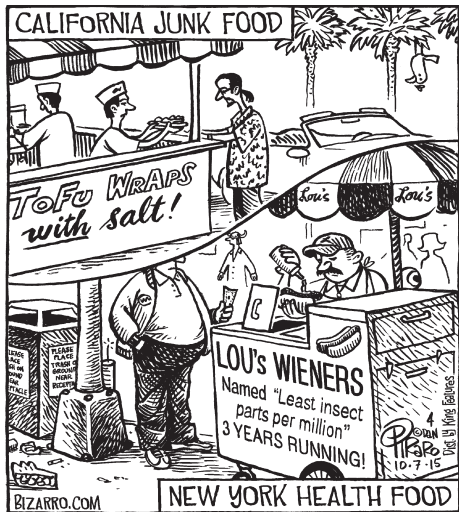


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE

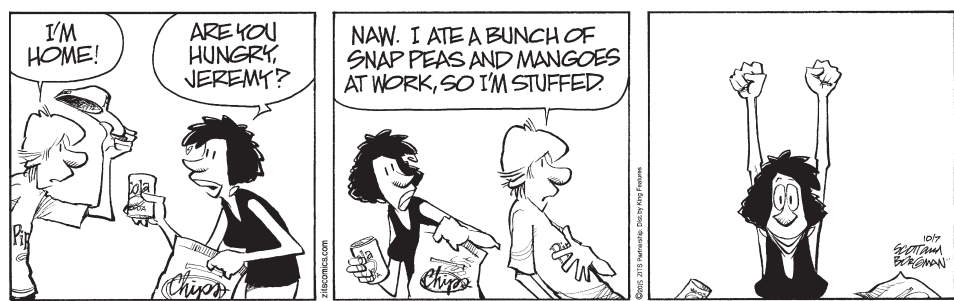


Little Billy (age 7) fills in this week with his own very punny baseball humor.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



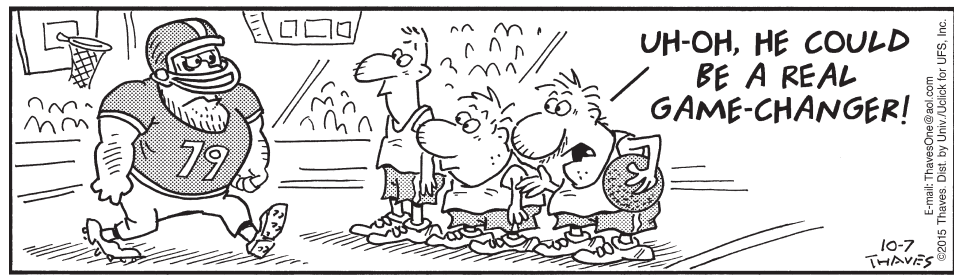
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



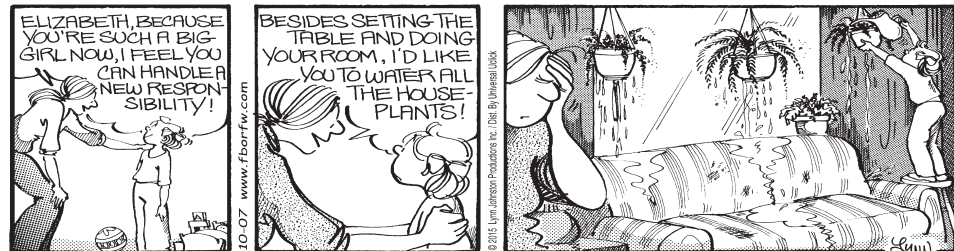
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Stepson And His Sister Are Too Close For Wife's Comfort

DEAR ABBY: I am happily married to a great man. I have a young daughter from a previous marriage, and my husband has two teenagers, a boy and girl, from a prior marriage. Like many blended families, we have our struggles, but one is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with.

I don't know how to put this tastefully, but I'll state it this way: My stepchildren are "too close," if you know what I mean. They flirt, constantly touch each other and playfully tease each other. (A few people have even mistaken them for a couple.) My husband doesn't seem to notice this unhealthy behavior. How can I get through to my husband or deal with this? — REPULSED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR REPULSED: Was the relationship between your husband's children making you uncomfortable before you married their father? If so, did you bring it to his attention at that time?

Family relationships can vary, and because I haven't witnessed what you have observed, I can't advise you other than to suggest that family counseling might be in order to determine whether the kids have a normal sibling relationship or if it has gone over the line.

DEAR ABBY: Last spring we helped our daughter's longtime friend move out of the college dorm room she shared with our daughter. Her parents are divorced and weren't available to help her move or give us money to help her, and she had just broken up with her boyfriend.

We rented a van and offered to let her stay at our home as long as she helped pay for groceries and got a job. She got the job, but never helped pay for food or did anything around the house, including keeping her room clean.

After two weeks, she and her boyfriend got back together, and she was spending every night with him at his parents' house. She would return to our home to eat, wash clothes, shower and use the Internet. I finally had to tell her this was not acceptable, and that she needed to decide to either live here or move in with her boyfriend. She moved out.

Now, it is uncomfortable when she comes around. I don't feel I did anything wrong, but my daughter thinks I shouldn't have made a big deal out of her sleeping at her boyfriend's house and using our house as a place to park her stuff, eat and wash her clothes. What do you think? — NO TIME FOR FREE-LOADERS

DEAR NO TIME: You were generous to be as supportive as you were of your daughter's former roommate. This has nothing to do with her sleeping at her boyfriend's. You asked only that she behave like an adult and contribute by paying for her food and keeping her room clean. She didn't keep her part of the bargain. You shouldn't feel uncomfortable; she should, for not behaving responsibly.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7, 2015:

This year you become more invested in your friendships and social connections, as companionship becomes even more important to you. Your intuition will help point you in the right direction. If you are single, you easily could meet someone who presents many qualities you seek in a potential suitor. Explore the possibilities here. If you are attached, the two of you need to make more time for each other. Develop patterns that allow you to spend quality time together. Schedule more weekends out of town together. LEO is always a 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)

★★★★ You could be getting more than you bargained for. Don't worry -- you can handle whatever comes up. Your interest might be focused on a child or loved one. You seem to be deep in reverie, so it would be wise to make decisions at a later point. Tonight: Say "yes."

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Someone you meet could have a lot of depth. This person might be very different from your usual type of acquaintance. Don't jump into a relationship or friendship with this person too fast, as he or she seems to be very judgmental. Hit the brakes. Tonight: Share a vision.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your ability to get past a problem increases because of a willingness to walk away from someone who is being unreasonable. A friend could add fervor to a pursuit with information he or she shares. You might be a bit more rigid than you realize. Tonight: Stand up for yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You will want to open up to a new possibility that you have not yet considered. You initially might have eliminated some ideas, but why not test out a suggestion now? Go through this process with an eye to getting where you want to go. Tonight: Visit with friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your sense of direction will take you down a new path. Others might be reluctant to follow, but eventually some will join you. A con-

versation with several friends could help you to understand where others are coming from. Tonight: Time for some midweek fun!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★ Continue down a more thoughtful path, and try to be less involved with the chaos of the moment. As a result, you will gain a more complete understanding. Know what is wanted and expected of you by a partner or dear friend. Tonight: Expect the unexpected.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take charge of your schedule by focusing on what you want. You won't be happy if you defer to others too often. This tendency could create problems where there should be none. Open up to potential change and more opportunities. Tonight: In a flurry of activity.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be at the point where you don't know which direction you should head in. Social and professional pressure might persuade you to follow the conventional mode. If you see a different path that others don't, and believe it will be successful, go for it. Tonight: Out late.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your ability to come to terms with a challenging situation will benefit you. Someone else might see a situation differently from how you envision it, but that is OK. Look at the matter from both perspectives. You will know what to do. Tonight: Choose something exotic.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You often get mixed messages; however, today, a partner will make his or her requests clear. Acquiesce to this person, but only if you feel that his or her ideas are on the right path. A boss will let you know how much you are appreciated. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

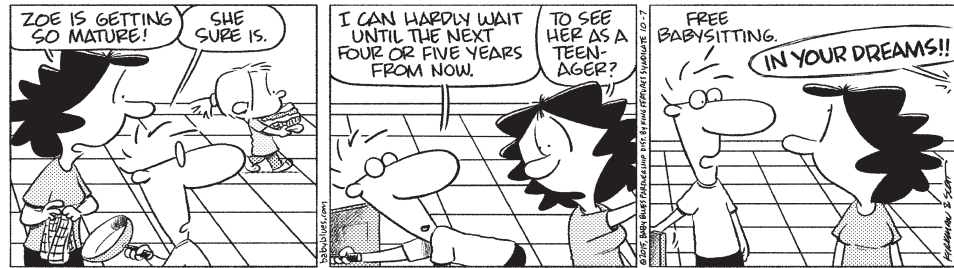
★★★★ Don't worry about what others think you should do. You might care a little, as some people seem to have good ideas that you hadn't considered. A conversation could be so off the wall that you can barely even respond. Tonight: Allow someone else to take the lead.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might have difficulty with a friend. This person continues to demand that a personal matter goes the way he or she desires. You could opt to play this game, but there will be ramifications that need to be considered. Use caution when handling funds. Tonight: Relax.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

