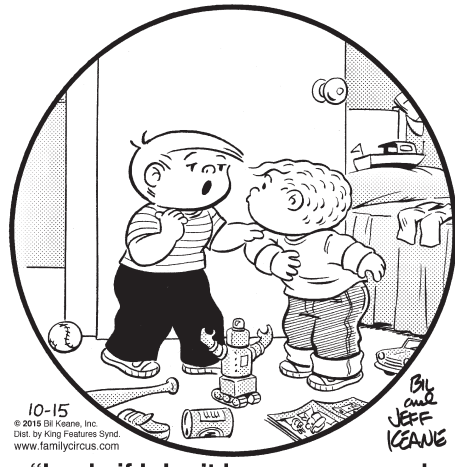


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



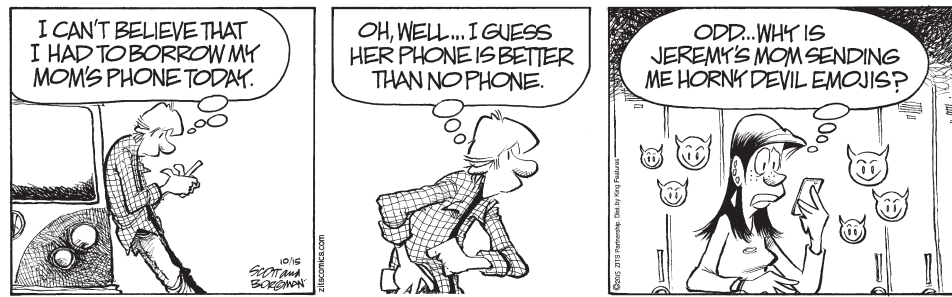
10-15
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



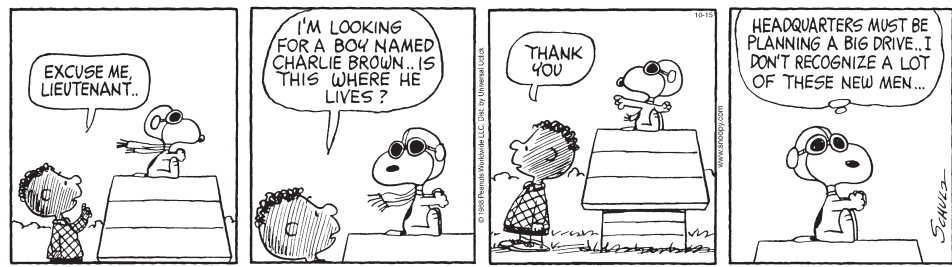
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



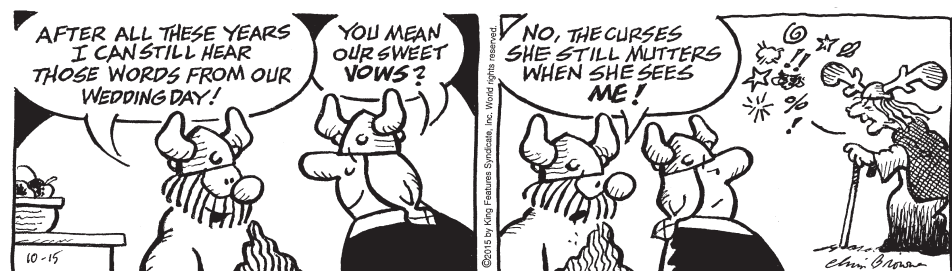
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



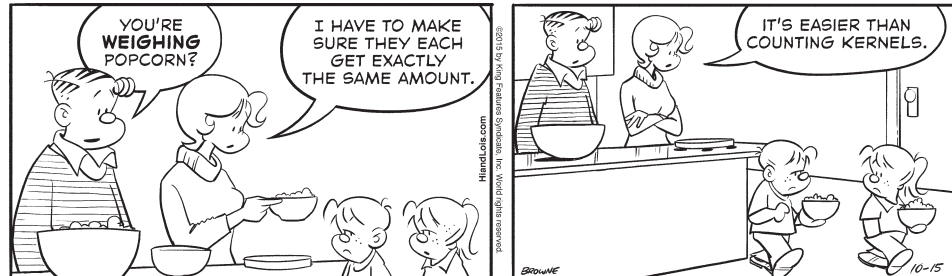
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



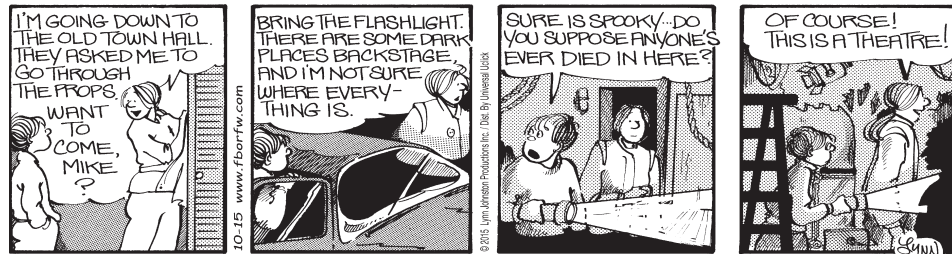
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Widower Tells Mom To Butt Out Of Plans With Pregnant Girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: My son, a widower with two boys, ages 6 and 9, has just informed me that his 33-year-old girlfriend, "Karen," is pregnant and due in five months. He started seeing her three months after his wife died, and they have been an item for eight months. She has been staying at his house every weekend, and plans to move in with him soon.

Karen has never been married and has no children, so she will become a stepmom and a new mom in a short period of time. Neither my son nor Karen seems to realize how difficult it will be to bring a stepparent into this situation, especially with a new baby on the way. One of the boys will have to give up his bedroom when the baby arrives. I'm concerned that the boys will be overwhelmed by this, when they have not yet been able to effectively deal with the death of their mother.

I think this relationship has moved too fast and they are clueless about how all this will affect the boys. My son has told me I need to "get over it, it's his life and his kids." Is there anything I can do to help the boys process all of this and adjust to the new situation? — WISE LADY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WISE LADY: Nowhere in your letter have you mentioned that the boys are depressed or acting out. They probably like Karen or the relationship wouldn't have lasted as long as it has.

It appears that in trying to be helpful you may have come across as negative or judgmental. If that's true, apologize to your son and suggest that if the adjustment becomes difficult for his boys, a family therapist could help to nip any problems in the bud. Then cross your fingers and hope it isn't necessary.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years. Half of his family are smokers. Every year, there has been a family gathering at his dad's house. Since the birth of my first child, smoking has become forbidden in that home.

This year, however, the party will be held

at the home of another where smoking will be permitted. I can't handle smoke. It gives me a sore throat and I cough for a week after exposure. Because of my reaction and for the health of my children, I don't want to attend. (When we get home we have to immediately shower and launder our clothing to get rid of the smell.)

My husband is adamant that we SHOULD attend and bring the kids. He was raised around smoking and doesn't see what the "big deal" is. What can I say or do to convince him not to force me and our children to be exposed to the health hazards of secondhand smoke? Am I being unreasonable because it's only one night a year? — HATER OF SMOKING IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR HATER OF SMOKING: I think so. Much as you might like, you can't raise your children in a bubble. I would hate to see you isolate your children from their aunts, uncles, cousins and any grandparents who are still alive during their once-a-year holiday celebration. If you would prefer not to attend because you can't stand the smell of the smoke, stay home. But do not prevent your children from knowing the family. Assuming they don't have health issues, one evening of exposure to cigarette smoke shouldn't be harmful.

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.)



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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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 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 2015:

This year you become more aware of your gifts and talents. You might turn a hobby into a moneymaking business, if you so choose. You'll want to build your financial security. You might find others disruptive or full of the unexpected. If you are single, you possess many assets that draw suitors to you. You could tumble into a very intense relationship, but don't cut off your other options unless you are 100 percent sure. If you are attached, you feel more generous and expressive with your significant other. Let your sweetie know how very special he or she is. SCORPIO can be too intense for you to handle!

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)

**** One-on-one relating could surprise you with some unexpected news. It is clear that others can't gain control of a situation when you are involved. Nevertheless, someone talks a good game. You need to listen to this person more often. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

**** You have a way about you that draws others toward you. You could be much more tired than you realize. You have tried hard to make a difference in a project, but you won't be successful until you take some time off to recharge your batteries. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

**** You are likely to see a personal matter far differently because of a conversation with a trusted and loyal loved one. You can accept this person's feedback and not feel as if you are giving up your position. You'll see a solution that works for the majority. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**** You tend to exude a warm understanding that helps others feel more at home. If you are single, an encounter today could become more. You have a style that is unique yet nonthreatening. Answers and solutions will emerge with ease. Tonight: Think "weekend."

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

**** You might want to change direction and

make new choices. You could feel as if you have pushed very hard to get a personal matter handled. If you feel like you can't get past a hassle, just relax. Be more forthright in your decision-making. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

**** Your input will be well-received, even if you are dealing with someone who is extraordinarily uptight. You must know when you have done enough for someone you care about. Be more in touch with a child or new friend's sensitivities. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

**** You could be in a position where you must get a project completed. Others could be sassy with you, especially with regard to money. Maintain a sense of humor. You are full of energy and excitement. A loved one at a distance adores you. Tonight: Pay bills first.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

**** You could be in a position where others respond well to you, but not as you had anticipated. Even if you're frustrated, remember that others are attempting to be as responsive as possible. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Enjoy someone else's overture.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

*** You could feel as if you can't help heading in a certain direction. You might not understand what is motivating you, but your intuitive side appears to be running the show. Just watch for any pitfalls that you might not have anticipated. Tonight: Not to be found.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

*** You could be out of sorts and wanting to do something very differently. Try to understand an issue between you and a friend. You are open to discussion. Nevertheless, you still will be determined to head in a certain direction. Tonight: Make weekend plans.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

*** Take a stand with someone who often pushes you too hard. You might not understand what is happening with this person or why. Open up to new possibilities; be willing to state your case to a loved one who can be defiant at times. Tonight: Head right on out the door.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

**** Investigate your alternatives, and know what you want to do. You will recognize your limits, especially in the financial realm. Discuss this issue with a trusted friend when you're together. A meeting could be very important to you. Tonight: Be imaginative.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

