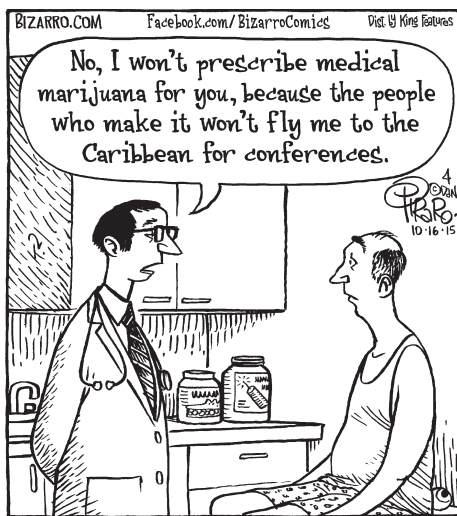


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Fiance Can't Get His Arms Around Habit Of Cuddling

DEAR ABBY: I'm on the verge of 30, and my fiance has a huge issue with the fact that I still cuddle with my mom. From what he says, his family isn't wild about it, either.

Mom has suffered a great deal of loss in her life. She has lost all of her immediate family (aside from her kids) to cancer. We were all caretakers for these family members, doing in-home hospice, and we have formed a unique bond.

My fiance has never even been to a funeral, so it's hard for me to explain this to him. Mom was born in a country in Europe where hugging and lots of affection are natural.

I live out of state, but when I'm home I will put my head on Mom's shoulder and cuddle with her while watching a movie. Sometimes in the morning I'll bring her a hot cup of coffee, put it next to her bed, and jump in with her and her dog. We joke, laugh, cuddle until we have to get up. Is this something I need professional help for, as certain people have had the nerve to tell me? — AFFECTIONATE IN ALBANY, N.Y.

DEAR AFFECTIONATE: It should be clear to you by now that you are engaged to a man who comes from a family that isn't comfortable with physical demonstrations of affection, and is quick to judge others. Treasure the closeness you have with your mother while you have it because, after she's no longer with you, that special kind of affection will be permanently over.

For your fiance or his family to suggest there's something wrong with cuddling with your mother, or that you need "professional help" because you do it, is both sad and wrong. Many people would find the relationship you share with her to be enviable, and I am one of them.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old man dating a woman the same age. "Kelli" and I have been happily together for two years.

My sister's recent wedding prompted me to start ring shopping. My sister used this

opportunity to come forward "on behalf of the family" to tell me marrying Kelli would be a mistake. She proceeded to spout off two dozen reasons why we shouldn't be together — ranging from Kelli's lack of social graces to her haircut. Then she gave me an ultimatum to choose between Kelli and her.

Things have calmed down in the weeks since, but I am concerned my family will never trust my judgment and will mistreat Kelli. I have never been treated so well by a partner, and I don't want to lose her. Please give me some feedback. — STUCK IN THE MIDDLE IN MARYLAND

DEAR STUCK: To say that your sister's outburst was out of line would be an understatement. That she would demand that you "choose" between her and your girlfriend is ridiculous.

Because you are serious about Kelli, rather than regard what your sister said as a policy statement from the rest of the family, ask them how they feel about your girlfriend. Some may like her; some may not. But you should not decide whom to marry based on anyone else's opinion other than your own. They don't have to live with her; only you do. P.S. Mature adults do not allow anyone to abuse their spouses.

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.

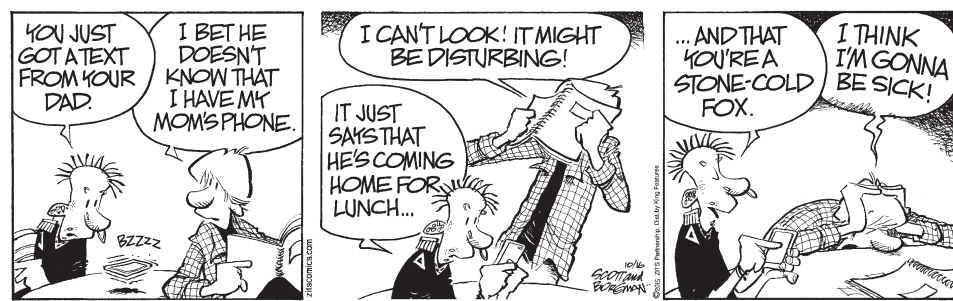
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DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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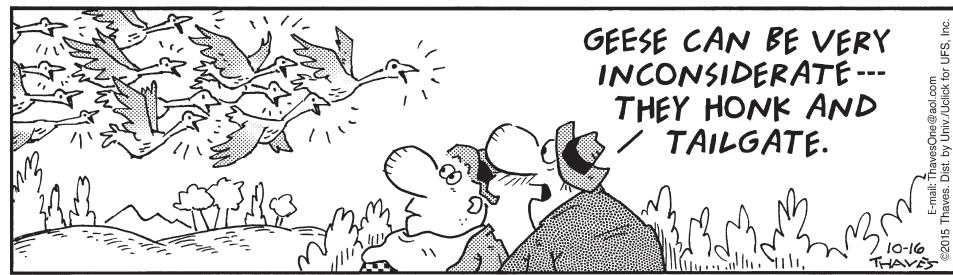
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



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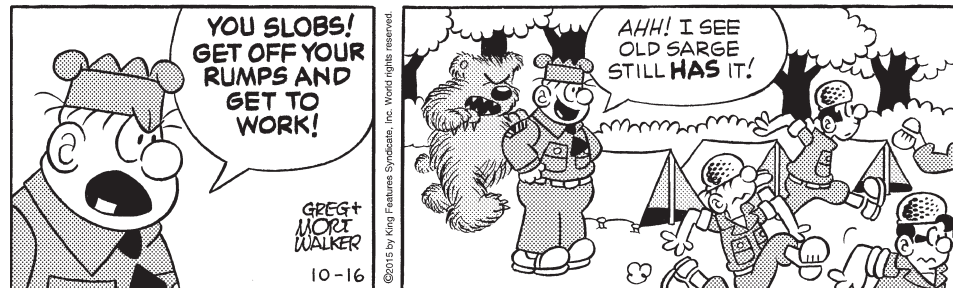
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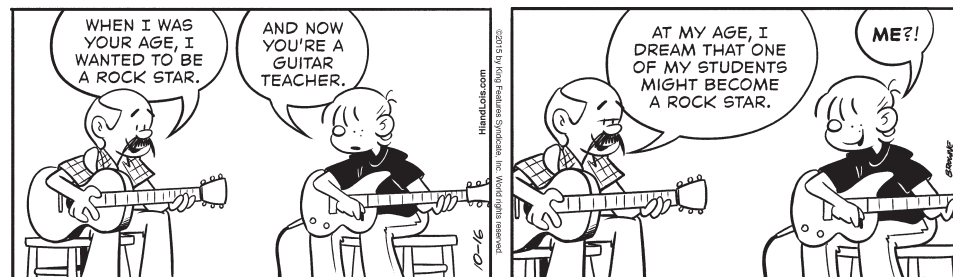
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



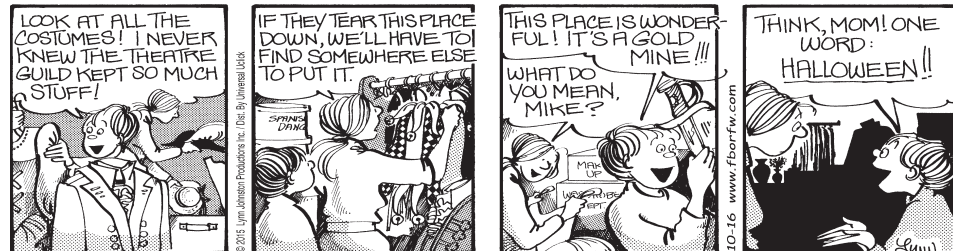
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



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 Scorpio if born before 5:16 a.m. (EDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 16, 2015:

This year you express a very upbeat point of view. You also share many ideas that, until now, you have kept to yourself. Others seek you out to share concepts and get feedback. Your imagination tosses many ideas into the mix. If you are single, others often try to package themselves to be most appealing to you. Be sure that you know and like the person under the surface before you go too far into a relationship. If you are attached, the two of you often bounce ideas off each other. You tend to energize each other as well. SAGITTARIUS knows how to negotiate.

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 might want to have an important talk in the morning, but news seems to point you in a different direction. Conversations will reveal a lot about the people around you. Encourage others to talk, and do your best to listen. Tonight: Use your imagination.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ One-on-one thought encourages a better response than you thought possible. You see what is happening around you. Perhaps a discussion is in order -- one that will help your creativity flourish. You will see ideas evolve. Tonight: Share with a loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Defer to others, especially if you want them to pitch in and demonstrate their individual skills. There is no question that you know your stuff, but you need to let others share their knowledge, too. Tonight: Say "yes" to a close associate or loved one.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover. You'll be determined to get what you need done. Count on some interference in general. There also could be some confusion around a call and its underlying message. Consider yourself lucky if you can achieve your goals. Tonight: Be happy.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You tell it like it is. Your creativity is

likely to add some flourishes. Be careful, especially if you're discussing a serious matter. Someone could misread the situation. A caring gesture will keep the lid on a potentially volatile matter. Tonight: Act like it is Friday night!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Whether you realize it or not, you have a way of drawing others toward you. You are unusually appealing to many, but you could be stressed out. You simply can't be in two places at once. Mentally anchor in on the present situation. Tonight: Head home only when you want to.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You could be keeping a personal matter to yourself. Your smile, however, might reveal that much more is going on with you. Keep conversations moving, as you have a lot to catch up on. If your mind starts to drift off, you might miss an important detail. Tonight: Out with the gang.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You have what it takes to get to the next step. As a result, friends and loved ones will support a cause that is important to you. Still, be aware that you might be spending too much of your time or money in order to make an event occur. Tonight: Make it your treat!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You'll smile and feel your energy build. With the Moon cheering you on, you will achieve results that perhaps you have only dreamed of. Your choices will define your day, and others are likely to go along with you. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Take your time, especially if you feel out of sorts. You can push yourself only so hard and expect good results. If you can, call it an early day or make it a long weekend. You might hear news or sense something that you aren't comfortable with. Tonight: Play it low-key.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ You are a sign of friendship, and today you'll express that character trait even more than usual. A meeting surrounds you with special people in your life, even though you don't often have time to express your feelings. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Take charge and know what you want to accomplish. Others are likely to seek you out, and as a result, you might have difficulty finishing a project. Don't hesitate to screen your calls, if need be. Understand what is happening around you. Tonight: A must show.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

