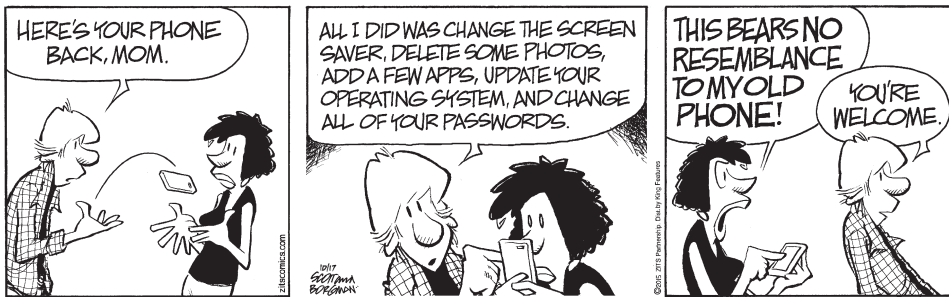


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



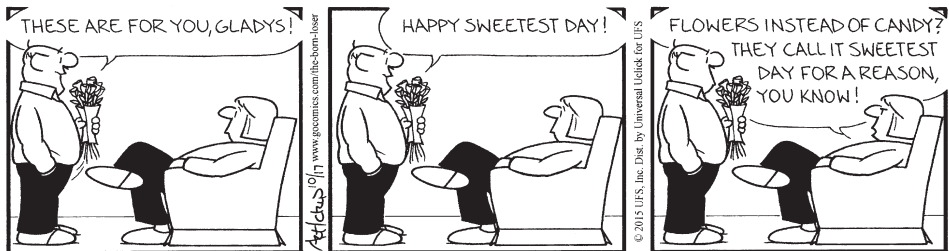
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



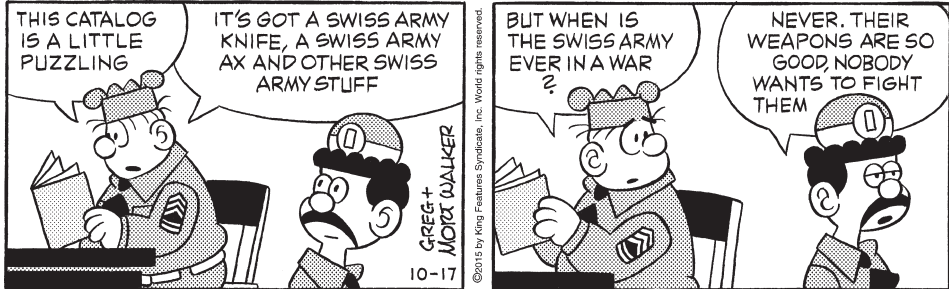
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



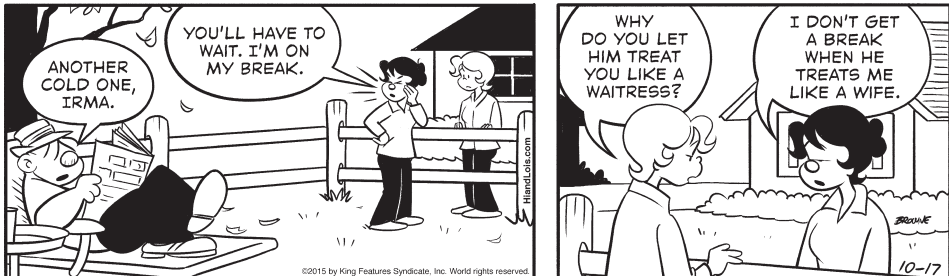
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



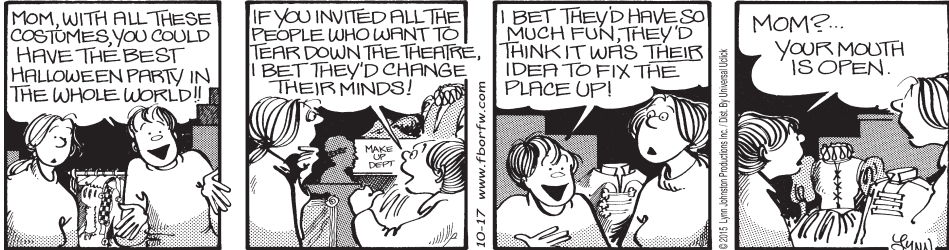
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



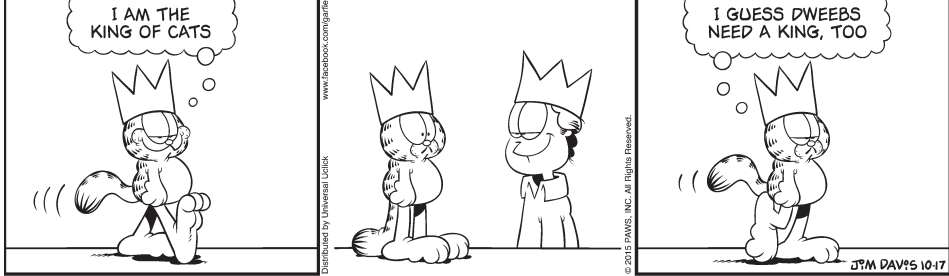
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Lovebird's Short Curfew Keeps Her Close To Nest

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Colton" for six months. He's a year and a half older than I am and just started college. I'm still in high school.

Recently, my parents have begun putting restrictions on us, limiting us to one date a week, under four hours long and in a group situation. They like Colton, but they're worried I'll miss out on my friends and high school events.

We have obeyed their restrictions, but the time limit they have set is too short for many date activities, and getting a group together is nearly impossible. I agree I should balance my time, but I think their rules are too rigid because there are no exceptions.

I know my parents care about me, but I'm looking for a little more freedom and the ability to make my own choices. My parents agreed that if I could find other people who thought this situation was in some way unreasonable, they would reconsider some of the rules. So I'm wondering what your opinion is, Abby. — RESTRICTED IN SALT LAKE CITY

DEAR RESTRICTED: In my opinion, it is very important that your primary concern — and Colton's, too — should be earning good grades and completing your education. Both of your futures depend upon it. That said, if there are special events coming up that you and Colton would like to share, the curfew should be adjusted on a case-by-case basis.

DEAR ABBY: I am a newer aunt who feels like I have lost my siblings in this life transition. When I call, I hear screaming boys in the background and it gives me shudders, so I don't do it often. When I visit, every single adult's attention is on the boys and no real conversation ensues.

When I grew up, kids were not a part of adult time. How can I let them know their kids are so unruly I can hardly communicate with them anymore? Or should I just leave

my siblings to their own families now? — UN-IMPRESSED AUNT IN TEXAS

DEAR UNIMPRESSED: Because you are not yet a parent, you may not have noticed that when parents of small children get on the phone, their children, in a bid for their attention, become either very noisy or very quiet.

The noisiness is preferable, because when the kids become very quiet, they are usually doing something they're not supposed to do.

Because the noise your nieces and nephews make unnerves you, schedule phone calls with your siblings after their little ones have been put to bed. And if you would like adult/alone time with them, ask if you can schedule a lunch away from their home for an occasional visit.

DEAR ABBY: Is it more appropriate to eat ice cream cake with a spoon or a fork? I'm always unsure which is preferable. — ELLEN IN WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF.

DEAR ELLEN: Eat your ice cream cake with a spoon or a "spork" (a utensil that's a combination spoon and fork) so there will be fewer drips when the ice cream starts to melt.

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 Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 2015:

This year you might be testing your limits more than you realize. You will be unusually prone to taking risks. Be careful, as you might regret this behavior at a later point. If you are single, you meet people with ease and enjoy many different personality types. Your love of socializing might be a reason not to commit this year, but you likely will meet Mr. or Ms. Right soon afterward. If you are attached, the two of you notice a new intensity and a need to share even more. You appreciate having a strong friendship within a loving relationship. SAGITTARIUS often challenges you to join him or her. 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)

***** Keep reaching out to someone whom you would like to get to know better. You could surprise others with your willingness to take off on an adventure. You have a lot of energy, so use it well. You might have a secret admirer. Look around. Tonight: Opt for different.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** Reach out to a dear friend whom you care a lot about. You have been gaining insights when relating to this person, and today will be no different. One-on-one relating proves to be unusually fulfilling. You have energy and intent when relating to this person. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** If you rein in your need to be the alpha dog, friends will make plans that include you. Although you like to have more control, you'll delight in the roller coaster ride that they have unintentionally provided. You could have a ball. Tonight: Keep on going.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

***** You could be in a situation where you feel the need to change direction. Know that an unexpected offer or situation might force you in a new direction anyway. You likely will be surprised by an older relative who seems to have forgotten his or her age. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

***** You could be off having a great time,

enjoying a special person in your life. You can't seem to give this person enough time. Use today to devote your attention to this person. As a result, you will see the tension that has existed between you dissolve. Tonight: Very playful.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

***** You put your best foot forward, no matter what you do or whom you are with. You have a great deal of sensitivity and energy. A conversation reveals a different perspective about a major purchase. You could be surprised by what happens if you negotiate. Tonight: Invite friends over.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

***** Pick up the phone and catch up on news with a friend. You might opt to meet someone for a late lunch and/or a movie. Listen to your sixth sense regarding a loved one. Perhaps you have been making judgments that are not valid. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

***** Understand that extremes won't help you with your finances or with an emotional situation. You have been replaying a scenario over and over in your mind, but you haven't come up with a viable way to proceed. Test out a few ideas on a friend. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

***** You could feel tense, as you know you must make an important appearance with a parent or boss. You will do what is needed, and gracefully at that. Catch up on friends' news. You could be delighted by what you hear. Make plans that keep you close to home. Tonight: Be gracious.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

***** Be willing to reach out to someone at a distance. The conversation you have could be unusually meaningful to both of you. Make plans to get together in the near future. Buy tickets to a concert or a special event. Tonight: Relax in a very different environment.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

***** You'll have a choice to make between hanging out with friends and getting together with a special person in your life. Don't overthink this decision. Allow a little more closeness into your life. Someone might have exciting news to share. Tonight: Choose a favorite stressbuster.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

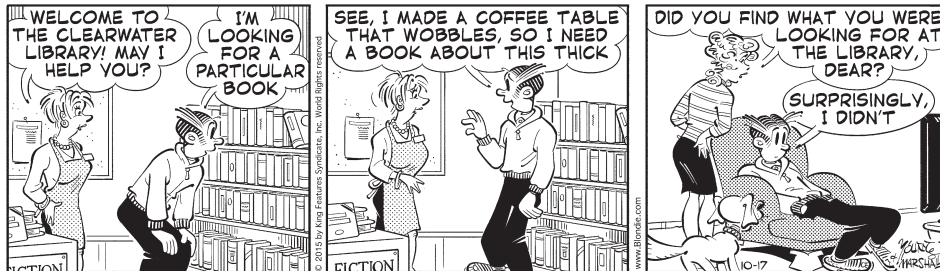
***** You might confuse a friend or partner without intending to. You could be overtired and be delighted to have someone else take the lead. However, you still might not be able to just hang at home and veg, as a project demands your attention. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

