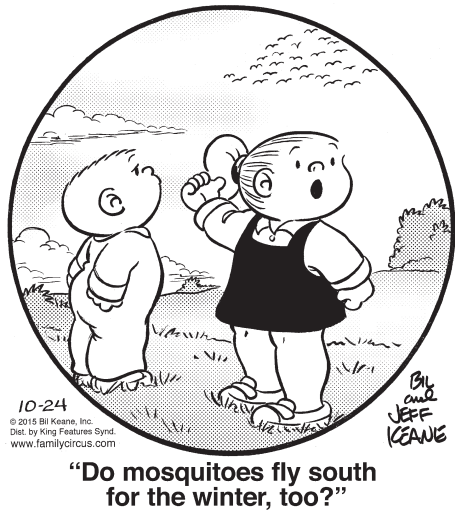


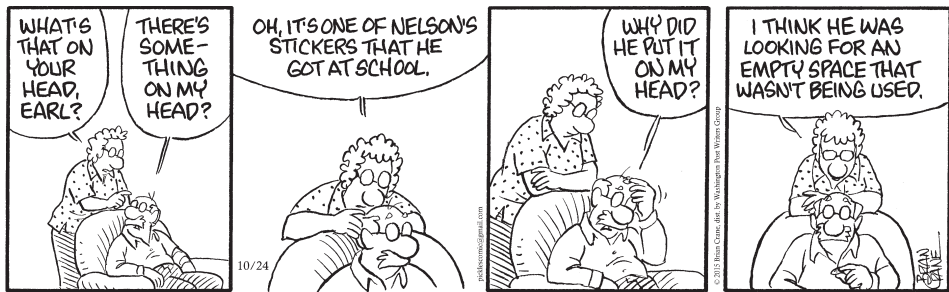
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



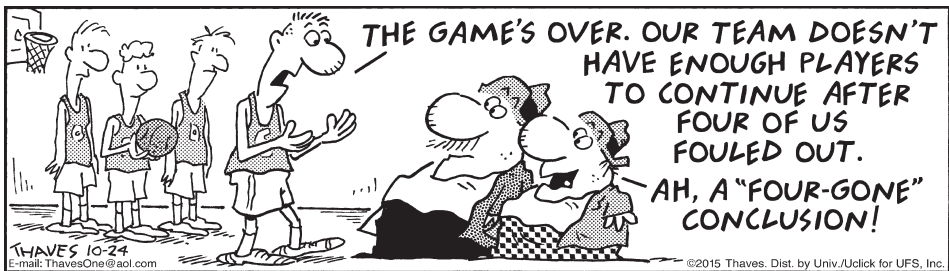
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



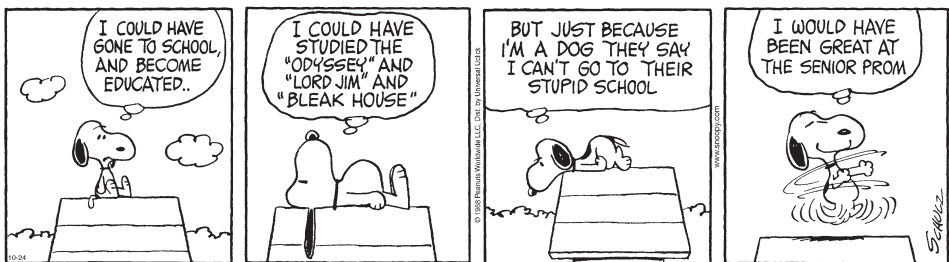
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



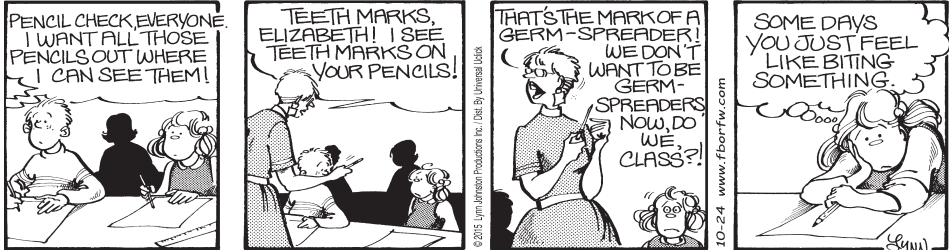
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Volunteering With Infants May Gratify Wannabe Mom

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 20 and I desperately want a baby. I know it's not possible right now because I am still in school and will be for several years. I also want to be married before having children, and my boyfriend agrees. We take precautions and don't plan on having kids for a long time.

None of my friends, relatives or close acquaintances have young children that I can spend time baby-sitting. I was wondering if you knew of any volunteer opportunities that will allow me to satisfy my "mothering" instinct until I can actually be a mother.

— FUTURE MOMMY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR FUTURE MOMMY: One that might interest you is becoming a "cuddler." Cuddlers are volunteers who visit hospital neonatal units. They work with infants whose parents can't be there to touch them, and whose nurses have other important duties to perform. Of course, this would necessitate your willingness to undergo a background check and take a short training course.

Contact the hospitals in your area to see if they have this program available. I'm sure if there is one, you would find it emotionally satisfying.

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old sister has epilepsy and it's driving me mad! She has three seizures a month, and I'm usually the one who detects them beforehand.

Ever since she was diagnosed, my family has been giving her everything she wants. She gets D's and F's on her report card and they don't say a word. If I get a mere B, I get yelled at and punished.

I'm 17 and I realize I may seem petty, but I know my parents are spoiling her to the point where it'll come back to haunt them. The other day my sister wanted a new smartphone. When Mom said no, my sister purposely triggered a seizure.

My parents won't admit they're wrong, and we can't afford counseling with all my sister's bills. Please help me. — MAD IN MIAMI

DEAR MAD: You have my sympathy. I don't

think you are being petty. Being the sibling of a sick child can be extremely difficult, and your situation is no exception. Parents often devote so much attention to the child who is unwell that the healthy one is starved for attention and positive reinforcement. The result is resentment that can last a lifetime.

Because what's happening is causing you stress, talk about it with a counselor at school. There may be counseling available for you at no cost to your parents.

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends with "Irene" for a long time. We invite her and her husband to our home for dinner parties, etc.

Recently, with every invitation, she has been asking to bring along her dog, "Pookie." She lives nearby and could easily leave it at home. We would prefer the dog not visit for a

number of reasons: We have a cat; Pookie is nervous around people and has bitten; and he isn't well housebroken. He pees on everything.

How do I politely refuse her request? We enjoy Irene and her husband, but Pookie, not so much. — NO POOCH, PLEASE, IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NO POOCH: Here's how. When Irene asks again about bringing her dog, simply say, "We'd prefer you didn't." And if she has the nerve to ask why, tell her the reasons you gave me — all of which are valid.

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.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address; plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, 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 Scorpio and a Moon in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 2015:

This year you might wonder which way you should proceed. Many of your friends have very strong opinions, and they won't hesitate to let you know when you have gone too far. Be aware that you will go exactly where you want to be. If you are single, you will meet someone of interest through a friend. You will experience a lot of highs and lows with this person. If you are attached, the two of you act like new lovers more often than not. You might start going away for weekends together and/or recreating some of your old dates together. PISCES can be provocative.

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 can sit on your feelings for only so long. Even if you are not aware of them, signs of your distress will emerge from out of the blue. Your hostility could push someone away. Stop and think about what the true cause of this anger or frustration is. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll want to focus on a long-term goal. You might have difficulty with a child or someone who might need you at the moment. Your high-voltage energy keeps emerging. Be careful with a new friend, as your temper could emerge. Tonight: Throw a party.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to spend time with an older relative. You will feel good about spending the day with this person. Someone you care about might be overly assertive or determined to have his or her way, should anyone try to tromp on his or her plans. Tonight: In the limelight.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be overworked and determined to have your way right now. It might be a good idea for you to plan a mini-getaway, where you can relax and have a great time. A change of scenery helps you gain perspective. Speak your mind. Tonight: With friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be exhausted by everything

you feel you must get done right now. A partner could be pushing you very hard to get his or her way. Is it worth the struggle to say no? What if you said yes? Be careful about spending. Check out prices carefully. Tonight: Be a friend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Make a point of getting past a problem quickly. Others will make it clear that they want your company. Don't fight the inevitable. The more you go along with the crowd, the happier you will be. Let them call the shots today. Tonight: Relish the moment.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you down a path that could please you. Remember to honor the initial bond you developed with someone. You could find that you are more irritable than you have been in quite a long time. Take a walk if need be. Tonight: Keep a secret.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You could be in a situation that you would prefer not to be involved with. You have a great sense of direction when you are in such situations. Just follow your instincts. Not everything will turn out as you might like, but do you really care? Tonight: Wild thing.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You have a way about you that poses a threat to an older person or relative. A supervisor also could be reactive and cause a problem. Be indulgent, and remain sure of yourself. You will see how fast the problem works itself out. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You have all these ideas of what you think you should or might want to do. Don't sell yourself short, but be sure to recognize your limits. Be careful when traveling because you could be accident-prone. If you're tired, slow down. Tonight: Choose a fun spot to meet a friend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

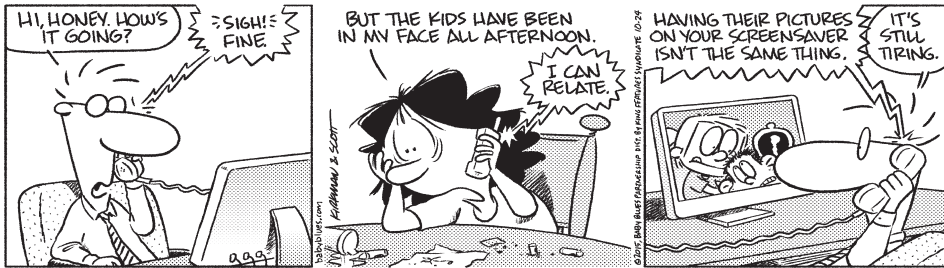
★★★★★ You could be more in tune with a situation that surrounds your finances than you realize. You might feel drained by an ongoing situation that you can't seem to get under control. Know when you have had enough, and walk away if need be. Tonight: Know the costs of a decision.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

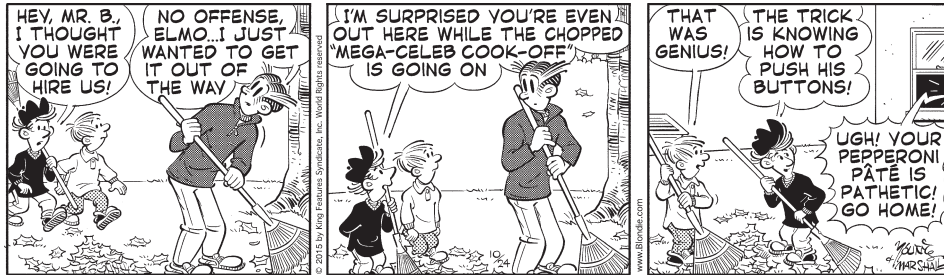
★★★★★ You will achieve what you want to achieve. Though you might have thought you wanted to visit a certain individual, after you hear all of his or her complaining and draining comments, you are likely to change your mind. Join friends at a get-together. Tonight: On top of your game.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

