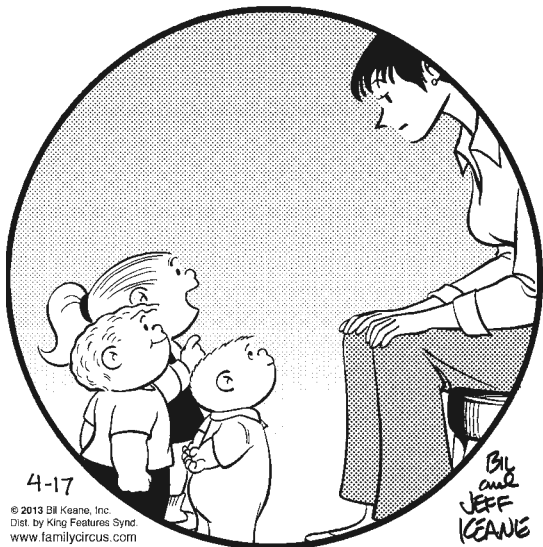


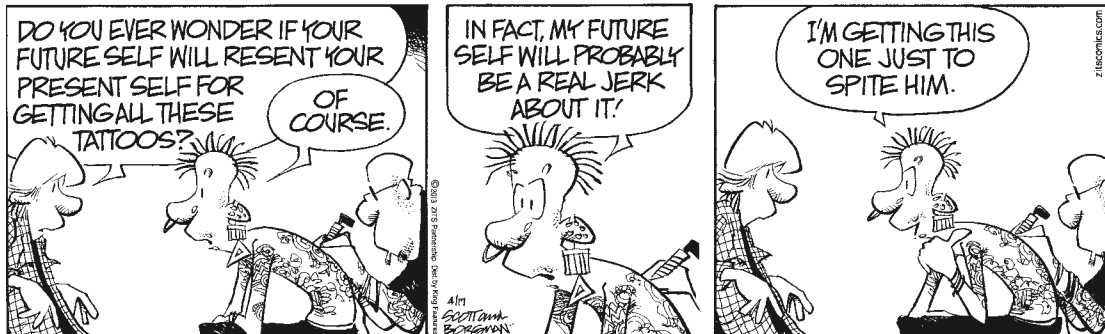
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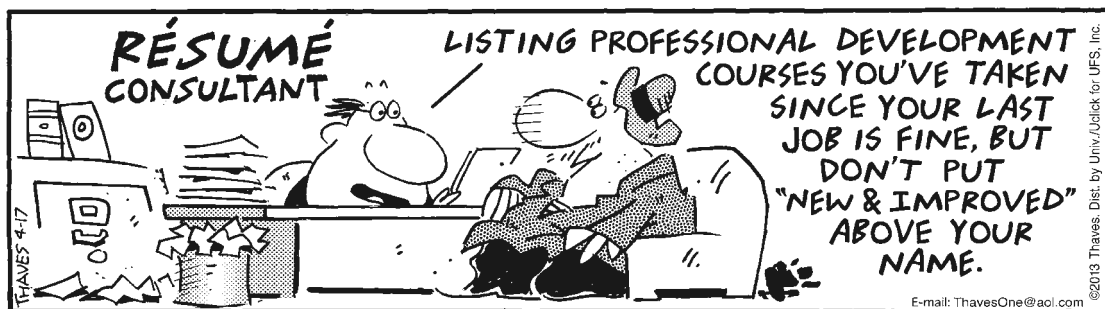
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 www.familycircus.com

**"Is being 'cute as a button' a compliment or an insult?"**

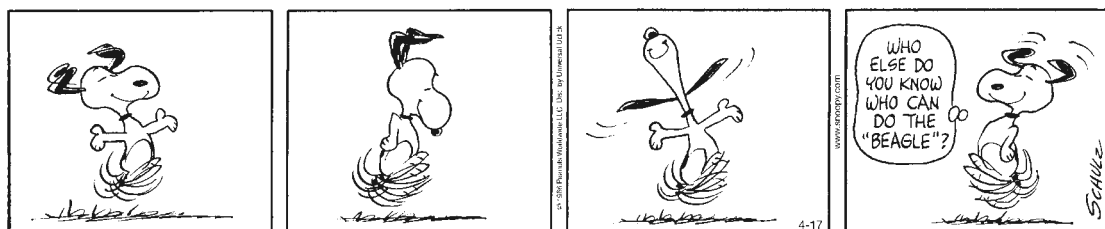
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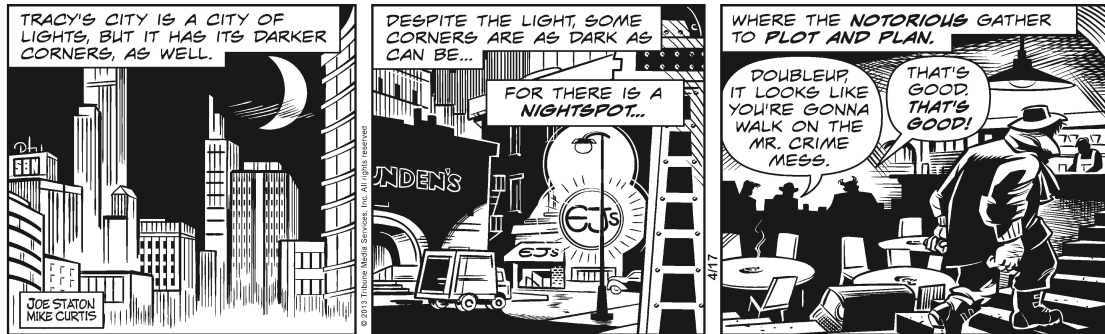
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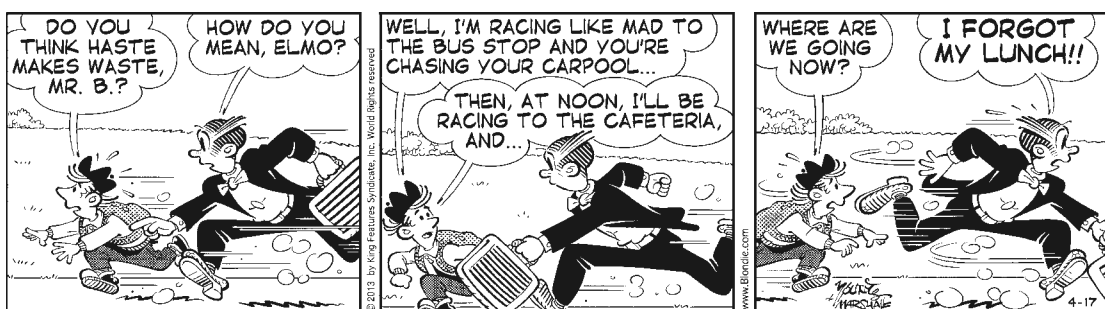
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**DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS**



**BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE**



**GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS**



**BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER**



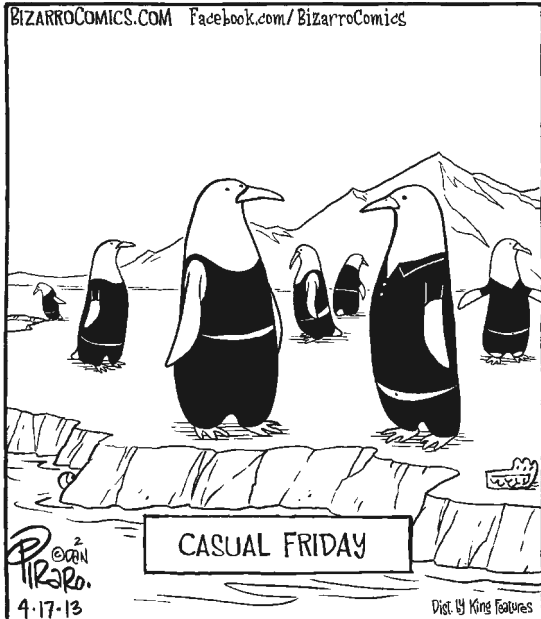
**HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER**



**THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON**



**BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO**



# Wife's Affair With Cellphone Leaves Man Feeling Cheated

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 17 years. For the most part, our marriage has been great, and I love her very much. Lately, though, I have felt that our sexual and emotional intimacy has been lacking. I spoke to her about it recently and tried to explain how I feel. She has responded, and things are improving.

Still, she spends most of her time on her cellphone checking email, Facebook, Pinterest and watching Netflix. At bedtime, she stays on her phone or laptop until after I have gone to bed. When she comes to bed, she ignores me and goes straight to sleep, even if I have been lying there awake in the dark waiting for her.

Has she fallen in love with her cellphone? Even if we don't have sex all the time, I would just like to be able to talk to her or hold her for a minute before we go to sleep. Any suggestions other than throwing her phone out the window? — ABANDONED HUSBAND IN UTAH

DEAR ABANDONED: You say your wife has responded and things are hopeful. That means she is at least receptive to working on your marital relationship.

The problems that cellphones cause in relationships is something I am hearing about with increasing frequency. People have become so dependent upon their digital companions that in some cases it's impossible to turn them off because people have become literally addicted.

In cases like this, a licensed therapist should be consulted. Of course, like any addiction the sufferer must be willing to admit there is a problem and want to do something about it. I wish there was a 12-step program to which I could refer you, but I was unable to locate one. In the future I'm willing to bet that they'll sprout up like mushrooms.

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago, I realized I had a drinking problem and decided to go through a chemical dependence program as an outpatient. I'm sober now and attend meetings a few times a week. My problem is some-

one I was barely acquainted with was also in the same program. I didn't regard it as a problem at first, but now I'm concerned.

At a meeting a few months ago, I mentioned to the group that I also attend a meeting in another town closer to my home. Next thing I know, this man is attending the same meeting. He always makes a point of telling me about what's going on with the people we went through treatment with.

I am active in service work and plan to attend a regional meeting at a resort over a weekend. Guess who has suddenly decided to do the same?

I'm nervous about being around this man. I don't want to compromise his sobriety, but I can't stand seeing him at every meeting and event I attend. My husband is also bothered by it, and I'm considering not attending any meetings at all because he's creeping me out. How should I handle this? — SOBER AND CREEPED OUT

DEAR CREEPED OUT: If there is a group moderator or contact, discuss this with that person. Because you want less contact with your "admirer," look around for another group. Even if you will have to travel a bit farther, it will be worth the effort.

If you do happen to run into him in the future and he tries to engage you in conversation about other patients from your program, cut the conversation short by telling him you are not interested in hearing about them. One of the hallmarks of 12-step programs is anonymity — and it should be respected.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Aries and a Moon in Cancer.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013:

This year you often feel as if you're on a mission and have something that you need to do. Honor who you are, yet recognize what needs to be done. Your personal life becomes even more important. If you are single, you will want a live-in arrangement more than you have in the past. Just be careful -- it could be difficult to disengage from this person at a later point. Try not to move so quickly. If you are attached, the two of you connect on a very deep level this year. You are able to express more and give more, as you are in touch with your true essence. You feel very comfortable with CANCER, but sometimes you feel burdened by 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)

★★★ You bring high energy, even when you're approaching the most boring project. You have a to-do list, and you look forward to completing it. A matter involving real estate could be on your plate. Know that you'll make the correct choice. Tonight: Meet a family member for dinner.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your words are heard by the right ears. Make and return calls; schedule meetings and other such interpersonal activities. You have a gentle yet firm manner that lets others know that you mean what you say. Tonight: Again, you will say exactly what you think.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Curb a need to do something differently. You'll open up to change and be readily available to make an important decision. In a meeting, your ideas are appreciated and often carried out. Tonight: You need to understand what is happening. Allow greater give-and-take.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You quickly will accomplish what you must in order to make time for a break with a loved one. This person, who is comfortable with your moodiness, might be surprised at the strength and power of the moment. Tonight: The world really is your oyster.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might want to observe and listen more, even

though you are a natural-born leader. You can't control the situation, no matter how hard you might try. You can, however, change your response to it. News comes from out of left field. Just listen. Tonight: Make it an early night.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what you want. Understand that you might need to do more professional networking. Others will be unusually responsive to your thoughts and ideas. Is there something close to your heart that needs to be done? If so, make it happen. Tonight: Find your friends.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Understand what you need to do in order to change a situation that has been irking you either at work or when relating to an older relative. Someone might be much angrier than he or she is willing to tell you, much less admit to him- or herself. Tonight: A must appearance.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Use your ingenuity to figure out a solution to a recurring problem. Break past conventional thinking, toss in some imagination, and you'll get there with ease. Resolution feels good, and it allows you to continue on your chosen path. Tonight: Where there is great music.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Work with each person directly. Be sure to evaluate both sides of an issue, and the right solution will appear. Realize what is happening with a loved one. This person wants more of your time and attention, so make it a point to reach out to him or her. Tonight: Surf the Web.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Others come forward, and they might be much more assertive than they have been in a while. Listen rather than speak. You will witness their newfound boldness. Recognize what is possible here, and offer your feedback only when asked. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

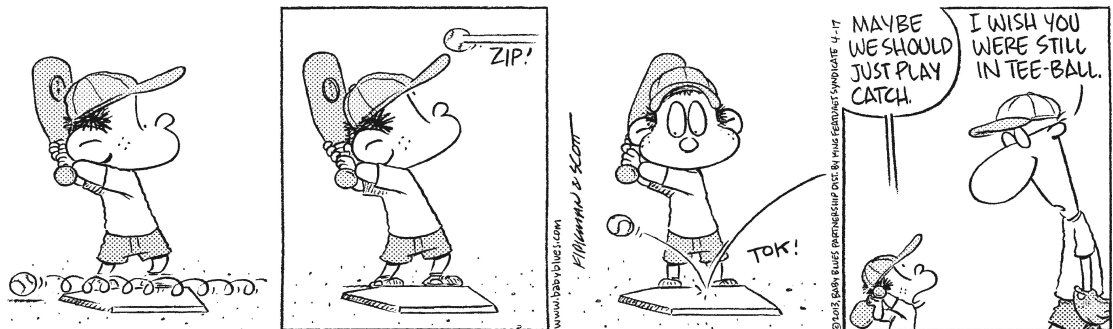
★★★★ You might want to change a pattern in your daily life -- for example, you might want to walk more or start a diet. You know where you need more diversity in your life. If you decide to instrument a change, the chances are high that you will succeed. Tonight: Don't push too hard.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Count on yourself to get past a problem. Your way of handling this issue could turn it around. Your love of fun and imagination filters through difficult moments. Know what you want, and head down the path that feels right. Tonight: Listen to your inner voice.

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**BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT**



**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON**



**MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS**

