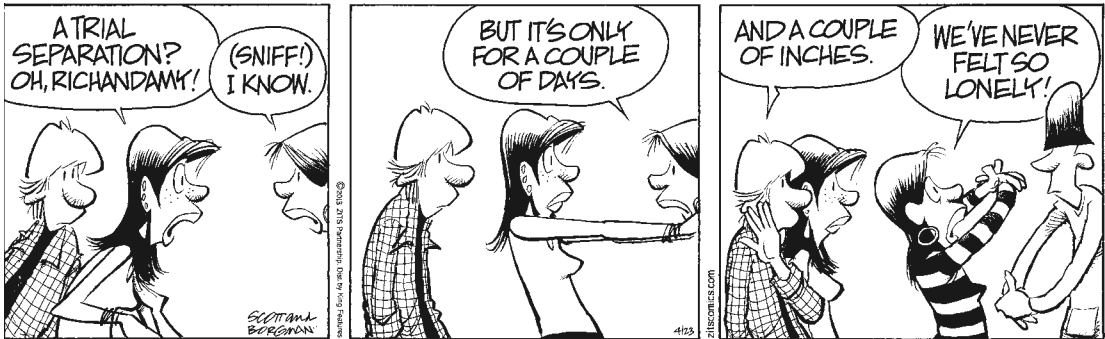


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



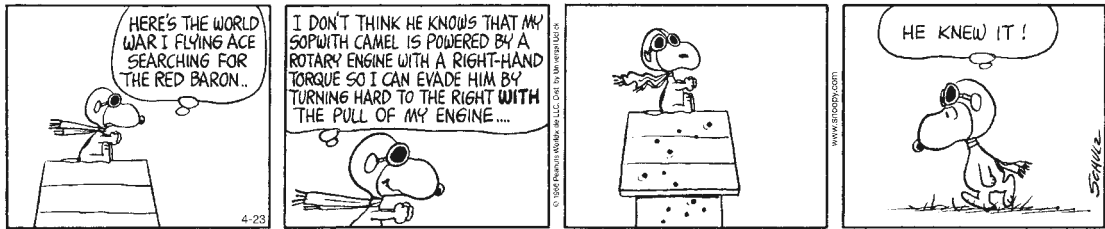
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



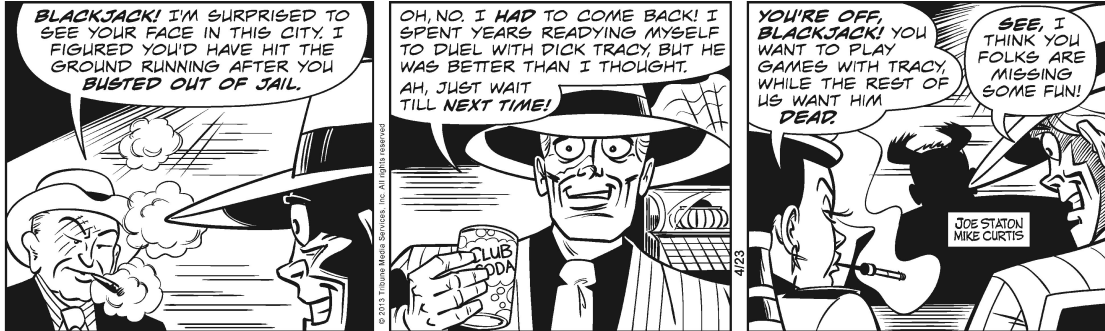
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



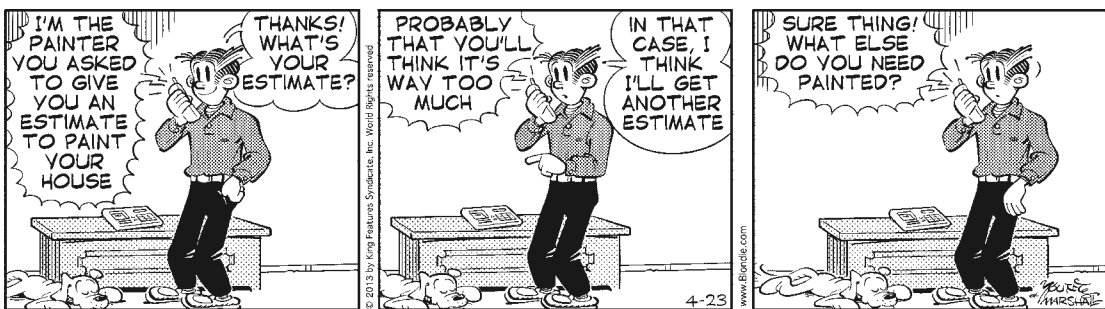
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



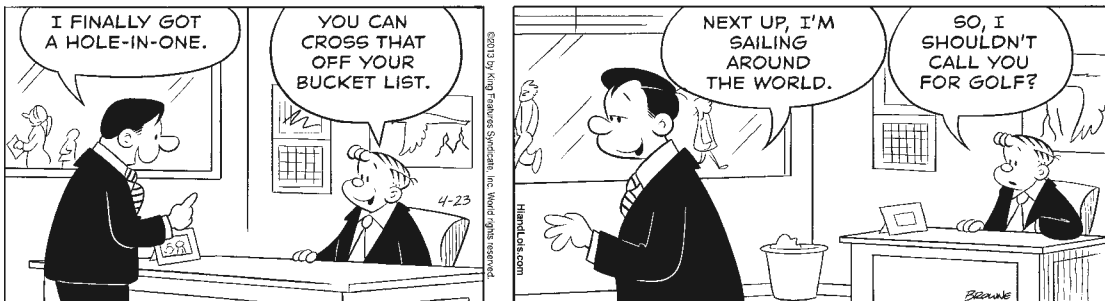
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Husband Rude To In-Laws Should Make Himself Scarce

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 18 years to a man I have a good relationship with. My problem is he has always been extremely rude to my parents. They aren't critical or judgmental of him, and they try hard to be friendly and accommodating, perhaps thinking it might lessen the rudeness he continually shows them.

Example: If my mom asks him how his parents are doing, without looking up from his cellphone he'll grunt and say, "They're fine" — nothing more. When we go out to dinner, he usually doesn't join in the conversation. Instead, he just sits there with a dismissive, bored look on his face.

I have told him I don't want him to come with me when I visit them. It only takes a few times before he asks if he can come again and promises to try to behave. But after a few visits, he reverts back to his old, rude ways. It has reached a point that it's affecting our marriage. Can you offer any suggestions for how this issue can be resolved? — TIRED OF IT IN TORONTO

DEAR TIRED OF IT: It would be helpful to know WHY your husband behaves this way. Does he dislike your folks? Does he have so little in common with them he doesn't know how to participate in a conversation with them? Is he this way with any other people?

Perhaps it would be better for all concerned if he saw them with you less often, say, 30 percent to 50 percent of the time. And before he does, make sure he is up to the task of being social because, as it stands, I agree his behavior is rude.

He's not a teenager with his nose buried in a cellphone; he's an adult who should know better. If he finds your parents' company less than stimulating, he should be a better actor.

DEAR ABBY: Last year my darling mother lost her

battle with cancer. Aside from grief and loss, a bigger issue looms over my life. It concerns my stepdad.

Before Mom was diagnosed, my stepfather was a selfish, self-centered man. At times he was mean to her to the point that I wanted her to leave him. In fairness, once Mom was diagnosed, he stepped up to the plate and took excellent care of her until her death.

I have other issues with my stepfather. He was inappropriate with me, sharing things he should have kept to himself. It caused my mother great heartache and made me lose respect for him. I am still uncomfortable around him. Mom knew how I felt and understood.

Now that she is gone, do I have any obligation to him? He has a strained relationship with his only child. My sibling thinks I'm too hard on him, but doesn't understand the major problems our stepdad caused. I don't want to continue pretending I like him. Please help, Abby. — SEARCHING FOR GUIDANCE

DEAR SEARCHING: You are entitled to your feelings and, no, you do not have any obligation to your stepfather. If your sibling wants to see him, that's his/her choice. Explain to your sibling your reasons for feeling the way you do — and if you encounter your stepfather during family gatherings, be polite and don't linger. That isn't pretending to like the man; it is good manners.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Taurus and a Moon in Virgo if born before 10:25 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013:

This year you will wish for a little more downtime, as you often are regarded as the source of excitement. If you open up and allow your judgments to fade, you could see life from a new, productive perspective. If you are single, you approach life with more enthusiasm, which will attract people who might be depressed. Be aware of people who seem one way but actually are another. If you are attached, you see life more optimistically if you are willing to make needed changes. LIBRA is provocative and challenging. 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 enjoy taking the lead. Sometimes when you step back you feel uncomfortable. Allow this discomfort to exist, and give others the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Be clear in your choices. Take all the time you need. Tonight: Hear suggestions first.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You are direct and know what to do. A problem might not be resolved despite your focus and direction, as others could be confused. You know what is workable and achievable. News from a distance could be disconcerting, but you will gain some insight. Tonight: Play it easy.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be busy attempting to turn a situation around. Your style of communication is direct, and it will take you down a new path if you are willing to take the risk. You seem to be lucky, no matter which way you turn. Make and return calls. Tonight: You choose.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Basics do count. You need to move forward and touch base with a person who can be unpredictable at times. Realize what is happening with a boss or an authority figure. Could this person also have issues with his or her own rules and regulations? Tonight: In the limelight.

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

★★★★ Honor who you are and make an additional effort, should you hit a difficult or trying time. Something unpredictable could occur when you least expect it. You

might be caught in an either/or position and left with no choice but to push a friend away. Tonight: Take a deep breath.

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

★★★★ You understand much more than you realize about a situation and those involved. Your resourcefulness comes out, but you'll need to focus in order to find an answer. Others test your patience and your ability to follow through on what counts. Tonight: Run some errands.

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

★★★★ Surprising news comes in. You might feel as if you can handle what comes up, especially if you are going down a path that suits you. Information you hear has a way of throwing you off course. Listen to an idea that several key people like. Tonight: Reach out for more information.

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

★★★★ You might want to see a problem from a different viewpoint. Brainstorm with someone who has wild ideas. You could gain a new perspective by hearing different takes on a situation. Opportunities head your way when you remain receptive. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

★★★★ You might want to think in terms of the group. The unexpected occurs when dealing with a child, a new passion or an unfinished project. You could get feedback about the fact that you are reading the tea leaves incorrectly. Revise your thinking. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

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

★★★★ Understand what you need to do. Honor your priorities, or else you could encounter a last-minute problem. Demonstrate your ability to root out an issue and get to the bottom of a difficult situation. Your upbeat attitude serves you well. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

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

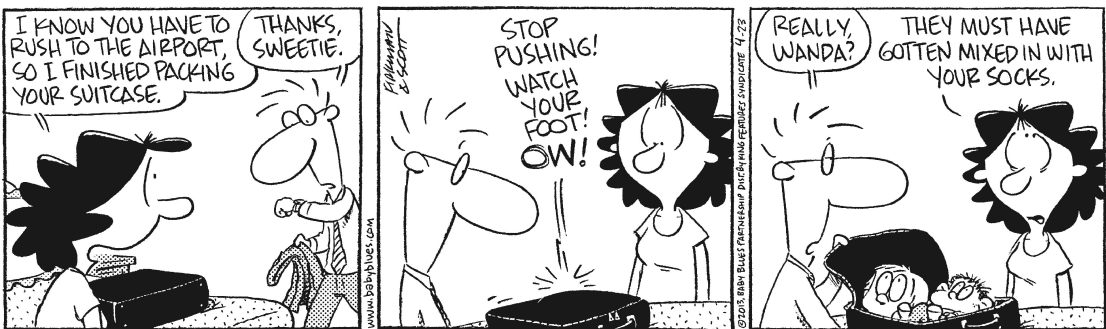
★★★★ You have been known to say exactly what you think. Information that comes forward might not make any sense. Remain upbeat in your search for answers. Let go of previous judgments. Push comes to shove regarding a major change. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

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

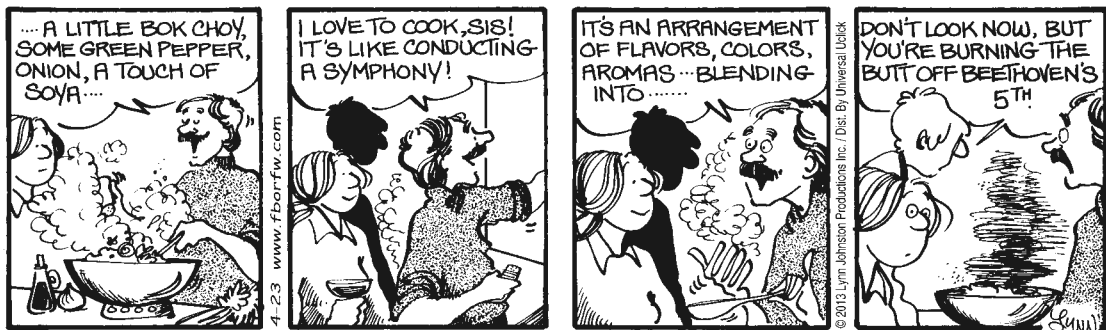
★★★★ Work with someone directly, and ask for more feedback. Your ability to move past an immediate problem with this person's help will shock many people. A child or family member clearly wishes you only the best and supports you in your choices. Tonight: Invite a friend over.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

