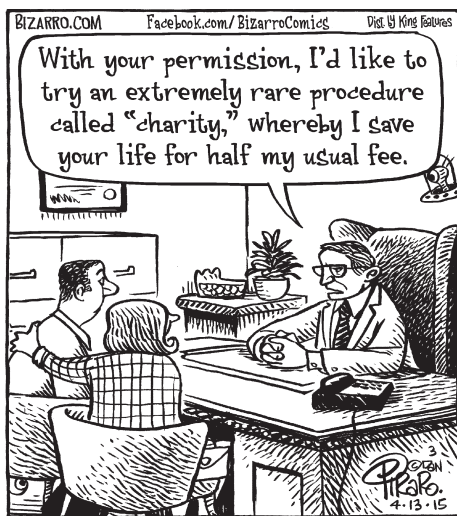


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"If this is a free country, why do you hafta BUY land?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



With your permission, I'd like to try an extremely rare procedure called "charity," whereby I save your life for half my usual fee.

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



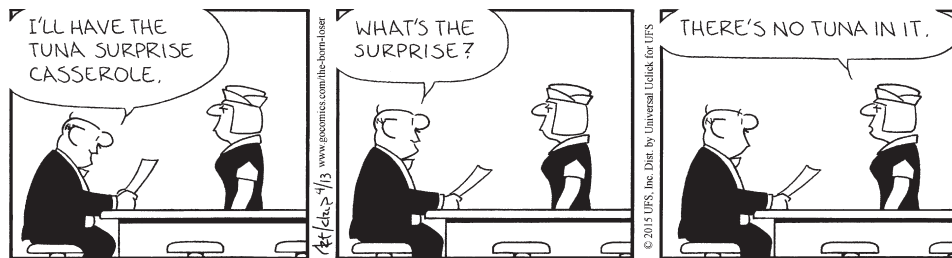
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



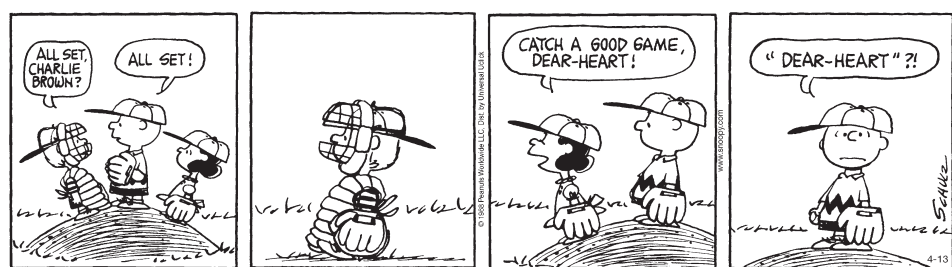
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



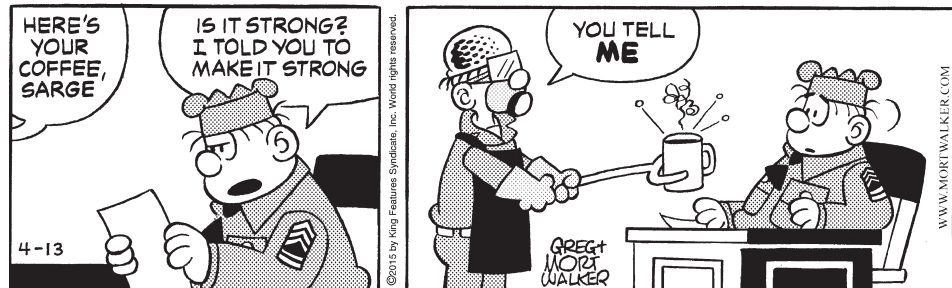
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



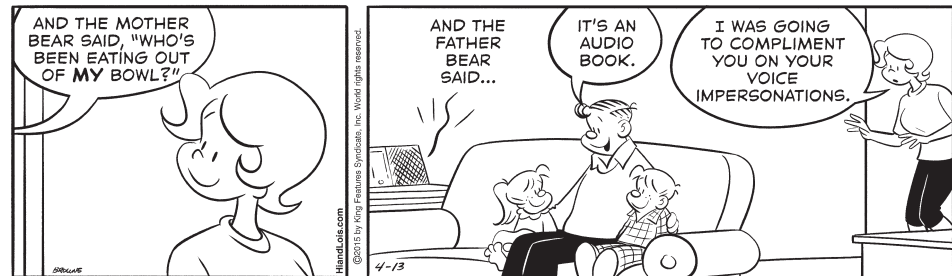
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



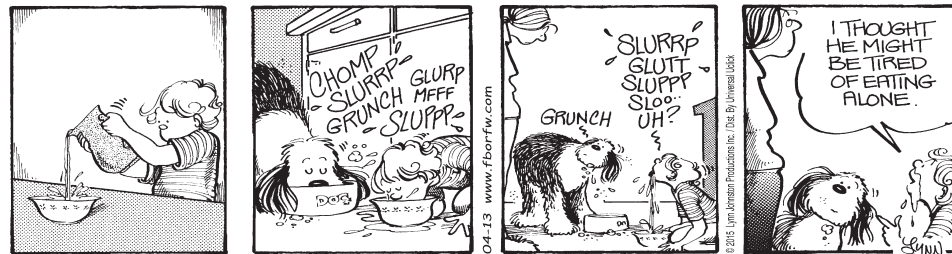
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Friendly Divorce May Be Best For Wife In Unhappy Marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm 38, married for 16 years and the mother of two small children. I was recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer and had a hysterectomy to remove it.

My husband has cheated more than once in the past, and since my recovery I have realized I never forgave him for it. I kept quiet and pretended I didn't know. Now I am bitter, angry and hurt. He goes out and stays out constantly. He does help with the kids, but I know I don't belong here. I know what I want, and it's not this life with him anymore.

I know I can leave at any time, but I feel my children deserve to be raised with both parents in the home since neither of us had that when we were growing up. (My father died. His parents divorced when he was a toddler.) His family has been my family since the beginning of our relationship.

I want my children to grow up thinking marriage is forever and growing old with your partner is great. I want them to have what I did not. If we are civilized and "pretend to be in love," would my children be OK? I'm willing to stay in this marriage until they are old enough and on their own before I walk away. Will they understand that I sacrificed my happiness for them to live with both parents? I want to be in love and happy, but would rather raise my babies with their father than someone else. Your advice is greatly appreciated. - WILLING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WILLING: OK. First, let's talk about your diagnosis and the treatment you had. Being diagnosed with a life-threatening illness can cause anyone to rethink how one has been living one's life. It can cause all sorts of repressed emotions to boil to the surface, causing anger, bitterness and hurt. Before making any life-changing decisions, please talk with your doctor, a marriage counselor and your husband about those feelings.

If you think that staying in an unhappy marriage with a man who goes out and stays

out constantly while pretending to be in love would be healthy for your children, I'd be less than honest if I didn't warn you that you would be doing them a disservice. Even if you could pull it off and the kids didn't sense the tension between you and your husband, how do you think they'll feel when they are older and realize what they were led to believe was a happy marriage was a lie?

Because you feel so strongly about raising them with your husband, my advice is to make every effort to clear the air and work out your marital problems with him. That said: It takes two to tango. If he is unwilling to cooperate, all of you might be happier if you separated and agreed to an amicable divorce and shared custody. I'm not saying it would be easy, but it can be done if both parties are willing.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I recently received an invitation to a small wedding that specified the attire to be "dressed casual." I'm thinking of wearing a pair of nice black slacks, a white sweater and a black leather jacket.

Is it appropriate to wear black at a wedding ceremony? And who is the dress code guru who decides these matters? - DAN ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR DAN: MY "dress code guru" for weddings is Emily Post. According to Emily, "dressed casual attire" for men is a seasonal sport coat or blazer and slacks; a dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open-collar or polo shirt; optional tie and loafers or loafer-style shoes with socks. The rule about not wearing black to a wedding was discarded years ago, and it applied to women - not men.

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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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.

and clear. Don't neglect to express your thoughts in addition to acknowledging theirs. You'll gain a new perspective as a result. Tonight: Be available, and know that anything can happen!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could feel as if you're on top of the world when discussing an imminent change. You need to be direct and caring with a friend whom you see often. At this point, you might need some alone time, without the clutter of your day-to-day life. Tonight: Happiest at home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be quite sorry that you reacted to someone in such a volatile way. This person can be needy at times, which might be overwhelming. Remember this occasion so that you will not repeat this performance. Let your creativity open you up. Tonight: Fun and games.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Say little and respond in a more positive way. Your ability to read between the lines with a very angry person will help you find a way to get through to this person. You could feel as if an associate tends to be too forgiving of this individual. Tonight: Off to the gym.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be put off by the hectic pace of your day and by the many requests from others. Pull back some and consider what must happen in order for you to complete what you must, then follow through. Tonight: Work with a loved one who often is erratic.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★ Be aware of what you must do in order to promote a necessary change in your life. Financial security is always important to you, and you can't compromise on this level. A loved one could be challenging, as he or she tends to have different ideas from you. Tonight: Pay bills first.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You will be all smiles, even in the face of an emotional storm. You might want to revise your schedule in order to bypass someone who seems to be creating a lot of uproar. A dear friend or loved one will support you in your ideas and your desires. Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will be in a position where you need to take strong control of your assets and your work. You could have a surprise presented to you, yet you might seem somewhat scattered and unable to appreciate what is happening. Tonight: Treat a dear friend to dinner.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015:

This year you focus on your long-term desires and needs. How you handle someone and the choices you make could be very different from what you initially had expected. Your actions reflect this transformation. Your ability to move through issues becomes fine-tuned. If you are single, it is likely that you will meet someone of significance in the next few months. You will know when this person arrives on the scene. If you are attached, this year could be one of the best periods you have shared as a couple. You will act as if you have just fallen in love. AQUARIUS is your friend no matter what you do. 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 be more challenging than you realize. If you use your creativity, you'll be able to cut costs and find a better solution to a financial problem. A brainstorming session is likely to serve you well, as it could point you in the right direction. Tonight: Follow a friend's lead.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You might not be aware of how angry you have become. You could find yourself losing it at an inappropriate moment. This is a pattern you won't want to continue. Consider expressing your frustration earlier, before it erupts. Everyone will be happier, including you. Tonight: Out late.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ If you feel anger or irritation developing, it might be best for you to express these feelings as they occur. Others most likely will become more responsive and helpful as a result. A friend might surprise you by forcing you to think outside the box. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be at your wits' end when dealing with a friend who seems to be on the warpath. Understand that this person's anger is not directed at you. Resist having a knee-jerk reaction, and don't hold a grudge. Allow your sensitivity to emerge. Tonight: Your treat.

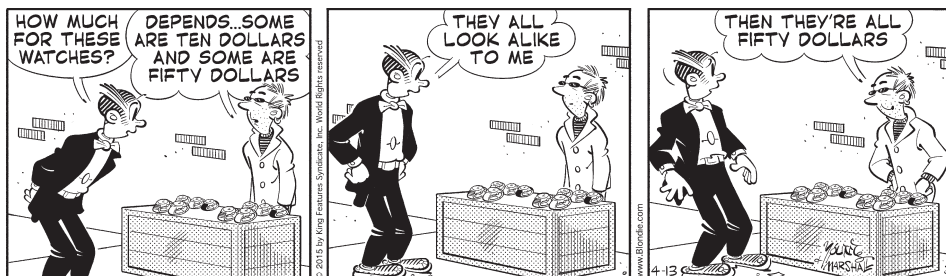
LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others seem determined to express their feelings, and they want you to hear them loud

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

