

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



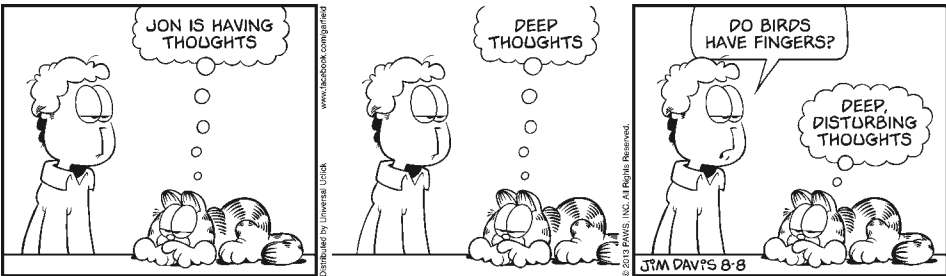
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



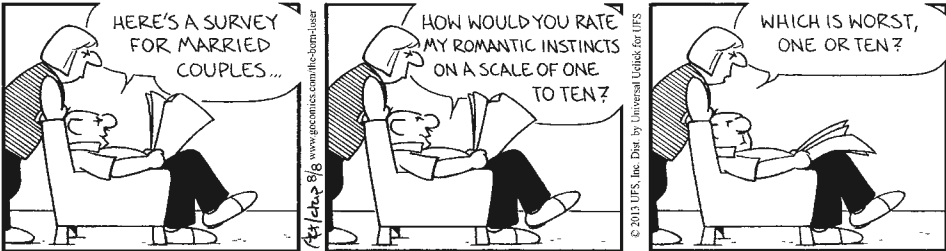
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



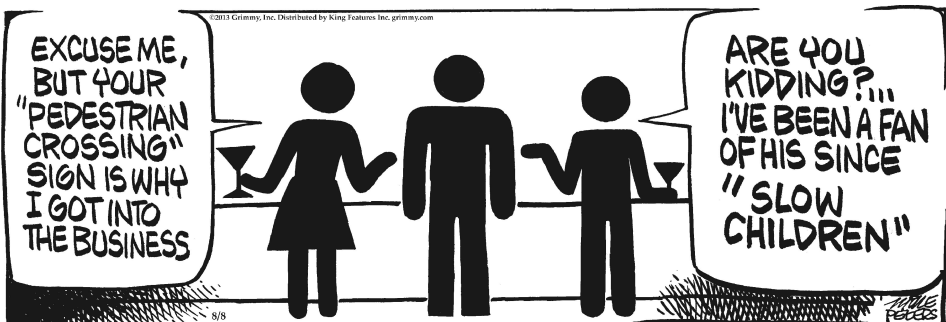
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Contractor Wants To Fire His Wife But Save His Marriage

DEAR ABBY: I am a self-employed general contractor, and have been for the most part successful. My wife, "Janine," worked in the mortgage industry, but because of the economic downturn hasn't worked in three years.

After her mom provided some financial help to my business eight months ago, Janine decided she wanted to work for me doing the office work and bookkeeping. The problem is, she doesn't show up until late afternoon and stays only a short while. She doesn't get any work done, and then she leaves. She constantly rushes to get the bills paid at the very last minute.

Although my wife is college-educated, she really can't handle the job. Her work ethic is terrible. I started my company and I'm the boss. When Janine doesn't agree with me about something, she yells so loud I'm sure the people who work next door can hear her. I have talked to her about this, and we have fought about it. I tried to fire her but she says if she can't work for my business, we might as well get divorced.

I never wanted a partner and didn't ask for one, and now I feel trapped with an employee from hell. I love Janine and don't want a divorce. How can I get her to quit and still stay married? — NEEDS HELP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NEEDS: Your wife's behavior is immature and inappropriate. If her being in your office is connected to the money her mother loaned you, my advice is to repay it immediately before your wife's "dabbling" as a business partner disrupts the business any further.

You may love Janine, but if the only thing holding your marriage together is allowing her to play at working in the office, then I'm sorry to say you don't have much of a marriage. Wake up and smell the coffee. You need an assistant and your wife needs something else to occupy her time.

DEAR ABBY: I was abused as a child through my teenage years. I told my mom and we talked about it. My stepfather was the molester.

Part of me is still angry about what he did to me, but another part thinks fondly of the life we had as kids. What's wrong with me? Is it normal to have conflicted emotions about a person who hurt you? None of my siblings know about my past. My stepfather is deceased now and so is my mom. — SURVIVOR IN MARYLAND

DEAR SURVIVOR: You deserve credit for not only being able to acknowledge your pain, but also emotionally mature enough to look back and not diminish the good things. It's a sign that you are healthy. Your feelings are normal, and you are to be congratulated for being able to view your history in its entirety.

DEAR ABBY: The women I work with are now starting to have grandchildren. That's great, but when did it become trendy to have baby showers for the grandmothers? Personally, I think this is over the top. What about you? — SHOWER OVERLOAD IN MINNESOTA

DEAR SHOWER OVERLOAD: I don't agree. It may have become trendy around the time that so many grandmothers assumed responsibility for raising their grandchildren. Or, the women may be so excited about welcoming a first grandchild that they want to celebrate with a party of their own. Because you feel differently, simply decline the invitations.

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.)



## DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## 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 Leo and a Moon in Virgo all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 8, 2013:

This year you'll have many new offers that could affect your finances. It is imperative that you really check out each one with care. A friend or partner often might confuse you on these matters. If you are single, you could meet someone very special ... or so it seems. This person might dazzle you, but be aware that he or she could be very different beneath the surface. If you are attached, the two of you could have misunderstandings about your finances. Perhaps having separate checkbooks is the solution. VIRGO can be fussy.

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)

Make a point to give a loved one some extra attention. You will find that you have entered a period where your compassion soars; nevertheless, confusion could break out with a partner. This person might want something different from what you want. Tonight: Check your budget.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You are coming from a place of stability. You have a way of letting others know how much you care simply with a helpful or sensitive statement. If someone shuts down, others might step in and try to push him or her around. Try to avoid this type of interaction. Tonight: Think "weekend."

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You might want to cocoon at home to get away from the many requests heading your way. You'll have a desire to make an appearance, but responsibilities could hold you back. Perhaps you need some downtime to center yourself. Tonight: Call a loved one to catch up on news.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Keep your door open, even if you have the urge to slam it shut. You will be dealing with others' difficult behavior. Step in and try to find a solution that will bring others together. You will have an idea to share, and you'd like some feedback. Tonight: Call a friend or loved one.

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

Mercury moves into your sign, which adds to that famous Leo charisma you possess. Even if you try to push someone away, it will be

difficult. A family member might be on your mind. You will have to clear up this situation in order to concentrate. Tonight: Plan your weekend.

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

You blast into the day all smiles and ready to handle whatever you must. A discussion with a partner could take you in a lot of different directions. This person might be unusually vague, which allows your creativity to emerge. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

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

You will see how somber those around you really are. Many of you might want to leave this gloomy situation behind as soon as you can. Say "no" to a manipulative family member. Establish your boundaries, and let others know when they cross them. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

Your words will be heard by the right person. You might need to go the extra mile to impress a boss. You will gain his or her approval, and you'll find that it encourages you. A key person in your life could be very controlling. Choose to walk away. Tonight: Find your friends.

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

Your take-charge attitude will be appreciated by many. Just like everyone else, you have ideas that could cause controversy. Proceed with care. Your creativity will emerge as pressure builds. Keeping others involved is important -- you can do it! Tonight: On top of your game.

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

Investigate alternatives. Decide to take an overview by detaching and speaking with others who are not involved. You will demonstrate more ability to flex and come up with dynamic solutions. An associate or friend is full of good news. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

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

You could be driven by a need to change direction, but you might wonder how to do that. Use caution with your funds. What you thought was a good idea could be off. Take as few risks as possible right now. Good news will head your way. Tonight: Meet a friend for dinner.

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

You often inspire others, but certain people could be extremely critical of your motivational powers. Could they be jealous? Consider that they might have the same characteristic but choose to express it in a very different way. Tonight: Make peace.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

