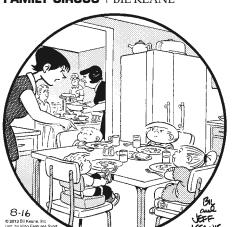
ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net

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"Because Grandma's dining room table isn't big enough for everybody. NOW eat and not another word."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES





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 SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Worker Dreams Of Trading A Cubicle For A Classroom

DEAR ABBY: I am 39 and have been at my job for 15 years. I don't enjoy it and haven't since day one. The work is stressful and doesn't bring me one single ounce of gratification.

I have always wanted to be an elementary

school teacher, but now I'm afraid that ship has sailed. I'm currently back in college for business (my job helps to pay my tuition) and feel like I'm not being fair to myself. I don't like finance, and I was never good at math. I get paid well and am well-invested in my retirement plan, but I'm miserable every minute I must sit in

jail cell. I need advice on where to take my career because I'm not getting any younger. Or is it too late? — OVER THE HILL IN NEW JERSEY

my little cubicle. I consider it my

DEAR O.T.H.: You are not incarcerated, and you are only as trapped as you choose to make yourself. Most colleges have career counseling services, and you should avail yourself of them.

If teaching children is your heart's desire, you will have to take the time to prepare for it, know ahead of time what opportunities are available and what the compensation is. Make it your business to find out before making any drastic changes. You'll be glad you did.

DEAR ABBY: I fervently want to help my daughter and her father (my ex) fix their relationship. They are both a lot alike — bullheaded and stubborn. They can't see how much they hurt each other.

My daughter feels he has chosen his "new" family (wife and stepchildren) over her because she isn't invited to family game nights, dinners out, etc.

He feels she doesn't appreciate what he

She's expecting a baby (our first grandchild) in December, and I think they should try to mend fences before the birth occurs. We lost our son (her brother) three years ago, and I know this figures into the family dynamic as well. I just don't want to see them hurt each other anymore. Can you help me fix this? -

DEAR ANXIOUS: I wish you had clarified what your ex "does" do for his daughter, because from your description it appears he has done the minimum and little else. Having been excluded from "family game nights and din-

ners out," it's natural that she would feel her father made a new family and left her in the dust.

While I admire your impulse to be the peacemaker, I don't think you can fix this. Family counseling might be able to mend the rift, but only if all parties are willing.

DEAR ABBY: My wife died on my birthday a few years back. It was the most traumatic thing that has ever happened to me, and my birthday has been depressing since.

Every year, people continue to send cards and gifts, wishing me a happy birthday. All I want to do on that miserable day is get through it. It will never be

"happy" for me again. Ever. I don't want to be nasty to these well-meaning people, but I really do want them to stop. How can I convey that my birthday is not a happy occasion anymore?

— PARTY POOPER IN NEW MEX-

DEAR ABBY

■ Dear Abby is written

by Abigail Van Buren,

also known as Jeanne

founded by her mother,

Pauline Phillips. Write

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

DEAR PARTY POOPER: I am sorry for your loss. A way to ensure your message gets across would be to write or call these wellmeaning individuals, thank them for their good wishes and tell them exactly what you have written to me. I think you expressed it verv well.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 the Sun in Leo and the Moon in Sagittarius until 8:25 p.m., when the Moon enters Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 16, 2013:

This year your adventuresome nature emerges, only to be tamed by good sense and a reflective mental process. You might be doing a lot of evaluating, especially your actions and their ramifications on your life. Be honest with yourself as to what doesn't work and what does. If you are single, you could attract someone very interesting who might not reveal him- or herself as completely as you would like. Use caution when entering a relationship. If you are attached, indulge your sweetie, who deals with your multifaceted and changeable nature. He or she deserves it, not that you are not delightful to hang with. CAPRICORN always adds a sober tone in the middle of chaos.

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)**

Reach out for someone else or seek out another perspective if you are not comfortable with what you are hearing. A partner softens up considerably. New beginnings are possible if both parties are willing to talk. Don't push; you have time. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You see a situation differently because of feedback from a partner. Approach an associate with care, who might feel cornered or disappointed. Your efforts are appreciated. Put your best foot forward, and others naturally will join

in. Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance. **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

★★★★★ Indulge a child or loved one who now seems to be more willing to cooperate. What generates could last for a substantial time if the spirit of cooperation remains. A group discussion draws many opinions. Opinions are just that --

opinions. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend. **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**

★★★★ Pace yourself, though you might want to have a lengthy talk with someone who is family or feels like family. Maintain a steady pace as you eye what has to be done. Be aware of what the costs of a purchase are, even if it improves the quality of your life. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22) ★★★★ You might want to review some decisions you are about to make. You will see imporwhat your expectations are. Just be clear. Tonight: Get into the spirit of the moment. VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

tant results once others understand that you will claim your power. They will also need to know

* ★ * ★ Take your time moving forward, especially if you are not sure which way to go. You could test the waters. Friends and associates offer feedback, but ultimately the choice is yours and only yours. A gesture draws a caring response. Tonight: TGIF.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Your conversation multiplies the possibilities in your mind. You have a set of expectations and desires; the time has come to express them. Only then can others or another person respond. Don't make the assumption that the other person just knows -- he or she doesn't necessarily. Tonight: Return calls. Initiate calls. Then decide.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You often hold back or don't disclose the whole story. Though your feelings could be intensified by keeping some details private, the result might not be positive. Do use your intuition with funds right now. A talk with a respected associate about this risk might be wise. Tonight: Complete what must be done, then decide.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Use your strong personality and taste for adventure to encourage others to forge a new path. You find someone has strong feelings about you. This not-so-secret admirer gives you a lot to consider. Tonight: Invite others to join in your TGIF

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You have reason to maintain a low profile. In a sense, you are a tiger crouched behind a bush, ready to pounce when the timing is right. Still, you quietly gain information. Don't forget to touch base with an older or respected friend. Tonight: Nap first.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

**** Follow another's lead who clearly seems more directed and energized. A call or contact from a distance forces you to stop and make a decision, or at least consider your options regarding a decision. Tonight: Head out early.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You might be getting a little too much attention for your taste. Nevertheless, you gracefully move forward and assume the lead. You get a lot of support from a loved one or dear friend who eases your passage into this role. Tonight: Only where the action lies.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT







FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON





