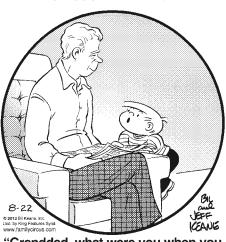
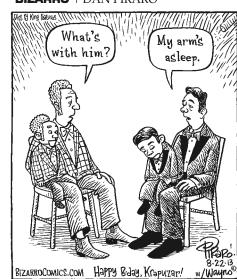
Press&Dakotan

#### FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Granddad, what were you when you were old enough to work?'

#### **BIZARRO** | DAN PIRARO



**ZITS** | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



**PEANUTS** | CHARLES M. SCHULZ









YOUMEAN HE DUDE, FIGURATIVELY I KNOW

WHAT LITERALLY

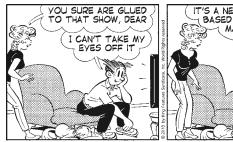
MEANS

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





**BLONDIE** | YOUNG & DRAKE



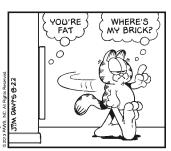




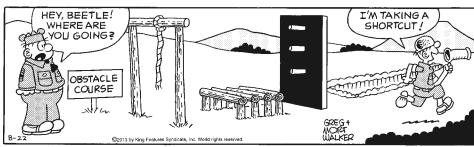
**GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS







**BEETLE BAILEY** | MORT WALKER



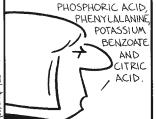
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







**MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM** | MIKE PETERS



# **Narcotics Anonymous Meeting Confession Fires Up Readers**

**DEAR ABBY** 

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

■ 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-

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing about the letter you printed from "Somewhere in the South" (May 26) who heard someone confess to a crime he had committed at age 12 during one of his Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. The person asked if he should go to the police. You advised him to talk about it to the "group leader."

Abby, in a 12-step program, there is no formal leader who has a responsibility to report anything to the authorities. There are usually discussion groups led by someone chosen for the night. I am not condoning what the

person did at that young age. It was a horrible act. But 12-step programs are based on ANONYMITY. Reporting what is heard at meetings is completely against what 12-step meetings are all about. It was unfair of you to place responsibility on someone who is there for his OWN addiction to tell on another group member. — ANONYMOUS IN THE

DEAR ANONYMOUS: I received a ton of criticism for my response to that letter. Readers like you wrote to point out that I was misinformed about how

these programs work; others berated me for not insisting the writer notify the police immediately.

I was — and still am — of two minds on the question. While it would be satisfying to see "justice done," I could not bring myself to recommend going against the principle upon which these 12-step programs that have helped thousands of people is based. Another principle of these programs is that people who have hurt others must make amends for what they have done. However, this is the responsibility of the person who committed the crime — NOT someone who overheard mention of it at a meeting. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have been a member of NA for 26-plus years (drug- and alcohol-free for that entire time). I also work in the field of

mental health, where I have certain reporting duties as part of my professional code of ethics. I learned long ago how to separate my professional responsibilities from my membership in NA. If I obtain information about abuse or neglect in the conduct of my profession, THEN I have a duty to act. Should I

overhear something at a meeting, in the mall or some other social setting, I have no specific duty to report. — CLEAN, FREE AND LIV-ING LIFE

DEAR ABBY: As a 30-year member. I can say with certainty that some meeting attendees are grandiose and others are mentally ill. I have not infrequently heard disclosures that I later determined to be not true. The advice for members offered by our NA traditions is, "Take what you can use (in one's own recovery) and leave the rest of what one hears at a meeting." — CHARLES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your answer to that letter! Yes, this needs to be reported. If the victim died in that incident, it is a cold case and the boy's parents — if they are still alive — would

have never had closure. There may be siblings who would want to know what happened to their brother.

I am not a believer that if you confess to murder in NA, AA or with a priest in a confessional that they are bound not to tell. That is HOGWASH! For some crimes I would say OK, but not something this serious. — JIM Ř., LANCASTER, CALĬF.

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 Moon in Pisces and a Sun in Leo if born before 7:02 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Virgo.

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR** THURSDAY, AUG. 22, 2013:

This year you are capable of creating what you want -- you just have to figure out what that is. You often juggle mixed feelings, and you might not be very sure of yourself. You have an unusually strong need to take care of others. Do not forget to put yourself at the top of the list. If you are single, your dynamic personality attracts many different people. Dating could be fun, as long as you can go with the flow. If you are attached, the two of you support each other in becoming free thinkers. AQUARIUS can be provocative.

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 comfortable assuming a low profile right now. You will be able to gather more information while simultaneously doing some much-needed research. Pressure could build, so use a personal technique to control your anger. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

★★★★★ You might be dealing with a personal issue. As a result, you could have difficulty maintaining your focus until this situation is resolved. Others immediately will feel the difference when your creativity emerges and your energy changes. Tonight: Add some romance

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

★★★★ You'll feel as though you are on top of your game, and you know full well what you want to communicate. You have a unique ability to draw others toward you. You will like the feedback you get from a close friend. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's before the weekend.

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

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Be more creative in how you follow through on your priorities. Do not get caught up in a momentary disagreement or in others' concerns. You know what works well for you. Realize that when given space, you could manifest what you most desire. Tonight: Use your energy well.

## LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

\*\*\*\* Allow yourself to have some downtime. You will be much happier if you relax. A financial offer might be too good to be true. Be careful,

and double-check the facts. Listen to your inner voice, and follow it -- it will keep you out of trouble. Tonight: Meet up with a partner.

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

★★★★ Energy levels increase as the day goes on. Do not feel as if you have to push hard to accomplish anything right now, as you will have the time and vitality later today or in the near future to complete what you must. Tonight: Go along with a partner's suggestion.

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

HHHH Plug away at work as if there were no tomorrow. You have many ideas, but don't push yourself too hard; you will have time to get everything done. A boss or relative demands a lot. Let this person know that you know what you are doing. Tonight: Put your energy into a project.

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

★★★★ Your creativity will emerge, and you could feel more focused by late afternoon. A true friend will stand behind you. In fact, your bond will become stronger in the next few weeks. You might find yourself in a position where you are able to

#### manifest your desires. Tonight: At home. **SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)**

★★★ Pressure builds in the next few weeks to take a stronger stand at work or to step up to the plate with a caretaking issue. You will have the energy and the knowledge to make some important decisions that you have been putting off. Tonight: Start planning your weekend.

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

★★★★ You are willing to push yourself to extremes in order to accomplish what you want. Selfdiscipline is one of your assets, but also be sure to honor your limitations. You'll want to have the physical energy afterward to enjoy the results! Tonight: Use caution with your funds.

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

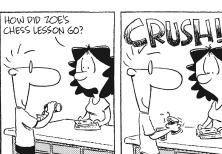
★★★★ Get as much done as you can in the morning, when you are able to accomplish more. Also, others will be more receptive then. Deal on a one-on-one level with a close partner or associate. This person is easier to work with under the present circumstances. Tonight: A mini shopping trip.

# PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by your choices right now. By evening, you will have a clearer sense of your priorities and a better sense of which direction you should head in. A loved one will do whatever he or she can to get your attention. Enjoy the escapades! Tonight: Be sponta-

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









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON







