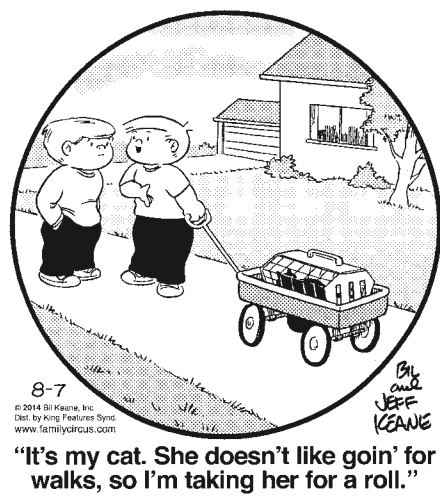


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



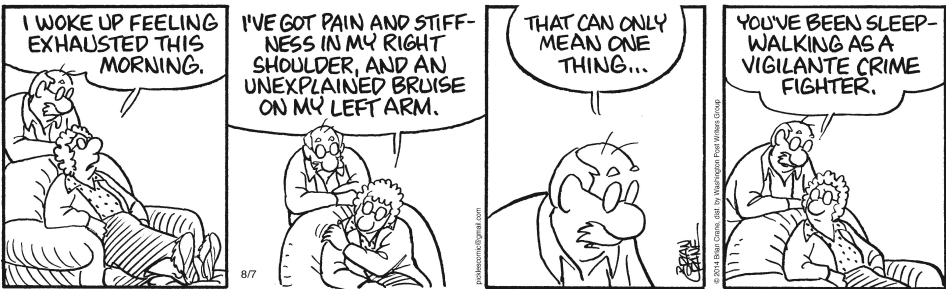
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



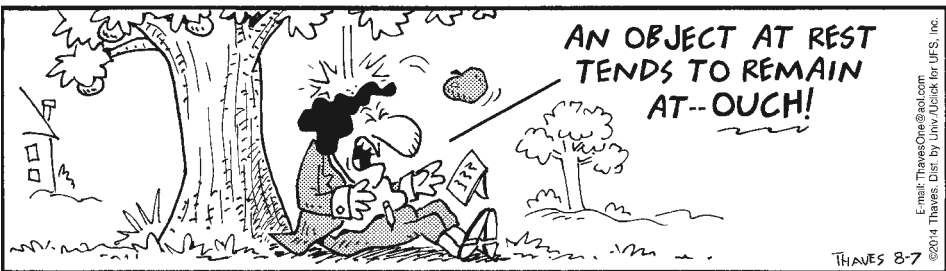
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



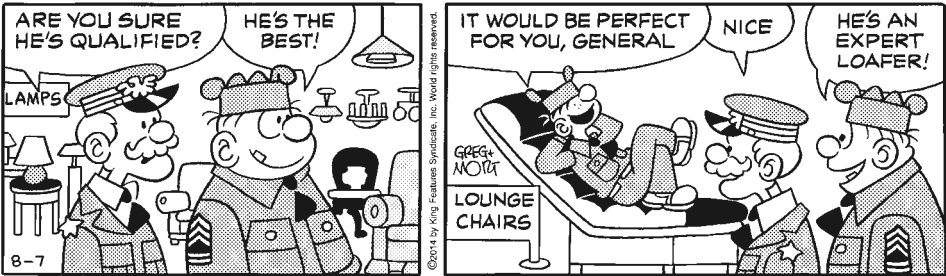
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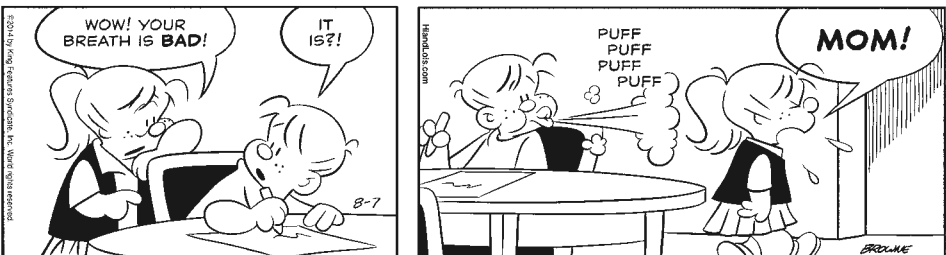
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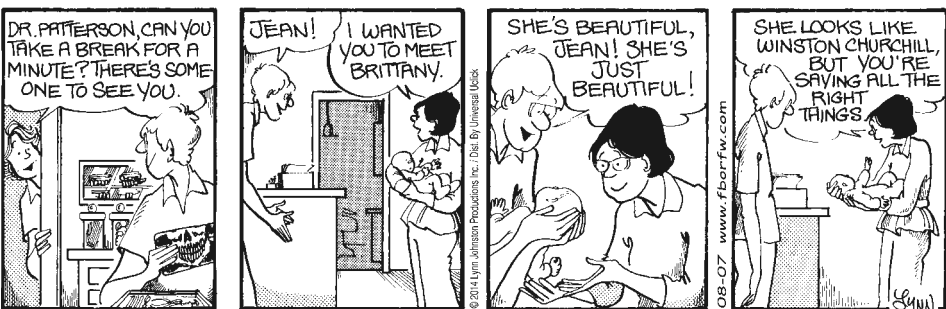
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Battle Of The Sexes Over Sex Ignites Feedback From Readers

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from "Pressured" (April 23), the wife whose husband keeps track of how often he and his wife have had sex and his determination to have sex 100 times per year. She was wondering if this is normal.

I can tell her that my former husband thought we should have sex five times a week. He kept a calendar of when we had sex that also included who initiated it. I explained to him that I was more than willing to have frequent sex, but that he also had to be an attentive, caring husband.

Our marriage counselor believed he was suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression and was probably a diagnosable narcissist. Surprise, surprise! He pronounced our marriage counselor to be inept and divorced me.

"Pressured" says she has a good marriage, so I assume that means she has a caring husband. I would advise her to do her best to enthusiastically and creatively meet his needs. Most men express love and feel loved by having sex. Scorekeeping could be his ineffective attempt at communicating his need to feel loved. — THE EX-MRS.

DEAR EX: Thank you for writing. The saying "men are from Mars, women are from Venus" aptly applies to the responses I received from my readers about that letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Most guys may keep track of how often they're having sex, although more likely it's how long since the last time, or maybe how many times a week. But this guy is an idiot for letting his wife know that he's tracking it, let alone that he has a goal of 100 times. Hopefully he's not procreating, just "recreating" in bed.

Abby, I thought you knew men better. "Fifty great versus 100 'so-so' times" — are you kidding? Surely you know the saying, "Even bad sex is pretty good sex." We guys will take it any way, any how, anytime. For us, it's all good, all the time. — DAN IN IRVING, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Unfortunately, my husband also likes to keep a running tab of our sexual frequency. It galls me.

I saw a movie years ago in which a couple saw the same therapist and one tells the counselor, "We NEVER have sex! We only do it three times a week." While the other says, "We have sex ALL THE TIME! We do it three times a week!"

We must consider the other person and his or her needs, whether they're emotional, sexual or physical. Emotional and physical are not necessarily the same. — DENISE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: For most men, sex is just a little less important than breathing and eating as essential to our existence. Men are getting fed up with being deprived. I have often considered extramarital sexual pursuits, and I feel I'd be justified in doing so. I know I'm not alone.

Men have needs, and should have a right to share intimate relations with their wives. If not, we should be given the green light to fulfill our needs elsewhere. — JAMES IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: I had to chuckle at "Pressured." I have been married 20 years and have five children. I figure my husband and I are intimate an average of 260 times a year. Needless to say, my husband greets me with a smile every day, and our marriage is rock solid. — KNOWS THE SECRET IN UTAH

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Leo and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 9:38 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 7, 2014:

This year you often rally your energy at home and get involved in a cause. As a result, you will accomplish a lot. At times, those around you might feel left out as they encounter the new, efficient you. Make time for loved ones and friends. They will continue to play a pivotal role in your life. If you are single, you are likely to encounter a new person. Recognize that you are changing, and avoid a commitment for at least a year. If you are attached, your sweetie might be taken back by the new you. Give him or her time to adjust. CAPRICORN is all business.

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)

★★★★ Someone seems to match your fiery nature, and this will challenge you to move in a new direction. It is up to you whether this is war or peace! Responsibilities call, but you'll want to make extra time for a key person in your life. Tonight: In the whirlwind of the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Others are just as challenging as you are. The problem seems to be that one person wants to be more combative than you can tolerate. Your family will serve as a powerful anchor. Know that you can have what you want. Tonight: Consider a weekend getaway.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll want to get past a problem, but you might not be able to contain someone's anger. Some of you will attempt a noteworthy discussion, while others opt to avoid the situation. A one-on-one conversation will point you in the right direction. Tonight: Go for a close encounter.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You'll find yourself surrounded by others. One person specifically is hot-tempered and capable of causing you a problem. How do you want to deal with this? Many of you will opt to head down a more peaceful path. Tonight: Don't allow someone to trigger you.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You'll want to focus on certain details that must be completed if you are to enter this

weekend feeling fancy-free and content. You can accomplish a lot, quite quickly. Refuse to let a loved one or family member slow you down. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your playful manner and deliberate attitude will attract others' attention. They might not be exactly sure of what you want, but neither will you. Remain responsive to others. If you become irritated by someone, simply walk away. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might be more upbeat once you distance yourself from a difficult situation. You won't want to reveal everything on your mind when checking out an investment involving your home. Refuse to take on a commitment just yet. Tonight: Stay anchored.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be angrier than you realize. You have been holding back your feelings for so long that you might not be totally aware of what is even triggering your anger. Slow down some, and initiate a conversation. Tonight: Hang with a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your spending could go way over budget if you are not careful. Your instincts are working overtime. Be careful about swallowing anger, as there could be a backfire. You might find that getting a situation resolved can be difficult. Tonight: Play it conservatively.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You know where you are going, though a friend could slow you down. Trust your judgment, and you will come out on top. Confusion might surround a phone call, so try to confirm what is going on. Tonight: Only where you can listen to music!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Know when to pull back and let others steal the scene. You might not be sure of your choices if you opt to head in a different direction. Listen to an angry friend or relative; this person needs your help. Tonight: Keep your plans a secret for now.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. This person's fresh perspective always helps level you out, allowing you to see a situation differently. Use your intuition to help open up a conversation with a friend. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

