Thursday, 12.27.12 ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net NEWS DEPARTMENT: news@yankton.net

## FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

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# "My ears are too cold to listen!"

#### **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

# BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

# Sympathy Is Wearing Thin For Needy, Demanding Friend

**DEAR ABBY** 

Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

Abigail Van Buren, also

and was founded by her

mother, Pauline Phillips.

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Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: How can I set healthy boundaries with my best friend without feeling guilty? I have always been supportive and available because I sympathized with her difficult family dynamics during

childhood and adulthood. She often talks to me about her problems with family and ever-changing relationships with men, but rarely allows me or others to share their points of view or personal concerns. Saying "no" to her is challenging under any circumstance, and she demands that all focus be on her in social situations.

I love and accept my friend as she is, and I try to give her all the grace I have. I now realize that setting healthy boundaries is the only way I can sustain our friendship. I know this dynamic may put a strain on our relationship, so why do I feel so guilty?

relationship, so why do I feel so guilty? — TESTED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DEAR TESTED: That's a good question, and one that I can't definitively answer for you. It's possible that like many women, you were raised to believe that if you assert yourself you won't be considered "nice." That's a mistake because as long as you allow this friend to take advantage of you and that is what she's doing — the

and that is what she's doing — the more your resentment will build until the relationship becomes one of diminishing returns. So tell this self-centered person as nicely as possible that you are not a therapist, and because her problems persist, she should talk to one.

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked the other day when a friend of mine said that many women remain in terrible marriages because of finances. She said those types of marriages are accepted worldwide, so why not in America? She also said she thinks that shame is attached if a woman admits the only reason she is staying with her husband is a monetary one.

# 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 Capricorn and a Moon in Gemini if born before 12:06 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 2012:

This year you often will swing back and forth between being intellectual and being highly emotional. Some of you might try to control this seesaw of sentiments. Accept that this is unlikely to change any time in the near future. If you are single, this back-and-forth could chase away a potential suitor, but come summer, you are likely to meet someone who enjoys your changeability and accepts you as you are. If you are attached, your sweetie might wonder what is going on. You need to accept that his or her responses could be different from what you'd expect. CANCER plays devil's advocate

CANCER plays devil's advocate. 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)

 $\star \star \star$  Use the morning for an important talk or meeting. By midafternoon, you could be conflicted or irritated about a situation. Your mood flows into other dealings. Take your time and process the irritation first, then deal with others. Tonight: Mosey on home.

The women she was talking about are baby boomers and older. After thinking about it, I remember my mother and mother-in-law saying that money was why they remained in their marriages. Is this as

prevalent as my friend stated? I find it sad that this could be true. It reminds me of the Tina Turner song — what's love got to do with it? Could you comment, please? — IN IT FOR LOVE

DEAR IN IT: If you're asking if I have statistics on the number of women who stay married only for economic reasons, the answer is no. Most of the people who write to me are unhappy, which would skew the numbers in a negative direction.

I hope you realize that the women you have described — an older demographic — were probably not economically independent when they married. It was common in their generation to go straight from their parents' houses to their husbands'. For many years I and my mother before me — have urged women to make sure they are self-supporting before they marry, "just in case" they may have to be afterward.

 0, Los An Staying in a marriage without love is like serving a life sentence with an incompatible cellmate. Your mother and mother-in-law have my sympathy, and so do their husbands.

DEAR ABBY: Do you ever get tired of giving advice to people who ask commonsense questions, or those who probably know the answer to their problems if they just thought it out? — JIM IN WEST VIRGINIA

DÉAR JIM: The answer to your question is no. I love what I do and consider it an honor to be trusted. While the reply to a question may be obvious to you, it isn't to the person who asks me. Common sense tends to go out the window when there are strong emotions involved.

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with others. People will tend to be more responsive then. You actually might decide to keep to yourself in the afternoon. Avoid an argument with a favorite person. Patching this up could be difficult. Tonight: All smiles.

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

★★★★★ Rethink a decision more carefully. Take your time. In the afternoon, test out your conclusion. You might be causing yourself a problem if you move ahead blindly. Look to friends and loved ones for their advice and feedback. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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

★★★ Your mind drifts to matters beyond the hereand-now. What will it take to anchor you? A boss or key associate needs your time and attention later in the day. Do whatever you need to do in order to stay present. Tonight: Once you let go of the day's issues, the night becomes fun.

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

★★★★ Deal with someone or several different people on a one-on-one level. Rethink a personal matter more carefully. Laughter surrounds you later in the day when you relax. Once you detach, you'll see humor in what was once difficult. Tonight: Try a new pastime.

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

★★★★ Open up in the morning. A discussion could be quite animated with hostility or aggressiveness. You might not be up for an argument, but you will need to establish boundaries regardless. In the afternoon, clear the air Tonicht: Chat over dinner



### **GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS



### **BEETLE BAILEY** | MORT WALKER



## HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



# THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







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

★★★ Taking a hard look at recent expenditures might be more necessary than you think. Do not let someone's opinion trigger an argument -- just let it go. You know what you want. Do not stand on ceremony. Pick up the phone and call a friend. Tonight: Secure New Year's plans.

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  You are full of energy and could be difficult to find, according to more than a few people. It seems as if you flee the scene with an adeptness and quickness that surprises many. Make plans, if you can, for a short trip with some good friends. Tonight: Treat yourself.

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

★★★ Make it OK to move slowly in the morning. Accept and understand what you have been through as of late. Consider your options in the morning, and act in the later part of the afternoon. At the right moment, you will feel alert. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  Use the morning to the max when dealing

# BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT





## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON









# MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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

★★★ You might find yourself caught in a financial quandary. For some, this scenario might include trying to make ends meet. For others, it might involve returning useless gifts. Take time for someone who needs an upbeat message. Tonight: Be open to a suggestion.

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

★★★ You might surprise yourself with the feisty words that come out of your mouth. You have swallowed a lot of anger lately. Perhaps the time has come to process these feelings. Everyone involved would prefer a discussion rather than sarcastic jabs. Tonight: The unexpected occurs.

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

★★★★ Your ingenuity could face a problem. The issue will keep rearing its ugly head until you face facts and open up a discussion. You'll decide to let go and indulge in some playfulness. Tonight: Buy yourself that item you wanted but didn't get.

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