

# FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



or a sled. He can pick which one dependin' on the weather."

**ZITS** | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



**BIZARRO** | DAN PIRARO

I'm sorry, but in good

conscience, I cannot justify further tail augmentation.

RAR

12.10.13

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# Single Dad Struggles To Find More Time To Spend With Son

**DEAR ABBY** 

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

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 am a single 25-year-old man with a 15-month-old son. I didn't plan on having any children, but my son is everything to me. His mother and I did not work out well living together. We had different priorities and personalities and could not comfortably coexist.

I have no ill will toward "Andrea." She's a great person and a phenomenal mom. My dilemma is I constantly regret not working harder to stay with her. I see her new boyfriend with my son and it kills me. I see my son only on my two days off. I wish I could see him more than that, but the only way I could see it happening is if Andrea and I got back together.

Andrea and I got back together. Everyone I know says we made the right choice for the three of us, but they may be biased toward my side of the situation. I'm afraid of not being there for my boy like my father wasn't there for me when I was a kid. I don't think 18 hours a week with my child will be enough to prevent him from feeling the same way I did. — TORN FATHER IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR TORN: You have some geles, CA 90069. serious thinking to do. Feeling as you do, that you didn't try hard enough to save your relationship, discuss it with your ex and see how she feels about the possibility of a reconciliation.

HOWEVER, while I admire your desire to be a good father, it would be unfair to Andrea to try to get back together only to spend more time with your son. Consider asking her how she'd feel about you having him one night during the week in addition to your days off. Because the breakup wasn't acrimonious, she may welcome the idea and agree.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a condo complex and am appalled at the disgusting mess some residents leave behind in the laundry room. It's hard to fathom that people are unaware that they are expected to empty the lint screen after using the dryer. My husband says they just don't care.

# 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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Pisces if born before 5:06 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 2013:

This year you open up to new possibilities and allow your creativity to flourish. You will enjoy your life and interactions far more than you once believed possible. Anger often arises within you out of the blue. Learning ways to dispel this uncomfortable feeling will empower you. Relationships will flourish as a result. If you are single, no one denies your desirability. An inordinate amount of potential suitors surround you. If you are attached, your sweetie responds to the ever-changing you. You naturally experience great times together. ARIES gets your mojo going! Why should I have to empty it just so I can use the machine? People also leave the tops and insides of the machines dirty with lint, hair and what looks like mites. Don't you agree that people should wipe the laundry area down if they've left a mess? — TIDY IN NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

DEAR TIDY: Whether I agree is less important than whether the board of directors of your condominium association does. Bring this up at the next homeowners meeting and ask that some rules be set and a sign posted in the laundry room "reminding" those who use it to PLEASE be sure the machines are left clean when they are finished using them. I can't guarantee this will eliminate the problem, but it may help.

P.S. If you are correct about seeing mites in the laundry room, the manager should be informed so an exterminator can visit the complex and eradicate the infestation.

DEAR ABBY: What's the proper response when a woman tells you, "You're a lucky woman to have such a good husband who loves you so much"? That phrase bothers me because I feel it is a slap in my face — like what am I, chopped liver? Am I

not worthy of a wonderful marriage and family?

It is usually said by women who are unfamiliar with our lives and the struggles we have both endured since we met each other. Do I say thank you? Smile? Ignore it? I would never tell another woman she is lucky to have her man because I feel it's an insult. Am I overreacting? — HE'S LUCKY, TOO, IN COL-ORADO

DEAR HE'S LUCKY, TOO: Yes. The women who acknowledge how lucky you are may be comparing the way your husband treats you in public to the way they are treated by their husbands. Instead of being defensive, smile and say, "I agree. We're lucky to have EACH OTHER."

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Understand the underlying issue. Help others see what they have in common as opposed to what is different. Communication allows greater give-andtake. Tonight: Return calls, then decide.

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  A partner could be somewhat difficult. You might have a strong reaction as a result. Resist going off on a spending spree in this mood. A discussion is necessary. You understand the importance of timing; just wait. Tonight: Spend time with your best friend.

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

HHHH Defer to others. You could have a difficult time maintaining your authority. Walk in the other direction, and refuse to be a part of this situation. The other parties might be floored, but they will look at their actions as a result. Tonight: Entertain suggestions, but do what you want.

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

★★★★ Listen to what is being offered, even if



### **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



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)

★★★★ Look at an issue that could have created fireworks. Others appreciate your passion, as long as it is not directed at them. A reversal on your part could shake up the status quo. Remember, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Tonight: A long-overdue chat.

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

★★ You might be taken aback by everything that is going on around you. Experience your feelings rather than act on them; otherwise, you might just be adding fuel to the fire. Once you reach a realization, a conversation becomes far more plausible. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

★★★★ Honor a change involving a friend. You can't take back words you've said. Though you could have a strong reaction, try discussing your feelings without inflaming a situation. Working as a group proves far more effective than being independent. Tonight: Where you want to be.

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

 $\star\star\star$  Take a stand, move forward and handle a problem. Your sensitivity mixes well with your practical nature. Together, these assets will help you wade through muddy waters and come out sparkling clean. Know that you have what it takes, and trust yourself. Tonight: In the limelight.

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

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Read between the lines as you walk into a situation where people have strong opinions.

# BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

you don't like what you hear at first. Pace yourself and accomplish what you must before following someone's chosen path. You have the drive to get a lot done. Stay focused. Tonight: You deserve to take it easy.

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

HHHHH Your playfulness might not be in tune with others' moods. Someone you care about could be on the warpath. This person's actions and words might surprise you. Be a good listener, and look for solutions. Your willingness to help will come through. Tonight: Time for fun.

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

★★★ Stay centered, and know where you are coming from. Avoid testing out ideas on others right now. An unexpected insight tumbles into your lap and forces you to regroup. You can't avoid a personal matter and/or an issue involving real estate. Tonight: Have an important discussion.

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

★★★★ You are coming from a good place, but suddenly you might find yourself feeling angry. Focus on how you can change the outcome of the situation. Do not rely on the tried and true. Have an important discussion when you feel more settled. Tonight: Hang out at a favorite haunt.

# PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Be aware of your spending. No matter what you do, you seem to make choices that could cause a problem. Perhaps you need more information and feedback, as you have yet to see the clear path. You will be given time and openness. Tonight: Pay your bills first.

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### FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



