

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



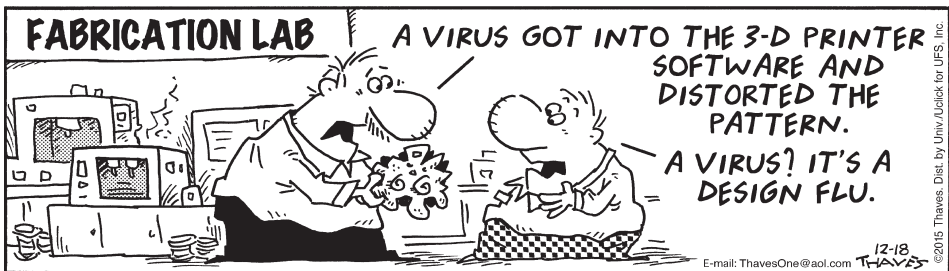
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



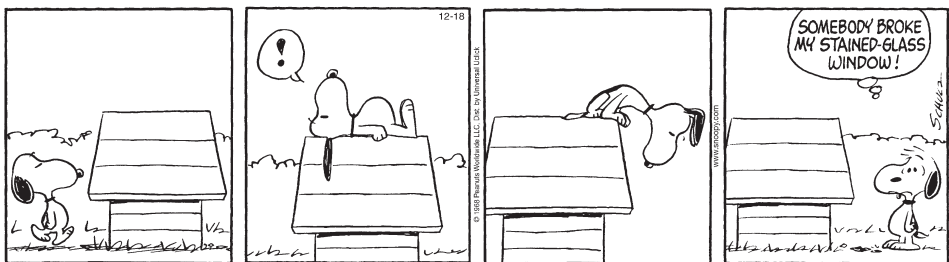
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



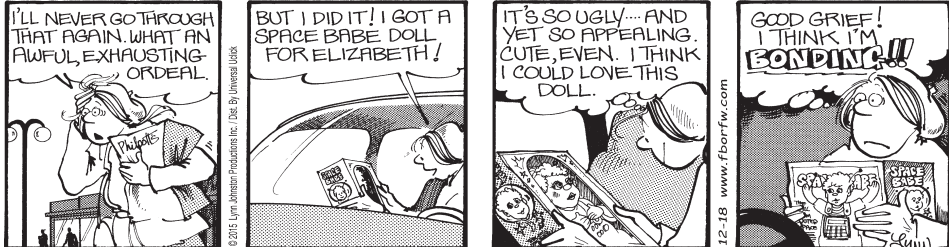
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Rocky Marriage Is Back On, But Money Keeps Couple Apart

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married three years. It has been rocky since year two. She's a great mother to our kids, especially the one who is medically challenged. We have broken up twice so far, and are now back together. However, because of my job, we live in different states.

Bottom line: I'm no longer sure this is the right relationship for me. She goes to school full time while I work a ton of overtime to support two households. We hardly see or spend time with each other. She has said she would rather me work and not see me so that everything gets paid. I feel she's more about the money than the marriage. What do you think? – UNHAPPILY MARRIED IN BALTIMORE

DEAR UNHAPPILY: You and your wife both appear to be carrying a heavy load. For the sake of your children, it would be nice if your marriage could be resuscitated. However, not every marriage can be – and the arrangement you have now is clearly not working for you.

If your wife actually feels that she would rather not see you so that everything gets paid, then I think she has made her feelings clear. The marriage no longer exists; it's a financial arrangement. For that, you both have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: Why does it feel awkward for me to call my husband by his first name? When I say his name from another room to get his attention, it only feels natural for me to call him "Babe."

When I'm talking about him to someone else, I use his name, but it still makes me cringe. It's a perfectly normal, common name, so I don't know why it makes me so uncomfortable. And this doesn't just apply to my husband. Before him, I was in a six-year relationship with my high school sweetheart and had the same problem.

Why can I only call my significant others "Babe" when talking to them? – HUBBY'S NAME IS

DEAR HUBBY'S NAME: When couples

become intimately involved, it is common for them to use pet names with each other. That you call your husband and your former boyfriend by the SAME name is interesting. Could it be that subconsciously you are/were afraid that if you don't use the same pet name, you will absentmindedly use the wrong one?

DEAR ABBY: My cousin and I have season tickets for the Broadway series at our local theater. Our problem is two women who sit next to us in the box. After intermission, when the second act starts, they talk loudly to each other as long as 10 minutes into the show. I want to say something, but I don't want to cause any negativity or bad feelings because we will see them at each show. How should I deal with it? – AUDIENCE MEMBER

DEAR MEMBER: Here's how: When the women continue their conversation after the curtain rises, you say to the one nearest you, "Please be quiet. We can't hear the performance." That's not rude; it's being assertive. If they persist after that, complain to the management and ask that, if possible, in the future you be seated apart from the magpies.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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.)

© 2015, Universal Press Syndicate

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 4:26 p.m. (EST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 2015:

This year you often fuss over details and potentially negative possibilities. Curb your imagination, and you will be a lot happier. Understand that you can control only yourself; others will make their own choices. If you are single, you have a plethora of potential sweeties around you. Romance heads your way. If you are attached, you build an even closer bond. Others envy the closeness you have. Take that long-discussed vacation this year. ARIES energizes you!

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 will feel better and better as the day goes on. Your energy starts to increase, no matter how you are dealing with a situation. Extremes are likely to play a role in your decisions. By the late afternoon, you will feel as if the Force is with you. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Meetings play a significant role in your decision-making process. You hear many different opinions, but you'll lean toward the most positive one. You might want to zero in on what you want without any fuss. Know when you're too tired to go on. Tonight: Take your leave with grace.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll give your time and attention to a higher-up who will have something for you to do at the last minute. You come from a secure point of view, but you'll still experience a lot of pressure from your personal life. You cannot be stopped. Tonight: The spotlight is on you!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Take an overview, and don't feel intimidated by someone else's efforts. You could be too focused on what others are doing. Stop comparing yourself to them. You will accomplish what you want even more quickly and far better than you had imagined. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A partner's emotional response will encourage you to back off some. You could be tired

of always having to maintain a positive outlook. Next time you want to tell it like it is, do. You might need to indulge yourself more. Tonight: Make sure there is great music around you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might find that you spend most of the day responding and/or reacting to others. You have a lot of energy, but you still could feel overwhelmed by everything that is happening. A domestic issue lurks in the background. Tonight: Express your caring in a meaningful way.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you're being weighed down by everything you have to do. Rather than let yourself be stressed, relax and just focus on one task at a time. You will be surprised and delighted when a loved one offers to pitch in. Tonight: Have fun with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your emotional responses will point you in the right direction. You might not be aware of how many supporters you have, especially in your group of friends. You could go overboard without trying. Settle down by the late afternoon. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You will need to tackle some work or responsibilities in the morning, as tension builds to new level. Your creativity soars, as does your desirability. You might be holding back because of feelings for someone else. Are you sure this behavior serves you? Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Make calls and schedule a meeting. The sooner you get this appointment arranged, the better off you will be. You'll cover so much ground, you might want to head home early. You likely will need to make some important calls after you leave. Tonight: Run an errand or two.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

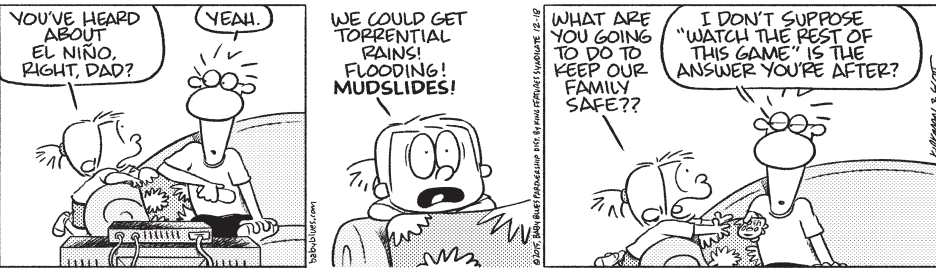
★★★ Money, gift-giving and considering more of an experience-oriented present will fill your mind with ideas. Brainstorm with a partner or dear friend, though the topic could drift to dinner plans and perhaps a little gossip. Tonight: Welcome the weekend with friends.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You know exactly what you want, and you'll manage to get past any hassles in the morning. Others keep distracting you from your errands and from accomplishing what you need to do. Focus on the financial implications of all your gift-giving. Tonight: Let a friend treat.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

