

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Parents Insist Best Friends Must Wait To Date At Sixteen

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl and I have a boy best friend who is also 14. I liked him the moment I met him, which was exactly a year ago. He says it's the same for him. We established that we both liked each other months ago, but we're still only friends. The reason is his parents have a rule that he can't have a girlfriend or go on dates until he's 16. He's the only one I want, but we have to wait until he can ask me out.

For now we are best friends, but it's hard not to want to hold his hand and kiss him and stuff like that. He doesn't like his parents' rule just as much as I don't, and he totally doesn't want to wait, but he will. It's also very hard to not tell him how much my feelings have grown, because I'm afraid he will react strangely if I tell him I think I might love him. What should I do? — **TEEN IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR TEEN: If your intuition is telling you not to be the first to say, "I love you," then listen to it and you may be pleasantly surprised one day to hear him say it to you first. As to the fact that his parents are strict, you really don't have much choice other than to respect their rules.

That said, younger teens aren't usually restricted from having any social contact at all. Before they start dating one-on-one, they usually get together in groups for movies, sporting events, school dances, etc. This should give the two of you opportunities to see each other outside of school. While this may not be the answer you're looking for, for the time being, it may be an acceptable compromise.

DEAR ABBY: I work in the retail industry at a high-end furniture store. We specialize in custom furniture from top manufacturers. We have been in business for many years and have many repeat customers.

My question is about customer service. Our hours of operation are normal, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. But we often have customers

who arrive at 5:45 p.m. or later to see sales associates and order their furniture. Because our furniture is custom, the process can take up to an hour. Some associates have stayed as late as 8 p.m. to work with a customer who walks in without an appointment.

When is it appropriate to let the customer know we are closing and they should come back at another time for their consultation? We try to work with everyone, but in my opinion, it's rude to assume we are obligated to stay and cater to them when it is our time to go home to our families. — **WAITING TILL THE LAST MINUTE**

DEAR WAITING: You're not wrong. I agree it's rude to assume that people will stay hours after closing time, but if there are no hard and fast rules in your store, sales personnel may be stuck. It's one thing if the sale is being finished, but to start the process just before closing time is an imposition. Some stores stop processing orders before the official closing time, which nips the problem in the bud.

As to whether you are "obligated" to accommodate high-end customers, this is something you should discuss with your employer. Some businesses are willing to cater to buyers of high-end merchandise, and yours may be one of them.

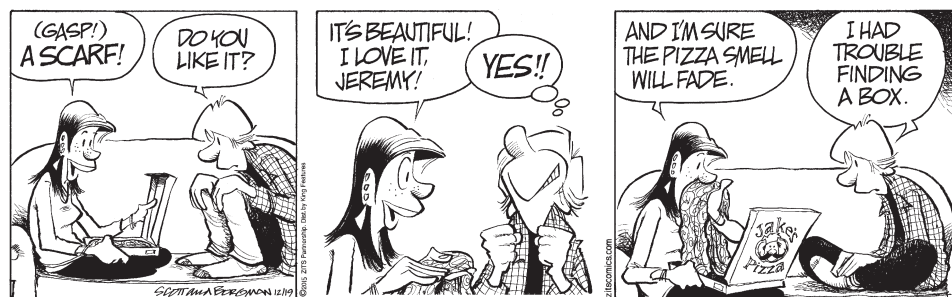
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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.)

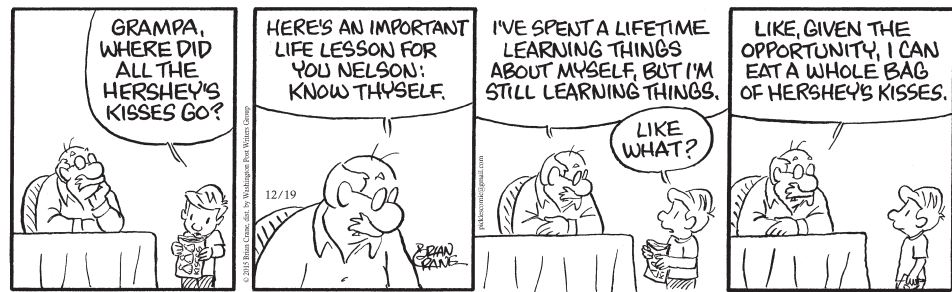


DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



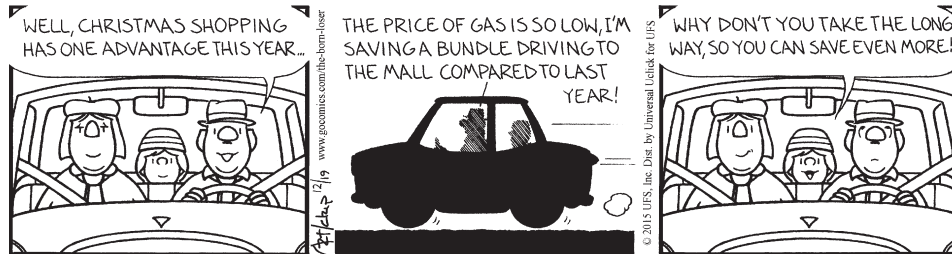
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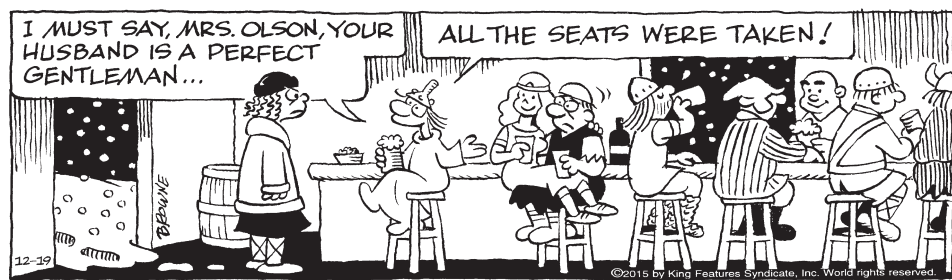
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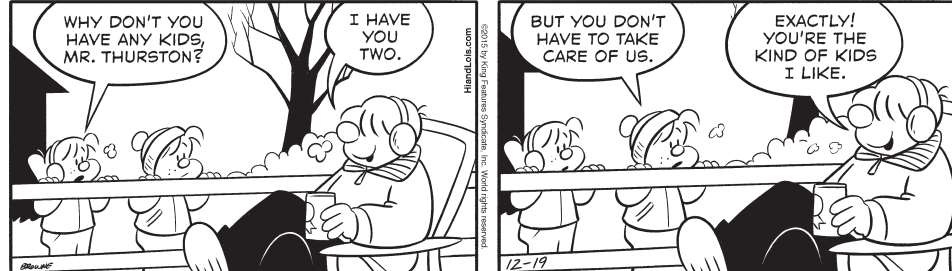
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BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



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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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 2015:

This year you often are uptight until you can trust the people around you. A financial change ultimately will be for the better. Talk through this situation with someone you respect. You might not be ready for this transformation just yet, but you won't really have a choice. If you are single, you will meet someone with ease come next fall. Your social circle will expand, which will provide you with many romantic opportunities. If you are attached, the two of you often will be seen out and about. After summer 2016, you and your sweetie will realize a long-term goal that you both have had. ARIES is always ready to pop open a bottle of champagne with 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)

★★★★ An older friend might feel as if he or she has an especially great idea. You could discover that you aren't on the same page as this person. Go along for the sake of peace, if you can. The unexpected occurs wherever you are. A loved one reads you clearly. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You will want to keep your own counsel and process news on your own. A difficult conversation doesn't need to be repeated at the present moment. You might want to take off and spend some time with a certain person. What is stopping you? Tonight: Read between the lines.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might wonder what is going on with your friends. A partner seems to have a strong feeling about what he or she will participate in. You could have your hands full. Count on a pal's unpredictability, and decide whether you want to join him or her. Tonight: Play the night away.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Pressure builds as an older friend or relative seems to want more of your time. You could be surprised by what you stumble into. A partner might become extremely controlling. Slow down and express your caring to a loved one. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You could be overtired, and might need

a different perspective. Consider taking a drive to a favorite place. Some of you will enjoy going to a restaurant for a late lunch in the country. The relaxed atmosphere will help you recharge your batteries. Tonight: Try something different.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating with a friend could take you down a new path. Enjoy the differences in your backgrounds and where you come from. A child or a new love interest could be most controlling. Remember, the only way to win a control game is not to play. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and don't worry so much about the details. You have a lot on your plate, and might not be ready to change your plans. You could decide to join others at your own pace. Understand what is happening around you. Tonight: Say "yes" to an intriguing offer.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might feel as if you can't avoid having a conversation with a controlling neighbor or a difficult loved one. This person tends to drone on and on. You'll need to excuse yourself from this conversation quickly if you are going to accomplish anything. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to reach out to a child or loved one. You recognize your limits, and will not push past them; however, it doesn't guarantee that this person won't want to test those same boundaries. Firmly establish them now. Tonight: Fun starts with a holiday celebration.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You could be unusually serious. Let go of what ails you by throwing yourself into a holiday event. You might want to go off and buy a tree or start another holiday tradition. Tonight: Accept an invitation to another holiday happening, even if it is just kissing under the mistletoe.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You would be a lot happier if you could let go of the need to keep such a rigid schedule. You understand that you can't control others, but you might be having an internal struggle regardless. Open up to a friend who can be distant but gives good feedback. Tonight: Out.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be at the point of no return. You can't stop what is happening, nor do you want to. You might have gone in the red with spending, yet you are content that you have achieved what you needed to. Don't forget some last-minute gifts. Tonight: Allow someone else to treat.

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MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

