FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"Santa's gonna have a hard time topping this Christmas next year!'

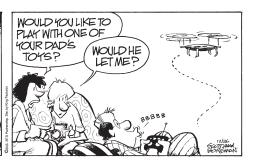
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN







PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE









FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ

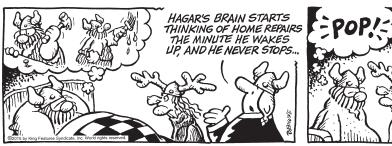








HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE





BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER





HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON









GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS







Offhand Comment About Weight Still Stings Many Months Later

DEAR ABBY: I recently went on a cruise with several other women. I was friendly with one of them, but didn't know the others.

I am overweight. One of the other women, "Dolores," was also overweight, heavier than me, in fact. She's very proud of being Christian, but she made the comment, in front of several other people, that she didn't mind going places with me because with me around she didn't feel so fat.

I was so stunned I remained silent. Actually, I was afraid that if I spoke I'd say too much, but I felt very hurt and ashamed. Even though I have tried to ignore it, this has bothered me for months and I don't know what to do.

Should I say something to Dolores **DEAR ABBY** or continue to ignore it? I don't really want to be friends with her now Jeanne Phillips because I don't know what kind of snide remark may come out of her mouth next. And I certainly don't want to go anywhere with her again. - TAKEN ABACK IN

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: When mankind was created, a delete button should have been installed at the end of our tongues. However, it's possible our creator thought common sense would suffice. Obviously, Dolores was elsewhere when it was handed out.

While her comment was tactless, it says far more about how she feels about herself than it does about you. Because this is still bothering you, I don't think it would be at all out of line for you to tell her how hurtful her

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and just started my junior year. I'm in an advanced program that my school offers because I want to get into an international college and need to take these classes to get noticed. I'm just over a month in, and I'm losing it. I have a job, I play soccer and I'm the lead in a school produc-

tion. On top of that, I have an insane workload I wasn't prepared for and I'm trying to

cope with discovering that I'm not straight. With everything going on, I've been having meltdowns nearly every day. I leave class sometimes just to hide in the bathroom. I spend hours doing homework and still don't

get everything done I need to. Last year, four or five of my classmates left school because of mental breakdowns in this program. I'm afraid I'm burning out, too. What should I do? Should I drop out of the program or seek help? – \$CARED AND STRESSED IN NEW YORK

DEAR SCARED: The first thing to do is talk about all of this with a counselor at your school. If you are at the point where you must leave class and "hide," you need more help than I can offer in a letter. If counseling is available, or your

course load can be modified, you should go in that direction. But dropping out should be your last resort and only after having discussed it with your parents and your counselor, because there may be other options.

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, 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

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 2015:

This year you often try to see both sides of an argument. You also might have difficulty trying to decide which one would be best or most effective. You will learn which path to follow. Curb a tendency to be negative or critical; otherwise, others will start to treat you the same way. If you are single, meeting people happens with ease. Choosing and maintaining a bond with someone you meet will take work, but it will be worth it. If you are attached, the two of you need to agree to disagree. Enjoy your differences rather than condemn them. CAN-CER has similar security issues as you, but he or she comes up with different solutions

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Dif-

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★ Tension builds early, yet you could be letting off steam for a good part of the day. There seems to be friction between work commitments and your domestic life. You'll try to balance them, but perhaps letting go of a responsibility or two

would help. Tonight: It could be lively. TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

* * * * You might be juggling daily events with holiday visitors. Communication could become a problem, as you seem to feel pressured. You are not the only one. A discussion is likely to be animated. Try to see the other party's perspective. Tonight: Wherever you can relax.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Deal with the financial implications of recent events. Don't blame anyone; just pare down or revise your budget. A friend will provide you with a unique opportunity, which you might find to be costly. Still, you yearn to say "yes." Tonight: You see

the power of self-discipline. **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**

★★★★ You could feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. You have a strong sense of direction, which is not always logical. On the other hand, those around you seem to demonstrate a strong analytical quality. Try to adapt to their way of thinking. Tonight: You get your way.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might feel that the moment has

come for you to disappear and do your own thing. Someone has been very demanding and difficult as of late, and you need a break. An argument will be prevented by your being reclusive for a short period of time. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

* * * * ★ Friends present options that you might find to be quite appealing. Your inclination will be to join them. However, a loved one is likely to prove that he or she can be quite the obstacle. You know how to push others away. Look for another solution. Tonight: You can have it all.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ A take-charge attitude might be important to have right now. The unexpected occurs, which adds some chaos to your day. Demonstrate your ability to flex and create more of what you desire. Follow your instincts, and you will be right-on. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

* ★ ★ ★ Keep reaching out for more of what you want. If you detach, you will see what you need to do in a new light. You tend to jump from one project to another. Make that OK, and be more flexible. Give your impulsiveness more of a say. Tonight: Catch up on a favorite TV series.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

** * * * You welcome company as you go through your day. Your carefree, fun nature emerges. Someone you admire gives you positive feedback. Accept a compliment with grace. Use care with money, as you easily could make an error. Tonight: Go along with someone else's request.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

* * * * * You are in the limelight. You seem to like the attention, but on the other hand, you no longer have the same privacy you once did. Reach out to a friend whom you clearly care a lot about. You will have time to catch up on news. Tonight: Say "yes" to an exciting offer.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

* * * * You could be surprised by what someone says or does. One-on-one relating will have a positive outcome and leave both parties smiling. Your instincts will carry you through indecision and a difficult moment. A loved one tries to be there for you. Tonight: Call it a night.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

* * * * Even if at first glance you think you have no alternatives, look again. Animated discussions could take you to a new realization. Lose the words "no" and "impossible" from your vocabulary, and you will open up to new ideas. Explain your logic. Tonight: Let your hair down.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

