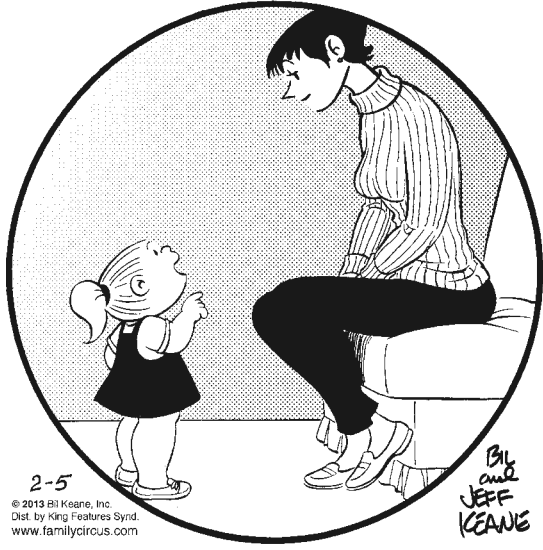
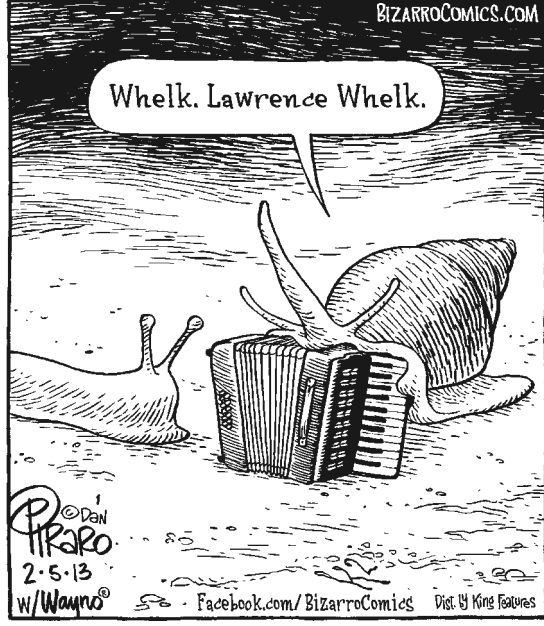


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Can I borrow that sweater when it turns into my size?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Facebook.com/BizarroComics

Wife Who's Intolerant Of Illness Needs A Lesson In Health

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are both schoolteachers. She hates to call in sick and often teaches class when she says she feels ill. I don't argue with her. The problem arises when I am not feeling well.

When I am sick and feverish, I'm not inclined to rise from my sickbed and go to work. On those few occasions, my wife objects strenuously. She interrogates me about my symptoms, then makes her own "diagnosis" on the spot. Apparently, her gold standard for staying home is the inability to stand.

This creates a problem for me at work because co-workers are concerned about catching my obvious illness. The last time I felt sick, my wife ordered me to go to work. When I saw a doctor afterward, I was told I had a virus and should be in bed. My wife still objected to my missing work because she considered it to be "just a cough."

Today a staff member called in sick with the same virus I had. Everyone looked at me as the responsible party.

If I stay home, my wife will dump the kids on me and give me the cold shoulder. If I go to work, I expose my co-workers and perform poorly. Help! — AT A TOTAL LOSS IN CORPUS CHRISTI

DEAR TOTAL LOSS: It appears you married a woman who is not only lacking in empathy, but also is a controlling, slave-driving witch. Unless you can find the backbone to take control of the situation and stop acting like a victim, your wife will continue to punish you when you're least able to defend yourself — and nothing will change.

P.S. A teacher with a virus can not only infect co-workers and administrative staff, but also his students — not to mention his own children. Please point that out to "Simone Legree."



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

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

DEAR ABBY: The adage, "If you don't have anything nice to say ..." is easier said than done. When I am tired or stressed, I have a tendency to be less tolerant of others' quirks, and sometimes I voice my annoyance. While my opinions do have a basis, I sometimes feel guilty about insulting or hurting the person's feelings. I envy those who are strong enough to not allow the stress of certain situations to affect them.

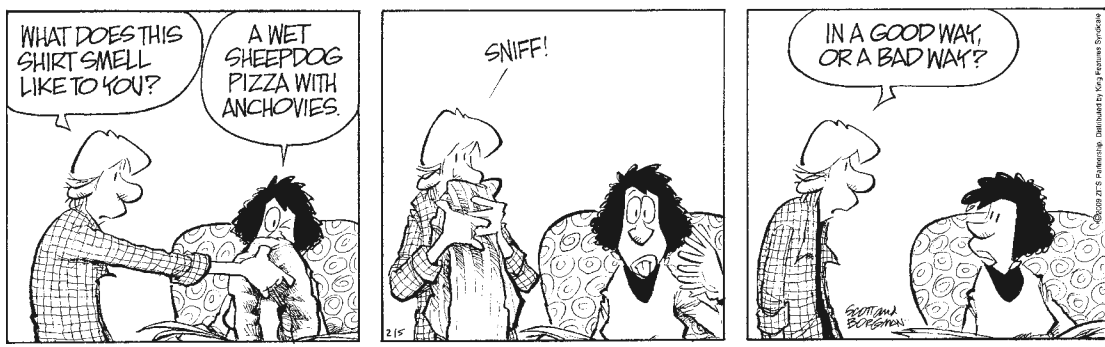
I have never been a believer in "killing them with kindness" because that seems to enable their behavior. My intolerance is probably due to unhappiness about my own life. So how do I allow these annoyances to roll off my back and bite my tongue? — CAN'T TOLERATE FOOLS IN DES MOINES

DEAR CAN'T TOLERATE FOOLS: One way to do that would be to remind yourself that the more you take your unhappiness out on those around you, the more you will isolate yourself. When you are tired or stressed, and before shooting off your mouth, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it helpful? And if what you were about to say is not all three, bite your tongue, zip your lip, or walk away until you get a grip.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

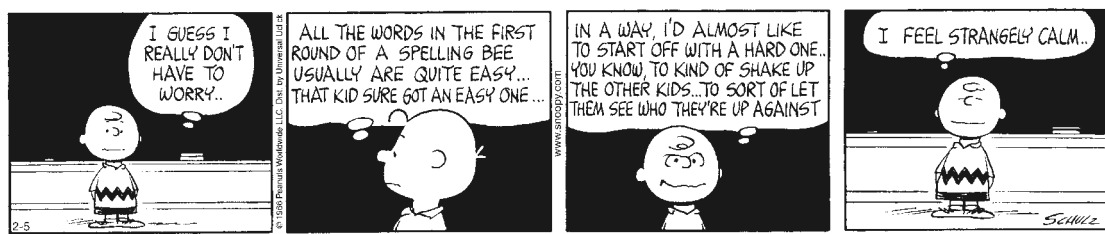
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



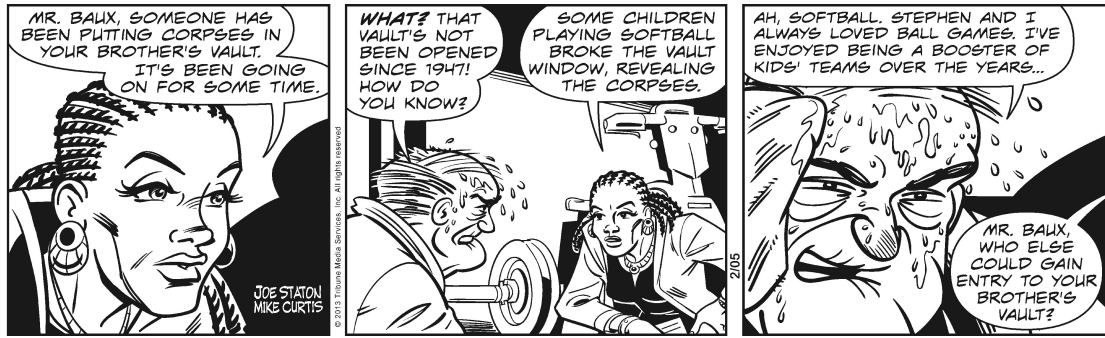
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



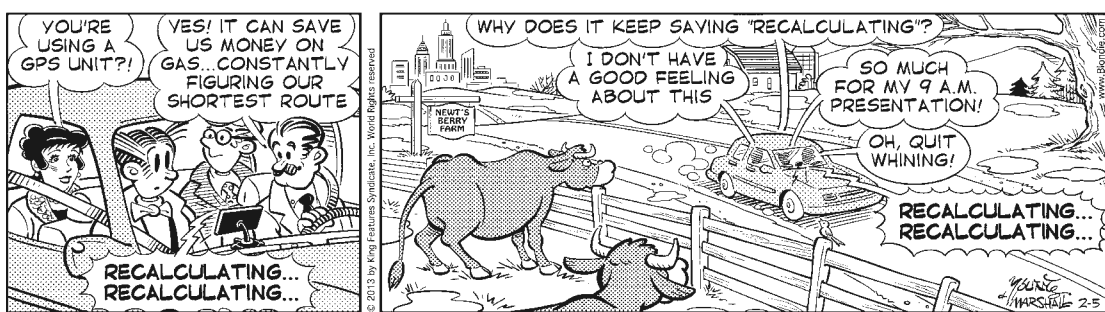
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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 Aquarius and a Moon in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 5, 2013:

This year you emphasize your long-term goals. You also have a wide collection of friends, all of whom seem to be strong supporters. This powerful team is instrumental to your success, and it provides you with emotional security. You might decide to focus on establishing some financial security. If you are single, you could meet someone through a friendship. This friendship will play a strong role in your year. If you are attached, make sure that you focus on the friendship as well as the romance. SAGITTARIUS can be impulsive.

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)

Do yourself a favor and start listening to your inner voice more often. How you see a personal matter could change dramatically as a result. Be aware of a tendency to be slightly defensive. Don't take someone's comment the wrong way. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Listen to news with a grain of salt. Rethink a situation more carefully. Understand what is happening within your immediate group of friends. Know what needs to happen in order to keep you more content. Honor a friend's request. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Others' dynamic energy could push you over the edge if you aren't careful. A superior might think that he or she has a novel idea. Indulge this person. You could be overwhelmed by others, especially if you have a lot to do. Screen calls. Tonight: Try something unusual.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You have a lot to do. Getting everything done could take a rather large effort, as your mind keeps wandering to yonder lands. You could be taken back by a suggestion. Detach, and see if you can get the message more in the manner it was meant. Tonight: Go for a brisk walk.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Your imagination can either resolve a problem or distort it. You will know the outcome once you hear other

ers' feedback. Financial dealings will be highlighted. Sharp comments are likely. You do not have to do more than listen to them. Tonight: Have fun with a loved one.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Others demand a lot from you. Listen, but also recognize that you need to make your own decisions. Friends have excellent insights, but they don't know the specifics of what you are dealing with. Trust your judgment when it comes to your personal life. Tonight: Anchored in.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could have difficulty getting and/or giving a clear message. Maintain a sense of humor. You might not always have the control you desire. Your drive and follow-through make you a star wherever you choose to put your energy. Tonight: Happily head home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Keep conversations about a key matter within a certain circle of friends or colleagues. Confidentiality is necessary. Adapt to fast changes in the workplace. Tap into your ingenuity if you find that you're hitting a roadblock. Tonight: Add more spice to your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

The unexpected occurs. Understand that finances could be involved. Do not commit to any expenses just yet. If you are feeling negative or pessimistic, you could be creating more of a problem for yourself. Detach, and walk away from the issue. Tonight: Pay your bills.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You hit one of your power days. A friendship might be very important to you, but know that sometimes it also can weigh you down. This person often can be demanding. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and they could turn a problem around. Tonight: Do whatever feels right.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Take some time off. Even though you might think you are needed — and you very well could be — you are better off resting or handling a personal matter right now. Someone could be very difficult to deal with. This person carries authority with him or her. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Express your feelings with clarity, especially when dealing with an authority figure. The communication style you use could be the issue. Ask for confirmation or repeat what the other party said. It might be an effective technique. Tonight: At a favorite haunt with friends.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

