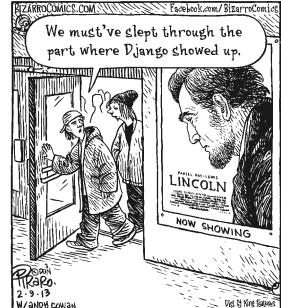
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

"Okay, I'm ready to draw whatever you want as long as it's a flower.'

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



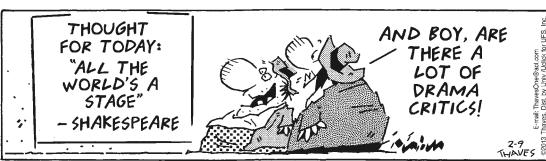
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



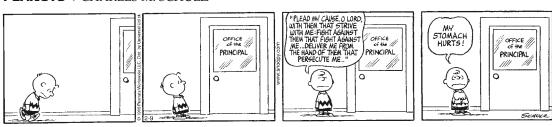




FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS







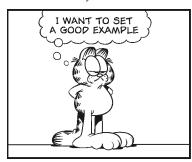
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



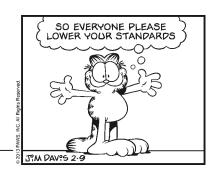




GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS







BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER





HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







Dying Man Wants To Thank Those Who Shared His Life

DEAR ABBY

■ Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

Abigail Van Buren, also

and was founded by her

mother, Pauline Phillips.

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

Write Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have enjoyed a good life. I have served my community. I have a wonderful wife, great children and good friends. However, it now appears that the disease that has been kept at bay has progressed, and soon my days will

end. I have accepted my impending death as best one can, and let few people know of it.

I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have been an important part of my life over the years, and I'm wondering how that might be accomplished. I do not want to make them sad or receive condolences. I simply want them to know they were an important part of my life for which I am truly grateful.

I considered a party, but wondered if that might seem morbid. Letters seem too distant, and phone calls would be hard on me.

While my death sentence is firm, and it will be soon, the exact date is impossible to know. Few of these people are aware that I am seriously ill, although I have been hospitalized many

Can you give me some suggestions to show my appreciation? — ON THE WAY OUT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ON THE WAY OUT: While goodbyes can be sad, your farewell party need not be morbid — particularly if you and your wife make it a celebration of life and let your guests know it in advance. If you're afraid that saying what's in your heart to each person individually will be emotionally draining, then deliver a speech or videotape one to be played at the event.

While reading your letter, I am reminded of a friend, Judith, whom I lost several years ago. Judith had battled cancer for 12 years. After she had completed yet another round of chemo, some of her women friends gathered for a potluck luncheon at

at each other, worried that toasting "health" might seem inappropriate. Sensing the hesitation, Judy raised her glass and announced, "To LIFE!" And

that, my friend, is exactly what your party should be all about.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a sixth-grade girl with a group of friends I like. The problem is some of them constantly put themselves down. It's annoying to hear, "My hair is so messed up," "I failed that quiz" (they got a B), "My paper is so bad" or "I'm so ugly." None of these things are true.

I know people put themselves down so that others will reassure them that they're fine. But I'm getting tired of hearing these complaints. I have told them to stop acting this way, but it doesn't work. How can I get my friends to stop complaining about themselves so much? — TIRED OF HEARING IT IN BOULDER, COLO.

DEAR TIRED OF HEARING IT: You can't, so be patient with them because you appear to be more emotionally mature and self-confident than they are. At 12, which I assume most of

your friends are, it is not unusual for girls to become sensitive about their changing bodies, and some of their insecurity may be hormonal. That's why they're looking to others for reassurance, so please don't be stingy.

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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ACQUELINE 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 and a Moon in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 2013:

This year your creativity soars as it rarely has before. Idea after idea keeps tumbling out of your mouth. People will start to look at you as a never-ending resource. Though you might be flattered by this, you also must be sure to take good care of yourself. If you are single, your magnetism and intellect attract several suitors. You might decide to date them all ... or maybe just one. This year, there is always someone around the corner to meet. If you are attached, try to remain sensitive to your sweetie. You will tend to be me-oriented, AQUARIUS often is a source of trouble.

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

ARIES (MARCH 20-APRIL 19)

*** Focus on your friends and family. Make conscience choices about who you want to spend time with You hear so much news or gossip that you could have a lot of information to sort through. Do not get overserious with a partner. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Your role might be to plan a get-together or to help an older friend feel more at ease. You know what you can and cannot tolerate. Do nothing halfway. Understand what is motivating you. Tonight: Helping others is how you make the most of the moment.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

*** You have a desire to escape and do something very different. Get going and enjoy yourself, whether you are off on a trip to a museum or having a picnic in your attic. Touch base with someone at a distance. . Tonight: Find the best blues or jazz spot in town.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

*** Keep reaching past the obvious in a discussion with a partner or a dear loved one. You might not always see eye to eye with his or her methods, but you have very similar goals. Know that both paths will work. Tonight: Have a confidential chat with a loved one.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Let others hear more of your preferences, even if they are determined to do it their way. People might need to know whether you are going to show up or participate. A friendship plays a significant role in your afternoon. Tonight: Sort through invitations, then decide.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could be wondering when enough is enough in a difficult situation. You also might be overtired and dragging. Plan on getting some much-needed R and R in order to recharge your battery, and know that you could need a change of pace. Tonight: Say "yes" to mak-

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes your imagination gets you in trouble. Today could be one of those occasions. If you are ready for the ramifications, by all means, go ahead and enjoy yourself. A child plays a significant role in what is going on. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be exhausted by everything that is occurring around your inner circle and home. You will need to have a discussion with a loved one about this, especially if the activity is taking a toll on you. Listen carefully to this person's feedback. Tonight: Try to be mellow.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 21-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You can be blunt at times, yet at the present moment, more softness and caring is woven into your statements. When meeting friends for dinner and a movie, you might note a different reaction. You also might have trouble catching up on everyone's news. Tonight: Ever so-

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN.19)

★★★ You might decide to treat several friends or one special person to a favorite pastime of yours. This activity demands a lot of imagination, and that is one thing that you undoubtedly have a knack for. Laughter surrounds a misunderstanding. Tonight: Keep it light.

AOUARIUS (JAN.20-FEB.18)

★★★★★ You hit one of your power days with the presence of the New Moon. You have the strength, psychic energy and ability to move a crucial issue or situation ahead, if you so choose. In any case, whatever you do feels right. Tonight: Don't take yourself so seriously.

PISCES (FEB.19-MARCH 20)

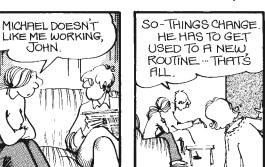
★★★ You are determined to keep some information hush-hush, so don't let others push you to get it. Use this day to do whatever you have really wanted to do but have been putting off. You will gain a sense of satisfaction and relief. Tonight: Don't push. Make it OK not to have plans.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON







MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

