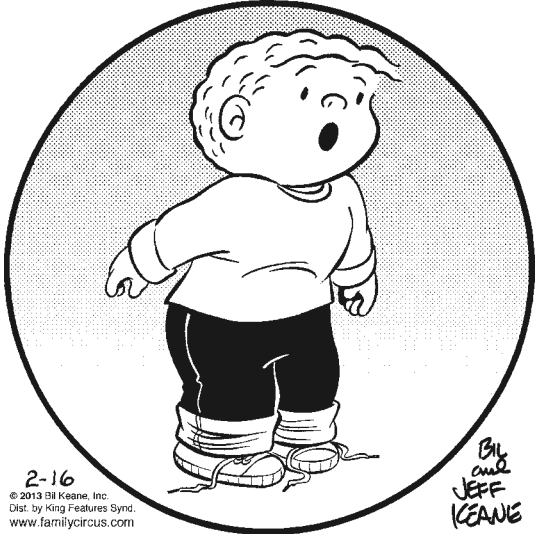


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



“Mommy, my shoelaces keep letting go of each other!”

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



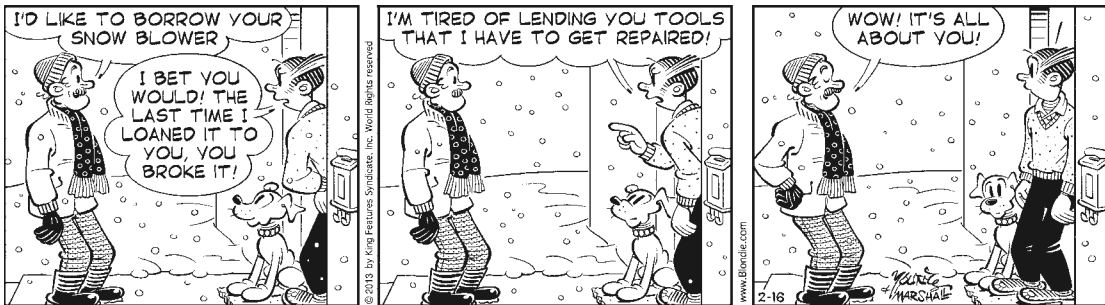
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



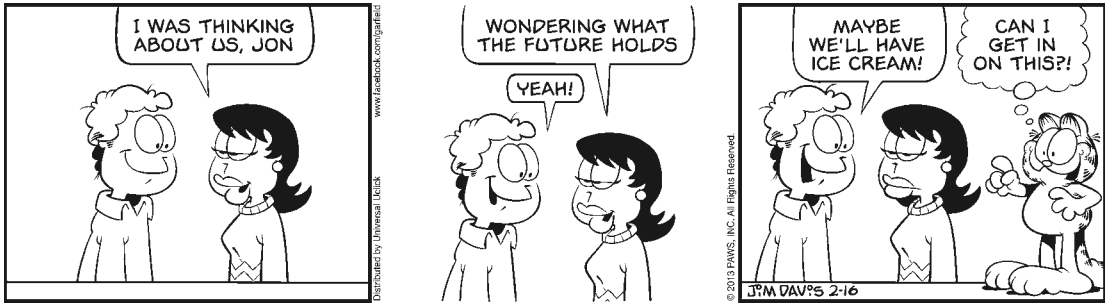
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



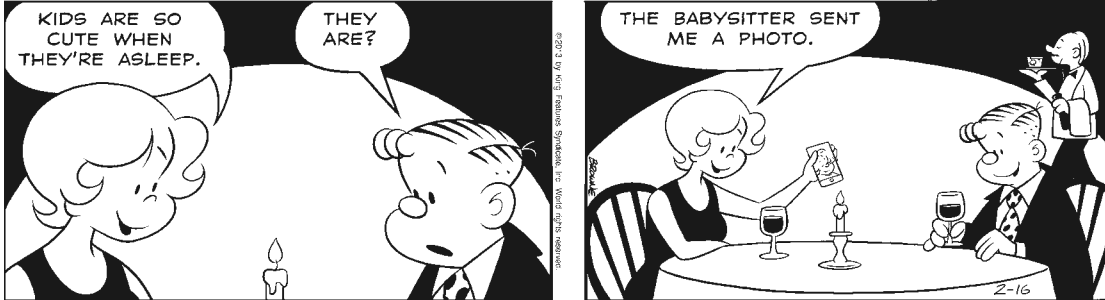
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



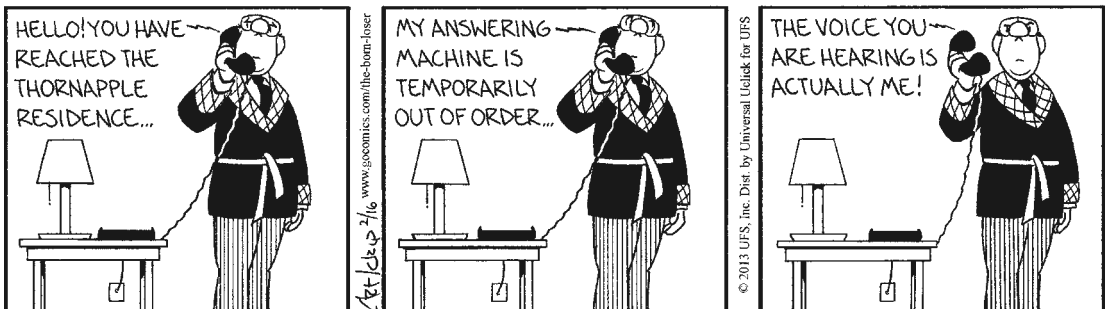
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



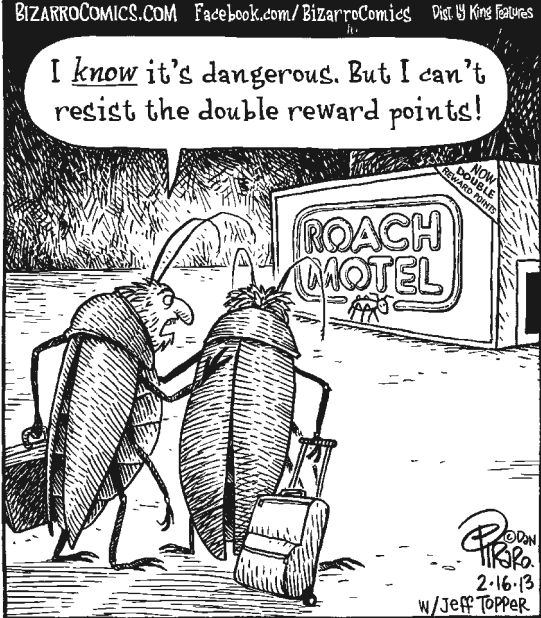
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Mom Of Four Musters Courage To Leave Abusive Marriage

DEAR ABBY: I have lived in an abusive marriage for 11 years. Now, when I have finally mustered the courage to leave, everybody says I must stay “for the children” as he is a “changed man.”

I no longer love him and he refuses to give me a divorce. He also refuses to admit there is anything wrong in the marriage and says I’m exaggerating everything.

I have tried counseling and therapy alone because he refused to join me. I do not want my four children to be affected by my choice and wish for a mutual discussion, but he doesn’t want to discuss divorce. I am afraid to stay and afraid to leave. I have no support system here. — WANTS OUT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WANTS OUT: After 11 years of abuse and counseling and therapy alone because your husband would not accompany you, his wishes should no longer affect your decision. Pick up the phone and contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233. That’s the place to find information about how to form an escape plan for yourself and your children. Whether your husband is willing to discuss divorce or not, he cannot force you to remain married to him. An attorney can help you with the process once you are out of there.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 23-year-old woman with a university degree, a fulfilling job, downtown apartment and a busy social life. I am also heavily tattooed. My tattoos bring me a great deal of happiness. I work in a field where visible tattoos are acceptable, and I’m very good at covering them when necessary.

My problem is how to politely deal with strangers who criticize my tattoos when I’m out in public. I have been told I have “ruined” myself, that I have no future, that I’ll never find a husband, that I am ugly, an insult to women and trashy. I do not dress scantily and, in my opinion, these comments are uncalled for.

I usually tell people that I am affecting only myself

and that I’m happy, but this usually results in scoffs or more rude remarks. Part of me wants to be rude back because I am offended. What should I say the next time I am inevitably picked on? — INKED AND IRKED IN CALGARY, CANADA

DEAR INKED AND IRKED: I printed a letter last spring about a Canadian woman who insisted that people north of the border are nicer than people in the U.S.A. Your letter shows that’s not necessarily the case. The next time someone makes an unkind remark about your body art, look the person in the eye and say, “That you would say something so hurtful to me shows you are uglier on the inside than you think I am on the outside.”



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: My boyfriend and I have been dating for 11 months. He’s 18 and I’m 17. Every date we go on is initiated and planned by me. For once, I’d like to be surprised and swept off my feet by his actually planning a date. I don’t know how to go about this. I want to tell him without hurting his feelings. — GETTING A LITTLE BORED IN QUAKERTOWN, PA.

DEAR GETTING A LITTLE BORED: The basis for a successful relationship is communication. While I don’t advise you to tell your boyfriend that you’re “getting a little bored,” I do think it would be helpful to express that you’d like HIM to plan your dates once or twice a month so you don’t have to do all the work in maintaining the relationship. That’s not hurtful; it’s truthful.

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.)

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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 Aquarius and a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 16, 2013:

This year you might say one thing yet do something else. If you get feedback regarding this issue, it would be wise to work on resolving it; otherwise, people might not know what to expect when interacting with you. Once you become clearer, the possibility of getting involved in a dynamic relationship will be enhanced. If you are single, the first couple of choices you make for a potential sweetie might not be the right match for you. Trust yourself. If you are attached, the two of you will become closer if you accept yourself and are willing to transform. PISCES can irritate 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)

★★★★ Revise your plans if there is a last-minute change to take into consideration. You might disappoint someone, or perhaps you could invite this person to join you. Your strength and sense of direction encourage others to follow your lead. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ An emotional collision encourages you to head in a different direction. Put on your rainy-day emotional gear and do something else. You’ll discover that a friend delights in your company. Go to the movies and have a late lunch afterward. Tonight: As you like.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Look beyond what is happening, and understand why others are reacting the way they are. You might decide not to make the same judgment call. Help them to see the bigger picture, and they will be more comfortable as a result. Tonight: Vanish, but don’t tell everyone.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ A loved one causes uproar in a way that causes you to distance yourself. Of course, if you are single, this behavior could emanate from a potential love interest. Stop and rethink your choices. Avoid reacting, and choose to do nothing. Tonight: Keep it light.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Head out the door. Whether you go to put in overtime at work or take off to visit a friend makes no dif-

ference. By distancing yourself from your personal life, you will be able to get some perspective. You also just might need a change of scenery. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for feedback, even if you don’t like what you hear. Sit on your opinions for now, and understand their role in the question at hand. Take a drive in the country with a loved one. You’ll gain a new insight as soon as you detach. Tonight: Let someone else decide.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Your willingness to have a discussion and get to the bottom of the other person’s issue will be appreciated. Are you ready to discuss what is on your mind, too? A tight budget or an emotional issue might be coloring your mood. Try not to think about it. Tonight: Avoid crowds.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You might be holding back a concern, and you could become very tight-lipped and rigid as a result. You might want to consider discussing this reservation, especially as it could be affecting others. Do not underestimate your importance. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 21-DEC. 21)

★★★ Pace yourself, but don’t linger on what might be defined as a difficult moment. Your strong drive marks your decisions, especially with domestic matters. Ask a loved one for his or her impression. Be aware that this person could have strong opinions. Tonight: Go off with friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Use your imagination, and you’ll make an ordinary day far more interesting. Know that you might not be able to cheer up a depressed friend, as he or she is set on being glum. Remain sensitive to a child or loved one who feels left out. Tonight: Paint the town red.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

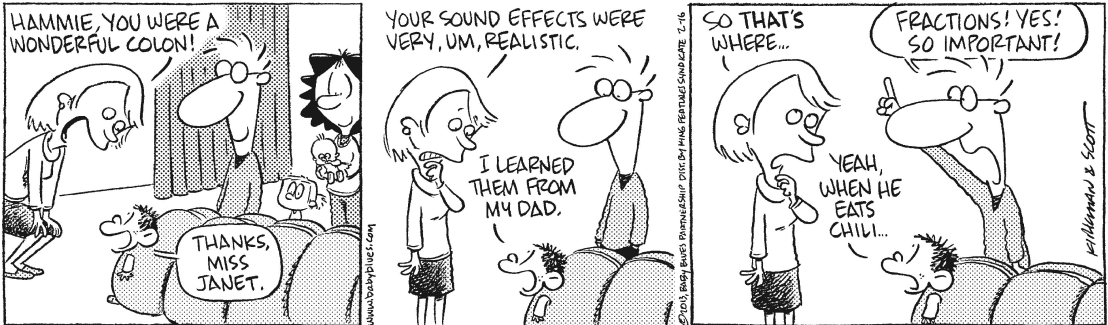
★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that you have to do. In fact, you might not want to answer your front door or any incoming calls. This is an excellent idea that will allow you to emerge later feeling much better. Indulge a loved one. Tonight: Stay in your fortress.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

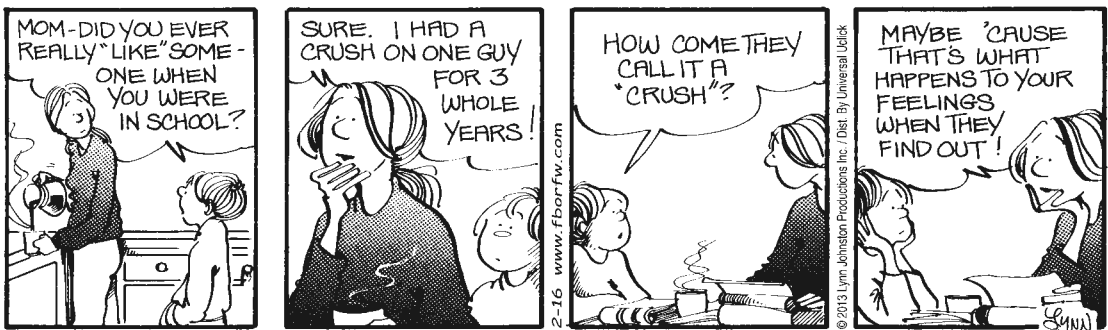
★★★★ Make plans only with those you want to hang out with. News from a distance could be a problem. Know that you might have missed a detail. Discuss the situation with someone else who is involved. Together, you’ll come up with answers. Tonight: Dinner at a local spot.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

