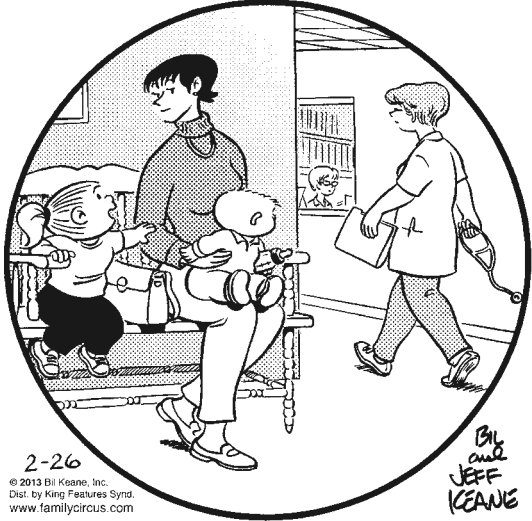


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



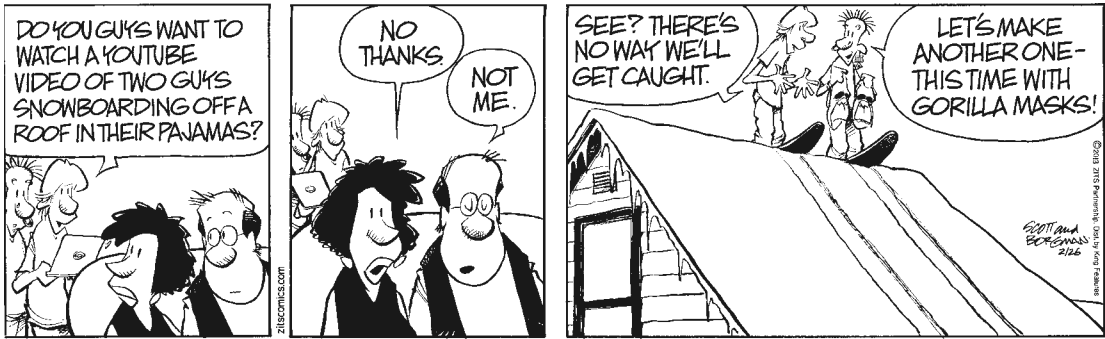
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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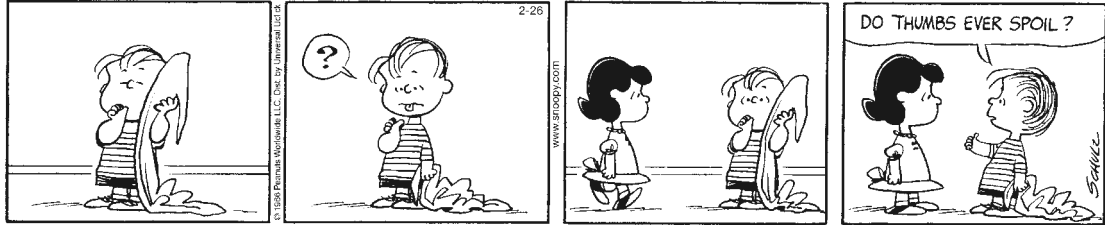
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



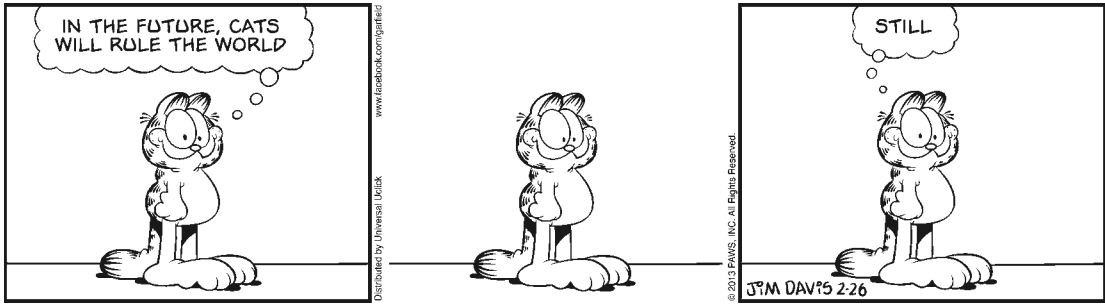
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



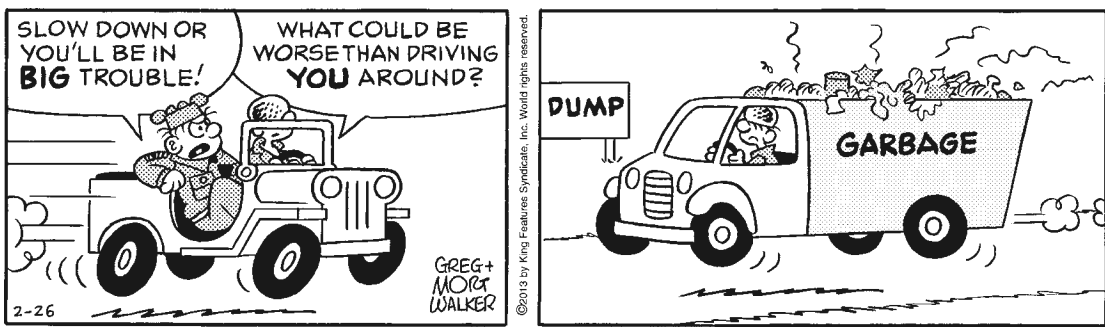
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



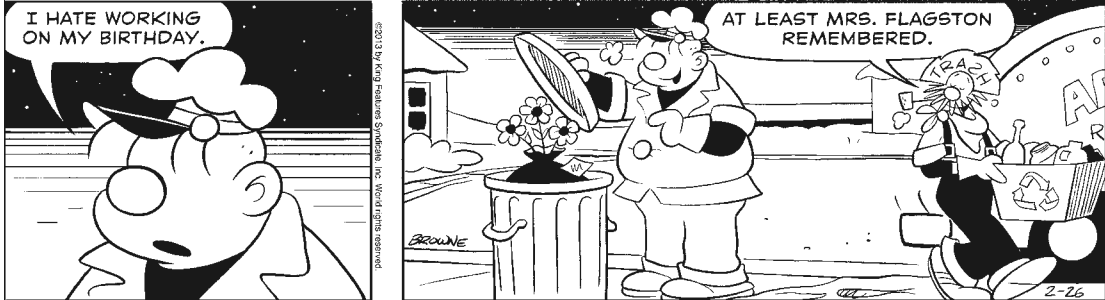
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Husband's Micromanagement Wears Thin On Wife At Home

DEAR ABBY: "Harold" and I have been married for more than 20 years and have three children ranging in age from teen to toddler. We are both college graduates and held middle-management jobs until recently.

Two years ago, Harold was offered a temporary job in an exotic location in another country. We jumped at the chance. I can't work due to the regulations here, but the money is good.

Now that I'm not working, Harold suddenly believes he has the right to tell me what to do, how to manage daily activities, how to care for the children, etc. When we explore our host country, he loses his temper if I take a photo of something he has already photographed.

At Halloween, we invited some local friends over to share the American tradition of pumpkin carving. He literally took the knife out of my hand and shouldered me out of the way so he could do it. In previous years, he had no interest in this activity — the children and I carved the pumpkins.

These are just two examples, but the scrutiny is daily and relentless. I am instructed how to do the laundry, wash dishes, clean the stove, on and on.

How do I deal with this new controlling behavior? If I address it when it happens, he becomes nasty. I have tried discussing his overall change in attitude, but he says I am "imagining" it. If I ignore his "suggestions," it results in angry outbursts.

I don't know how to get through to him that I'm the same competent individual I was before we made this change and that I do not need micromanaging. Any advice is welcome. — JUST ABOUT HAD IT

DEAR JUST ABOUT HAD IT: Your husband may be stressed in his new job and no longer feel in control, which is why he is attempting to control you. Or, because he is now the sole wage earner, he may feel "entitled" to dictate your every move. If you are now living in a male-dominated culture where women have

no rights, his thinking may be influenced by the men around him.

If marriage counseling is available, I urge you to get some. If that's not possible, perhaps a long vacation for you and the children with your family would defuse the tension.



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 SUFFERING: Because you are suffering, it is important that you talk with a therapist if you haven't already. While early trauma may have played a part in your son's death, suicide is a complex act that is not completely understood.

What IS clear is that what this uncle did while in his teens was predatory. Others in the family — and the community — should be made aware so their children can be protected, because they may be at risk. The therapist can help you decide how to deal with this, so please don't wait.

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.)

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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 Pisces and a Moon in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 26, 2013:

This year you often find yourself caught in the middle of arguments. You can see the pros and cons of each side, but you might not feel confident enough to offer your opinion. A relationship needs tending if you want it to work. A dear friend or partner plays a significant role. If you are single, you might be challenged to meet the right person. You are likely to meet this person sometime after spring, and he or she could become a part of your life history. Incorporate a stressbuster into your daily life. VIRGO understands much more than he or she lets on. 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)

★★★ Express your thoughts clearly; otherwise, you could come off as being too sarcastic. Be careful. You can be sure that others have many different thoughts, and they might feel frustrated enough to wage war. Avoid that type of mess at all costs. Tonight: Take a brisk walk.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your creativity emerges, which makes nearly anything possible. Your friends and/or associates could be defiant, as confusion marks a situation. You also might feel hurt that someone has turned down an invitation. Tonight: Do what feels right to you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You could head in a certain direction if you so choose, despite what is happening around you. Certain circumstances could trigger you, but you don't need to take action. It would be wiser to do nothing and come from a focused point of view. Tonight: Happy at home

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might try to clear up a situation, only to find that it has more complications than you originally thought. Unless you have strong conversational skills, the problem could worsen. You aren't going to convince anyone of the rightness of your ways. Tonight: Hang out.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Recognize what needs to happen in order to make a situation work. Your fiery personality could factor into your decision-making. How would you like to change

the course that you're presently on? Weigh the pros and cons first, then decide. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You feel more in tune with others than you have in a while. Try not to get upset by the inevitable disagreements that could pop up from out of nowhere. You know that sometimes, the less said, the better. Open up to conversations. Tonight: Whatever feels like the right thing to do.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take your time when making a decision. Someone's comments might surprise you. Whether you take what this person says personally is your call. Avoid sarcastic and angry people, if possible. Opportunities come once you detach. Tonight: You need a time-out from certain people.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You know what you want, and you know what feels right. After engaging in a conversation in which you had thought everyone was on the same page, you might find out otherwise. The discussion might have caused some controversy. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You will assume a greater role in a project, and you'll have your share of obstacles to jump. Don't get too tied up in a situation involving property or a domestic matter, as you could feel torn between two possibilities. Be aware of your limitations. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. Excitement surrounds an idea, but you might not know how to proceed. Just when you think you've reached a mutual understanding, you could discover otherwise. Avoid becoming a part of the problem. Tonight: Hop on the computer.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Someone might make an extra effort to get to know you. Don't assume that this person's assertiveness will last forever. You could discover that his or her decision is changing quickly. Decide how you'd like to proceed. Tonight: Share today with a dear friend.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

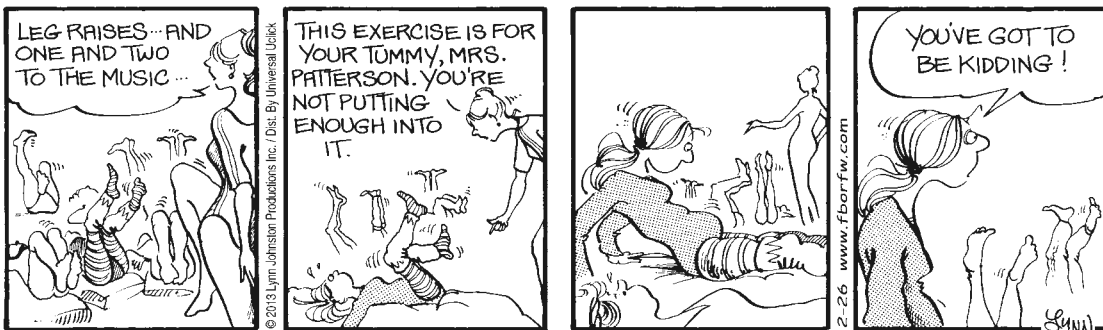
★★★ Allow others to do their thing. You might want to try a different attitude or approach. Now is not the time to sit back and say little. A volatile tone could exist within your interactions, so don't be surprised if someone loses his or her cool. Tonight: Follow someone else's lead.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

