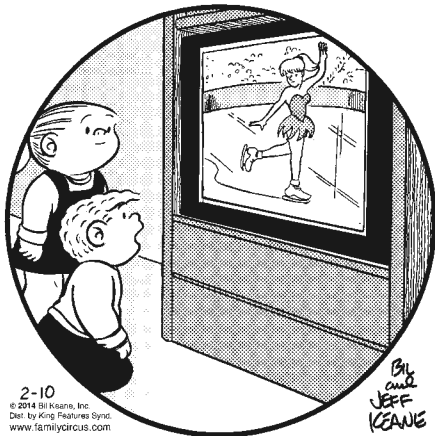


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



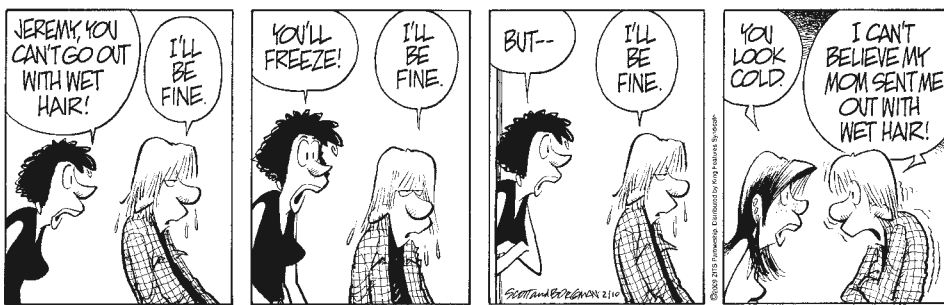
2-10
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www.familycircus.com
"It's the WINTER Olympics. Why's she dressed like it's summer?"
By Bill Keane

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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"My wife talked me into "couples therapy," but I can't help noticing there are three of us here."
Dan Piraro

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



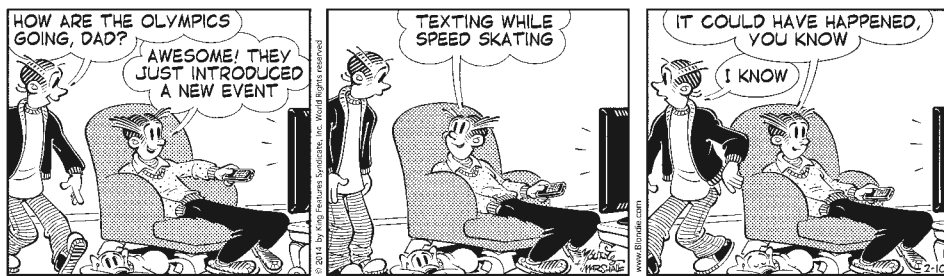
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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 SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Mother Feels Imprisoned By Mentally Ill Adult Son

DEAR ABBY: My 38-year-old son is mentally ill and refuses medication, counseling or any type of help. I'm 63, and he physically and mentally abuses me. I had him committed, but he refused to cooperate, so they released him after two weeks. Life after that became worse.

I have no time to myself except when I sleep or take a nap. Family and friends are not allowed in the house because they make him uncomfortable. I can't even open the blinds to let the sun in because "people are watching him."

I know he needs help desperately, but I don't know where else to turn. My family tells me to have him committed and not let him back home. I feel guilty about sending him out of my home because I'm afraid of what he might do or what could happen to him.

I go for counseling once a month, and I have discussed this with my therapist, who says the same thing as my family: "Commit him and throw away the key!" I am so torn! I suffer from depression and this lifestyle does not help.

I'm planning to move to another state where I have family, and I don't know what to do with him. I feel like I'm trading one cell for another. Any suggestions would be appreciated. — LOYAL READER IN NEW YORK

DEAR LOYAL READER: Listen to your therapist. If your son is institutionalized, he will be in a safe environment. The alternative could be that he would become one of the multitude of mentally ill individuals who are living on the street.

If your son is medicated, he might be able to live in a group home where he could be sheltered and taken care of. With medication he might be able to have more of a life than you have provided.

You may feel guilty, but you are not responsible for your son's mental illness. It is very important that you are successfully treated for your depression before making the decision to move. Your depression may have been caused because you have become the prisoner of your son's hallucinations.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for 2 1/2 years, living together for two. He says Valentine's Day is a made-up holiday to get people to spend money. I told him every holiday is geared toward people spending money.

I find myself feeling angry and hurt that I'm not receiving anything for Valentine's Day. He never buys cards or flowers for me. How do I communicate to him that this is important to me without making things worse? — CRAVING A LITTLE ROMANCE

DEAR CRAVING: Your boyfriend may be cheap, but he also has a point. According to a report on npr.org, the celebration of Valentine's Day started in ancient Rome and contains elements of both Christian and pre-Christian religions. In the third century A.D., two men named Valentine were executed by the emperor Claudius II in different years on Feb. 14, and a few hundred years later, a pope (Gelasius I) combined St. Valentine's Day with Lupercalia — a fertility feast — to replace the pagan ritual. (Research this online if you wish, because I found it fascinating.) The holiday didn't become romanticized until the Renaissance.

That said, allow me to point out that there are few things more unpleasant than feeling forced to give someone a gift. If you have already discussed this with your boyfriend and he's still resistant, then instead of focusing on what you're NOT getting out of this relationship, try focusing on what you ARE getting. It may help you to feel less deprived.

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.)

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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.

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 Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 10, 2014:

This year you toss yourself into your day-to-day life with the objective of becoming more efficient and fulfilled. You also will be open to learning more, which could lead to transforming your life or your health habits; however, you might not be thinking long term. If you are single, you could be witnessing substantial change in your daily life. The person who appeals to you today might not catch your eye in a few months. Be open and kind to potential suitors — get to know them better. If you are attached, the two of you will be more upbeat than you have been if you make an effort to make each other's life easier. Let a new hobby evolve. Surprises seem to mark your life together this year. **CANCER** is far too emotional for 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)

★★★ You will tap into your intuitive feelings in the morning. As a result, a far-out idea is likely to surface. You will want to work with it, yet you might realize that it could take you down a strange path. No matter what, you will land on your feet. Tonight: Happily head home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You need to understand what is happening behind the scenes with a friend. You will get a better sense of that when in a meeting with this person. Idealism is wonderful, but it needs to be anchored. You could be shocked by some of the ideas being shared. Tonight: Catch up on news.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your finances are more important than you might realize. You understand money and its power well, but you probably have never seen someone look at it the way an associate does. Money could be the driving force behind this person's decisions. Tonight: Treat yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you can't easily be stopped, no matter what you do. Consider your alternatives in a difficult situation. You are likely to succeed in whatever you do, as you seem to be carrying a lucky rabbit's foot in your back pocket. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might sense that a low profile will

work better for you in increasing your efficiency. A partner could feed you some interesting ideas. Tap into your creativity, and you'll come up with unique solutions. You will know when you hit the right one. Tonight: Call a favorite person.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A positive attitude will point to success. You could find that several meetings will give you a lot of feedback. Defer to a partner, and let this person know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. A goal is more attainable than you realize. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You must step up to the plate to hit a home run. Others will follow your lead and succeed. You might be overly concerned about your responsibilities, as they seem to find their way to you. Know which duties to say yes or no to. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You need to reach out to someone at a distance. Your creativity will flourish if you follow your feelings. Know that you will land on your feet. An unexpected development in your daily life could force you to regroup. Tonight: Make it an early night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Work with a partner or an associate directly. You might need to switch gears in order to deal with a problem that arises. Others will see you in a special light. Opportunities could arise from out of the blue. Be ready to jump on a good idea. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Be more forthright with an opportunity involving someone you care a lot about. Communication is likely to excel. You seem to know who is on the phone before you even pick it up. Your sensitivity will be at its peak. Tonight: Go along with someone's request.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

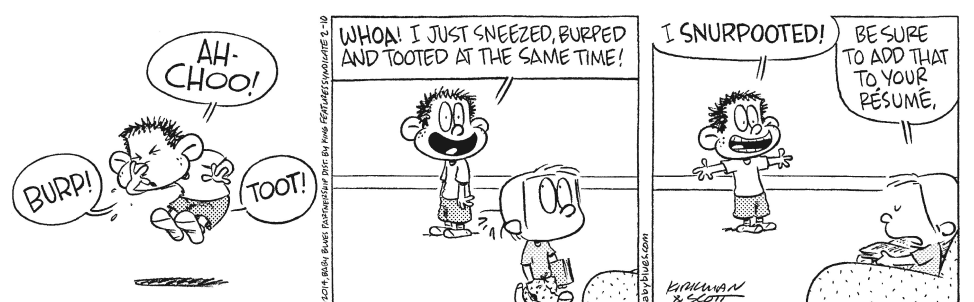
★★★ "All work and no play" doesn't suit you. You'll need to maintain a positive attitude in order to make a dream a reality. You will need time to consider your various options. Make it OK to head down a new path. Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your creativity will appear to be endless, which could excite many people. You know what is going on behind the scenes. Confirm what you think is true, but try not to be overconfident. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

