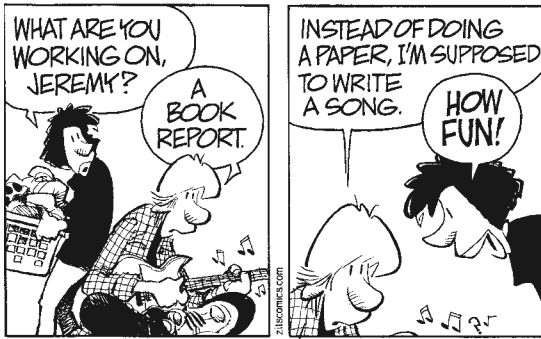


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



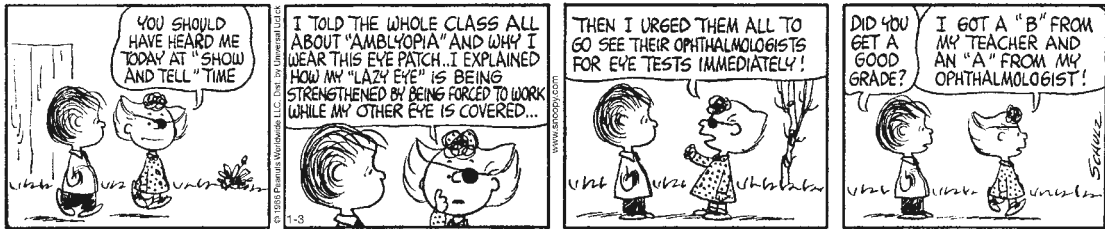
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



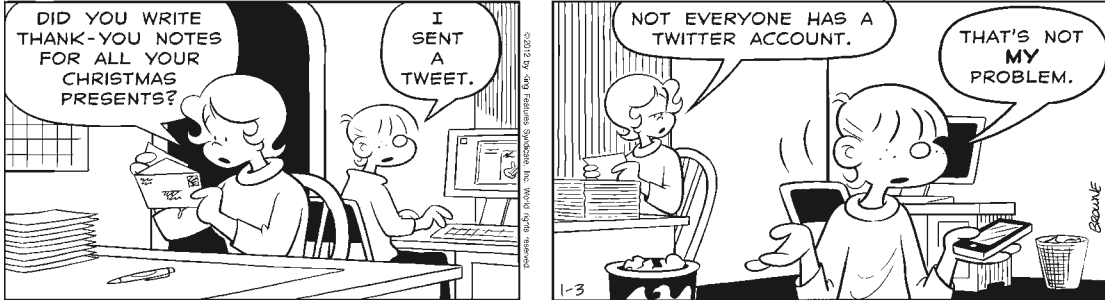
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



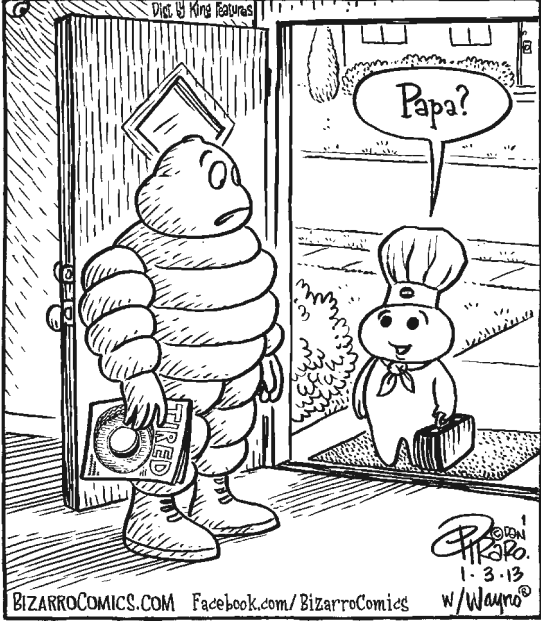
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Father And Son Reconciliation Stalls After Email Exchange

DEAR ABBY: I cut my father out of my life years ago, after he declared he could not support my decision to adopt three children from a Russian orphanage with my longtime companion. The adoption announcement coincided with my “coming out” to Dad, who is now married to his third wife.

It must have been a lot for him to take in at one time. He told me plainly that he could not support my decision because he could not “understand” it. He has never met our children, and does not acknowledge them as his grandchildren.

This year on Father’s Day, I sent him a card and he replied by email that he was glad to hear from me and he hoped for a reconciliation, but was not sure how to go about it. I responded by email that I was cautiously optimistic that we could reignite a respectful relationship.

I haven’t heard back from him and I suspect it’s because he saw that I had changed my last name from his to my husband’s, a decision I made after our marriage. My father was not aware that I had gotten married. I think I have overwhelmed him again, which has rendered him speechless. Please advise me on how to proceed. — PRODIGAL SON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SON: Call your father, tell him you love him and that you would like to schedule a visit with him — but would like to send him some reading material before you do. Then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The phone number is 202-467-8180 and you’ll find them on the Internet at www.pflag.org. They will be happy to provide you with literature for your dad to help him “understand.” Frankly, he has my sympathy because before you hit him with the “double whammy,” he didn’t have a clue about who you really are.

Whether your name change overwhelmed him or

not is irrelevant. The ball is now in your court, so if you want to have a hope of a relationship with your father, YOU will have to make the next move.



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.

IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRIEVING: You may not believe this, but you’re a lucky man. It may take the help of a psychologist for you to disengage emotionally and move on. Given that you would end up in trouble with the law, this would be a wise decision.

It might also help to envision what it would have been like being married not only to Claudette, but also to her mother — because they appear to be joined at the hip, and the part that’s doing the thinking isn’t your former fiancée. This may be the reason that her first marriage failed.

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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 Capricorn and a Moon in Virgo if born before 5:15 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 2013:

This year you can be very practical one moment, and then unexpectedly switch to being idealistic. When dealing with certain people, you often tend to find that one-on-one relating can push you over the edge. Be careful if you sense your frustration building. If you are single, your diverse personality attracts many potential suitors; they find you exciting. If you are attached, your sweetie will have the experience of not knowing for sure which side of you he or she will encounter. Don’t worry — this seesaw behavior will be short-lived. LIBRA is the ultimate romantic.

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 have a lot to accomplish. Many of you will be dealing with backed-up email and other requests. A delayed message or package will surprise you. News and/or information might draw a strong reaction because of a vital fact that is left out. Tonight: Say “yes” to an offer.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your ingenuity helps prevent what could be a problem. While others scramble to put a situation together, you’ll figure out a new solution or procedure. Excitement surrounds you. Be careful not to miss an important fact or step. Tonight: Off to the gym or squeeze in a walk.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Leaving your cocoon could take a major effort, but you will have some help. A meeting or forthcoming news could jolt you into action. Something you hear simply does not sound right. You’ll revitalize and feel much more like yourself. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Make an effort to reach out to someone who might need your attention. A boss or older family member continues to act erratically, as he or she often throws you a curveball. You can only duck so many times. Consider alternatives. Tonight: Straighten out a misunderstanding.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be feeling drained and at your wits’

end. You might not be sure what to do with a loved one who seems to be acting as if there is no tomorrow. A one-on-one discussion could reveal an unusual or surprising outlook. Allow more give-and-take. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A family member makes it clear that he or she wants your time. You can handle this request, but it might involve a postponement of plans. The unexpected keeps tossing your day into chaos. Do not overspend; instead, opt for a shortcut. Tonight: Deal with a financial matter.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Stand back and say little right now, as much is going on behind the scenes. You might want to observe rather than act. You’ll learn much more about the people around you as a result. Tonight: Once more, a close associate’s actions stop you in your tracks.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Don’t just think about what you want — take action toward that result. No one else can read your mind or do this for you. You might be surprised at how news could toss what seemed to be a well-organized plan into chaos. Tonight: Consider getting some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Consider taking a different approach when dealing with someone you believe to be rather shifty yet important to your life. Your sense of humor will help you handle the situation. Do not let anyone interfere with your plans. Tonight: Finally, some easy time with friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might be open to change, if you could just understand the reason for it. Should you feel as if you are being manipulated, you are making too much of the situation. The unexpected remains a theme. Keep that in mind in your dealings. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Be forthright in your dealings. You might not know which way to go with someone’s request. It might not make a difference, either. This person is so driven that your mere presence could be an obstacle right now. Get out of the way. Tonight: Follow the music.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Defer to others, but make sure that you are not being held responsible for their choices. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like to be. A trusted partner whispers in your ear, and you finally will get the full story. Tonight: Have dinner, and chat with friends and loved ones.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

