

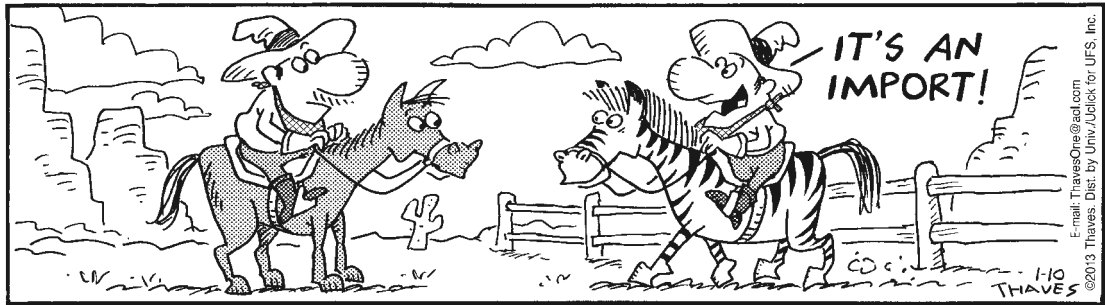
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



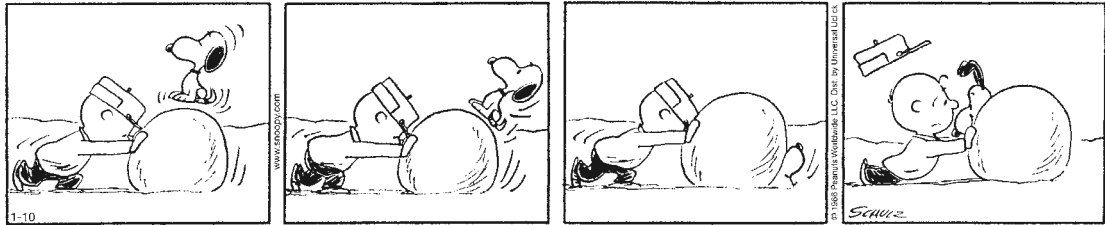
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



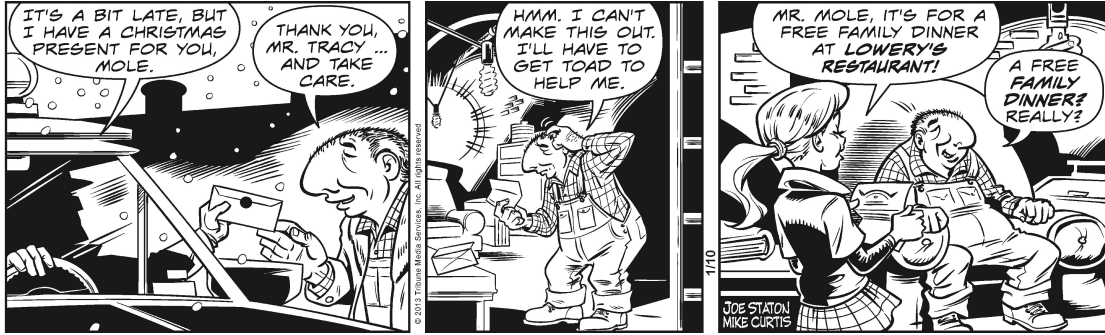
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



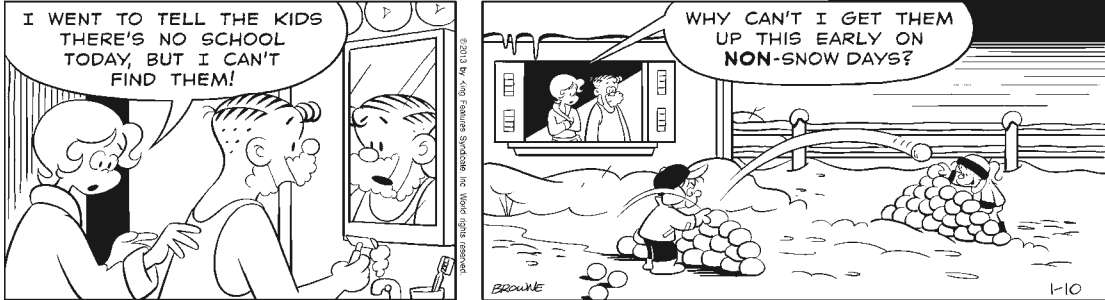
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



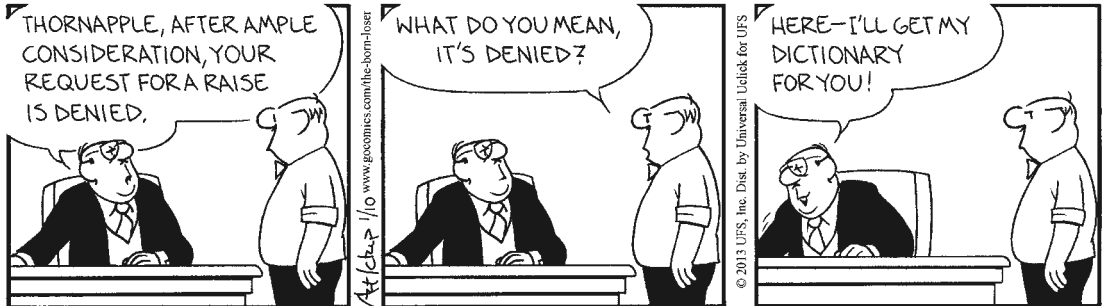
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Readers Urge Wife To Work Through Problems At Home

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Had It in Hartford" (Oct. 6), who has been unhappily married to her husband for 20 years. She said she married him for all the wrong reasons and "has never loved him the way a woman should love a man."

After I had been married for seven years, I went to my pastor concerned that the grass on the other side was looking greener than mine. As we spoke, I began to realize the extent of the investment I had put into my marriage and that I didn't want to start over again on a new one.

My mom always told me, "Marriage is not easy. You will always have to work on it. There will be times when you won't feel that you like him or love him." I have been married for 36 years now. Do I notice handsome men, or appreciate a man who treats me kindly? Of course. I'm not blind or dead.

Love isn't just a feeling, but a choice and a commitment. I'm committed to my husband not because I'm "supposed" to be, but because I CHOOSE to be. It seems to me that "Had It" never made that choice or worked toward it, but expected it to just happen eventually.

She has a foundation of trust and friendship that helps a marriage through the rough times. Many marriages that end in divorce rely on sexual attraction and passion to carry them instead of friendship.

We're told that marriage is 50-50. That's not true. It's 100-100. I'm responsible for my 100 percent, and my spouse is responsible for his.

"Had It" should take another look at what she's about to lose and tally up the costs to her family. Is she really trapped? Or has she just been unwilling to choose to love? — BARBARA IN MOUNT VERNON, WASH.

DEAR BARBARA: Thank you for writing. I advised "Had It" to think long and hard before leaving her husband, but that if she truly cannot love him the way he deserves, she should move on. My readers' comments: DEAR ABBY: "Had It" doesn't feel love toward her

husband because she spends her time and energy ruminating about a "mistake" she thinks she made 20 years ago. She says he is doing everything right and they get along fine. If she tried something positive, like reminding

herself about the qualities she likes about him, and doing things she knows make him happy instead of fantasizing about other men, she might find the love she craves in her marriage.

Loving feelings come from loving behavior, not the other way around. The sooner she realizes this, the sooner she'll see that what she really wants is right there at home with her family. And it has been there all along. — DR. PEGGY B.

DEAR ABBY: I have this message for "Had It": I felt like you and acted on my feelings. Don't do it! Wait until your kids are older. As much as you want a more intimate relationship, you cannot begin to imagine the impact straying will have on your kids.

I deeply regret what I did and I wish someone would have told me what I'm telling you. Pull yourself together. Think about your children, extended family and friends. You are connected to others through your husband, and once you pull your marriage apart, everything else falls away, too. — REGRETTING IT IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: "Had It" is probably suffering from a case of the seven-year itch. For some reason, people cycle in seven-year increments. Some of them change jobs or homes, others have affairs or change spouses. She should work through it with a counselor.

There is a lot to be said for being married to your best friend. A wise therapist advised me to compliment my husband at least once a day. ("If you act happy, pretty soon it won't be an act.") This was after my first bout with the "itch" and it has been working ever since, 29 years! — LOVING AND LAUGHING WITH MY BEST FRIEND



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 Capricorn and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 10:54 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10, 2013:

This year you make waves wherever you go. Your combination of high energy, strong intellect and charisma draws in many opportunities for you. Others might see you as self-involved, especially your sweetie. Work on being more aware of others, and listen to feedback more carefully. If you are single, you attract many admirers who want to make you theirs. You'll want to relate directly, but because of all the other activity going on in your life, you could find it difficult to focus on one person. CAPRICORN has endurance. Do not bet against him or her.

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)
★★★ Visualize and create more of what you want. Your energy of late could be very challenging to a boss, older person or supervisor. Much is changing around the two of you. Use good sense, and remain responsible if you care about the long term. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
★★★★ You have the ability to read between the lines right now. Use the information you are gathering for your own purposes. You might be stunned at what is occurring. Break past rigid thinking, and you just might like the outcome. Tonight: Relax and surf the web.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
★★★★★ You have the capacity to relate intensely to key persons. You know what your expectations are, but can you fulfill them? Share them with your inner circle, even if you get an odd reaction. Go with the flow. Tonight: Get to know someone better over dinner.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
★★★★ You are able to sway a situation in the direction you desire, but at what cost? A key person or boss could have a negative reaction to your manipulation. Be sure to test the waters first. At the same time, ask yourself whether it's worth it. Tonight: Let others make the first move.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
★★★★ Put your best foot forward, and remember how close you are to the weekend. If you can accomplish

more than your usual workload right now, do so. Unexpected news could have you daydreaming. It's OK to let your mind wander. Tonight: Off to the gym.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
★★★★★ You see a situation developing that could be demanding yet lots of fun. Think positively, but be aware as you walk into this scenario. A partner reacts to news. You are learning how unpredictable the people in your life can be. Tonight: Sort through your many ideas.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)
★★★ You might be holding back more than you realize. Allow your creativity to flow, and you will find solutions rather quickly. Let go of a preconceived idea. Once you do, you'll see a new path. Reach out to a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Happily head home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)
★★★★ You will have to change your tone or word choice in order to get through to someone. Demonstrate some flexibility when dealing with this individual. Your creativity flourishes when brainstorming with a friend or loved one. Tonight: Let it all happen.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
★★★ Use good sense with money, as you could cause yourself a mini disaster if you're not careful. If you feel unsure of a situation or an offer, opt to hold off for now. You will know what to do in time. A family member could be confusing at best. Tonight: Revamp your budget.

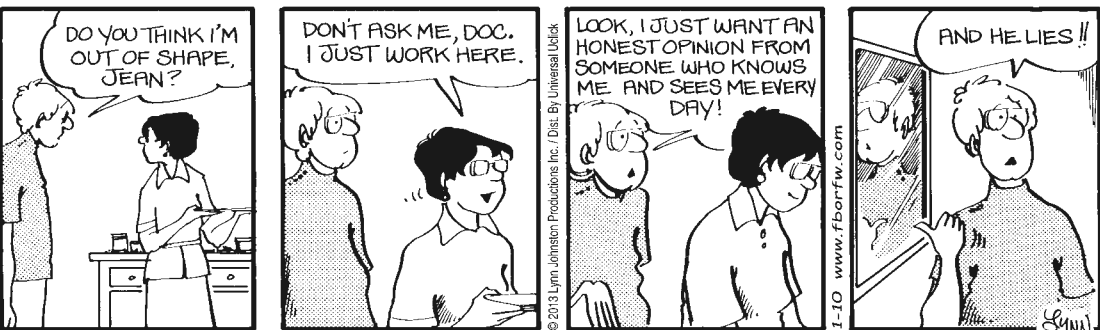
CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
★★★★★ You are in your element, yet you also could be overwhelmed by the hectic pace and the amount of people seeking you out. They know who has it together. Your intuition will guide you with a neighbor or close relative. Tonight: Check in with a friend who might be depressed.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)
★★★ You might not like what you are seeing. You could choose to say little and do more observing. Gather information that fits with your ideas, and perhaps seek out an expert for some feedback. After all, that is what you are looking for. Tonight: Time off from the hectic pace.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)
★★★★★ You have always been an intuitive sign, but you're even more so of late. You'll zero in on a problem and toss everything else in the air. Some friends might feel concerned, but it's only because they don't understand the importance of this readjustment. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

