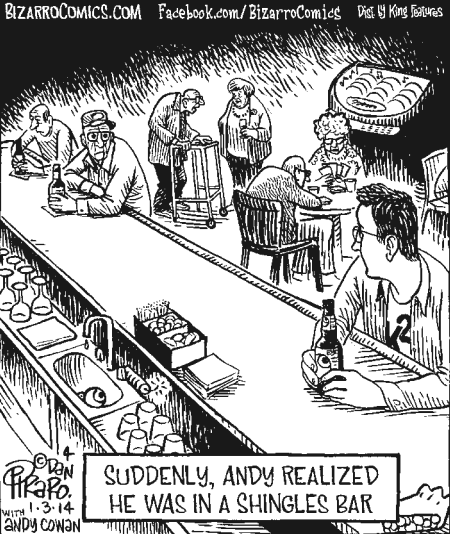


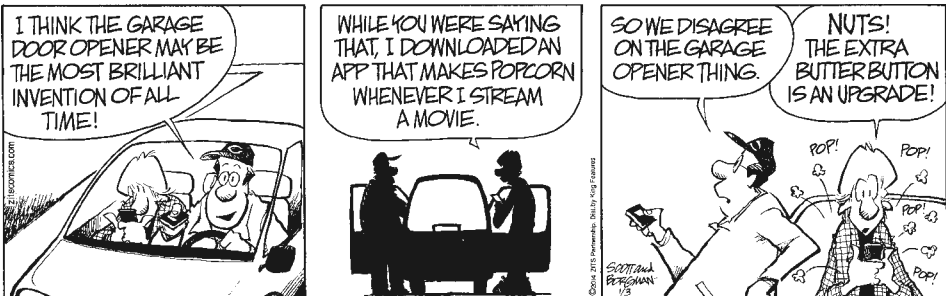
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | 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



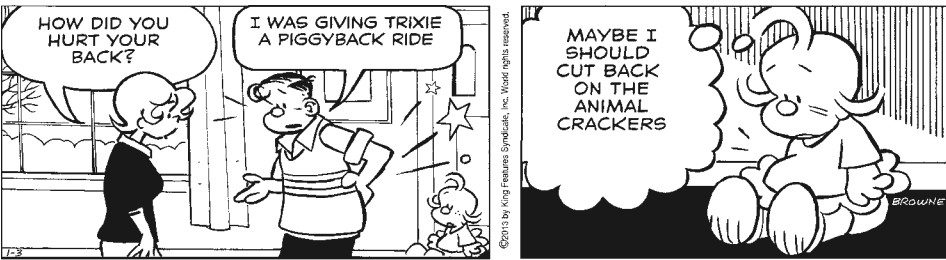
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



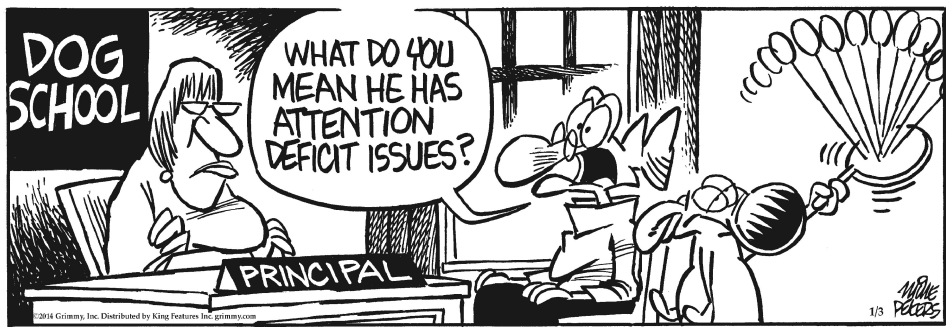
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Tight Lips Can Keep Tongues From Wagging In The Office

DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old mom who has always been overweight. I have tried all sorts of diets and programs, and have lost a few pounds and then gained it all back and more.

My boss has offered to pay for me to have weight loss surgery. It is something I have always wanted, but could never afford. My boss told me she knows the struggle I have had and the frustration I have experienced.

My family is behind me and supports my decision to have it done. My concern is that once others in my office learn it was paid for by the boss, I'll be treated differently. I'm concerned about possible catty comments. They are gossips, and I hate being the center of attention in situations like that. The truth is bound to come out, so how can I comment on the gift I've been given? — SO GRATEFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR SO GRATEFUL: You have a generous and empathetic boss who obviously cares about you. Unless one of you reveals that she paid for your surgery, "the truth" is NOT bound to come out. How your operation is paid for is nobody's business.

DEAR ABBY: My father recently told me his girlfriend is pregnant with twins. She is in her 40s and he is in his 50s. She already has two kids who are quite a handful. They both have low-paying jobs and I don't think they can handle two more children.

My father now is asking me to move in with him to help out. Because of their financial state and their ages, I'm afraid this is a huge risk. If I tell him what my concerns are, I am sure he'll think I'm heartless and stop talking to me. I don't know what to do. Dad might not even be around to see those kids

graduate from high school. What can I do? — TROUBLED SON IN COLORADO

DEAR TROUBLED SON: Unless you're willing to give up your freedom I don't recommend doing what your father is proposing. He should not expect you to assume child care or financial responsibility because his birth control method failed. That privilege rightfully belongs to him and his girlfriend. Tell your father you sympathize with his dilemma, but the answer is no.

DEAR ABBY: I read your column on the nights that I work, and I was wondering if you have had days when you just wanted to tell someone who has written to you to "suck it up and deal with it." I am generally a nice person and would help the most helpless cases as best I could, but I know that I have days when I have been snarky. I was wondering how you deal with those days. — FEELING SNARKY TONIGHT IN VERMONT

DEAR FEELING SNARKY: I write my column from an office away from my home. Because of that, it's easier to leave distractions (or "problems") on the other side of the door when I enter. I'm here to help people, not to make anyone feel worse. If for some reason I felt I was unable to do that, I would either go for a long walk or postpone writing for another day.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Capricorn and a Moon in Aquarius.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 3, 2014:

This year you often get feedback about your ideas, opinions and direction. You frequently will be found in a brainstorming session. You mentally grow by leaps and bounds. You will be especially concerned with your finances. You also could experience a sudden change or an unexpected addition to your home life. If you are single, you might not realize how much someone cares about you. Be more observant of others. If you are attached, the two of you spend a lot of time together, and sometimes your energy together produces a lot of excitement. AQUARIUS knows how to spend your money well. Be careful!

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)

★★★★★ Your originality and drive will entice others to get involved in a personal project. If you have time, you might want to visit with a young person who might be facing tough choices in his or her life. A one-on-one chat might be just what the doctor ordered. Tonight: Hang with friends.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You could feel pressured by a situation and might not be able to pull away. If it is work related, you might be overwhelmed by everything that you need to do. A discussion with someone involved could ease the burden. Tonight: Feel free to nix getting together with others.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll be raring to get into weekend mode, especially as you are likely to visit with a loved one at a distance. You might not be as sure of yourself as you might like with a financial matter. Seek advice from someone in the know. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Remember, you are more sensitive to others' moods than many. You often pick up on someone's feelings when he or she isn't even conscious of them. If a discussion heads in this direction, back off. Make time for a friend. Tonight: With a favorite person.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others will come forward and engage you in conversation. What you think and what you say could be vastly different. You might be uncom-

fortable not revealing all of your thoughts, but do your best to explain where you are coming from. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is occurring in your daily life. You might need to screen your calls, as they could be far more distracting than you realize. A meeting might prevent you from running some errands, but you still must attend. Tonight: Play it easy.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ You have a lot of suggestions that could help move a project along. A loved one will appreciate the feedback. Use your high energy to complete some work that has been holding you back. Be sure to return emails and calls. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be overwhelmed by a situation and its demands. A brainstorming session provides a solution, if you are ready to take it. You might want to let others know your limits, as too many suggestions at once will be overwhelming. Tonight: Take a walk and squeeze in some exercise.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You are not one to hold back your thoughts. When someone makes assumptions about your financial situation, you won't hesitate to put this person in his or her place. A child or loved one continues to surprise you with his or her playful antics. Tonight: TGIF!

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Someone will show appreciation for your feedback. There is an element of feeling overwhelmed by this person's gratitude. Know that you need to stop the exchange before your funds get dragged into it. Maintain your budget. Tonight: Treat a friend to munchies and drinks.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Claim your power. How someone reacts to you could trigger a lot of thinking. You will get a clear sense of what this person thinks of you. Make an additional effort to complete errands and to finish a project before you call it a day. Tonight: Do absolutely what you want.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Someone close to you understands too well what is going on with you. This person might not choose to say anything unless you speak up first. He or she will be the right one with whom to have an important discussion about a choice in the near future. Tonight: Not to be found.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

