

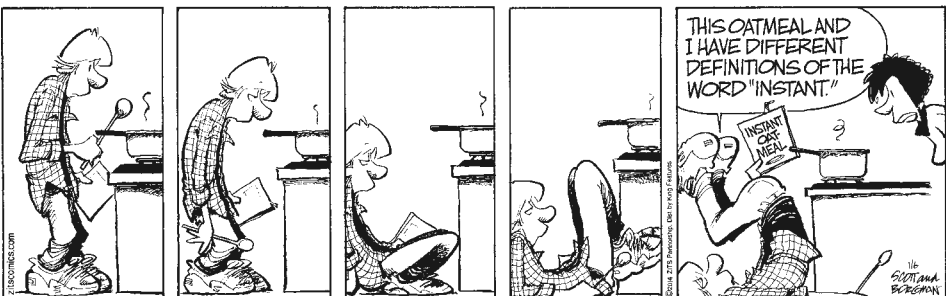
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



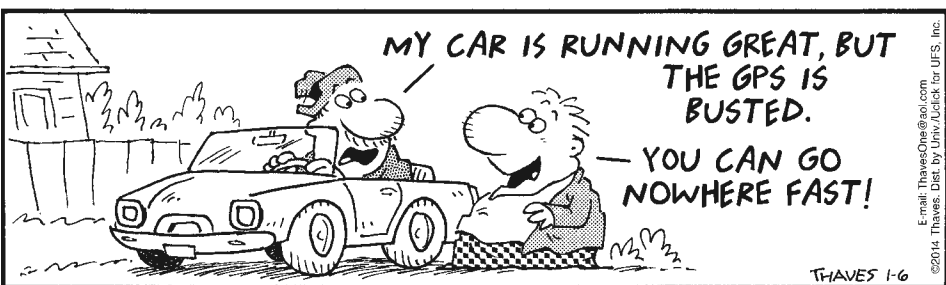
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



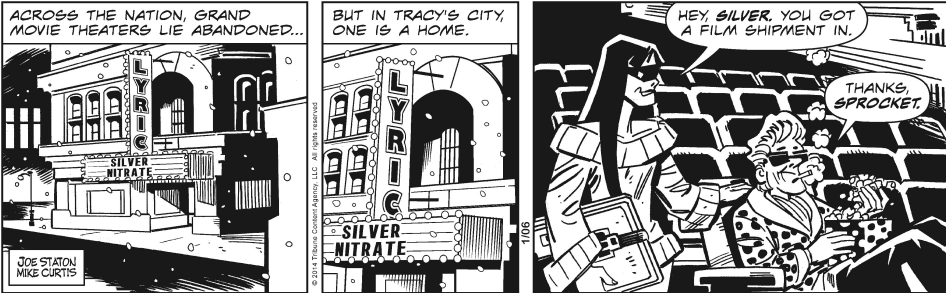
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



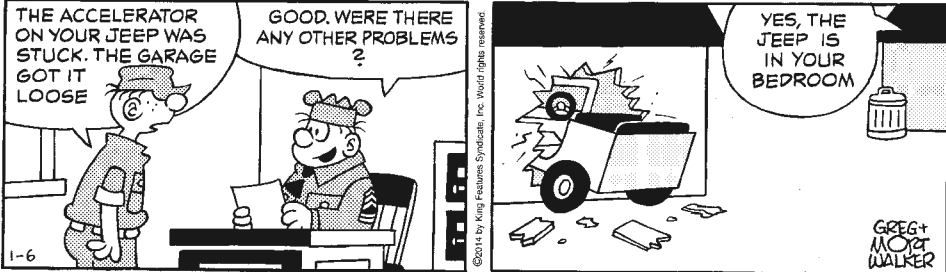
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



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



Single Woman Is Losing Touch With Friends Who Have Kids

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 28-year-old woman with a fantastic job, a wonderful boyfriend and many friends whom I love dearly. I'm the only one without a child.

Maybe I don't understand because I'm not a parent myself, but all my friends can talk about is children. Whereas before, we were interested in each other's lives, I feel like my concerns and accomplishments are being brushed off. An example: I was excited to meet up with a pal to talk about my promotion, but the hour-long dinner was spent mostly teaching her child how to walk between the tables of the restaurant.

I enjoy hearing about my friends and their families, but I feel they are no longer interested in me. Am I expecting too much because we're at different points in our lives, or am I a bad friend? I'm growing resentful, and I don't like it. Any words of wisdom? — STILL RELEVANT IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR STILL RELEVANT: You and your friends ARE at different stages of life. When you were in your teens, you and your friends would talk about dating. Then, as you grew older, the conversations revolved around college, jobs and marriage. As people experience the later stages of life, they talk about other things that are going on in their lives — children, grandkids, aging parents and, finally, their own health concerns.

You'll maintain and enjoy these friendships longer if you understand that. In the meantime, try to set some "adult time only" with your friends.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for 14 years and have dated some, but not a lot. I recently signed up for an online dating service, and here is my dilemma: I have a felony conviction from 25-plus years ago. It did not involve violence, drugs, sex, stealing, etc. It was for a white-collar crime. I received four years of probation, which I served without a hitch.

My question is not if I should tell someone about my conviction, but WHEN. If I say any-

thing at our first meeting, I'm pretty sure it will also be the last meeting. At the same time, I don't want it to appear that I was hiding it from them.

I might add, this is the only time I have ever been in trouble with the law. I'd appreciate your advice on how to deal with this. — ONLINE DATING IN TEXAS

DEAR DATING: The time to tell someone about your conviction is when the relationship stops being casual. At that point, you should disclose that there is a chapter from your past that you think the person should know about — and it's one that will never be repeated.

DEAR ABBY: After 25 years, I have finally admitted to myself that I'm married to a workaholic, alcoholic womanizer. I have devoted my entire adult life, my time, effort and energy to my family. Now I feel used, abused and disrespected. I'm grateful to be a member of Al-Anon. It has helped me to understand that I cannot change anyone but me.

I have raised three great, successful grown kids. I have yet to make a decision for myself. I married for life. Must I continue to suffer in silence? Or do I hope that there is love, kindness and respect

out there to be had? — STALLING IN IOWA

DEAR STALLING: Let me remind you what you've already learned in Al-Anon: You cannot change anyone but yourself. The same is true of your circumstances.

You are entitled to receive the same love and respect that you offer to others. I cannot guarantee that you'll find love. Because your workaholic, alcoholic, womanizing husband hasn't changed in a quarter of a century, it's obvious he has no intention of doing so.

You don't need to find another man in order to be happier than you are now. Being alone could give you peace, contentment and happiness. The question you need to answer honestly for yourself is whether you would be happier without your husband's negative influence in your life.

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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 Pisces if born before 11:45 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JAN. 6, 2014:

This year you often are very sensitive to others, and you express empathy with ease. You also frequently can be found playing the role of cheerleader, encouraging those around you to go for their dreams. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone very significant to your life's history. You will know when you meet this person. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company, and you seem to have a psychic connection. You know what the other is thinking. ARIES often grinds on your nerves.

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 might have a firmer grasp on what is happening than the person who informs you of what is going on. This person likes to feel important. Say little. Play it low-key, and you will gather more information. Tonight: Only what you want.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want during the morning. Don't hesitate. You might need to consider how you'd like to proceed with a different matter in the afternoon. Consider your options carefully and discuss them with someone you often brainstorm with. Tonight: Not to be found.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your directness is more desirable than you think. Stay in touch with your goals as discussions ensue. You can identify with others. As a result, you could lose your ability to stay centered. Do not allow this to happen. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might want to hear the other side of an argument. Though you still might not agree with what is being said, you could see a way of incorporating two ideas that seem in opposition but actually have the same basis. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A close associate might have a lot to share. Encourage this person to express his or her intuitive sense more often. You will be able to understand an issue in a new way because of what is

shared with you. Proceed accordingly. Tonight: Make plans for the near future.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Rethink a personal decision, especially if someone close to you offers a new insight. Do nothing to damage the situation, and if possible, give yourself some breathing room. Put this decision on hold for now. Tonight: Have an important discussion first.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Understand what you are doing and why. Your need to handle a matter regarding real estate or your personal life is legitimate. Once you clear up this issue, you will find the right direction for you to head in. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your creativity seems to be focused on a key issue. By the afternoon, your imaginative streak could fall flat or not be as helpful. Your initial idea will prove to be the right one to pursue. Others will be more enthusiastic than you had expected. Tonight: Remain playful.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Touch base with a family member who has a very different perspective from you about a domestic matter. Recognize what is happening with a loved one, as he or she might want you to be more involved with an important project. Tonight: Forget tomorrow. Enjoy today!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You will admire what a close friend thinks about a controversial issue. This person's neutrality touches you deeply. You might wonder what is needed to make a certain situation easier to handle. Discuss the situation with this person. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could see a situation in a much more relatable and viable way than you had in the past. Recognize the change in your perspective, and explain it in a conversation with one of the parties involved. This will help ease communication between you. Tonight: Hang out.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ When handling your finances, it would be wise to make a decision regarding your limits. What is important to you? The holidays could have wreaked havoc on your budget. Take this opportunity to recalibrate your spending. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

