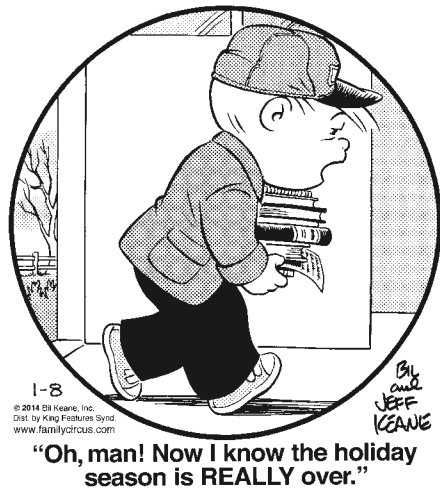


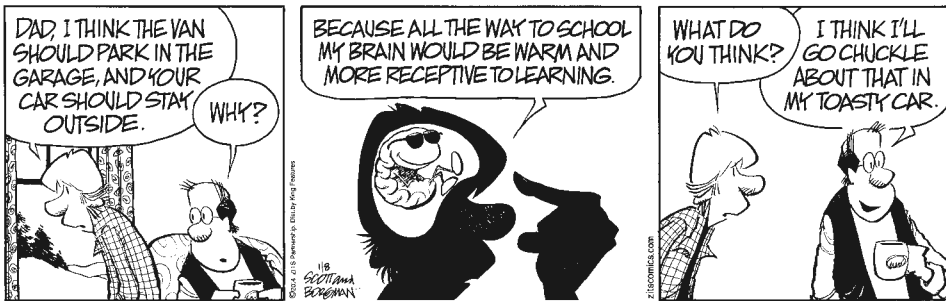
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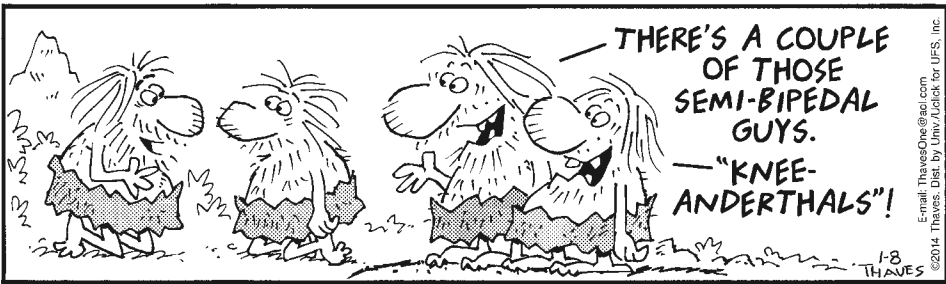
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



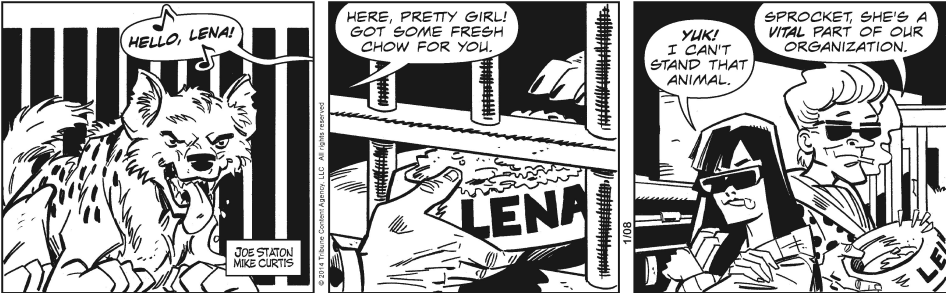
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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



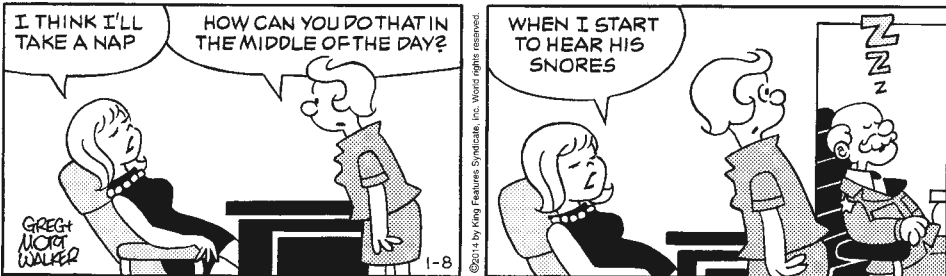
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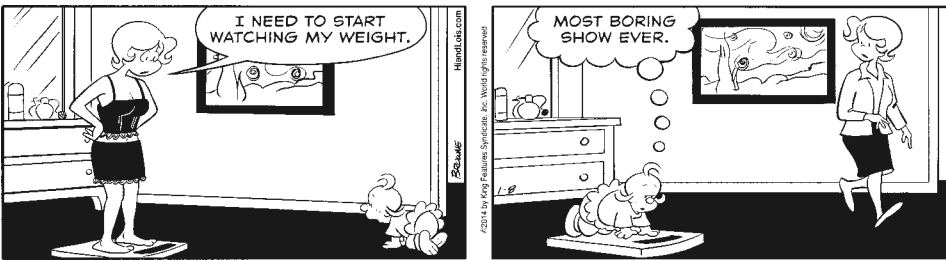
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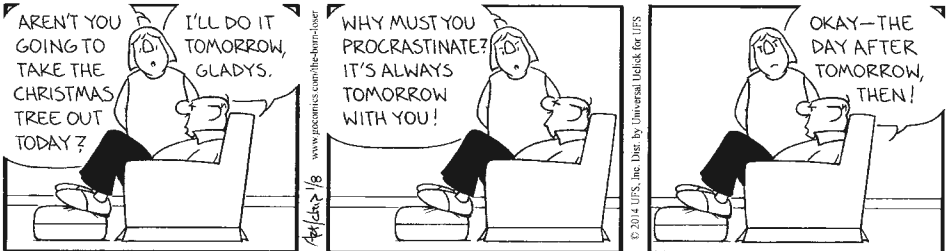
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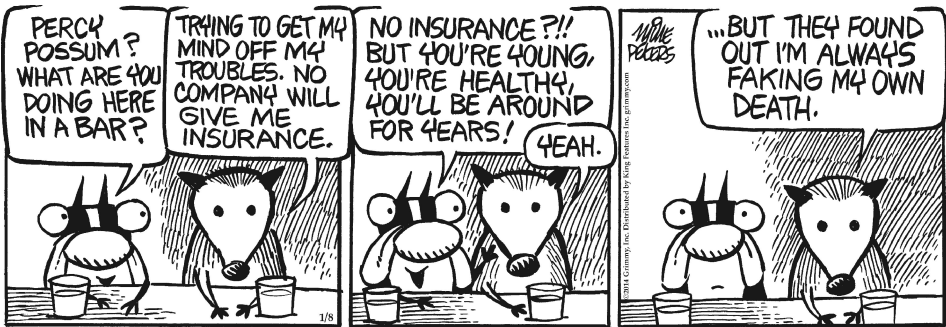
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Check Out These Warning Signs Of Potential Abusers

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter was 20, she met a guy who one minute showered her with roses and the next would beat her up. She stayed with him thinking she could change him, and became pregnant. On her 21st birthday, she tried to get away from him. He chased her up the road and went to punch her in the stomach. When she turned to avoid the blow, it landed, hitting the baby in the head and killed the child.

Abby, once a beater, always a beater. I hope all women in abusive relationships will see this letter. My daughter is fine now, married and expecting. I pray for the women and girls out there who are going through what she once had to. — PENNSYLVANIA MOM

DEAR PENNSYLVANIA MOM: I'm glad you wrote, because your letter reminds me that it has been some time since I printed the warning signs of an abuser. Here they are:

(1) PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT: Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) JEALOUS: Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

(3) CONTROLLING: If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

(4) UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS: Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

(5) ISOLATION: Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

(6) BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES: It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

(7) MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS: The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

(8) HYPERSENSITIVITY: Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

(9) CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN: Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

(10) "PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX: Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

(11) VERBAL ABUSE: Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses,



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.

calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

(12) RIGID GENDER ROLES: Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

(13) SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS: Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) PAST BATTERING: Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

(15) THREATS OF VIOLENCE: Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

Readers, if you feel you are at risk, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or www.thehotline.org.

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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 Aries if born before 6:24 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 2014:

This year you will be authoritative when you need to be. People listen to you. You also will follow through on any project or job that appeals to you. Since you tend to go to extremes, you might act out in a relationship, especially if you are attached. Your significant other has the gift of flexibility. Praise him or her for that quality. If you are single, what appeals to you today might not be so desirable tomorrow. Listen to your yearnings, with the exception of a long-term commitment. TAURUS is as grounded as you are, but he or she is more stubborn!

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 could be shocked by what goes down, especially after you hear from someone who knows the background of the events. Your fuse might be short because you view the situation as unnecessary. Evaluate what is happening. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Observe what is going on behind the scenes. You might be surprised by how someone can say few words yet still reveal what is happening. Your sense of humor emerges later in the day, once you get some errands and/or work done. Tonight: Feel your Wheaties.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Others seem to be acting independently and not in unison with a project. Keeping everyone on the same page will be challenging. Suggest a meeting for a discussion on this matter. If this issue does not dissolve, you are likely to vanish. Tonight: Get some R and R.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Take praise as it is intended to be received. Your energy is very high, so be sure to expend it appropriately; otherwise, you could become snappy and difficult. Meanwhile, go dancing at a favorite place or find your friends. Tonight: Say "yes" to an interesting offer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You might want to get more facts before

coming to a final conclusion about an evolving decision. You will shed light on the situation, which could help others understand. Tonight: Pretend it is the weekend, and make plans now!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll want to get more information about an important situation. You might ask a question that draws out a money issue. An opportunity could become obvious in a meeting. Don't hesitate, or you could lose this opportunity. Tonight: Accept an offbeat offer.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might have a lot to say, but getting in a word with others, as animated as they are, could be difficult. Instead, go off and handle a responsibility that you are only too happy to take care of. Be happy to be away from the chaos. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Pace yourself, as you seem to have a lot to do. You might want to keep an even pace, but an important discussion demands your time. Know when to let go of rigidity. Step back and allow yourself to see the big picture. You can't dictate every moment. Tonight: Do more listening.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Let your creativity help a situation involving your finances. You might want to reach out for more feedback. As a result, you could decide that a different course would be better. Way to not let your ego get involved! Tonight: Enjoy some downtime with loved ones.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Think in terms of what needs to happen and what will happen if you let someone run over your more grounded ideas. You could experience disappointment at not being understood, but the smart move would be to try a different approach. Tonight: Go for naughty and nice.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone with whom you chat often. This person's opinion means a lot to you, as he or she offers a different perspective. You will get interesting feedback. Others often are amazed by how easily the two of you can see eye to eye. Tonight: At home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Communication flourishes later in the day, but know that a friend could dump his or her frustration on you. It serves you to say little, as this person will recognize on his or her own that he or she was being a bit outrageous. Tonight: Visit with a close loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

