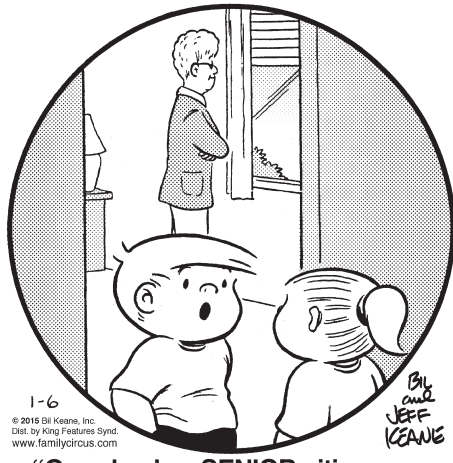


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"Grandma's a SENIOR citizen, so that makes us JUNIOR citizens."

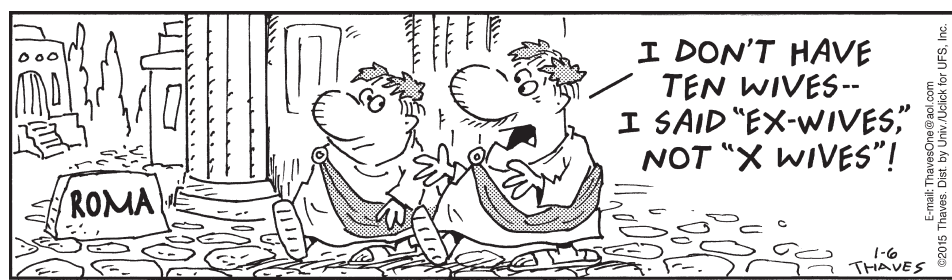
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



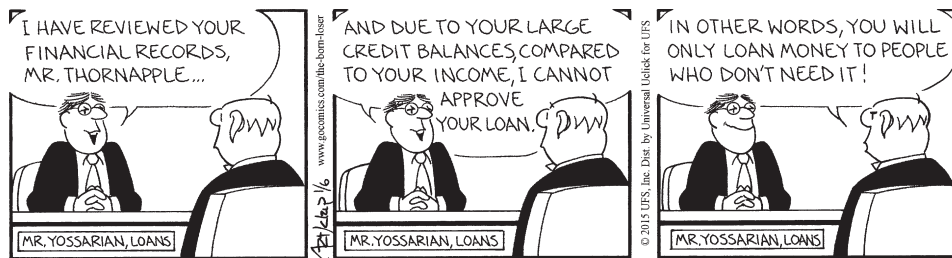
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



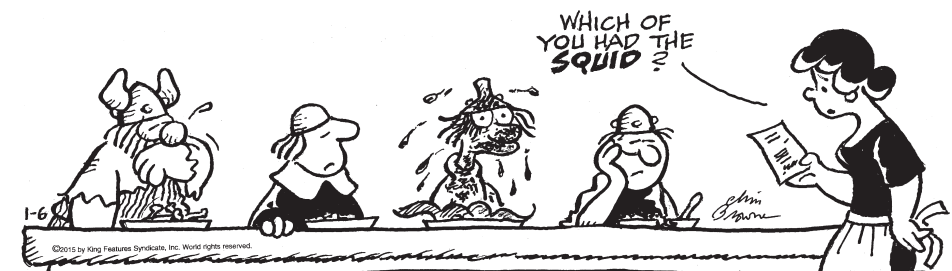
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



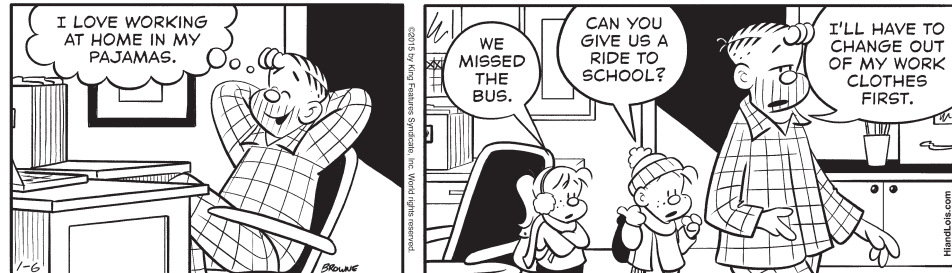
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Moody New Husband Shows Warning Signs Of An Abuser

DEAR ABBY: I was single for four years and recently remarried. I didn't intend to marry again, but then I met "Bob." He was so kind and attentive that I was attracted. He proposed to me every day, several times a day, and eight months later I married him.

Bob moved here from out of state and hasn't been able to find work. It has been challenging. My daughter lives with us and is in college.

Bob's mood swings have been drastic lately. He doesn't want me to talk to anyone else, do anything without him (hang with my friends, my daughter, etc.). I have a great job and work part-time in the evenings to make ends meet. I try to stay calm, but he yells, uses profanity and is highly manipulative.

I am at a loss. I would like to help him, but his depression is tearing us apart. I also believe he is addicted to marijuana. He has threatened suicide, but I don't know if he would actually go through with it.

Abby, I have worked very hard to get where I am. I know I need to take care of myself and my daughter, but I don't want to just throw this away, either. Help! — TORN IN TWO IN TEXAS

DEAR TORN IN TWO: Without more information, it's hard to tell whether your husband's depression makes him act the way he does, or whether you have been seduced by an abuser.

Among the warning signs of an abuser are:

- Pushes for quick involvement;
- Isolation: tries to isolate you from friends or family members;
- Makes others responsible for his/her feelings: The abuser says, "YOU make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you";
- 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;
- Verbal abuse: constantly criticizes or

says blatantly cruel things — degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. May also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse;

• Sudden mood swings: switches from sweet to violent within minutes.

This is only a partial list — there are 15 in all, which is too long for this column. However, they can be precursors to serious physical violence.

Urge your husband to get counseling for his depression and insecurity. If he refuses, then be smart and contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or online at thehotline.org for help in safely separating from him before your husband's behavior escalates.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: At a black-tie optional wedding, is it appropriate for a man to come wearing a cowboy hat and keep it on at the dinner table? — CURIOUS IN PALM DESERT

DEAR CURIOUS: Hat etiquette decrees that it should be removed when a man is indoors. And according to The Campfire Chronicle (at stargazermercantile.com), "If you're in a restaurant that serves anything that isn't coated in barbecue sauce, it's probably best to lose the hat."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Cancer if born before 3 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 2015:

This year you tend to go to extremes, both emotionally and intellectually. You often see the pros and cons of a situation, and can identify with all the different perspectives. Sometimes this awareness will be helpful, as you'll be able to see where common ground is possible. If you are single, you will enjoy all the different aspects of dating. Someone very special could enter your life during the second half of the year. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy many happy moments together. You also will note a tendency to go to extremes. CANCER can seem flighty, but he or she just tends to overthink.

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 possess an unusual amount of charisma, and it makes quite an impression on others. You'll be open to dynamic changes, but realize that others might not be so flexible. Conversations will give birth to quite a few ideas. Tonight: Romp the night away.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might have been concerned about your neighbors and those closest in proximity to you. Have you forgotten the importance of your family, though? Spend a little more time on your personal and domestic issues. Tonight: Homeward bound, with a token of affection.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You will decide to continue on a direct path to a long-term goal. Others might be resistant to the path you are taking. At some point, no matter what your decisions or actions end up being, understand that you are your own person. Tonight: Visit with a loved one.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You likely will be on top of your work plans, but you might need to pay attention to your finances as well. You could feel as if a situation is at a dead end, but wait a bit longer to let it go. Indulge yourself if you feel you can maintain your budget. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You seem to be in touch with others'

needs, which is a result of your intuitive personality. Communication is likely to be caring but intense. You could be unusually concerned about someone else and his or her needs. Reach out to this person. Tonight: As you like it.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ On some level, your inner voice will take the reins. As a result, you might not be as focused as you would like to be. The implications could be long-term. Take your time when making a decision. It's likely that you don't have the focus you need. Tonight: Listen carefully to news.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You will want to move forward, though you might need to ask questions and dissect an issue that keeps rearing its ugly head. Understand what is happening behind the scenes. Try not to overthink a problem. Tonight: All smiles.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Others will have many opinions. Trust in your ability to overcome a problem and get to the bottom of the issue. You might see a matter differently from how your circle of friends does. Hold off on making financial commitments for now. Tonight: Step in and take the lead.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Detach when presented with others' opinions and desires. You could be pushed way beyond your limit. Take a walk and pretend that it is a beautiful summer day. Take a step back, and you will see the path to clarity. Tonight: Go where there is great music.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to move forward with a personal matter that revolves around an important partnership or relationship. Communicate with someone who has a lot of power and who can affect the outcome of this critical issue. Tonight: Be diplomatic.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might understand more about a key person in your life than you let on. This person has a tendency to be very dramatic. Get in touch with your feelings, and you will be able to relate to him or her much more easily. Tonight: Go along with someone else's choice.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

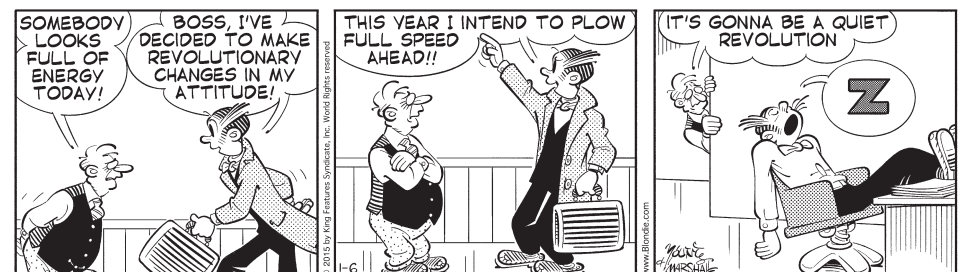
★★★★ You could be more in tune with what's going on than many of your associates or friends seem to be. You will be able to help move everyone through a difficult situation with ease. If you are retired, toss yourself into a heartfelt project. Tonight: Get some exercise.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

