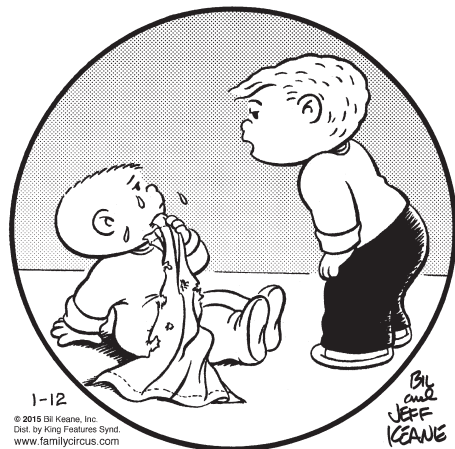


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



1-12

"You might as well stop cryin', P.J. Mommy can't hear you from here."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



I take a very hands-on approach to therapy.

Woman Should Leave Her Abusive Boyfriend ASAP

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "Paul" for 10 months. We met shortly after he and his fiancée broke up. Because of her, he had gone into debt, and after their breakup he lost his job.

I have helped him with money from the moment we met. He's still jobless and his unemployment benefit will end shortly, but Abby, he is careless with money. He ends up spending mine and borrows from friends who have to be paid back. Last month, he took my credit card, and within a week 1,400 euros were gone and bills were left unpaid.

Because Paul is stressed and depressed, he goes out and drinks. More than once he has spent the rent money in bars. He often gets home at 4 a.m. He's also jealous and controlling. He texts and rings me constantly and asks why I took so long to answer. If I go out for a coffee, he demands to know who with. He has a hot temper and shouts at me for the slightest thing - like if I didn't close a door, or he thinks I didn't pay attention to something he said.

Our sex life has never been great. He blames me for that, too. He says I don't initiate it enough, and he's threatening to start going with other girls. He is also bossy. He always says I never do anything for him. Even though I work until 5:30, he expects me to bring him water, coffee, turn on the air con and stuff.

I love Paul, but I don't feel appreciated. I'm scared of what he will do when I leave. Please, Abby, I need your advice. - TORN IN LONDON

DEAR TORN: Your Paul is an emotionally abusive, bottomless pit. He will suck you dry financially and emotionally if you let him. It's important that you get rid of him NOW.

If you think Paul might do something to you if you end the relationship, contact

the police or a domestic abuse hotline and take their guidance. If you think he might harm himself, FORGET it. Paul will survive. It doesn't take a psychic to predict he will quickly find someone else to use, so don't worry about him and don't look back.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Every year, a co-worker brings her daughters to the office to sell Girl Scout cookies. The kids are adorable, and it's hard to say "no" because Mom hovers nearby as the girls approach each cubicle. Regardless of whether one cares to donate to the cause or not, it feels like Mom is forcing us into buying by doing this. What happened to the old "leave the order sheet at the reception desk" custom? Am I overreacting? - SOURCED ON SWEETS

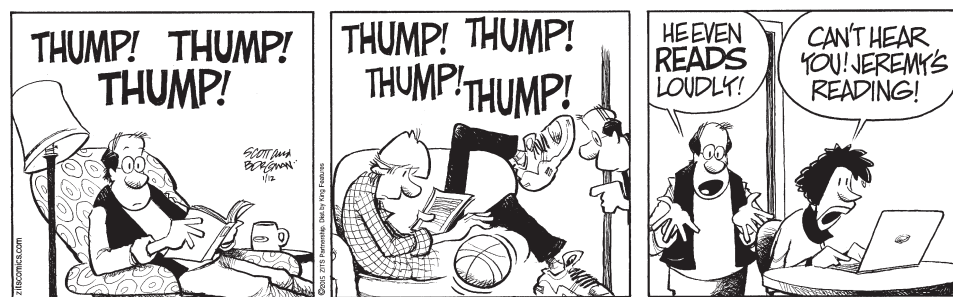
DEAR SOURCED: Yes. All you have to do is smile and say, "No, I'm sorry, sweethearts. I can't do it this year." Actually, you may be doing the girls a favor, because an important part of selling is learning to cope with disappointment when a customer says no.

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

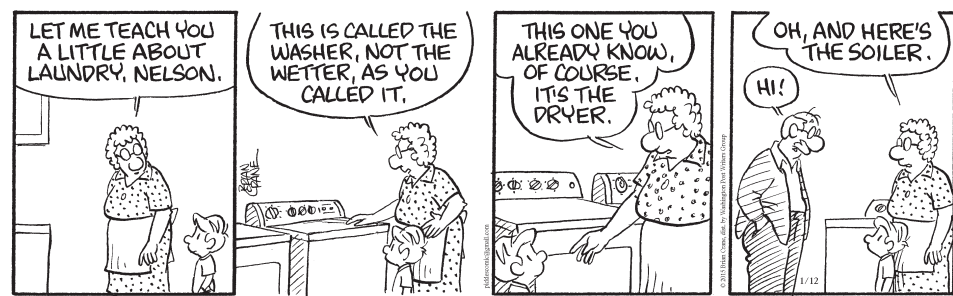
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable - and most frequently requested - poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



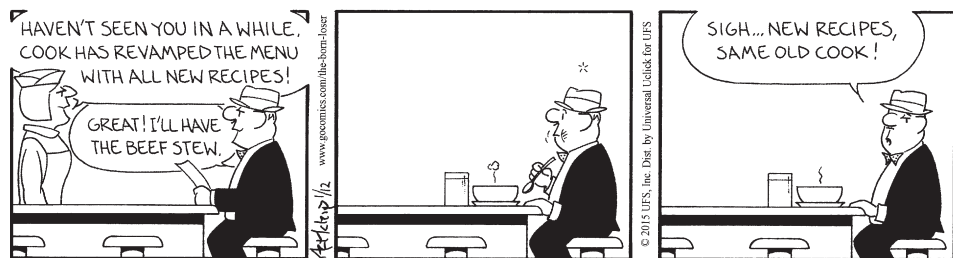
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



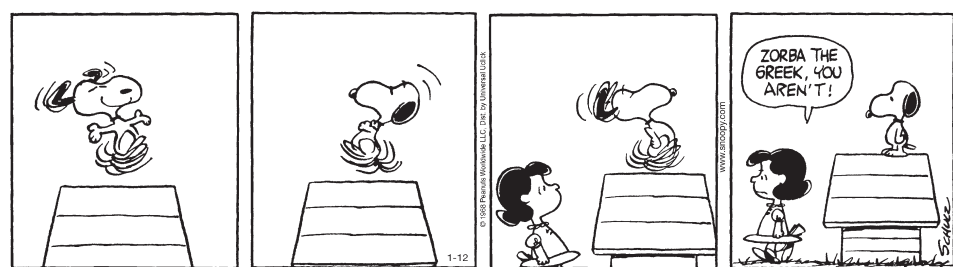
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



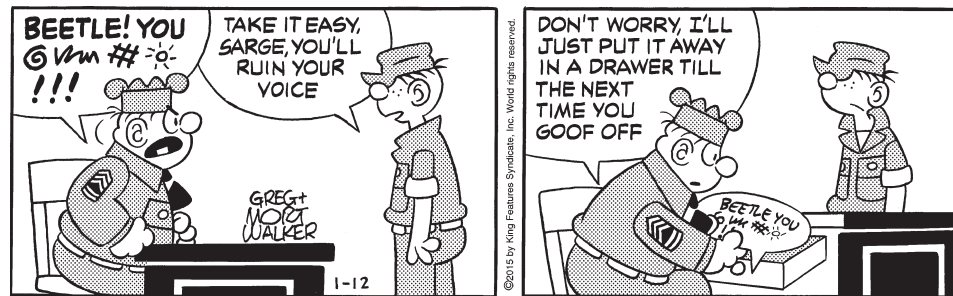
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



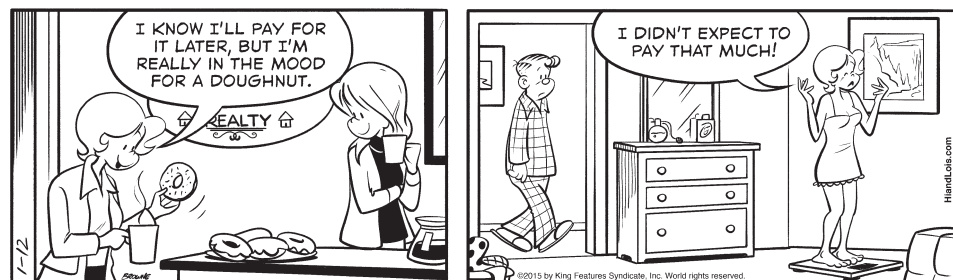
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR
MONDAY, JAN. 12, 2015:

This year you open up to a new beginning. You could be in a position where you can help others dream and think in a more dynamic manner. You also can help others manifest what they want. If you are single, you will meet someone of interest in the second part of this birthday year. This person will be very different from anyone else you have met. If you are attached, you enjoy your sweetie now more than ever. Make one-on-one time happen more frequently. LIBRA can be challenging. 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)

**** Avoid getting involved in a situation where everyone is stuck in his or her own perspective. Veer away from this matter, and you will be much happier. You are wise not to want to tumble into a no-win situation. Tonight: Enjoy time with a loved one.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

**** Your ability to resolve a problem walks hand in hand with a new drive to accomplish an important goal. Whatever has been holding you back needs to be dissolved. Detach and look for a new, unthought-of path. Tonight: Choose a favorite way to relax.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

*** You might witness someone in your daily environment behaving in an angry way. The unexpected lurks when dealing with a higher-up or someone to whom you must answer. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Put in an extra hour or two to finish up paperwork.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**** You could be tired of the same old routine. Take news with a grain of salt. Detach before taking action. You might be given a few hours to see a situation in a different light; take advantage of it. Avoid a controlling personality. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

**** Your mind is on overdrive, as you'll be in a position where you must answer to several people at once. A partner or someone with whom

you share financial interests could be more aggressive than in the past. Tonight: Hang out with a dear friend.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

HHH Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have. You know when enough is enough. You might wonder how to handle a partner or close associate who is becoming more assertive. Listen to this person carefully before passing judgment. Tonight: Say "yes" to an opportunity.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

**** Note a change of pace. Suddenly, you seem to have a surge of energy, and frustration could surface rather quickly if you can't accomplish what you want. Opportunities come from a friend. Start a new exercise program, if you can. Tonight: The more people, the better.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

**** You could be overwhelmed by a child or loved one. You will need to energize yourself in order to meet his or her demands. Understand what is happening behind the scenes, and remain optimistic. You will see positive results come forward. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

**** You could be full of energy, and you might want to take a different position on a personal matter. You see life from a different perspective and have the ability to open up to new ideas. Interactions with others remain significant. Teamwork is emphasized. Tonight: Ask questions.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

**** Take news with a grain of salt. You could be in the position of taking the lead. Pressure builds because of a situation at home. Be willing to adapt to different situations. A loved one seems to come through for you more often. Show your appreciation. Tonight: Make it cozy.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

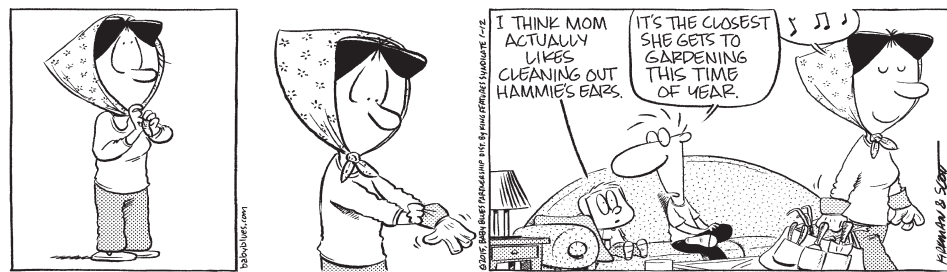
**** Take your time when evaluating a situation that is going on. You might want to rethink a personal matter. Listen to someone else's opinion without contributing your own. Both of your approaches could be right, even if they're different. Tonight: Read between the lines.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

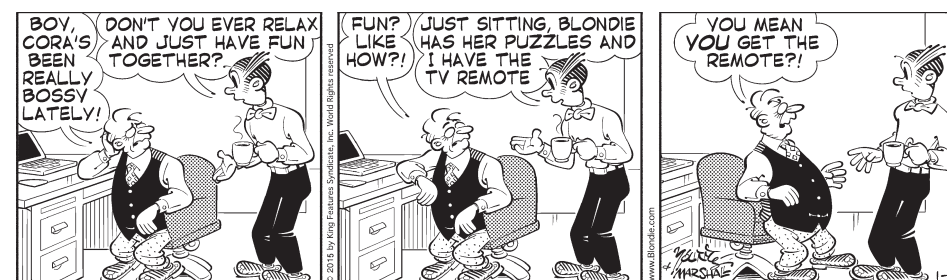
*** Deal with a partner directly. Listen to what is being shared, and share what you think needs to be dealt with. There could be a financial bias here that is adding to the friction. Prioritize your plans, and be willing to change them if need be. Tonight: Snuggle in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

