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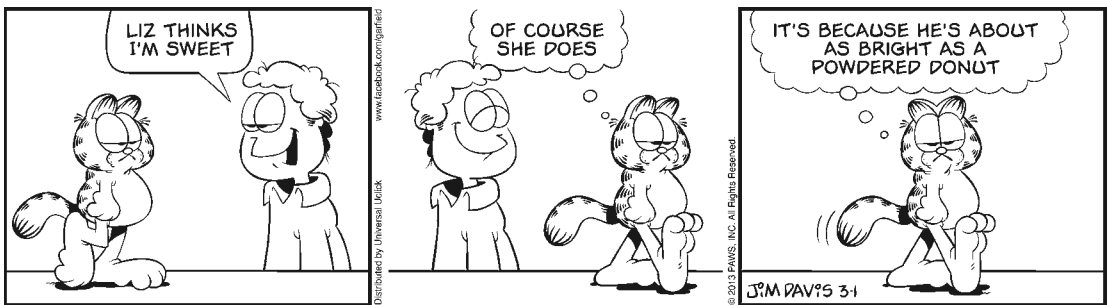
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



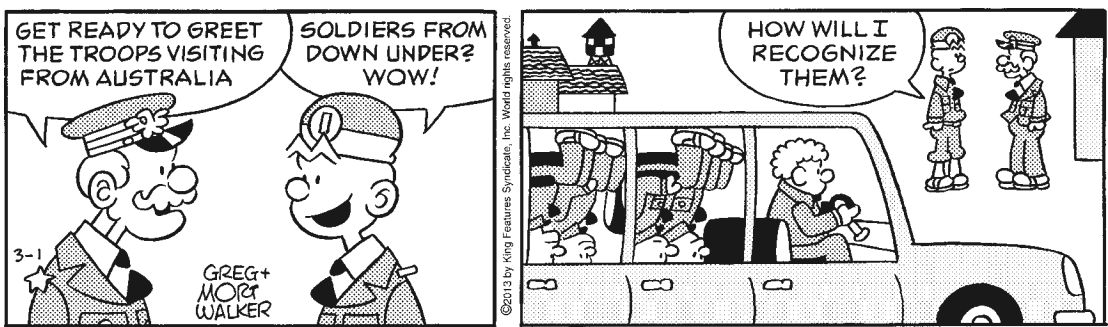
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



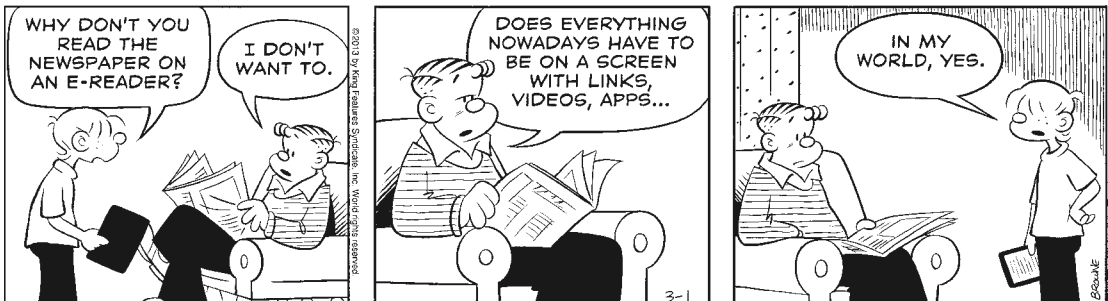
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



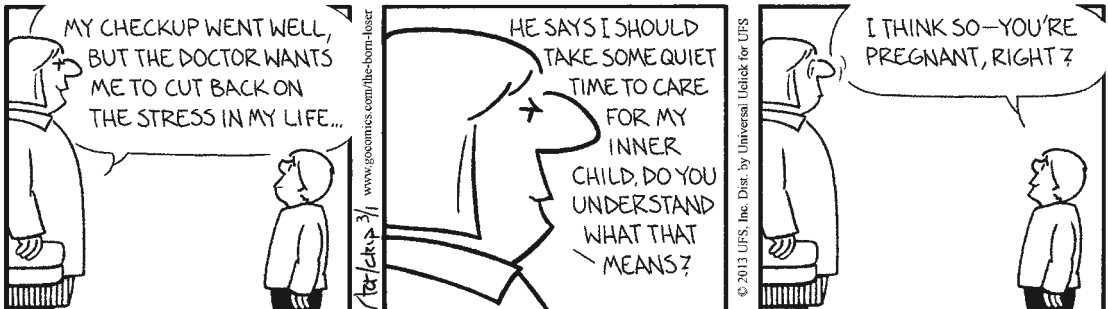
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THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Son Suspects Father's Death Was An Assisted Suicide

DEAR ABBY: I'm convinced my father's wife killed him and I don't know where to turn. He had fought complications from quadruple bypass surgery for a few years, and had been in hospice for months prior to his death. My siblings and I didn't put all the pieces together until afterward.

Although I'm sure Dad was killed, based on facts and discussions with social workers, I'm pretty sure it was assisted suicide, which is illegal in most states, including the state where he lived. I feel cheated and angry at my father's wife for not having the guts to talk to us about his plans, and Dad for relying on her to tell us when she never had a good relationship with any of us. I'm also angry with myself for not stopping what I witnessed as it happened before my eyes. How could I have been so blind?

It has been several years now, and I still feel guilty for letting it happen, although I'm not sure how I could have stopped it. Your thoughts would be appreciated. — ANGRY SON IN GEORGIA

DEAR ANGRY SON: I'm sorry for your pain and anger, emotions that are not uncommon when a loved one dies. But for your own sake, accept that if your father had an advance health care directive, and trusted his wife to carry it out, then she was following his wishes. While today's medical interventions can prolong someone's life, they can also prolong death.

Hospice offers grief counseling for family members for a period of time after a death occurs, and you and your siblings should have received some. It would have helped you to stop blaming the wife, and let go of any negative feelings so you could go on with your life. And that, I assure you, is what your father would have wanted.

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Mary" was in a car accident when she was in her 20s that left her with some brain damage. She appears normal, but has trouble with interpersonal relations, boundaries and impulse control. Overall, her behavior varies from acceptable to belligerent. When she was evaluated by professionals years ago, our family was advised to set standards for her behavior as near to normal as possible.

When we go to restaurants, Mary has a hard time deciding what to order, often engaging the server in an uncomfortable, long conversation about the alternatives. When her meal arrives, she is rarely satisfied with her choice and makes a scene over her dissatisfaction to the server. If we try to intervene, she becomes even more belligerent.

She looks forward to going out and we love her dearly. We would hate to exclude her from these family outings, but we don't know what to do. Can you help? — IMPOSSIBLE TO DIGEST IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO DIGEST: Because you were told to "set standards" for your sister as near to normal as possible, that's what you should be doing. Before you take her out for a meal, explain to her what the ground rules are. If she acts out, do as you would with an unruly child and leave the restaurant until she regains control of herself.

Because of her impairment, she may need extra help with her menu choices. Luckily, many restaurants now post their menus online. If you print one out and go over it with Mary, you might be able to make the process of ordering easier for her. I can't promise it will work, but it's certainly worth a try.



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.

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 Pisces and a Moon in Libra if born before 9:35 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013:

This year no one can deny the fact that you are able to tackle a problem and work through it. When it comes to personal issues, you are able to look within yourself and find a solution. You will gain in different facets of your life because of your sense of responsibility. If you are single, someone quite different barrels into your life when you least expect it. If you are attached, as a couple, you might want to plan a trip away from your normal stomping grounds. In a new setting, you will be able to revitalize the strength of your bond. SCORPIO brings out your confident side.

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 become energized when dealing with a difficult associate or boss. The longer you choose to indulge him or her, the more difficult it will be to change the situation. A partner might take a stand, which could make this person even more irritating. Tonight: Avoid crowds.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Others come forward and try once more to get you to agree with them. Granted, their approach might be totally different, but the result will be the same. Dig into your creativity when you decide to approach certain people about recent events. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have a distinctive style that encourages others to head in a different direction. You know how to communicate your bottom line. You discover that you are unusually busy and might not have much time to have a discussion. Tonight: Join a co-worker.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ As you see someone change in front of your very eyes, you might wonder how to relate to this person now. Will the same style of communication be effective? Take your cues from the other party. Start thinking about a trip in the near future. Tonight: Let loose.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You are coming from a more secure position. Understand that the pressure that is building is coming

from a judgment you are making. Your creativity helps you work through some of the issues involved. You gain a better sense of your abilities. Tonight: Head on home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Make a change, only if you consider it necessary. You will talk through this decision, and others seem to help you see how you can make this transformation easier. Give yourself the time and space to figure out which way might be best. Tonight: Visit with a friend over dinner.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Don't go overboard handling an issue that might make you very uncomfortable. Understand the alternatives. Tap into different ideas to find a way to work through this problem. The solution might not be one that you would have imagined. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You see a certain liability approaching a matter as you have. Discuss how you feel with the other parties involved. An exchange of ideas could be full of surprises. Others tap into your creativity, and you might tap into their sensitivity. Tonight: Find a reason to celebrate.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ The less said, the better off you are. You might need to ask questions and do some research about a money "hunch." Your instincts are excellent at the moment, but someone could be deceptive. Keep your guard up. Tonight: Head home early, even if meeting friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are more than aware of the potential of an offer or an idea. You might need to make a big adjustment or change if you head down that specific path. A friend could be rigid and not willing to negotiate. Be calm yet assertive. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

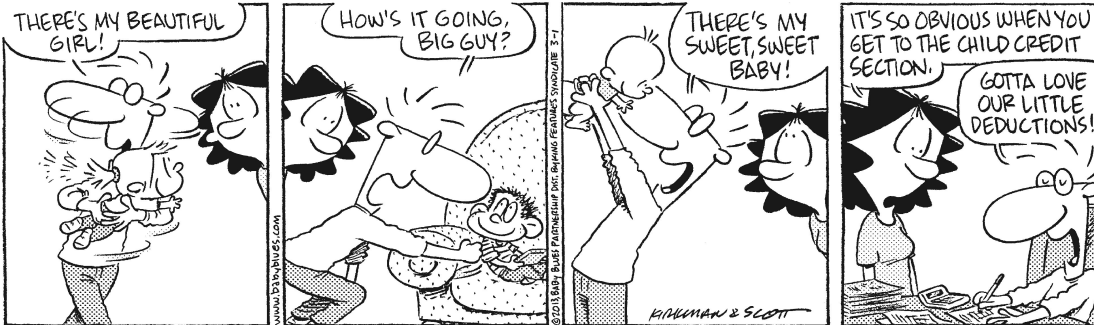
★★★ You obviously know what you are doing by letting someone else take the lead. You could question excessive demands from a higher-up. Still, you know your role in this situation. If you opt to change your attitude, you might need to hang with a different group. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

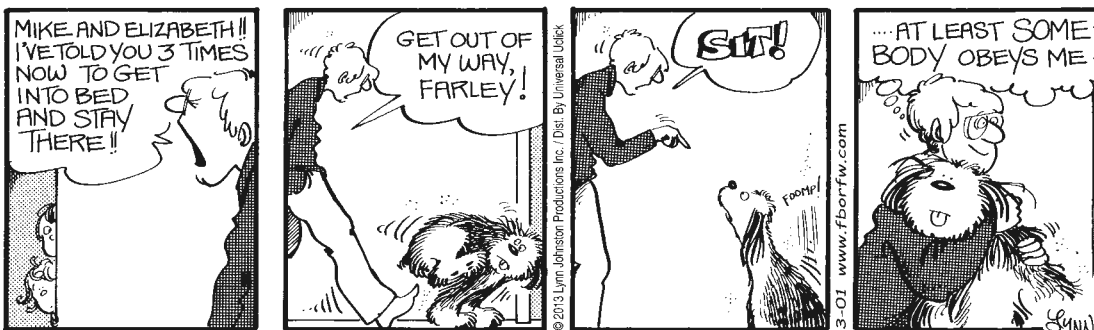
★★★★ You might want to head in a different direction. Pressure builds, and you could have difficulty doing what you want. In fact, you might not be able to visualize your desires. Refuse to make a commitment just yet; you will be on firmer ground soon. Tonight: Let go of today.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

