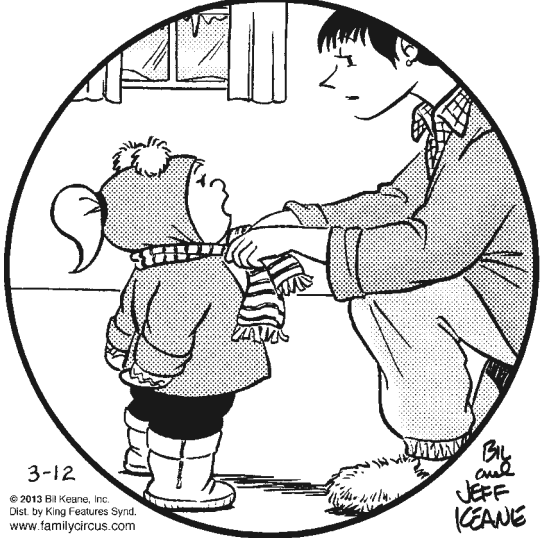
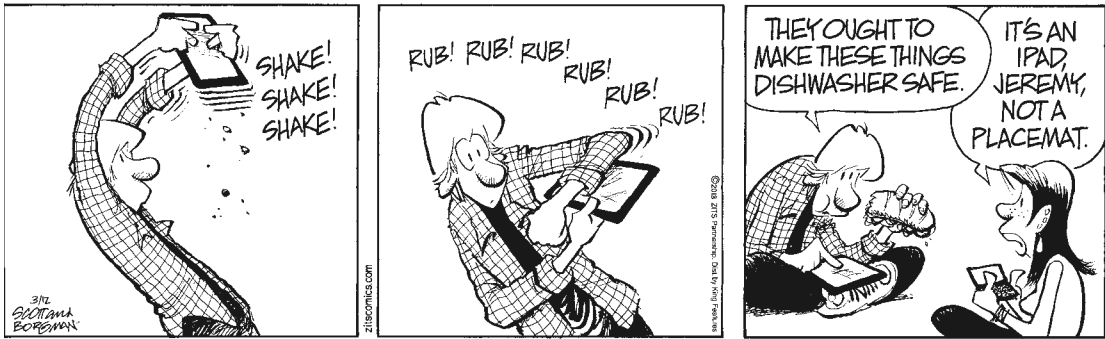


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



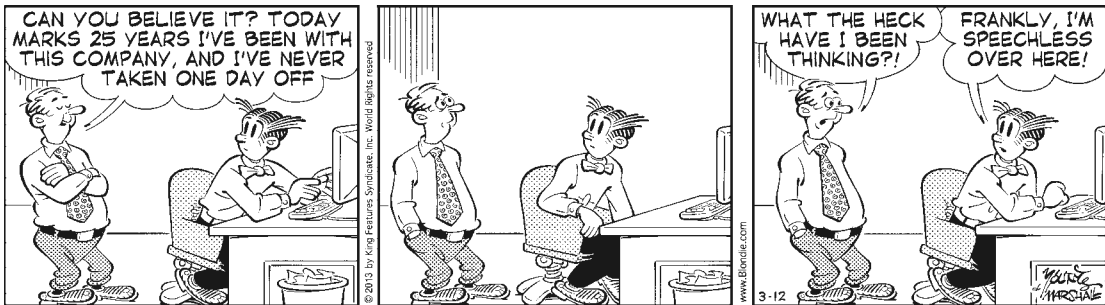
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



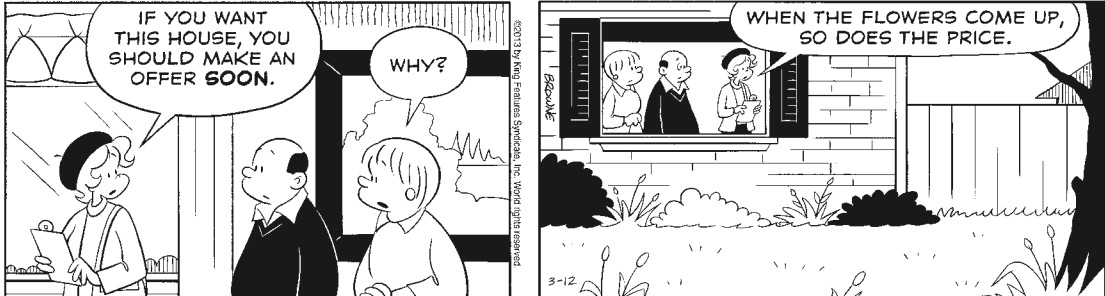
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



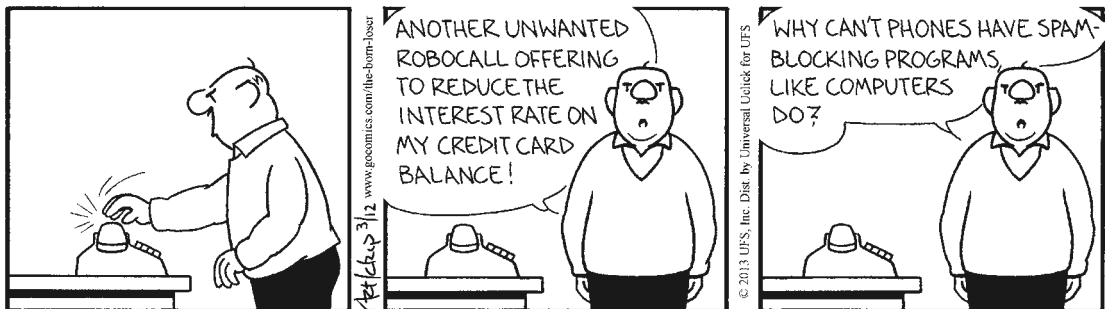
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Readers Offer Advice For Those Discouraged By Online Dating

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I read the letter you ran on Dec. 21 from "Dateless in Dayton." We have a few thoughts on the matter we'd like to share with him and anyone else who is having bad luck getting responses on dating web-sites.

We are middle-aged and have been together for two years. Even though we deactivated our memberships in the dating sites we were part of, we still get emails daily that "So-and-So" sent you a message." It appears these sites still show our profiles as active, allowing people to try to contact us. So it's entirely possible that the women "Dateless" has contacted were inactive or expired members who were never able to see his messages.

We would like to reassure "Dateless" that the problem may not be him. We would also like to encourage him not to give up on finding a mate. He needs to get out there and do the things he loves because he may end up meeting someone that way. If he covers all his bases and is himself, he'll do OK. — HOPING TO BE HELPFUL, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

DEAR HELPFUL: Many readers wrote to point out that the problem "Dateless" is experiencing could be more about the idiosyncratic subscription rules on some dating websites than about the writer or the women he is contacting. Other experienced users shared their stories:

DEAR ABBY: I can tell "Dateless" why he's not getting "thanks, but no thanks" notes from the women he contacts on the online dating service: Those women are most likely overwhelmed with responses.

Before I met my husband 10 years ago, I signed up on a dating site, then left the house to run some errands. When I came back a couple of hours later, I

had 75 responses! I tried to answer all of them, but I kept getting more and more, so I finally gave up. I can only imagine how many responses women get today with online dating even more popular than it was then. — SETTLED DOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: How long does one have to wait before determining the person isn't interested or just hasn't had the chance to respond? Many sites offer a simple button push that sends a message saying you are not interested. It appears people are simply taking the easy way out without any concern for others. And unfortunately, this doesn't happen only in online dating. — DAVID IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to suggest that "Dateless" consider that many people don't check their dating site often — or ever. I signed up on a site in August and stopped looking at it in October. Then I forgot my password and could never look again. — OVER IT IN TAMPA

DEAR ABBY: Sadly for "Dateless," many of us women who are also attempting online dating have learned the hard way that any response can quickly encourage a stalker who

emails us or sends instant messages relentlessly.

I consider myself to be a courteous person with Midwestern values, and I tried (initially) to politely respond to everyone one way or the other. It became exhausting because many of the men I sent a polite "no, thank you" to began demanding explanations, taking my reply as a "maybe" or insulting me for being stuck-up (and the communication quickly grew uglier from there).

So please tell "Dateless" that it's nothing personal — we're just trying to avoid drama. — PAM IN PHOENIX



## 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 and Moon in Pisces if born before 4:17 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013:

This year you could make money just to turn around and spend it right away. You call the shots in your life, so only you can change this pattern. The unexpected plays a role in your decisions and actions more than in past years. You will have many choices -- be open to them. If you are single, avoid making any impulsive commitments. If you are attached, the two of you might be eyeing a property investment. Home really is where your heart is. Count on ARIES being blunt.

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)

\*\*\*\*\* Mars enters your sign, which invigorates you even more. Harness this vitality. You might want to try a new exercise routine or take up a new hobby. Understand that few can handle your strength and high energy at this point. Tonight: Do not stand on ceremony.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

\*\*\* Your irritation with a particular situation might be building, and a sudden event could trigger stronger feelings. Stop investing energy in suppressing your emotional state. Clear your mind, and try a different approach. You'll be much happier as a result. Tonight: Let mystery in.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You know that you are heading in the right direction. A meeting could be unpredictable. You don't mind the additional excitement; you work well with high energy and determined associates. Tonight: The more people there are around you, the happier you will be.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

\*\*\*\* You might want to work with a boss or superior, but this person could become more demanding. Just remember who is in charge, and you will be OK. Sometimes the end result, as opposed to the immediate outcome, is more important. Tonight: A must appearance.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

\*\*\*\* An unexpected call triggers your imagination. Your mind seems resistant to any discipline or focus. You

could start experiencing life from a new vantage point, where you visualize a different result. A certain individual might play a role in this. Tonight: Catch up on emails.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

\*\*\*\* A close associate or a loved one might change his or her tune when you least expect it. This person will push and push in order to get what he or she desires. You practically will have to vanish to get this person off your case. Tonight: Dinner with a good friend.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

\*\*\*\* Someone is hot on your heels and wants to at least have a conversation with you, if not an agreement. If you try to change this person's mind or do something differently, you will still get a hard bottom line. Wait a day to have a formal chat. Tonight: Go with the moment.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

\*\*\*\* Manage your exuberance. You might not even realize what a strong reaction others are having to it. Stay direct when dealing with someone, even if he or she generally is unsupportive. Lighten up, and you might be able to turn this situation around. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* You can't hold yourself back from using your imagination, nor would you want to. You are a solution finder. You exude a quality of excitement wherever you go, and others respond in kind. The unexpected gives you quite a surprise. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

\*\*\* Get past a hassle involving a domestic matter. You might have errands to run and calls to make, but completing them could be close to impossible. Tap into your creativity. Remember that lists and schedules can be changed when necessary. Tonight: Go with the flow.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

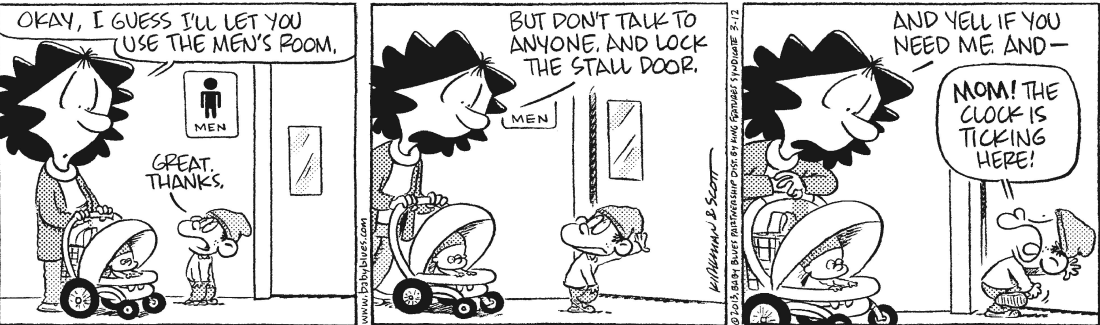
\*\*\*\*\* Speak your mind, but take a moment before you express your thoughts. Choosing the right words could make all the difference in the receiver's response. Be aware that you could be too much in your mind, which makes you accident-prone. Tonight: Return calls.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

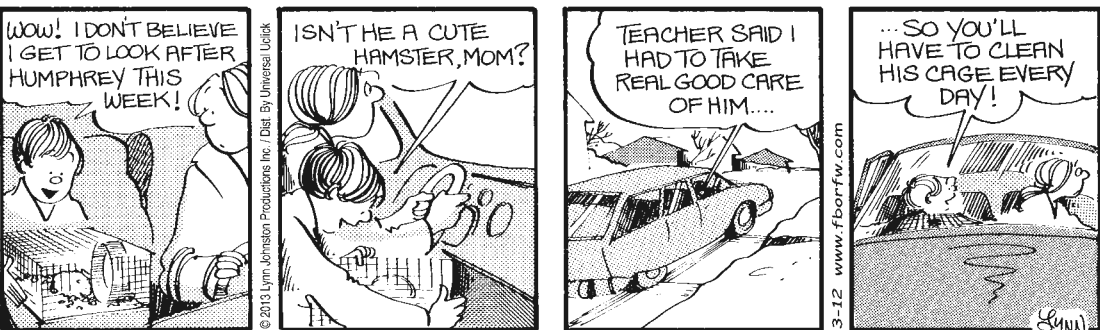
\*\*\* Know what is going on with your finances. A costly mistake could impact your cash flow, and that could cause a lot of disruption. Stay on top of your funds, and be sure to stick to your budget. Weigh the pros and cons before purchasing a major item. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

