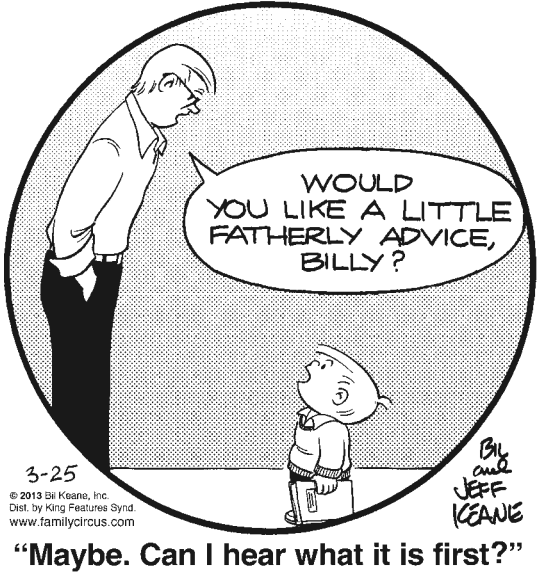
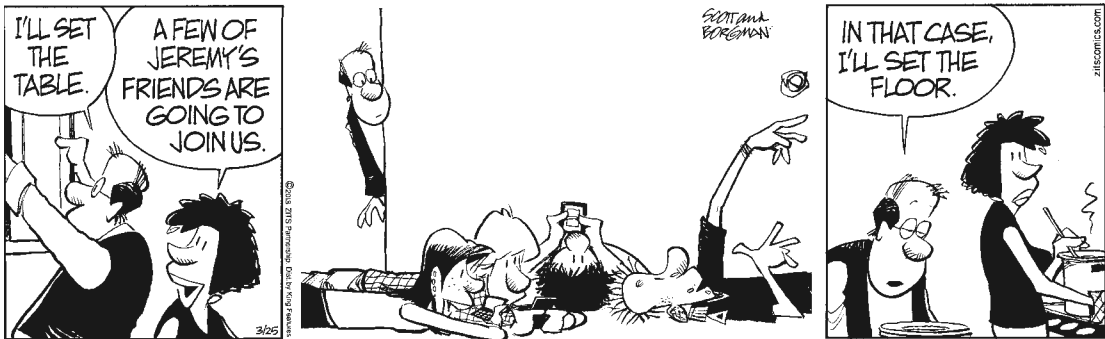


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



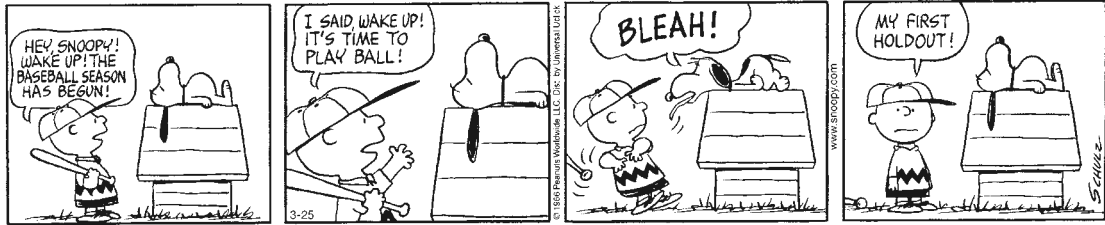
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



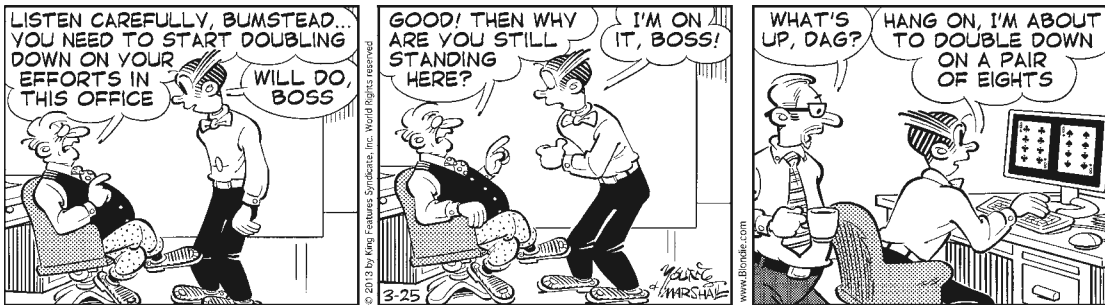
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



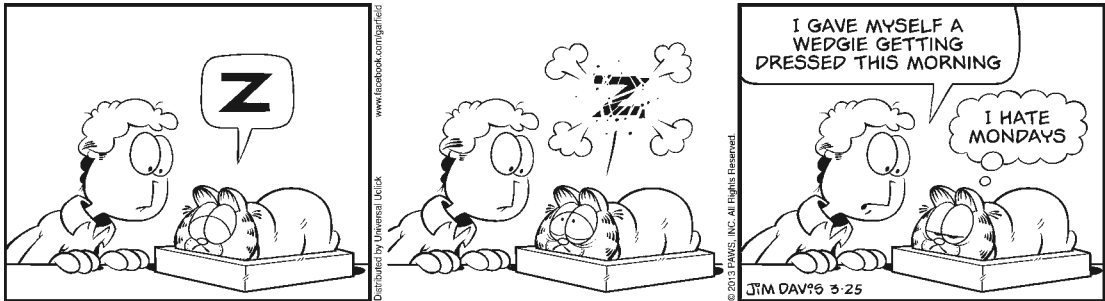
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



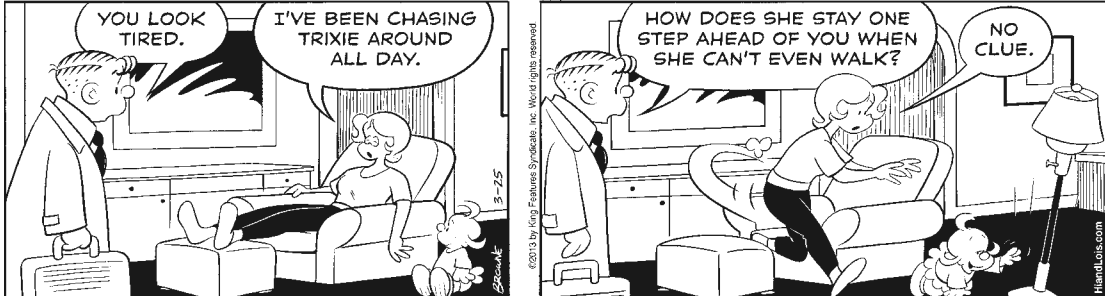
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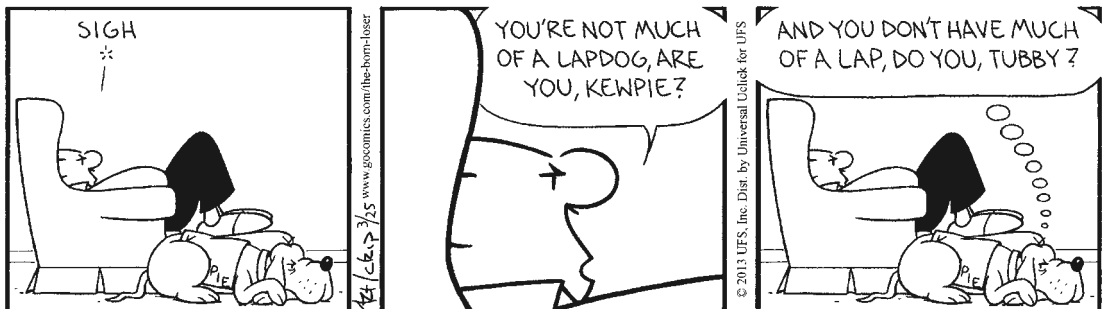
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Neighbor's Critical Husband Creates Friction In Friends

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Eden" recently told me her husband constantly compares her to me. It came up because she asked how I was feeling in my first trimester of pregnancy, and I confided that I have been having a tough time keeping up with my household duties.

Instead of sympathizing, she said, "Wow! I'll have to tell my husband that, because he's always talking about how clean your house is and how you cook dinner for your family every night."

I was really hurt that she was taking pleasure in my failures. I also felt uncomfortable that her husband compares her unfavorably to me. It isn't the first time she has mentioned how he talks about me.

I have distanced myself, hoping things would get better, but when I see her, she invariably manages to get in a little "dig." I'm unsure how to handle this. We're neighbors and have mutual friends. I thought we were friends, but now I realize she harbors some resentment toward me for something I didn't cause. Help! — NO CONTEST IN MARYLAND

DEAR NO CONTEST: Unless Eden's husband stops using you as the cudgel to beat her down with, you can forget being friends. A way to handle it would be to talk to her husband and say, "Please stop comparing me to your wife because it is affecting our friendship!"

DEAR ABBY: Whenever my best friend smells a cough drop, she comments that it's "rude" to eat one in public and that if someone is sick, the person should stay home.

I would much rather smell someone's cough drop than listen to coughing during an entire movie or opera. Some people may have bought expensive tickets to a show only to get sick the day before or have allergies that cause them to cough.

So is it rude to eat a cough drop in public or not? — UNBOTHERED IN TEXAS

DEAR UNBOTHERED: If it was bad manners to pop a cough drop into one's mouth in public, more than a few large brands would be out of business. While I agree with your friend that if people are sick they should stay home, some coughs linger beyond the stage when they are contagious.

I do NOT think that because someone bought expensive tickets to an event and gets sick the day before that it's all right to attend anyway and risk infecting everyone within "cough-shot." The considerate thing to do is to cancel and ask for a refund.



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.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend in another state who has been posting on Facebook about her diagnosis of cancer. Her postings started in October, followed by more postings about delay after delay in the treatment.

First it was insurance — she doesn't have any. Then it was multiple CAT scans and PETs. Now she's planning her own fundraiser, and I'm beginning to think she has made the whole thing up. It looks like there will be no treatment until after the fundraiser, even though she claims the

cancer is stage 4. What do you think? — SUSPICIOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I think that if there is any doubt in your mind about this woman's character, you should not contribute. And I also think that if your suspicions are true, your friend is planning to commit fraud and could wind up "recuperating" in prison.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Why is tonight different from every other night? Because Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone!

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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 Aries and a Moon in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013:

This year you greet change in a positive manner. Your daily life takes on a more upbeat tone. Your ability to attract others' interest soars, especially when having one-on-one discussions. If you are single, you will have to decide whether you want to stay that way, as many people find you intriguing. If you are attached, take up a new hobby or project together. VIRGO can be fussy and critical. Remember that when dealing with this sign.

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 might feel overburdened as you deal with others' plights. Shaking yourself free takes talent and detachment. Though you might want to do more, you have limits. Changes are brewing around authority. Do not fight the inevitable. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You continue to see life in a different, more grounded way. You might wonder what is going on around you, as others seem to act oddly. Detach more. Tonight: Find a person who knows more about the topic at hand, and/or surf the web to get more information.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might be a bit more grounded than you'd like. Information that is forthcoming could challenge your knowledge of a specific relationship or financial agreement. Keep digging as you seek new information and understanding. Tonight: Let go of a vision of how things "should" be.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Ask more questions. You might realize that someone close to you is changing, and he or she could be quite controlling at this point in time. Opportunities come from your imagination and your willingness to look at hard facts. Tonight: Have a long-overdue discussion.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Be aware of the cost of proceeding in a certain direction. You might want to rethink a decision involving your daily life and finances. Brainstorm with a friend who

knows you. Your decision might change with some insight. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could be full of energy and feel the need to move through a problem. Your ability to change how situations look is quite unique. Knowing what you need to do is important. Answer someone about an issue that keeps resurfacing. Tonight: Lighten up, and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might feel weighed down by a changing situation in your life. Home and family no longer carry the same significance. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. You could be fearful of the implications of a decision. Be honest with yourself. Tonight: Soul searching.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision that has been weighing heavily on your mind. If there is a misunderstanding or a lack of communication, perhaps it is time to clear the air. What might be bothering you could be irrelevant to the other party. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll open up to new ideas and a better way of living. Optimism follows you everywhere, and it presents you with many opportunities. Be the captain of your ship. You could be overruled by everything you need to get done. Others will follow your lead. Tonight: To the wee hours.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Defer to someone who might be more detached and slightly less emotional than you. You could discover many paths to take. You know where you want to head and why — just not how. Don't minimize a situation involving a friend. Tonight: Follow your imagination.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. Your creativity invites many opportunities, and it also helps you identify them. You might be forced to face the fact that a preconceived notion is not valid. Don't fight this realization so hard. Go with it, and you'll be better off. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

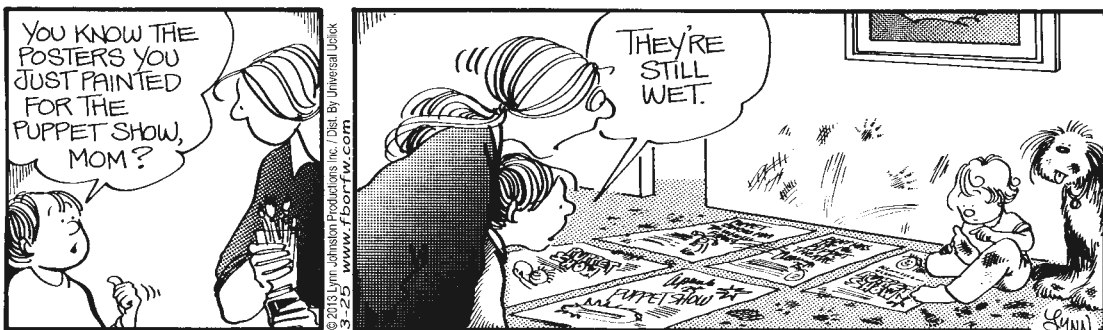
★★★★ Others demand your attention, yet your imagination wanders. Recognize that your self-discipline needs to kick in. Give some thought about a change in your day-to-day life that has captured your interest. A meeting changes direction. Tonight: Where the action is.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

