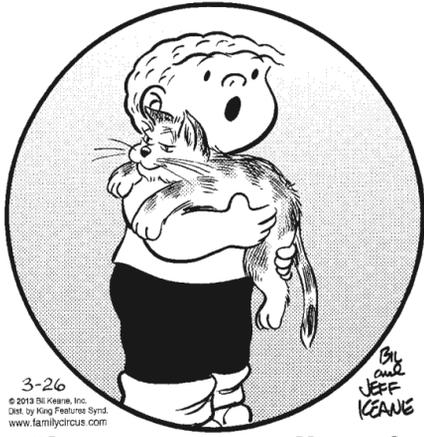
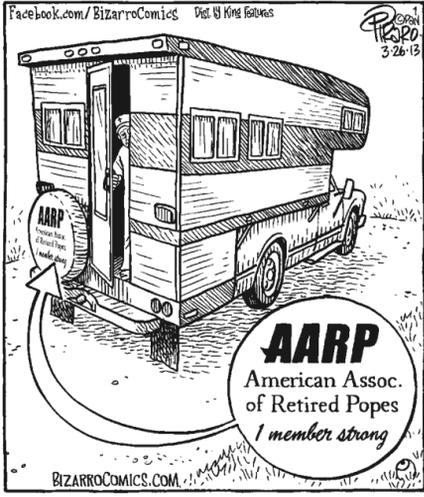


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



3-26
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"Can we get a mouse, Mommy? I think Kittycat needs some exercise."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

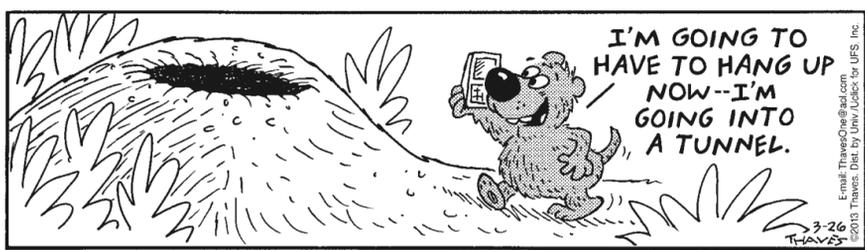


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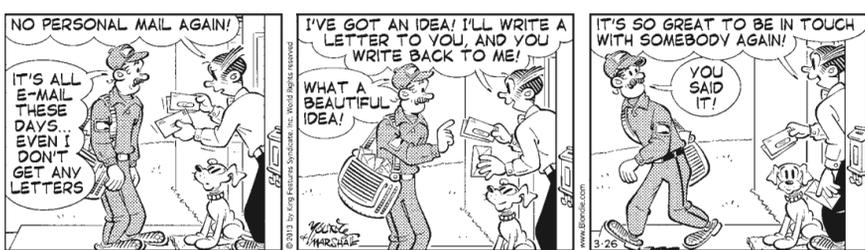
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



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THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Man Hesitates Before Making Commitment To Messy Marriage

DEAR ABBY: "Rita" and I have been together three years and are getting ready to make the final commitment of marriage. My problem is that she's a slob. Rita isn't a "hoarder," but she does things like take the plastic off a package and drop it on the floor.

I love her and would be willing to have separate bathrooms if that's what it takes. But I don't want to spend the rest of my life in a house that looks the way hers does right now. The thought of raising kids in that kind of atmosphere chills me.

I'm no neat freak, but at least I put my trash in the wastebasket. Rita gets offended if I raise the issue. I have offered to help her clean her house, but I don't want to nag because her mother already does, and it makes Rita respond like a defiant child.

Have you any ideas about what I can do to keep our relationship — and hopefully our future — intact? — WHATEVER RITA WANTS

DEAR WHATEVER: It appears your girlfriend wants to continue living exactly the way she is. Because she becomes defensive at the suggestion that she make a better effort, accept that you are not going to change her. She obviously has many good qualities or your relationship would not have made it this far.

There is help for people who are disorganized and sloppy, but only if they are willing to accept that they need it. Some people have successfully used a system originated by Marla Cilley, aka the FlyLady. ("Fly" stands for "Finally Loving Yourself.") To find out more about her system, visit www.flylady.net and click on "Get Started."

DEAR ABBY: I'm stuck in a dead-end job that doesn't pay much money, so I have to rely on help from my parents. I'd like to return to school for my master's, but a lack of funds and mild depression

keep pulling me back.

I told my mother about how I have been feeling, hoping for reassurance — just a general, "Everything is going to get better." This is a woman who has longed for me to get married and have children, which I thought was no different than most mothers. I now realize I was wrong. Her motivation speech was: "You have always been beautiful and I want you to see it. Don't you know that you're good enough to become a rich man's wife?"

Now I realize that being a rich man's wife is what she always wanted for me. I always thought I could be more than that and support myself without the need of a man. I also believed I could one day be a writer.

Independence has always been important to me, and I would never marry unless I was. Now, however, my self-esteem is shot, and since I can't afford therapy, I feel my mother's plan is probably the only thing I can hope for. How can I improve my self-esteem so I can make the right decision? — DEPRESSED IN LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

DEAR DEPRESSED: A good first step would be to stop listening to your mother. Live your own life, and now that you know what poor judgment she has, make your own decisions about the path you will follow.

A suggestion: Write the story down and be sure to mention how you persisted in spite of your mother's advice. You may find inspiration in your own words. And if it's published, so might others.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



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 Aries and a Moon in Virgo if born before 2:33 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013:

This year you will be more concerned about your relationships. At times, you might question your boundaries, as well as those of the other parties involved. Know that everyone is different. You might wonder which approach would be best to take — to do what you feel or do what you think. Experiment, and see the results of each. If you are single, you could have difficulty deciding whom to date. If you are attached, the two of you have a hard time juggling your different needs. Kissing and making up will be a frequent habit. 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)

Your drive helps you stay charged throughout the day. Nevertheless, you could be overwhelmed by all the inquiries you encounter. By late afternoon, you'll be looking for ways out of conversations and situations. Trust your imagination. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Carry a notebook with you in order to jot down your many ideas. You'll want to test them out on others before deciding which one works best for you. You could be looking at different options to make more money, or perhaps you just want to travel. Tonight: Play it low-key.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You might feel unusually knowledgeable, which could cause you to question the reasons for doing things in a certain way. Your creativity emerges, and you'll find the right path. Success greets you. A friend also could have some feedback for you. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Give a presentation in the morning, and speak your mind. You will see a situation in a different light because you're able to make a change that you have desired for a while. Follow your instincts. A partner can be testy, so give this person some space. Tonight: At home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Take care of your business and financial con-

cerns. News coming from a distance proves to be quite distracting. You have reason to smile, but you might doubt yourself or what you are hearing. Know that there are some details being left out. Tonight: Catch up with a friend.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Others note your self-confidence. Whatever you decide to put on your plate tends to work because of your upbeat attitude. Open up to a possibility of travel or consider taking on more responsibilities. A new friend expresses the intensity of his or her feelings. Tonight: Run errands.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Though you feel be out of sync in the morning, you'll feel far more together come dinnertime. You can see the difference in your energy through others' reactions. You might be taken aback by someone's behavior. Say little, and watch what happens. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Your ability to read between the lines will come through for you. Others might not totally understand where they are heading in a key matter, but your insightful nature lets you know. Step back, and watch how the situation develops. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You know what to do, and you'll do it. Understand that you might need to have a difficult discussion with a loved one. You have gone long enough without saying anything, but know your limits. A meeting points to a fun adventure. Tonight: Whatever sets your imagination afire.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

News from a distance could evoke a discussion. The topic involves real estate and your domestic life. Know that someone is passionate about his or her perception, but this could change. You will be centered and direct in your dealings. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

A partner has a lot to say, and he or she will say it. You can't escape this inevitable discussion, so step up to the plate and have it. Reach out to someone at a distance who cares about you; the discussion could be quite animated. Tonight: Learn a new hobby.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

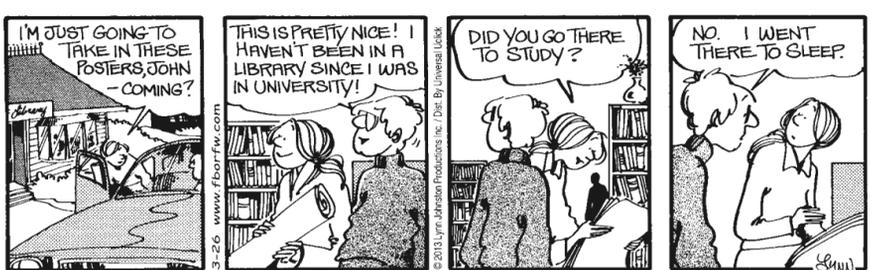
Others seek you out, and you will be forced to juggle many different concerns. Do be aware of the cost of pursuing several situations at once, as you could become distracted. A partner wants to talk money. Be available for this conversation. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

