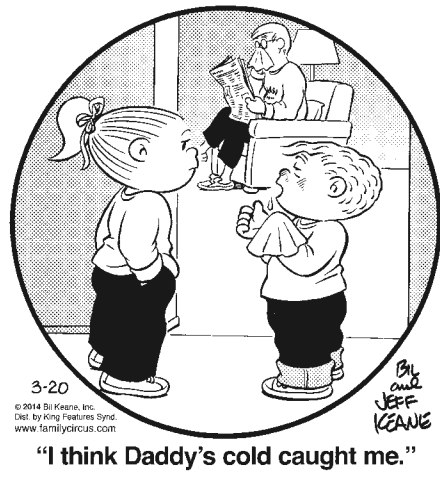


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



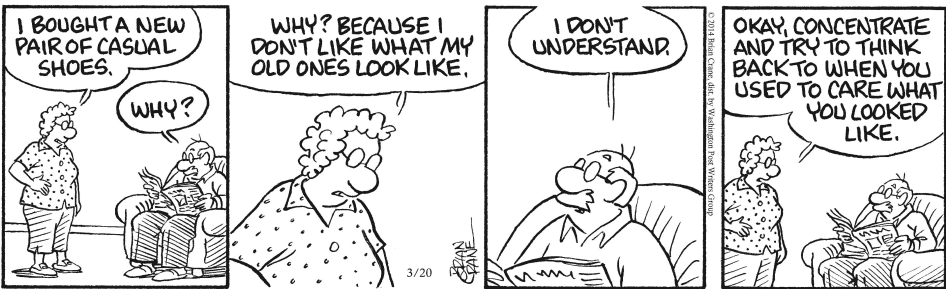
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



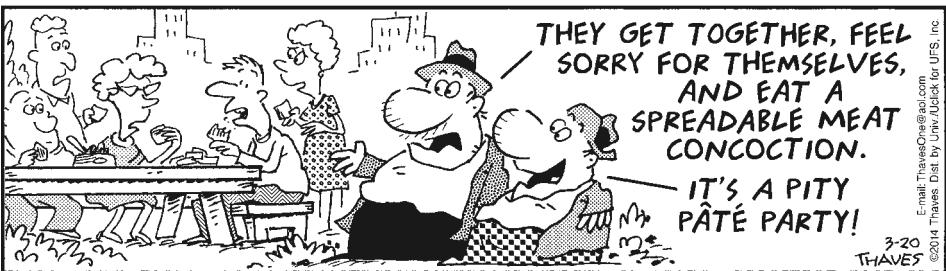
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



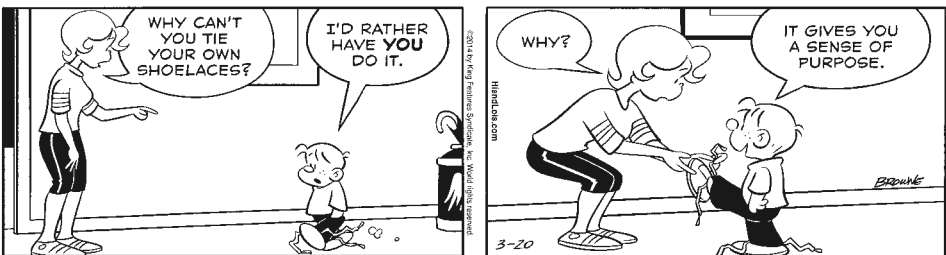
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



# Mom Seeks Guidance For Son Questioning Legal Marijuana

DEAR ABBY: Due to various anti-drug lectures he was exposed to at school, my 13-year-old son believes that marijuana is not only illegal, but also is very bad for you. He said it is poison.

My state has recently legalized marijuana and I am at a loss about how to explain to him that pot is no longer "that bad," as people partake of it in a responsible manner going forward. Any suggestions? — COLORADO MOM

DEAR MOM: Marijuana isn't poison, unless it was sprayed with a poisonous chemical before being harvested. The marijuana being sold to adults in the states where it is now legal has been carefully cultivated and harvested. Its use is not encouraged among teenagers, however, because research has shown it can impair brain development among young people.

Stress to your son that like alcohol, marijuana can slow reaction time and impair judgment and memory, which is why it's illegal for minors to use it. Whether it will become legal across the nation is still an open question. If it's abused the way that alcohol sometimes is, smoking weed may also be harmful because, like any smoke, it poses a risk to the lungs.

DEAR ABBY: I moved into my boyfriend's home several months ago. In the beginning, he was very attentive and we had fun together. But over the last couple of months, he has become abusive and unbearable to live with. He orders me around and double-checks to make sure I'm doing things "his way."

I feel as though there isn't room to breathe and no way out. I have lost weight, and I'm having trouble sleeping now. I have no family or friends who can help me out. I want to end this misery! But how? — MISERABLE IN FLORIDA

DEAR MISERABLE: Pick up the phone and call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233). Although your boyfriend's con-

trolling behavior hasn't yet escalated to physical abuse, it very well could. The counselors at the hotline can help you to formulate a plan so you can safely get away. Please don't wait to make the call, because the symptoms you're having are ones of extreme stress.

DEAR ABBY: We live in a small town. My husband is friendly and outgoing and seems to know everyone. We can't go anywhere without running into someone he knows. Meals out that should be quiet affairs turn into social situations I do not want to be part of.

I have wracked my brain as to a polite response to people when they say, "Join us!" I don't WANT to join them. How do we politely decline their friendly offer? — "NOT TONIGHT" IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR "NOT TONIGHT": A polite way to refuse would be to say, "We'd love to do that another time, but it has been a long day and we just want to sit and be quiet." It wouldn't be considered rude unless you say it often.

If these people are friends, they should understand because not everyone is up for company all the time. It is also understandable if a couple has things they need to discuss privately.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Pisces if born before 12:57 p.m. (PST). Afterward, it will be in Aries. The Moon is in Scorpio all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014:

This year you finally will be able to deal with a loved one directly. Conversations will start flowing even more, toward the end of 2014. Your creativity surges mid-July, which allows for more solutions and better investments. If you are single, you will encounter an exciting period for romance anytime from summer on. This person could be very special to you. If you are attached, the two of you start acting like newfound lovers. Enjoy this moment in your relationship. You might find the structure of your family changing if you are at the right stage in life. SCORPIO bottom-lines situations.

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)

★★★ Use your intuition with an important situation involving a loved one. You can rely on feelings only to a certain level; a conversation is a must. In the afternoon, you will discover that there is a good flow between you and this person. Tonight: Celebrate the first day of spring.

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

★★★★ Handle any important matter in the morning; otherwise, you might not gain the results you want. You could find others unusually difficult later today, which is likely to affect your opinion of them. Tonight: Defer to a friend or loved one for now.

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

★★★ You will want to handle an important matter on your own. The financial benefits of a situation outweigh the negatives. Avoid being extravagant -- for your sake, if nothing else. You will join in and have a good time, no matter where you are. Tonight: Where your friends are.

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

★★★★ Dig into your bag of creative ideas in the morning. You might be surprised by what evolves as a result. Think twice before you deal with a problem. Honor what is happening with a child first, as he or she needs some special time with you. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

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

★★★ You'll react instinctively to a perception or to a change in tone, and will wonder when you

can say "enough is enough." Your ability to take in the big picture could help you gain a new insight. Deal with someone directly about a financial matter. Tonight: Stay close to home.

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

★★★★ Be willing to express your deeper feelings about a personal matter, as you seem to be more than serious about a long-term investment. Your creativity is likely to surge, which will allow you to visualize being in someone else's shoes. Tonight: Celebrate spring!

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

★★★ Pressure builds involving a work matter and your finances. Additional demands from a family member could add to your discomfort. Know that this person is not on your team right now. Tonight: Enjoy the moment, and avoid getting into a disagreement.

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

★★★★ Your resourcefulness draws strong results in the morning. A family member, though well-meaning, could add to the pressure of the moment. Reach out to a friend or neighbor who has been very uppy for a while. Tonight: Relax.

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

★★★★ You could be more easily confused than you realize. Ask questions to clarify, but phrase them carefully in order to get an appropriate response. You will see changes in how you handle your funds because of what you are hearing. Tonight: Remain upbeat. Greet spring with a smile.

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

★★★★ Use the morning to the max, when others are more responsive to your inquiries. Look at a personal matter through someone else's eyes. Once you see this person's perceptions, your instinctive response could be right-on. Tonight: Happily head home.

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

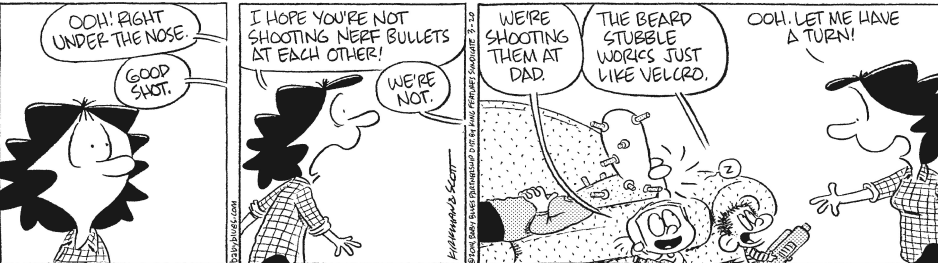
★★★ Pace yourself, as you have a lot to get done. You have a smile that helps draw others closer to you. Remain sensitive to the possibilities. Allow more lightness and spontaneity into your day. Read between the lines with a close loved one. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

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

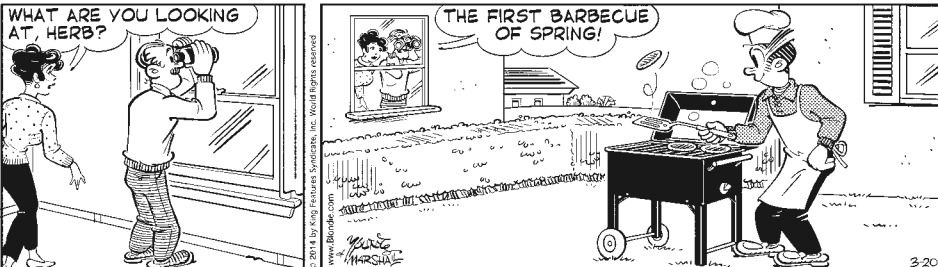
★★★★ You could be in a situation that touches many other people. Understand what is happening by reaching out and getting more information. Your questions might help someone else gain some insight. Delay a discussion until the afternoon. Tonight: Treat a loved one well.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

