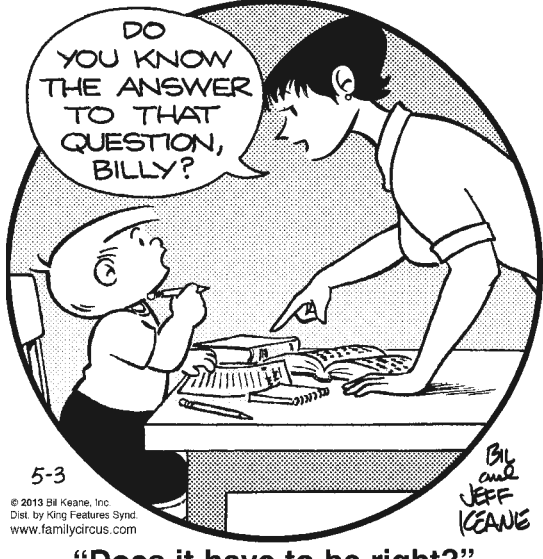


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Does it have to be right?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



BIZARROCOMICS.COM Facebook.com/BizarroComics

Job Offer From Father Has Too Many Strings Attached

DEAR ABBY: I'm 29 and for 10 years I have been struggling with controlling parents. They have cut two of my sisters out of their lives because they live closer to their spouses' parents.

My husband and I are full-time students, ex-military and taking advantage of the G.I. Bill. We're looking for jobs, but my parents have threatened not to speak to me if we take jobs closer to his parents. I'm trying to be fair to both sets of parents, but we can't stay unemployed because of this issue. We have a family to support.

I tried reasoning with them, but I'm unsure how to proceed. Dad called and offered my husband a job in my hometown. We declined because if we accept, they will expect us to live near them. Please tell me what to do. I don't want my family to fall apart any more than it already has. — SMOTHERED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SMOTHERED: If you feel smothered now, imagine how it would be if you and your husband were economically dependent on your parents. No part of your lives would be separate from them, and you would be completely under their control. Holding the family together is not your responsibility, and you should not sacrifice your independence in an attempt to do so.

Your parents' emotional blackmail has already driven away two of your sisters and their families. I assume you have relationships with your siblings. I'm advising you to maintain them and live your own lives. With time, your parents may realize they haven't isolated their children; they have isolated only themselves.

DEAR ABBY: Today I saw a former classmate I hadn't seen in 22 years. He always seemed a little slow and different from the rest of us, and he was

picked on at school because of it. When I said hello to him and reminded him of my name and that we went to school together, he said, "You danced with me at prom, and I always thought that was so nice!" I had forgotten that I had danced with him, but obviously, the fact that I did meant something to him.

My parents raised me to be nice to everyone, even if they weren't in my circle of friends. I'm not claiming that I was a saint in school, but I did try to stand up for people who were being picked on.

I wanted to share with your readers that any act of kindness probably means more to you than you know to the other person. I will be sharing my parents' message of kindness with my own daughter, and I hope other parents read this and do the same. — PASSING IT ON IN OHIO

DEAR PASSING IT ON: Thank you for a wonderful letter. Your lesson in compassion is one that all parents should discuss with their children.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an 18-year-old girl who will be job searching pretty soon. I have never felt the need to wear makeup in my day-to-day life, but now I'm wondering. Is it unprofessional to

go into a workplace sans makeup? Will future bosses think I don't look put-together? I wonder if any other girls my age are having the same confusion. — READY TO BE OUT THERE

DEAR READY: It depends upon what kind of job you'll be searching for. If you plan to work with the public, you should try to look your best at all times. For your interviews, you should be neatly, but conservatively dressed. And as for makeup, you needn't apply it as though you were going on stage, but a touch of color wouldn't hurt.

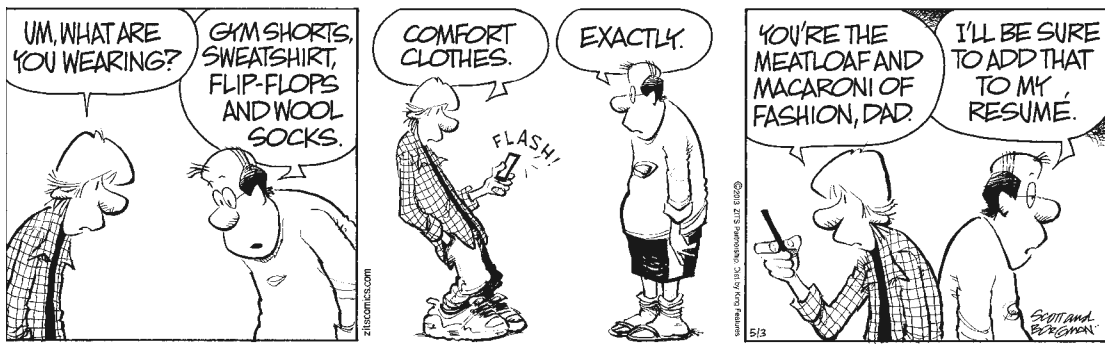


DEAR ABBY

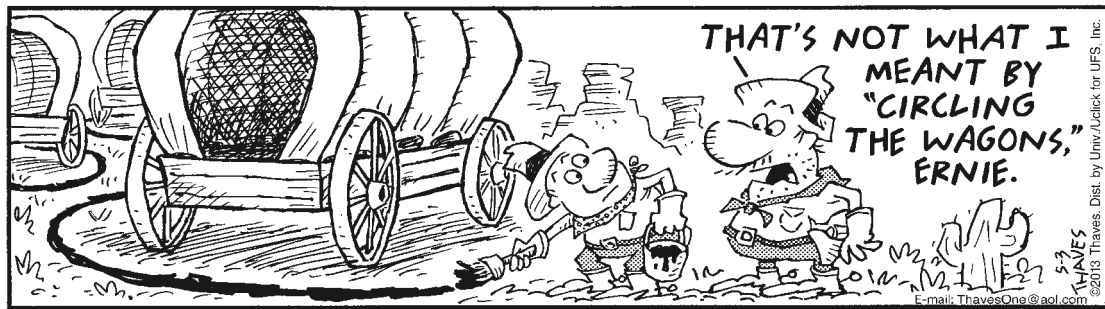
Jeanne Phillips

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.

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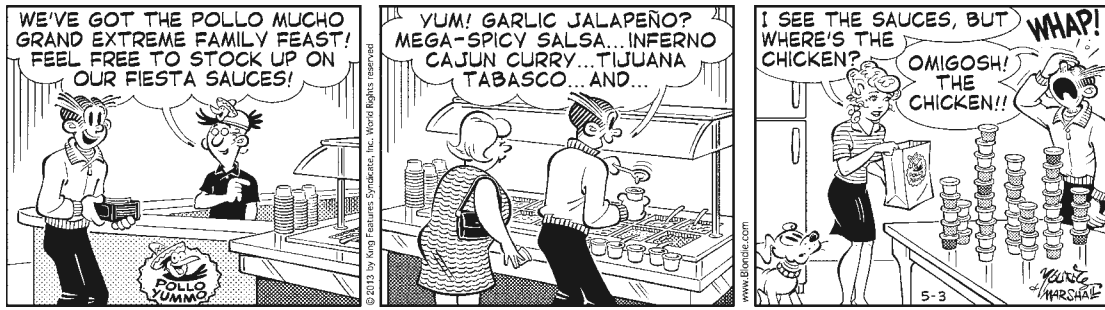
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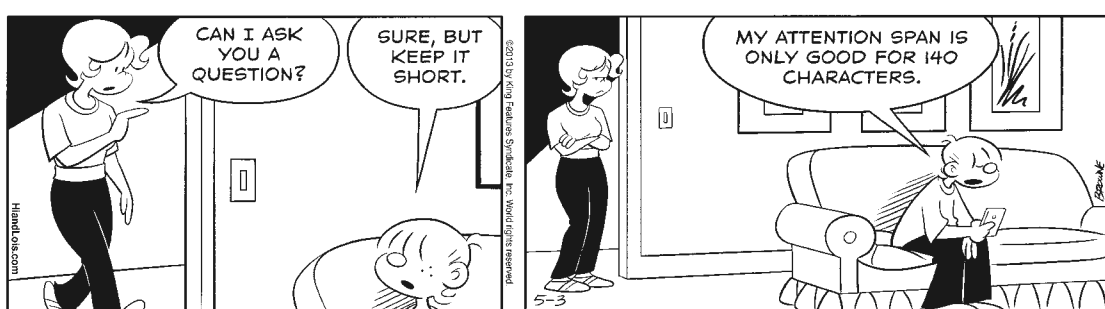
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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 Taurus and a Moon in Aquarius if born before 11:42 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013:

This year you will be well-grounded and extremely intuitive. This mix means good decisions. Let go of an innate stubbornness, and you'll see how much easier life becomes. If you are single, you beam and draw in many people, especially after June. You will have several suitors, so take your time making choices. If you are attached, you will go through a very amorous period together. Enjoy every moment! PISCES adds music to your words.

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)

Focus on your priorities right now. By afternoon, your mind will drift to your weekend plans. Share your thoughts with a dear friend. The feedback you receive could be exciting. Others might be considering how to manifest a long-term dream. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Your efficiency creates an easy afternoon. Pick up the phone and speak with a friend. You always enjoy talking to this person. This friendship might be more important than you think. A discussion about a change in image draws interesting feedback. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Make calls and schedule meetings in the morning. So much responsibility could fall on your shoulders later. Ask for some help if need be. Someone might be delighted to pitch in. Be spontaneous later when making and revising plans. Tonight: Let your wilder Twin emerge!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Wrap up your dealings with a key person. Laughter will open new doors and prevent a problem from becoming even bigger. Reach out for a different perspective. You could be surprised by your options. Communicate and get feedback. Tonight: Forget being practical.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You suddenly might start dancing to a new tune.

Don't be surprised if some of your neighbors are looking at you with new eyes. A loved one adores seeing you like this. If you can move through your obligations quickly, you can make it an early day. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Consider letting someone else take over. This person wants the responsibility, and you would love some extra time to do whatever you want. Do something just for you, and you will make everyone happier. Understand what is going on behind the scenes. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

The mood of the present moment could be infectious. You know what you must complete, and you will do just that. Don't be surprised if there are some last-minute requests that could hold you up. A conversation with a loved one proves most rewarding. Tonight: Easy works.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Your imagination often fills in the gaps regarding plans. If they are based in reality, success generally will follow. Try to avoid projecting your creative energy onto a potential relationship. If you value the potential tie, let it develop naturally. Tonight: Look out, world.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might want to head in a different direction from your friends or loved ones for few hours. Just explain your reasoning, and you'll discover that others can be very understanding. Share more of what you want in the future. Tonight: Happily head home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

How you see a personal matter could change radically. More and more, you will toss aside your well-developed self-discipline in exchange for more spontaneity. As a result, you will see the benefits of being a little less controlling. Tonight: Go overboard and love it.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

While others ponder their plans, it appears as if you are playing out your life the way you want it to be. No one is likely to burst your bubble, as people will want to experience some of your spontaneous joyfulness. A loved one might want your attention. Tonight: And the party goes on.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You correctly sense that something better is ahead. Cruise through your errands, and don't forget to clean up your workspace. When you free yourself up, you will be happy that you went through this process. Tuck away the thought of responsibilities. Tonight: Invite friends along.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

