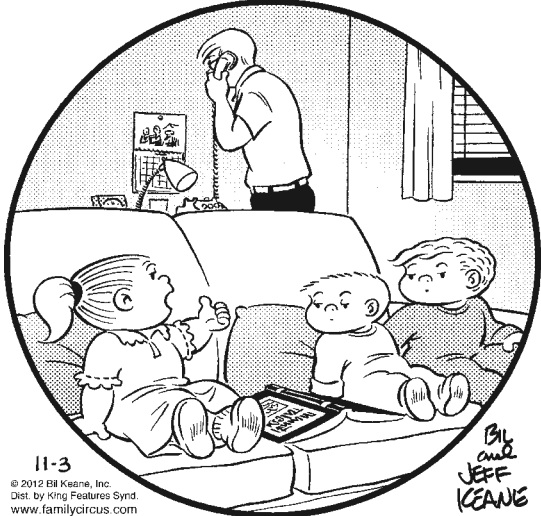


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



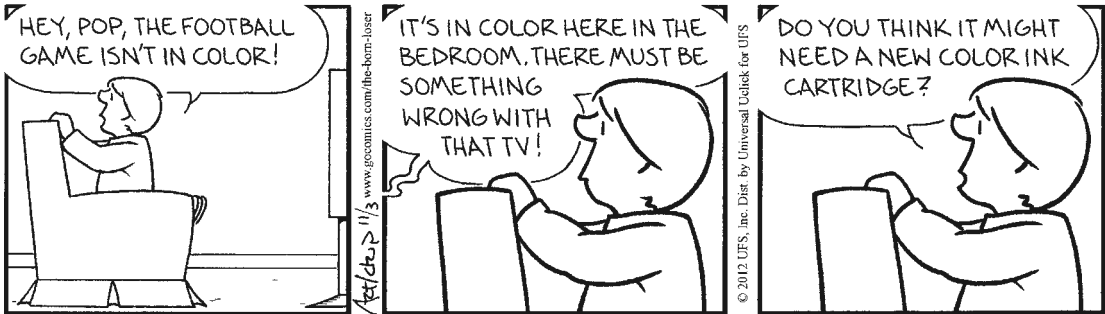
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Military Mom's Insults Make Daughter Yearn For Civility

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and my dad is in the military, so he's away from home most of the time. I try to help Mom out as best I can, knowing she's stressed with Dad gone.

Whenever she gets mad at me, she calls me a "brat," "selfish" or a "jerk." She even told me once or twice that if she was my age, she wouldn't want to be my friend because of the way I act.

Abby, please help me. I have always tried my hardest to do what's right. How do I handle this without crying myself to sleep? — FEELS LIKE A FAILURE

DEAR FEELS LIKE A FAILURE: Sometimes when people are under stress, as your mother is right now, they say things they don't mean. And sometimes when teens are under stress, they can act out in other ways.

A way to handle this would be to wait until your mother has calmed down and talk to her about the effect that her name-calling is having on you. Explain that you're trying the hardest you can in a difficult situation, and then both of you should apologize to each other. The bruises that unkind words can leave sometimes outlast those that are physical.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Kathie," has betrayed me. This may sound silly, but my husband and I have a sort of "coat of arms." Ever since we started writing letters and notes back and forth, he has always drawn a character on them, and it turned into "our" symbol.

Kathie is in the armed forces and I made her my maid of honor. But when she showed up, she had that same character tattooed on her back! My husband was upset she chose something so intimate of ours as a tattoo, and a few people have noticed it as well. I don't know how to handle this. It feels like a

slap in the face. — ROBBED IN FLORIDA

DEAR ROBBED: It isn't a slap in the face — it's actually the ultimate compliment to your husband's artistry and creativity. And while it would have been nice if Kathie had first asked permission, unless the symbol was trademarked she was free to use it, as is anyone else who sees it on her and admires it. Because her tattoo is offensive to you, ask her to keep it covered when she's with you. What's done is done.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 38-year-old wife and mother who has been happily married for 16 years. My young son recently had a medical emergency in his class at school, and his teacher, "Tom," stepped in and saved him.

Since then I can't stop thinking about Tom. I love my husband and I don't plan on seeing or contacting Tom in any way other than as my son's teacher. How do I stop thinking about him? Please help. — GOING CRAZY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR GOING CRAZY: First of all, you're NOT going crazy. You are grateful to the "hero" who saved your son. The more you try to smother your thoughts about Tom, the more they will happen.

The most effective way I know of to deal with this would be to talk out your thoughts with someone. If this would be too uncomfortable to discuss with your husband, then do it with a trusted female friend. Over time it should subside.

DEAR READERS: It's time for my "timely" reminder that daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday — so don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed. (That's what I'll be doing.)

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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 Scorpio and a Moon in Cancer if born after 12:43 a.m. (PDT). Before that time, the Moon is in Gemini.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 3, 2012:

This year you experience intense feelings. You will encounter a lot of the unexpected, which adds even more excitement to your day-to-day routine. Trust yourself to make good decisions. If you are single, someone will dash into your life after May 2013. This person could be quite significant to your life history. If you are attached, follow your emotions and show compassion, and you will strengthen the bond between you. CANCER's depth allows him or her to understand you well.

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)

\*\*\* Tension builds because someone has an expectation that you might not be able to meet. Starting a conversation could feel rather uncomfortable, but it is the first step. Walk away from a demanding person ... for now. Tonight: Entertain from home.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

\*\*\*\* Keep conversations moving, and do not get caught up in someone's intense need for control. You can't change this person, but you also don't need to get involved in his or her power plays, either. You'll gain a great deal of insight if you say less and listen more. Tonight: Breeze into a favorite place for a meal.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

\*\*\* Your expenses could add up to more than you anticipated. Complete an important errand or finish up a key project. A friend or a group of friends are full of surprises. Stay centered. An older loved one demands your time and attention. Tonight: Indulge a little.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

\*\*\*\* Follow through on what is important to you. You currently are in the position to realize an important goal. You might feel intimidated by a friend or loved one who has a tendency to be pushy. Be understanding and choose to say little. Tonight: Back out with grace.

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

\*\*\* Everyone needs a day off, no matter who he or she is. You push yourself to give 110 percent, no matter what you do. Needing some time just to rejuvenate is normal. Make time for what suits you. As an affectionate sign,

you will make plenty of time for a loved one. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

\*\*\*\* You will want to stretch your legs and get out of the house. Surround yourself with friends or crowds. You enjoy the chatter in the background, even when you're by yourself. Evaluate a challenging situation where the other party is trying to gain control; just do not play into it. Tonight: Where you want to be.

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

\*\*\* You might feel pressured by a parent or older relative. Meet your responsibilities now in order to feel liberated later. Indulge a special person in your life. You don't have to worry about anything else except having a good time. Tonight: Out on the town.

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

\*\*\*\* If your mind keeps drifting to yonder lands, why not plan to take off in the near future? A call might feel appropriate and very fulfilling to all parties involved. Revise your plans so you can enjoy yourself, too. Tonight: Put on a great piece of music.

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

\*\*\* You will relate well to one person and enjoy the intensity of your interaction. Being around crowds generally makes you smile, but not now. Use care with your funds. You do not want to spend too much, as it could make someone feel uncomfortable. Tame your impulsive side. Tonight: Share with a dear friend or loved one.

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

\*\*\* You might not know which way to turn or which invitation to accept. Slow down and prioritize. Choose what you want to do and the company you would most enjoy yourself with. A family member or roommate does the unexpected. Tonight: Go along with someone's suggestion.

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

\*\*\* You are mellowier than you have been in a while. Free yourself up for a spontaneous get-together. Whether you are pitching in or throwing the party, what pleases you is bringing your friends together. Tonight: As late as you can go.

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

\*\*\*\*\* Whether you are single or attached, you enjoy a new friend or loved one as you decide to go off and indulge in a mutual favorite pastime. Do not let a friend's request change your plans or the current mood. Use care with your money. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

