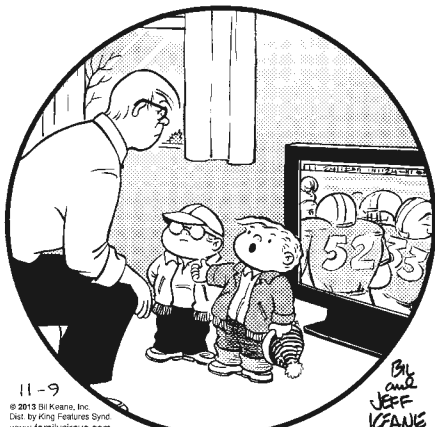


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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"Okay, Daddy, it's time for Henry to go home. We'll be in the car."

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Independent Woman Sets Bar High In Search For Mr. Right

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single woman who has had a string of unsuccessful relationships. When a man is into me, I'm not into him and vice versa.

I know the problem is mostly mine. I'm very independent. I don't want a man to consume my life — just be a part of it. It seems like the men I date want to smother me.

My friends tell me that most women enjoy this. I hate it. I need a certain amount of time alone. I am attracted to manly men, but the ones who are attracted to me are either emotionally needy or they take longer to get ready to go anywhere than I do. It's frustrating.

I have met some men who would have been wonderful catches, but I felt nothing. I know friendship is the basis of all relationships, but physical attraction is important to me. A relationship won't work if I can't bring myself to be intimate with the person.

In all my years of dating, I have been in love only twice. Any help would be appreciated. — LOST IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR LOST: I wish I had a magic lamp that would give you what you're looking for in a puff of smoke, but I don't. What I can offer is that you need to continue looking for someone who is as independent as you are, so you can find an attractive man whose needs are similar to yours.

Some couples find the process of dating a smooth and easy one. For others it's complicated, but not impossible. I agree that the basis of strong relationships is friendship and compatibility.

I try to be patient, but some folks seem to need someone to vent to. I don't want to be the one they "tell all" to. I try to tune it out, but I wish there was an easy way to let them know enough is enough.

Any ideas on the best way to handle these people? Or am I stuck being a good listener forever? — NOBODY'S THERAPIST IN CROFTON, MD.

DEAR NOBODY'S THERAPIST: Try this: Say, "Really, I'm sorry to hear that." Then change the subject to something you read in the newspaper, saw on television or that's happening in your community.

DEAR ABBY: Tell me what you would have done in this situation. While dining at an expensive restaurant on a rare night out, we were seated directly across from a nice-looking family. As I was eating my meal, I had a nauseating view of their child's butt crease. The boy was about 12 or 14, and I didn't want to embarrass him in a public place, but it put a damper on my enjoyment of the meal.

Would it have been appropriate to approach his mother and quietly tell her? Obviously, the kid didn't know or care that he was exposed. The restaurant was full, so I couldn't request another table. — LOST MY APPETITE IN MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

DEAR LOST YOUR APPETITE: The first thing I would have done was resist the urge to walk over and plant a stalk of celery in the great divide. And then, because moving to another table wasn't possible, I would have moved my chair so that the view of the young man's cleavage wouldn't have been "head on."

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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.

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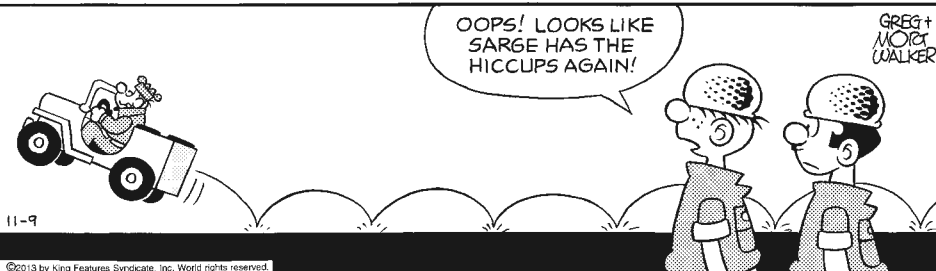
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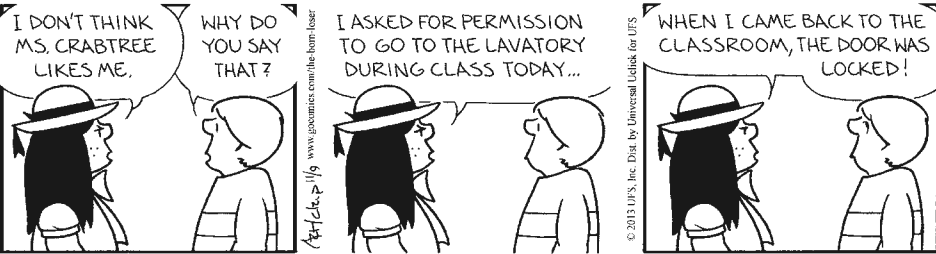
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THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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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 Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 9, 2013:

This year you sometimes might confuse others as you give off mixed vibes. You connect on a close one-on-one level with others, yet you absolutely need your freedom in an intimate relationship. Some people can't visualize having both. Realize that you can have both with the right person. Be careful committing this year. If you are attached, there is an element of chaos in your household that helps balance your diverse and nearly opposite needs. AQUARIUS is always lively.

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)

★★★★ Holding yourself back to stick to the tried-and-true would be a mistake. Your significant other might need to join you on an adventure. See different people and experience different cultures. You have a very upbeat quality about you. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Shaking up the status quo could be close to impossible, depending on your interests and the direction you want to head in. Someone you often look to for help seems to be closed down right now. Don't worry about it. Go off and enjoy yourself. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might be in the mood for a spontaneous trip or a visit to someone who lives away from your immediate area. The drive and the change of scenery might be more refreshing than you would think. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ It seems as if everyone wants quality time with you. Honor your priorities and make some choices. You also might want to use your diplomatic skills in order to keep the peace. With some careful planning, you might not have to disappoint anyone. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others come forward with suggestions. Though you might have felt as if you needed to take full responsibility with a project, it becomes apparent that you can step back. Know that you do

not need to be the pivotal person. Tonight: Enjoy all the attention.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Your efficiency is a desired quality. Others recognize your ability to clear up quite a few problems with ease. It is important to understand your strengths, but you also need to take better care of yourself. Do this by saying "no" once in a while. Tonight: Hang with the gang.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take at least half the day to be frivolous, if not more. Though your levity mixed with your creativity could be a tremendous asset for you at work, it also is a great quality that allows you to have a good time with friends. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ If you can hang at home, do. You could be involved with a home project, or perhaps you might decide to clean up a room or two for the upcoming holidays. Some of you might have already started buying your holiday gifts. Tonight: Do your thing. Screen calls.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22- DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your phone rings as others seek you out. You could have a difficult time saying "no" to invitations. Focus on the people around you. You still might be a little off if you have not yet heard from a special person. Do not stand on ceremony — make the call. Tonight: With friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Honor what is happening. Even if you feel inclined to take a risk, be careful. Can you afford the loss? Don't get involved in any money risks after noon. Make a phone call to someone you care about who always has good advice. Tonight: Make it your treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You are energized and ready to head right out the door. You might want to make some calls first to check out the lay of the land. You are the sign of friendship, and you can be found visiting with different sets of friends today. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

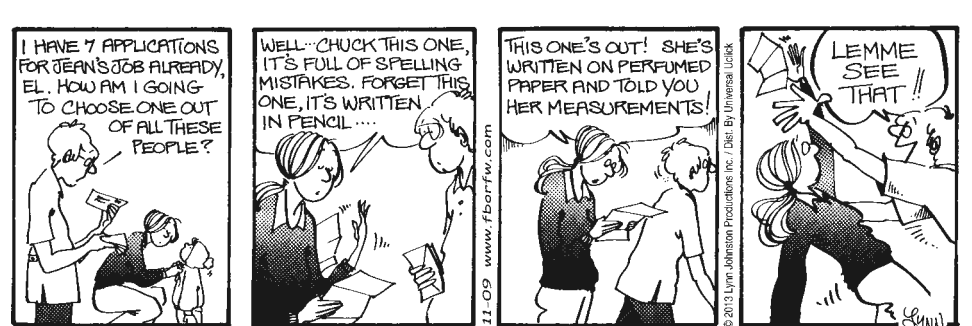
★★★ Know when to take the lead in a strategic situation. On the other hand, you might be happier kicking back and doing more of what you want. A friend's suggestion might seem off. Be polite, but do what you want. Tonight: You like to be mysterious, don't you?

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



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