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"Are there any words I should know besides 'Howdy,' 'Yup' and 'Whoa' if I wanna speak cowboy?"

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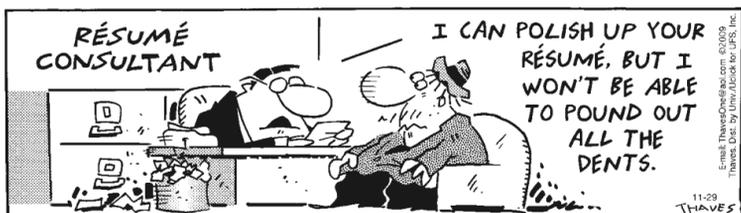
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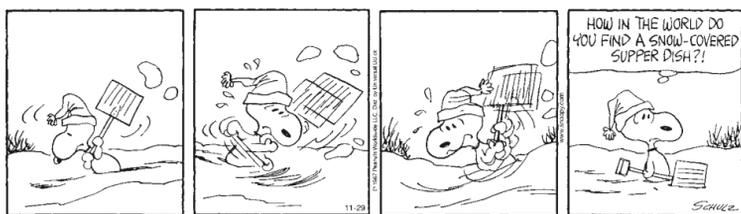
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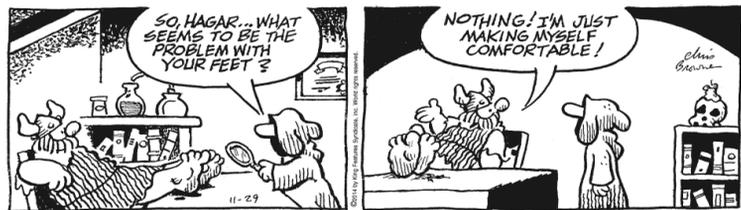
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Slumber Party With Mom Is An Every-Night Event

DEAR ABBY: My mother has this odd habit that my younger sister, "Sara," and I don't agree with. It's only the three of us in our house, and Sara and I are in high school and college.

Our mother forces one of us to sleep with her in her room every night. Sara sleeps in Mom's room more often than I do, and rarely gets a chance to sleep in her own bed. On the few occasions when Sara is sick, I sleep with Mom. But if we're both sick, she picks one of us anyway.

Abby, this has persisted for years. I have tried many times to convince my mother to let us sleep in our own rooms, but she ignores me or accuses me of "not loving her enough." She says the same things to Sara.

I'm worried about my mother. I feel as though she's depressed or worried about being abandoned. At the same time, I don't want us sleeping in Mom's bed forever. We have our own lives and rooms. What would be the best thing to do in this situation? — SLEEPOVER IN MARYLAND

DEAR SLEEPOVER: Your mother is an adult who should long ago have learned to sleep alone. She should not be trying to "guilt" you and your sister into sleeping with her by accusing you of not loving her enough if you don't spend the night in her bed. The two of you should ask her together why she's doing this.

You young ladies are old enough to simply refuse if you would rather sleep in your own rooms. But breaking this habit may not be easy for your mother, so if she says she can't sleep without one of you with her, volunteer to stay with her until she falls asleep and THEN go to your rooms.

DEAR ABBY: I am divorced after a 38-year marriage. The divorce was the result of an affair my husband had. Needless to say, it was — and still is — very painful. The betrayal almost killed me.

I have been seeing a therapist who has helped me immensely, but I wonder if I will

ever fully recover from the hurt. My ex has started a new life with this woman, who is almost 30 years younger than we are, and he acts like, "Oh well, it's over." Even though I have moved on, starting a new life at 60 wasn't easy.

Is it unreasonable to still have lingering pain and anger as a result of the lies and deceit I experienced from a man I loved and trusted? I can't seem to pretend that nothing happened. — STILL HURTING

DEAR STILL HURTING: I think your feelings are normal. Something DID happen to you, and it was cataclysmic. The question is, to what degree are you willing to allow this to rule your life?

You shouldn't pretend that nothing happened, but it's important that when your thoughts drift backward that you make a conscious effort to steer them back to the present. Devote the same energy that you spend nursing hurt and anger to focusing on the future and what makes you happy. WILL yourself to stay in the present and keep moving forward.

This takes focus, practice and determination, but it can be done. And continue to maintain a relationship with your therapist, because if you do, it will provide a much-needed "reality check" when you need one.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at 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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 29, 2014:

This year you might be more involved with family. Many consider you to be very gracious and caring, while others could see you as a wild card. You are a free spirit, and your behavior reflects that characteristic. Be aware of your finances. If you are single, as adventuresome as you typically are, you enjoy more quiet environments when dating. The person you choose to date this year might not work at a later date. If you are attached, the two of you love your downtime at home. You'll find endless activities to do together. PISCES has a tendency to waffle on his or her ideas.

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)

★★★ Slow down and handle a confrontation before handling other concerns. You could be dealing with someone who has a broad vision of life and another person who might be closed off. Your sensitivity and timing will open up the situation. Tonight: Enjoy some quiet time.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You will zero in on what you want. Someone's attempt to use logic is likely to fail in deterring you. A call or token of affection from a loved one at a distance could please you to no end. Friends seem to surround you. Be spontaneous. Tonight: Only where the action is.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You usually don't like to take a stand, especially as you often can see the other side of the argument. However, at this point, you could feel as if it is expected of you. A partner might have a different solution. Tonight: If you're taking action, be ready to support yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You have unique perspectives, and you are able to detach from the here and now. Kick back with a loved one. Go where there is music, and you'll be able to relax. A loving gesture will go far. Be more open with a close friend. Tonight: Let your imagination call the shots.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ A new beginning suddenly becomes possible within an important partnership. A child or loved one will demonstrate the full dimension of his

or her personality. You naturally support this person's self-expression. You also will be most appreciative of it. Tonight: Be a duo.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and appreciate the extra freedom. Spend time with an authority figure. You don't need to agree with this person, but you should try to indulge him or her. A loved one might move quickly to set plans for the two of you. Tonight: Go along with the program.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You'll be very concerned about getting the job at hand done. Some of you could have some errands to run or perhaps an important person to visit. Be careful, as you easily might become involved in a family decision while it is being debated. Tonight: Start your Christmas list.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your imagination needs to be allowed more freedom. If you are involved in a romance, you can infuse more energy into this bond. Be aware of what kind of impact your first impression makes. Be sympathetic to someone who seems down. Tonight: Dance the night away.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Your independence might feel as if it is being threatened, but it's not. Try to find a point of agreement. You might need to funnel more of your energy into a family matter. Allow yourself to spend only a set amount and not a penny more. Tonight: Make it simple.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Ask yourself some pertinent questions before finalizing a decision. You'll want to please someone, but you're willing to go only so far, as this person can be rather demanding. You might express your feelings openly in a discussion. Tonight: Hang close to home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Be aware of your spending; otherwise, you easily could go overboard. Try to avoid this type of thinking: one for them, one for me, two for them and one for me. At least hold on to your receipts! You could change your mind at the last minute. Tonight: Let someone else treat.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You appear to be more content than others right now. A friend could delight you with an important piece of gossip. You also might receive an early Christmas gift. Someone is likely to push you too far. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Others follow your lead.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



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