

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



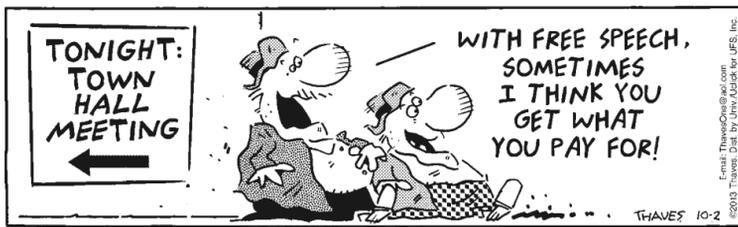
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



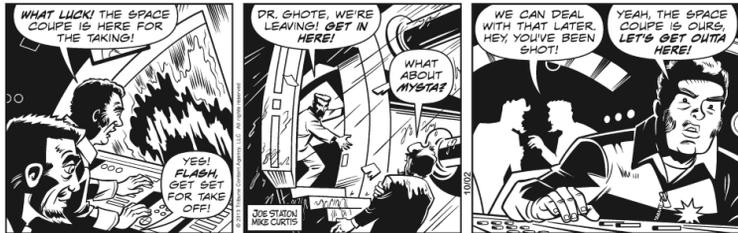
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



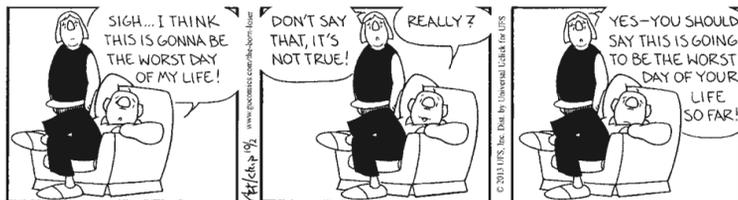
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Mr. Right's Only Wrong Is Hanging Out With His Exes

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating Mr. Right for two years. "Phil" is the man I want to spend my life with. When we are together privately, everything is perfect.

The problem is, Phil hangs out with his old college buddies every few weeks or months, and it often involves his ex-girlfriends. They don't hang out alone. There is always at least one other person there. The situations usually include drinking, which worries me.

In my opinion, Phil should not be seeing his exes, even though his college friends are still buddies with them. Phil doesn't understand why I think this is so wrong. I am uncomfortable and think he should avoid these situations.

Am I overly jealous, or should I call it quits because he won't respect my feelings on the matter? — HOME ALONE IN KOKOMO

DEAR HOME ALONE: I don't think you are overly jealous, but I do think you may be overly insecure. Has Phil given you any reason to think he has cheated on you? If not, you should trust that he is doing nothing more than hanging out occasionally with old friends.

You say he is encountering exes (plural) when he sees his male friends. If it was just one, you might have cause to worry. Remember, these women are exes for a reason. Unless you want to be another ex, you should lighten up because insecurity and possessiveness are unattractive traits.

DEAR ABBY: We have lived next door to a couple, "Evie" and "Earl," for five years. I thought we were good friends. Over the years, I vented to Evie about my relationship with my daughter-in-law, "Cate." I watch my two grandkids most of the week and have complained to her about Cate's poor parenting skills.

Last summer, my daughter-in-law made a

concerted effort to befriend Evie, and they now socialize together — even though Cate flirted with Earl and Evie didn't like it. This has pretty much killed my friendship with Evie and worsened my relationship with my D-I-L.

This has affected me emotionally and physically to the point that I either want to cut off ties with my son and/or move — neither of which is really an option. I have tried talking to both parties to no avail. I don't know what to do. Please help. — BETRAYED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BETRAYED: If you had concerns about your daughter-in-law's parenting skills, the person you should have discussed them with was Cate. And if Evie was as good a friend as you thought, she wouldn't be hanging around with your daughter-in-law to the exclusion of you.

I assume that you, your son and Cate are still on speaking terms and you're still watching the kids "most of the week." If that's not true and you have been cut off by everyone, then the most important thing you need to do is take care of your mental and physical health. Accept that Evie will never be your buddy again and start socializing with others.

If you are no longer watching your grandchildren, your son and D-I-L will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare, which will cost them money they may be reluctant to spend. Then it will be in their interest as well as yours to make peace.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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.

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 and Moon in Libra if born before 6:44 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2, 2013:

This year you often become very serious and self-disciplined. You seek out the answers to questions that many people would not even ponder. Your ability to see past the obvious marks your success. At times, you seem quiet and withdrawn, as you need time to reflect. If you are single, your potential suitors will need to understand that this behavior is part of you. If they can't accept you as you are, look elsewhere. If you are attached, the two of you need more time as a couple. VIRGO can be very fussy.

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)

★★★★ You might not be comfortable with everything you need to do. You know that the only way to get it all done is to dive right in and get going. You will be delighted at how quickly your to-do list dissolves. A discussion with a boss might be necessary. Tonight: Join a friend for fun.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll observe as someone continues to encounter obstacles -- one right after the other. Trying to pitch in and/or make a suggestion might be helpful to this person. Use your creativity in order to make your day easier. Tonight: Remain responsive to a loved one at a distance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll want to see a situation with more insight and understanding; however, you might be stuck watching the same mental reruns over and over again. Open up to a new way of thinking; you will get a better grasp on what is motivating someone else. Tonight: Easy works.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You have a chance to open up to new people and new attitudes. Be willing to turn a situation around and see it differently. Your input could be most helpful to a close associate or loved one, as it could helping this person see what has been hidden. Tonight: Relax.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might be wondering when you should say that enough is enough. Someone close to you keeps taking advantage of your generosity.

Be prepared for this person to have a surprised reaction when you finally decide to say "no." Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You will be in your element, and you might feel as if you are able to make a difference. Your creativity spins a new solution for a child or friend. Resist trying to control a situation. A call or interaction with a neighbor or close associate could be touchy. Tonight: Just be yourself.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Recognize what is happening behind the scenes with a friend or loved one. Sometimes the most supportive action is not acknowledging what is happening, but rather letting this person handle the issue on his or her own. Use care with your funds. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ If you feel the impulse to take the lead, and you know full well that you have the support of the majority, do. You need to carry this issue or situation to completion. Recognize what is possible. A discussion will draw in positive results. Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You have a way of helping others that allows them to see a controversial idea in a manner in which they can accept it. You could be in a position to make a big change, as long as you get the right support. If you're feeling insecure, pull back. Tonight: Could go to the wee hours.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Detach before deciding whether you can go along with a group decision. You'll want to zero in on the most efficient and functional way to proceed. You can decide to convince others that you might have a better path to the same end. Tonight: Opt for something different.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen carefully to news that seems out of the norm. Perhaps the person who is delivering the message might not be emphasizing the right points. Reach out to the original source in order to find the truth. Ask questions, if need be. Tonight: Visit with a favorite person.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Defer to others, and make a difference that counts. You might be stopped by someone who cares about the same cause, but he or she might not have the same vision as you. A meeting easily could transform into a fun get-together. Let it happen. Tonight: Go where the action is.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

