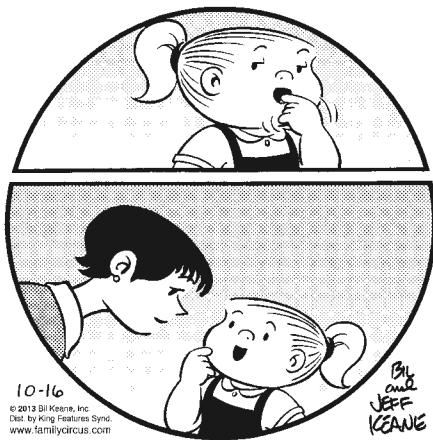


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



10-16
I hope the Tooth Fairy is in town, because she's gonna have some business with me soon.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

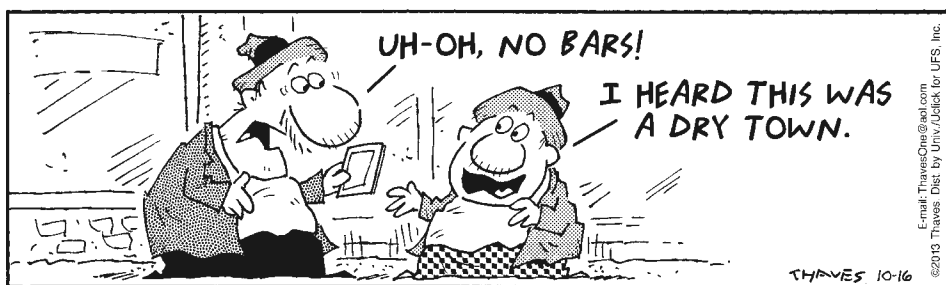


And, of course, it comes with a lifetime warranty.

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



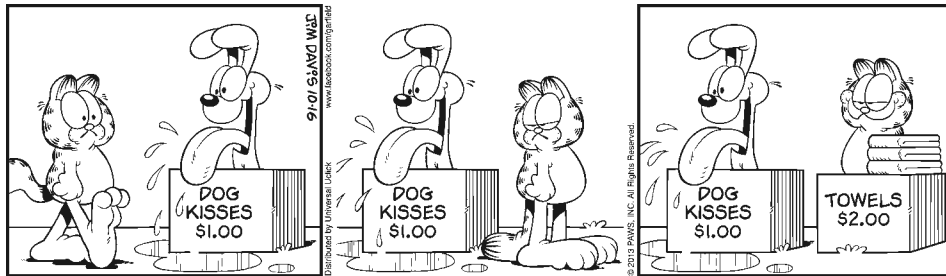
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



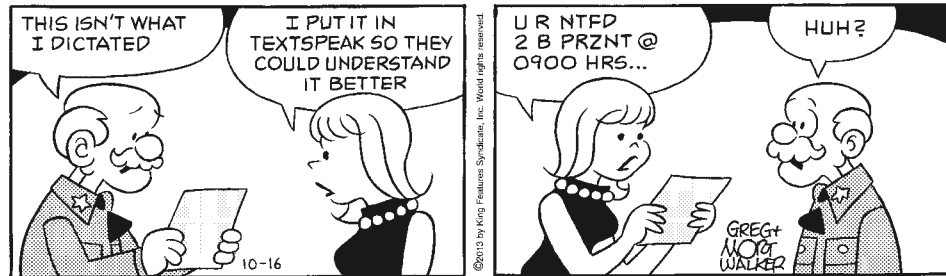
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



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



Sexually Active Teens Must Be Responsible For Birth Control

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old daughter confided that she has become sexually involved with her boyfriend and asked if I would buy condoms for her. I agreed that she should protect herself and bought her a box of 12.

A week later, she informed me that she needed another 12-pack. When I asked why she had run out so quickly, she confessed that she has been supplying them to her girlfriends. Apparently they can't confide in their moms the way she can with me.

My dilemma is that condoms are expensive and, on one hand, I don't want to be the one supplying a group of kids. On the other hand, if I can help to prevent an unwanted pregnancy, maybe it's worth it. What do you think I should do? — SAFE SEX ADVOCATE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SAFE SEX ADVOCATE: If your daughter's friends are old enough to be sexually active, they and their boyfriends should also be responsible enough to provide their own birth control. Generally, teens do not need the permission of their parents to receive information about it. Because you want to help them avoid unwanted pregnancies (as well as STDs), direct them to the nearest Planned Parenthood Center for low-cost or no-cost birth control and instruction on how to use it. There are 18 of these health centers in Illinois. To find the one closest to you, visit plannedparenthood.org.

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of three wonderful girls. The problem is my husband thinks the way to make them love him is by allowing them everything I don't. I'll give you some examples:

I don't let the girls eat anywhere except at the table, so my husband brings treats into the family room. I try to limit high-sugar/fat items like chips and candy, which he buys for them on a regular basis. I also try to adhere to a regular bedtime schedule, while he thinks nothing of stretching lights-out to an hour or more later.

Then he complains that the girls won't listen to him, so I must be in charge of the discipline. While this makes him Fun Daddy in our house, it makes me ... MEAN MOMMY IN OHIO

DEAR MOMMY: It appears you're not just raising three wonderful girls, but also coping with an immature, overgrown boy. Parenthood is supposed to be a united, consistent partnership, a team effort. Your husband is sabotaging you and ignoring that one of the responsibilities of parenthood is establishing rules and limits that children should live with.

Your husband needs parenting classes, and if that's not possible, some sessions with a child behavior expert who can explain the consequences of what he's doing to his daughters in the name of being "Fun Daddy." From my perspective, there isn't anything funny about it. You have my sympathy.



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.

DEAR ABBY: I work at a senior retirement community, and the residents have a Halloween party each year. In the past, there were prizes for the three best costumes. However, last year they stopped giving prizes because one of the residents is a professional artist and costume maker, and the association felt it would be unfair to the others to have him compete.

This year it was decided not to hold the contest at all. The residents are disappointed. How can they continue to have the costume contest and include the professional? — DRESSED UP IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DRESSED UP: Ask the artist/costume designer to be the judge.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Libra and a Moon in Pisces if born before 6:18 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16, 2013:

This year you sometimes feel as if you have too many options on your plate. A lot of energy will be directed toward your career or your role in the community. You will experience success as well, especially if you deal with the public. If you are single, you will meet someone out of the blue. In a year, you will know much more about this person's role in your life. If you are attached, take on a project with your sweetie, and let him or her have an equal role. You will like the outcome. Do not kid yourself about ARIES. You have the same issues.

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 want to pull back and observe rather than act. You are likely to be surprised by what you realize, especially situations involving spending, your finances and/or an emotional tie. You will feel re-energized by late afternoon. Tonight: Surprise a loved one!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Use the daylight hours to the max, when you feel as if you can get past a problem. Laughter surrounds an impending decision that could allow greater flow in your communication. Resist the urge to second guess someone else. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You want to make a good impression, but how you do that will be very important. Recognize who you want to impress, and determine the reason why. You will make stronger decisions once you recognize what is going on within yourself. Tonight: Make a big splash.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Reach out for more information. At some point during the day, you will decide that you have enough feedback and can back off. Express your caring for someone by giving him or her a token of your affection. Listen to a heartfelt suggestion. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Come to a mutual understanding with a partner. You will need to tap into your instincts if

someone is not being very clear in a discussion. A surprising action or situation could throw you into limbo for a little while. Once you land, think outside the box. Tonight: Buy tickets to a play.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You might come off far more assertive than you have in a while. Some people will acquiesce, whereas others will be more dominant. You could see these behaviors manifesting as early as today. Make time for an important talk. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Let someone else share more of what he or she feels. Know that it is important to listen. You could be quite frustrated when dealing with this person on a regular basis. Nevertheless, you will be able to change this dynamic in the near future. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You could make all the difference in what happens. The choice is yours whether you should invest more energy and creativity into a situation or project. If you do, others will appreciate your efforts. Why hold back? Tonight: Share more with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Holding back might feel right for a while, but knowing when to suspend that behavior this afternoon will be important. Your imagination and intellect merge, which allows you to have more options. Tonight: Know when to let your hair down.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Speak your mind with the full expectation of being heard loud and clear. Your reception has much to do with your presence. Encourage others to exchange ideas. Check out an investment with care, especially if it will affect your home life. Tonight: Relax at home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You won't be comfortable with a financial matter, yet you still might consider giving the OK to proceed. Don't. Use your strong intuition to hold off on giving your support for now. Be open up to a wild option that pops up. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Your strong personality melts barriers and allows greater give-and-take. Your caring opens up others, especially a child or new friend. You will discover that this person is more emotional than you are! Tonight: Accept someone's surprising gesture.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

