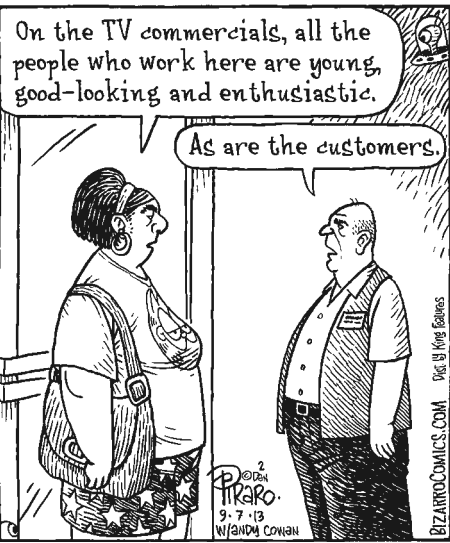


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



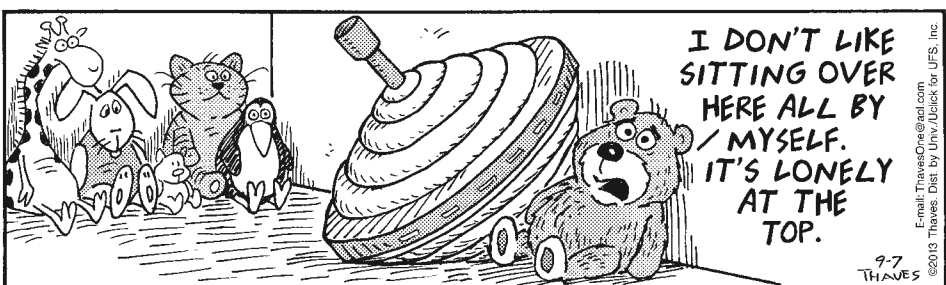
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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



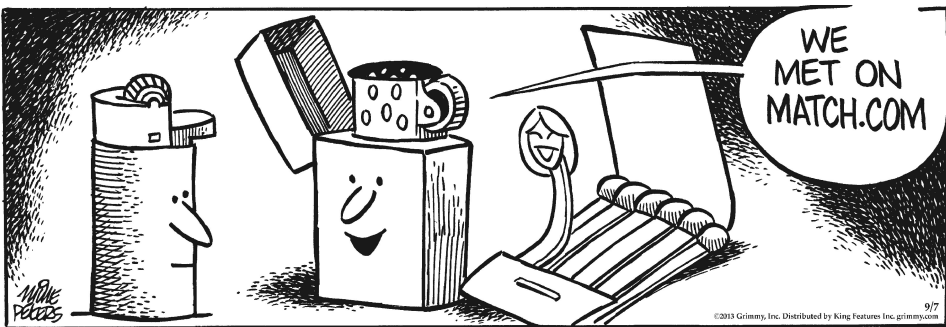
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Parents Disdain Marriage After Failure Of Their Own

DEAR ABBY: I'm 24 and a college graduate. My boyfriend, "Jordan," and I have been together for a year and we would like to get married. However, my parents are against the idea. They love Jordan, but they think marriage is stupid because, in 2013, "WHO is getting married?"

I think this is totally ridiculous, but I don't know what to do. I want to be married and I would love my parents' approval, but it's hard when they call me stupid for wanting to take that step just because their marriage didn't work out.

I love Jordan and I love my parents. Should I have to choose between the two? — TOTALLY TORN

DEAR TOTALLY TORN: You do not have to choose between your parents and being married. At 24, you are an adult and mature enough to make your own decision about the importance of the institution.

As to the question of "who is getting married" these days, one answer is people with college degrees are marrying at a greater rate than those with only a high school education — and their unions are more lasting. I'm sorry your parents' marriage didn't work out, but you would be foolish to let their cynical opinion of this kind of commitment taint your perspective. I hope you and Jordan enjoy many happy and fulfilling years together.

DEAR ABBY: What are your thoughts about co-workers dating? I have a crush on one of my co-workers, and I believe it is reciprocated. We're unsure about an office romance because, while it isn't against the rules for people to date within the building, there are concerns about sexual harassment or inappropriate behavior on the premises. (Some of our co-workers have dated with no problems.)

Would it be wrong to attempt to further

the relationship, as long as it remains appropriate within the office, or should I forget it and date someone outside of work? — WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN INDIANA

DEAR WORKING RELATIONSHIP: This may seem old-fashioned, but I'm not crazy about the idea of office romances. While I know they are not uncommon and it's hard to fight mutual attraction, office romances are distracting. When the pheromones are flying, it can be extremely difficult to concentrate on the tasks at hand. And if it doesn't work out, there can be tension, embarrassment and hard feelings in the aftermath, and that's not good for business.



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: Twice in the past month I have received thank-you notes for gifts I had given, but the wrong gift was mentioned. I usually spend a lot of time selecting just the right thing, and I take pride in my choices.

I understand how something like that could happen, but I'm not sure what to do about it. Should I just keep quiet about it, or say something to the person? What would I say? I don't want to

embarrass anyone, but I know I have received gifts in the past that will forever remind me of the giver. — PICKING OUT PRESENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PICKING OUT PRESENTS: I see nothing to be gained by not alerting the person to the mistake. If you were thanked for the wrong gift, so was another giver. If I had mixed up the gift cards, I would want to know — wouldn't you? Do unto others ...

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 Virgo and a Moon in Libra all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 2013:

This year you often weigh the pros and cons of a situation. To some people, it could seem as if your decision might never come, and they just may be right! The same will be true regarding your dating life. If you are single, you might not be sure how you feel about potential suitors. Should you have strong feelings, act on them. If you are attached, you could be entering a new phase in your relationship. Enjoy your sweetie, and postpone any major decisions for a year. LIBRA echoes your ambivalence.

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)

★★★ Confusion could cloud a decision if it's made too quickly. Sit on this matter for a few days if possible. A partner might appear more cheerful than he or she has been in a while. A boss or older relative will want you to make certain elemental changes. Tonight: Make it an early night.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You will be happy at home, and you won't feel inclined to do much of anything. You will feel more centered than you have in a while. Make a call to a close loved one. You might want to invite this person over to catch up on news. Tonight: Even the best-laid plans could fall apart.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Be more in touch with a loved one. Make plans for the near future if possible. You might have to put out more money than you anticipated, but it will be worth it. Laughter surrounds a get-together. Stay flexible, as plans could change. Tonight: Mix it up with friends and family.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Listen to news, and honor what is occurring within your immediate circle. How you see someone could change radically, as new information comes forward. A lot is happening rather quickly. Know what you need to do to make a situation work. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Make the first effort with someone you might have been experiencing some distance with. You might want to initiate a conversation in

order to find out what is going on. Give this person what he or she wants. Don't blow this opportunity. Tonight: Meet friends for dinner.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Deal with others directly. There could be a schism in how you think and how someone else thinks. Accept the difference, and learn to incorporate this person's opinions into certain circumstances. Use care with your money, and hold on to your wallet. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Others will respond to your gesture, but make sure that it represents what you want it to. You have a rare opportunity to have fun with an older relative, yet also be surrounded by friends. You'll feel a strong connection developing among everyone. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Be sensitive to someone's suggestions. You could miss something, as you might be too absorbed in your own thoughts. Loosen up, and invite a friend to the movies. When you leave the theater, you will feel as though you've re-invented yourself. Tonight: Keep a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Take off for a day trip with a favorite person or two. Indulge in a long and leisurely meal while exchanging your thoughts; it will create greater give-and-take between you. You tend to be more open when you are out of town. Tonight: Enjoy a new spot that is far away from home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might be forced once again to take the lead in a situation. This role could involve your personal or domestic life. You have a strong sense of what is right and what is wrong, which will help not only you, but others as well. Tonight: Others thank you in their own special way.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You work well with ideas that have the potential to create fascinating possibilities. How you feel and what you do will greatly change many peoples' sense of what they can do, too. Respond positively to a call that could involve travel. Tonight: Relish the moment.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will enjoy spending time with your sweetie or a dear friend, and it will seem as though neither of you has a care in the world. You are optimistic and willing to take a financial risk. Just make sure that you can handle a backfire. Tonight: Have a cozy dinner for two.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

