

Peanuts



Your Birthday today:

Discipline is required if you plan to shorten your to-do list. Dedication, loyalty and responsibility for your accomplishments and happiness will ensure you reach your target. Embrace uncertainty as a chance to begin again or to replace what's no longer working for you with something new and exciting. Take ownership of your life and make things happen.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) --

Control your emotions to avoid a clash with a friend or relative. Be a good listener and take responsibility for your actions and promises. It's time to pare things down and to streamline.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Find

out all you can. Being well-informed will help you take control of whatever situation you encounter. Don't let someone's uncertainty leave you in a quandary. Be decisive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) --

Work to stay focused on your goals. Take the high road, regardless of what others do. Change to only what's necessary and stick to a budget you can afford. Don't take a risk with your health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) --

Keep your life simple and your plans and promises doable. Have a plan and budget in place, and be willing to do the work yourself. Walk away from temptation, ludicrous schemes and pushy people.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) --

Know what you want before getting into a discussion with someone who doesn't share your opinion or wants to discourage you. Doing what's right is what matters at the end of the day. Live and learn.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) --

Emotional situations will surface when dealing with shared responsibilities or finances. Take the initiative to put a plan in place. Personal improvements are in your best interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) --

Share only what's necessary. If you give someone too much personal information, they will use it against you. Be a good listener and deliver what you promise. Speak the truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) --

Change your surroundings to accommodate what you want to pursue. Hard work will bring the rewards you desire. Don't slack off when it's time to give your all. Don't fall prey to indulgence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) --

Put your ideas to good use. Stop dreaming and start doing. A change will trigger insight into what you need to do to reach your goal. Take the initiative and refuse to let anyone derail your plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) --

You'll face an uphill battle if you let someone manipulate you emotionally. Concentrate on what makes sense and will bring you the highest returns. Your happiness depends on you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) --

Rethink your strategy, revisit the past and use your experience to guide you in the right direction. Refuse to get caught up in a social frenzy that can cost you financially or emotionally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) --

You know what's best for you, so do what must be done and don't look back. Put your heart and soul into your home and family, and build a life that brings you joy. Share something special with a loved one.

Hagar The Horrible



DEAR ABBY

Advice written by
Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: Our house burned down a year ago, and we lost everything. My husband, "Jeff," tried desperately to get to our 2-year-old daughter, but she perished in the fire. I managed to get our 3-year-old son out while he was trying to save our daughter. Jeff ended up in a burn unit on a ventilator for nine days because he burned his lungs. When he was released from the hospital, things got worse.

We lived with my mom and stepdad for a bit until we found a place, but as soon as Jeff got home, he started hitting me and calling me a cheating slut. We have been together 20 years, and I have been faithful. If I go to the store or to run errands, he gets mad at me for being gone a little too long. If I try to explain what held me up, it's automatically because I'm cheating, but Jeff feels he can leave and be gone for hours, and it's OK for him.

I love him, but I can't take it anymore. When our son acts out and starts being mean to me, Jeff tells him to respect me, but I think to myself, "How can you tell him to respect me when you don't?" Abby, please help me. -- SO LOST IN THE EAST

DEAR SO LOST: The fire and tragic death of your daughter has done more damage to your husband than sear his lungs. It has also taken an emotional toll. It is important that you no longer allow him to take out his anger and frustration with himself on you.

If you have any power at all in your relationship, insist he seek help from a licensed mental health professional. If he refuses, you cannot remain married to him because his physical and emotional abuse may continue to escalate, and seeing it will affect your son.

Have an escape plan in place before you confront him. A safe way to formulate one would be to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is 800-799-7233 and the website is thehotline.org. Do it NOW.

DEAR ABBY: My high school friend returns to our hometown once or twice a year. Her last several visits were exhausting. She talked about herself for hours without asking one question about my life. She objectifies men and calls people weak for expressing their emotions.

Our friendship has been a long one. I went to her wedding and did the flowers for her dad's funeral. But the more I understand myself, the more I see how toxic she is for me. I have reached the hard realization that I no longer want to be around her. I don't like who she is or how she makes me feel.

I would like us to simply drift apart, but she can be a bully. When I have tried to be unavailable, she has bullied me into seeing her anyway. My partner says I need to break up with her, but I don't want to hurt her or have a confrontation. How can I gracefully exit this relationship?

-- STRESSED IN THE WEST

DEAR STRESSED: There may not be a graceful way to exit from a relationship with a bully. Ask yourself which would be worse: telling her exactly what you have written to me, or allowing yourself to be steamrolled into another exhausting and frustrating encounter with her. Once you have the answer to that question, you will know exactly what to do, which may start with blocking her number.

Shoe



Garfield



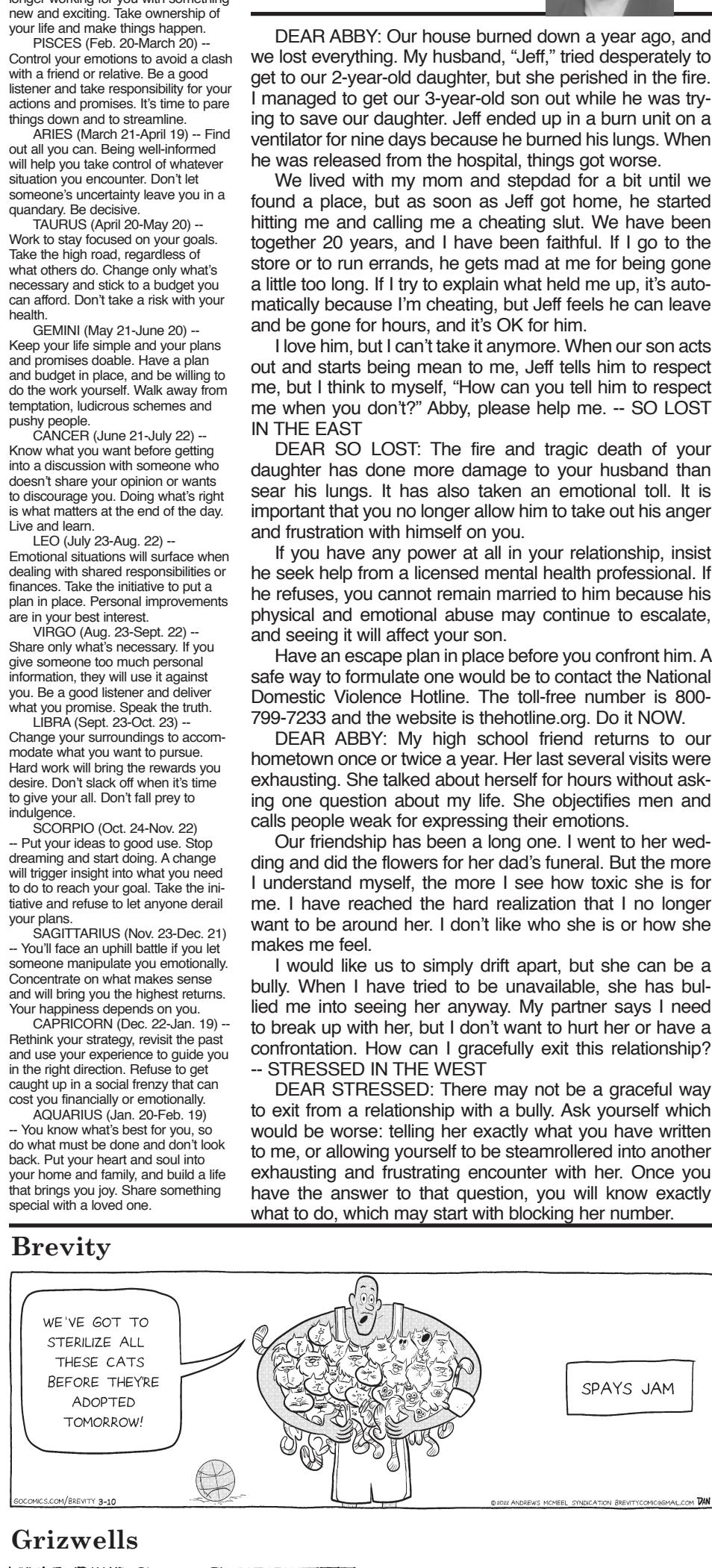
Frank and Ernest



Blondie



Brevity



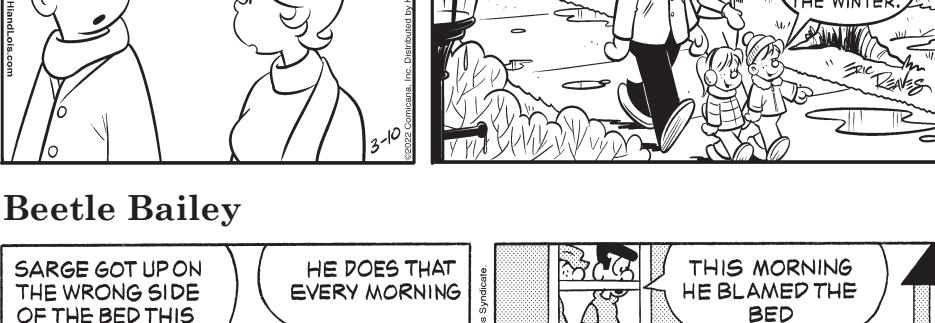
Snuffy Smith



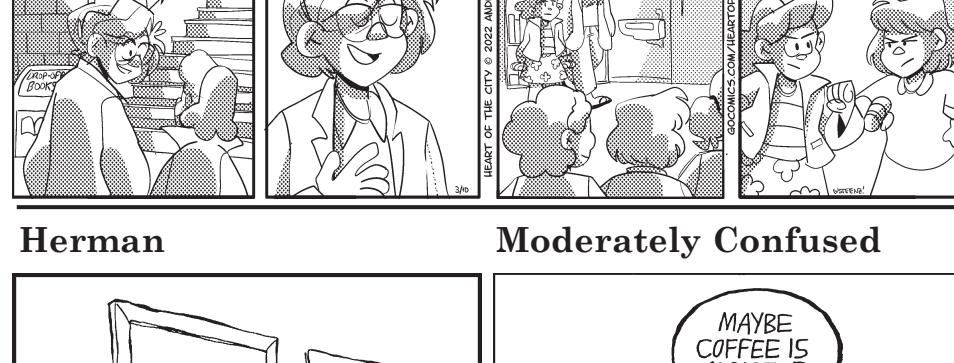
Grizwells



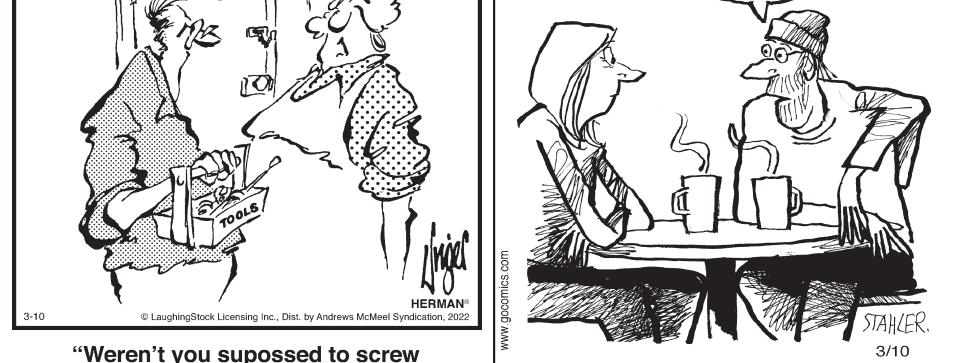
Hi and Lois



Heart of the City



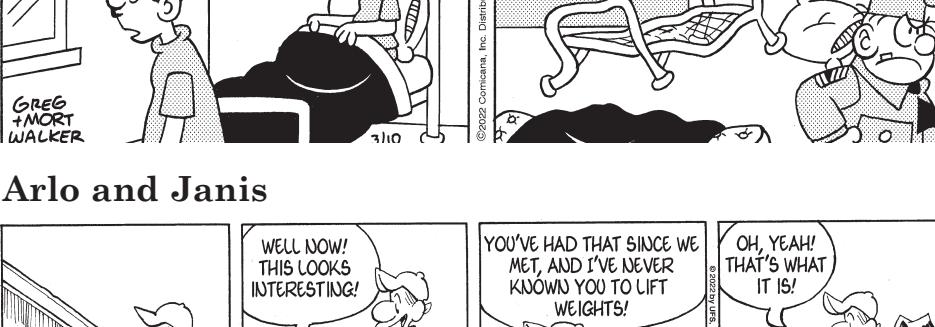
Herman



Moderately Confused



Beetle Bailey



Born Loser



Arlo and Janis

