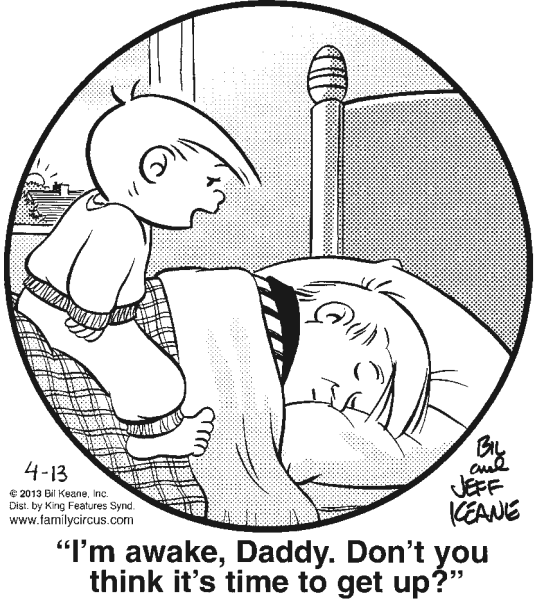


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



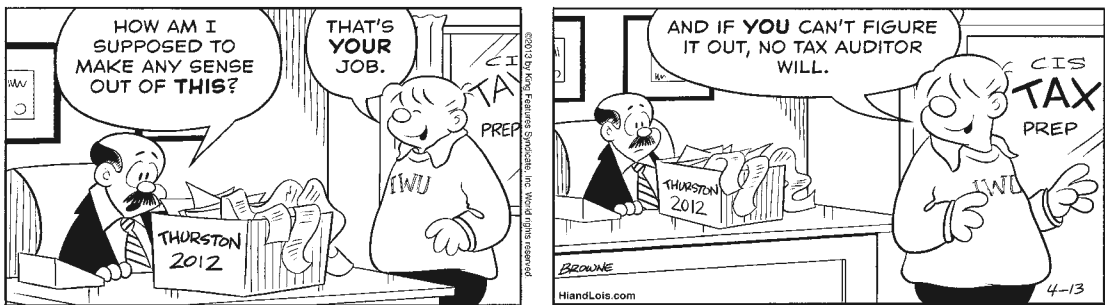
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Teen Girl Resists Conforming To Adults' Expectations

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl. I don't understand why adults tell me to be an independent thinker, to embrace myself, and then put me down for not conforming. Why is it outrageous to come to your own conclusions, speculate, challenge accepted ideas or find your own faith? It would be easier to quietly nod an empty head and smile to please our parents and the adults who influence kids, so they can enjoy superficial satisfaction for how "well" they have raised us.

Should I deny myself as an individual and be pulled along, or is it better to stay quiet and just be who everyone expects you to be? — INDEPENDENT THINKER IN FLORIDA

DEAR INDEPENDENT THINKER: Independent thinkers are the people who have contributed the most to society. Our most important scientific discoveries were conceived by individuals who chose not to accept conventional thinking. The same is true for religion — Jesus was an independent thinker. I'm not sure what kind of conversation you feel the adults in your life are trying to discourage. But people who are deeply committed to their religious faith can feel offended or threatened if their beliefs are challenged. Even though you are an independent thinker, you should be respectful of the beliefs of others.

DEAR ABBY: Around the time of my sister's wedding, she and her fiance, "Greg," tried to get me and their best man, "Bruce," together. They brought him along when they would visit and encouraged us to date. Not long after the wedding we did start dating.

Bruce is a great guy and I enjoy being with him. My problem is, he's my brother-in-law's nephew even though they are close in age. (Bruce's mom is Greg's half sister.)

Am I dating a family member? Are we committing

incest? Should we end this relationship? I don't know what is "right." — WEIRDED OUT IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WEIRDED OUT: Bruce is not a blood relative; he is related to you by marriage. That is not the same as incest. If you care about each other, the right thing to do is continue the relationship and see where it leads. "Great guys" can make great husbands.

DEAR ABBY: My husband fathered a child in high school that was placed for adoption. His mother has become very close with the adoptive family and visits often. My husband does not. However, my mother-in-law constantly asks him to go on vacation with her to visit the child. I also found out that she sends the child gifts and signs my husband's name on the cards.

Abby, I feel this is hugely disrespectful not only to me, but also to my husband. He has chosen not to get involved with this child because he doesn't think it's fair to the adoptive family. He also doesn't wish to become attached. We have already told her she is overstepping her boundaries, but it continues to happen. What can we do? — FRUSTRATED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your mother-in-law may have the best of intentions, but forging your husband's name is dishonest. Sooner or later the child will find out the truth, and the result may be painful. However, there is nothing you can do to control your husband's mother's behavior, so accept it and don't take it personally.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 Aries and a Moon in Taurus if born before 7:13 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013:

This year you attract many people, but you will have a low tolerance for anyone who is superficial. You enjoy learning and exchanging ideas, as long as it's on your terms. A key friend adds confusion to your life. Maintain a sense of humor, and understand that this behavior is just temporary. If you are single, your wit and charisma attract many people. You might not want to settle in with anyone right away. If you are attached, the two of you share secrets and laugh together more often. Be sure to nurture your positive ties. GEMINI can be confusing to be around. 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 tell it like it is; however, sometimes, when you're discussing an idea, others have a difficult time conceptualizing your words. Work on your clarity, and brainstorm with an honest friend about the notion in question. You need feedback. Tonight: Hang out with good friends.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You'll hear news that initially might seem disconcerting. As you get all the facts, you could realize that the message is distorted. Lighten up, as the news most likely is not even that bad. Avoid overthinking or getting lost in your thoughts. Tonight: Treat someone to a favorite dessert.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Your personality speaks for itself. Others love to share ideas and brainstorm. In a discussion, you might realize that you forgot an important message. Try to clarify it in your mind. Know that luck is on your side -- you do not need to take a risk. Tonight: As you like it.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★ You are not intentionally trying to hide something -- you simply are letting your mind drift off to yonder lands with the help of your active imagination. If you can become more present, do. You will get more done, and you'll also free up some time for yourself. Tonight: Be discreet.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Zero in on a particular goal or desire, espe-

cially if you are with the right people to make this opportunity happen. You have a friend who is very lucky for you. Share more with this person, as he or she sees life differently from you. Tonight: Love is in the air.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds to check in on an older relative or loved one. Once you connect, you'll recognize how easy it would be to do this more often. A close friend might not be as confident as you might like him or her to be. Confirm plans and meeting times. Tonight: On center stage.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Keep reaching out to others. You might be confused by someone's reaction. If you stop and think about it, you'll see that you have been misreading this person for a while. Pull back a bit, and try approaching him or her with new ideas. Tonight: Go for something different.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Spend the day with a friend or loved one. Do something that you both enjoy, or indulge him or her in some special way. Unique opportunities generally come from this person. Be clear when it comes to distinguishing fantasy from reality. Tonight: Dinner for two.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Defer to others. You probably have plans involving a loved one or a special pastime. Make sure that you are on the same page as others. Confirm meeting times and places, if need be. Allow yourself to be a lot sillier than usual. Tonight: Make it a perfect night!

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Dive into a project. Refuse to get upset at news -- it could be slightly off or distorted. Trust that the details could change the whole story. Your imagination takes a conversation to an even deeper level. Listen to news with openness, if it comes from a roommate or family member. Tonight: Out late.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

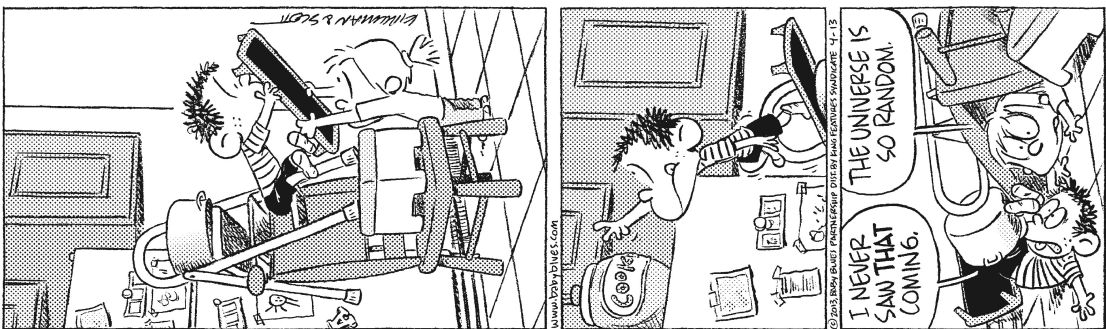
★★★★★ Your humor and lightheartedness come into play when dealing with others. You seem to be able to sort through what is no longer constructive and what still holds potential. Encourage a discussion, and you will be able to clear up a problem. Tonight: Ever playful.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

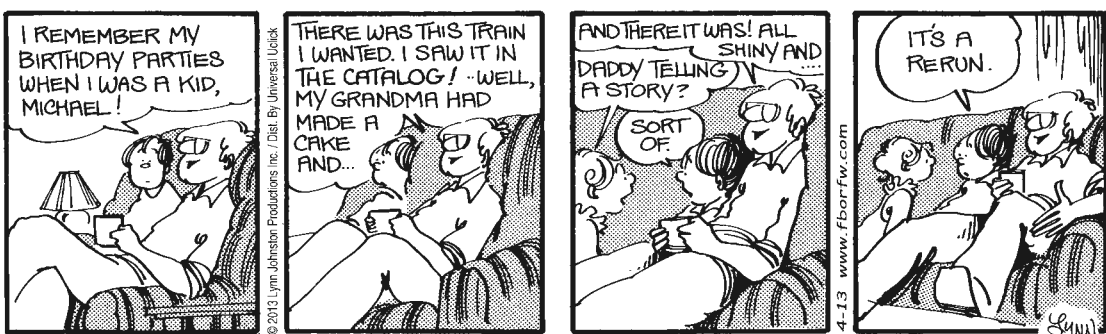
★★★ Tension is very high, but it allows greater give-and-take. Your sense of humor emerges when you understand how others see you. A family member is especially lucky for you. Reach out to this person for his or her advice. Tonight: Make sure that plans are intact.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

