

"Can I have waffles instead? I like my pancakes with bumps."



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN







FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ







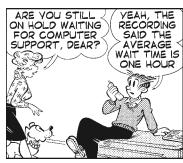


DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS





BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



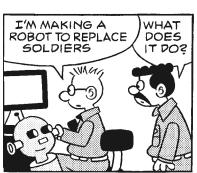




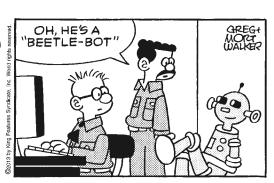
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER







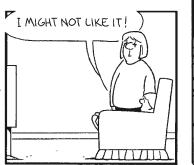
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM





If Three's A Crowd, Then Five **Is A Guarantee Of Misery**

DEAR ABBY

■ Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

Abigail Van Buren, also

and was founded by her

mother, Pauline Phillips.

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Write Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am frustrated and angry over a situation that should be fun and happy. My husband, "Rick," and I are planning a trip with our two children next month. We will visit family while we are there, but they don't have room for us to stay in

their home. Rick wants to bring his mother with us. It will be a tight fit in our car, but I don't have a problem with that. What bothers me is that Rick wants her to stay

with us in our hotel room. I am a very private person. I have a problem sharing such close quarters with her. There is NO privacy in a hotel

I offered to get two rooms, but he feels I am being unreasonable. I feel three adults plus two children is a lot to

pack into a small hotel room. AM I being unreasonable? Or should I just accept it and deal with being miserable? — FRUSTRATED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Although there may be exceptions, as a general rule, adults need their privacy. Frankly, I am surprised your mother-in-law would be willing to go along with such an arrangement. This is a vacation, and you should not be miserable when you're supposed to be enjoying it.

A better solution would be to get two rooms, and the children should bunk with their grandmother. That way you and your husband could enjoy some private time together.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for seven years. We have no children together, but he has two young children from a previous relationship whom I have been raising as my own. They call me "Mom," but they know I'm not their biological mother. Their mother has not contacted them — or cared to since the younger one was just months old.

My fear is now that the kids are getting older, they may want to form a relationship with her later on. I don't want to seem selfish, but they are MY kids. Any mom. How should I handle this when that time comes?

DREADING THE FUTURE IN ARIZONA DEAR DREADING THE FUTURE: It is natural for children to want to know who their bio-

logical parents are; that's the reason adoption records are no longer sealed. You appear to fear that your boyfriend's ex-girlfriend will want to swoop in and steal your maternal spotlight. From all indications, it's not the case; you are the only mother they

If the children want information about their birth mother, the truth should not be kept from them. Meeting her does not guarantee they will love you any less. Worrying about it is selfdefeating.

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol for in-person conversations vs. phone interruptions (either via text or call)? When talking with someone, I feel it's rude for the other individual to respond to voice or text messages. Can't people take a break long enough to actually have a real LIVE conversation? How do other readers handle this? Do they walk away? Patiently wait? Or speak up? — TECHNOLOGICALLY

OVERLOADED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OVERLOADED: The best approach is the direct approach. Tell the person, "I wish you wouldn't do that."

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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ACQUELINE 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 Taurus and a Moon in

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013:

This year you breeze through your daily activities with ease. You are remarkably flexible, which surprises many people. Communication becomes an even higher priority, and you see the advantage of this skill when buying a car or some other big-ticket item. Wait until summer before considering this purchase. If you are single, someone has a crush on you. Look around. This person could be very special to you. If you are attached, make a point of going out to dinner or having a picnic together with just the two

of you. CANCER taps into your moods.

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 make quite an impression on someone. If this person has any preconceived impressions or judgments about you, they will slip away as your authentic self emerges. Your self-esteem might be boosted by his or her

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You might rock the boat, which is something you usually try not to do. A new perspective results from discussing a changeable situation. An associate or a loved one could become even more withdrawn. Tonight: At a favorite place with favorite people.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

** You might not want to reveal all of your thoughts about a key partnership, as you could realize how many changes you have gone through with the other party involved, both professionally and personally. Make a solid decision with this knowledge. Tonight: Indulge.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

*** You have the backing of friends. For the most part, you can do no wrong; however, there always seems to be someone who likes being contentious. You could have your hands full, so you are likely to avoid being

wherever this person is. Tonight: Do your own thing! LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You are inclined to dive into work and get as much done as possible. You might have a new approach to a situation. Let others feel free to comment. Though

you might not agree with every idea, you could with many. Resist a squabble if possible. Tonight: Keep it light.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Conversations with you often come up cold or not direct, especially at this present time. Establish limits. A loved one shows unusual caring, allowing you to relax and/or come up with some creative solutions. Encourage suggestions and feedback. Tonight: Happy as a

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22) ★★★ You can't seem to gain sufficient control in a

certain situation. Someone around you is particularly creative, so it would be wise to ask this person for his or her advice. You are lucky to have this resource. Tonight: Head home, but encourage a discussion with a dear loved one.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

*** You seem to pick the right words to get a situation moving. Understand that you can be more dominant than you currently are. It is hard for you to give up control, but you might want to make an effort to step back more often. Tonight: Think before you act or have a discussion.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You are your own worst critic. You might want to open up to others' ideas and share more of what you experience personally. You are surrounded by a great deal of compassion. For today, surround yourself with people whom you care a lot about. Tonight: Treat a friend to din-

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Listen to news more responsively. You are capable of opening someone up who might be closed down right now. You know how to persuade this person to share his or her feelings, provided you do so in a safe place. Use care with a grumpy boss. Tonight: Let the party

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Be careful with someone you meet today for the first time, as this person might not be everything that he or she claims to be. His or her words will reveal much if you take the time to listen. Work together toward a resolution. Tonight: Try to take a break from the hectic pace.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Touch base with someone at a distance. Your feeling will change once you start having an open discussion. You might feel as if someone is making a problem far more complicated than it needs to be. Others could be distracted. Tonight: Focus on getting your to-do list fin-

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON









MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

