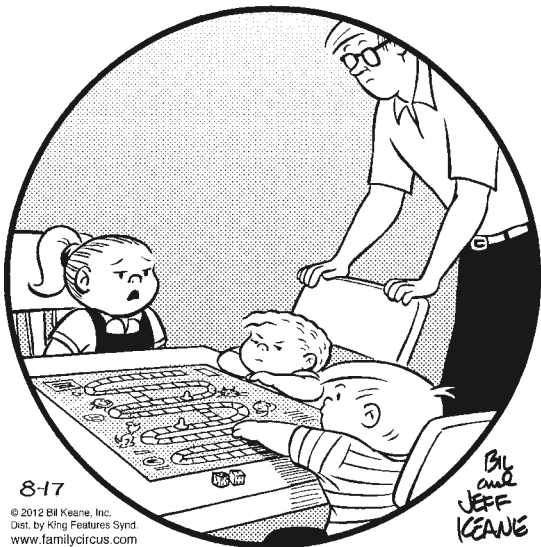


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



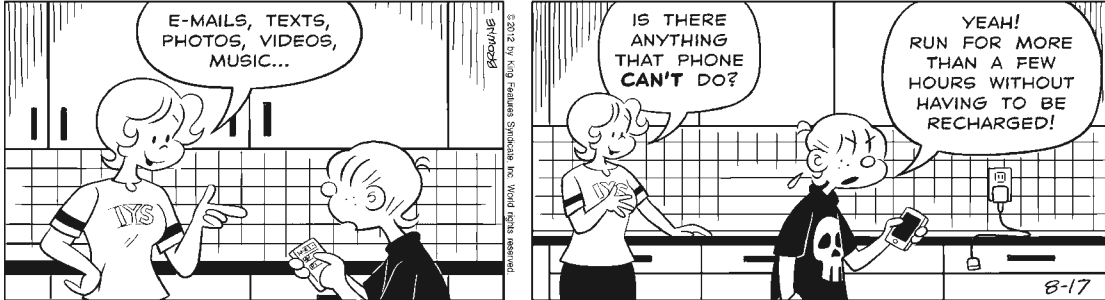
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Crush On Teacher Troubles Student Headed For College

DEAR ABBY: I'm a male who has graduated from high school and is about to start college in another state. I'm ready for a new challenge. The only thing holding me back is a romantic attraction I have toward one of my high school teachers.

He and I are best friends, but I love him more than as a friend. I have bought him many meals and gifts since he taught me, and I have found every opportunity available to be with him. I'm not sure if he's aware of my feelings, although I wonder whether I unconsciously make myself obvious. Regardless, we have a great relationship. It kills me inside to know I can never be with him.

I have never told anyone how I feel, and I know if I ever told him, it would destroy everything we have. I can't forget about him. He's on my mind constantly. Having to leave him soon is killing me. Do you have any advice for me? — DREADING IT IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DREADING IT: Yes. Go away to college and open yourself to new experiences and relationships. Correspond with this special person, and when you return for school breaks, continue the friendship. Your feelings may or may not be reciprocated, but it is important that you let some time — years — elapse before trying to pursue anything closer with him. If you don't wait, it could be damaging to his career.

DEAR ABBY: Last Saturday, two days before my 75th birthday, I did something very uncharacteristic of me. I went to a tattoo parlor 25 miles away and had a flower put on my right buttock. I don't intend to tell anyone. It was my birthday present to myself.

This was not a spur-of-the-moment impulse. I have told my husband many times that if I made it to 75, I might celebrate it with a tattoo. He just laughed it off. No one in our family has one, and in the past, I

have been critical of them. But this one does not show.

Now I have to find a way to tell my husband. He has an explosive temper that goes on and on, and he never drops an issue — ever. I need advice, and soon. Help me, will you? — SITTING ON A SECRET

DEAR SITTING ON A SECRET: How do you know you are the first in your family to get a tattoo? If someone else also got one in a place that doesn't show, would they have told you after you told everyone you didn't like tattoos?

You can't hide this from your husband forever, so don't try. If he reacts badly, remind him that the buttock with the flower belongs to YOU and that at 75, you're a big girl who didn't need anyone else's consent.

Now it's time to give yourself another birthday present: Refuse to listen to your husband's verbal abuse, and you'll be much happier.

DEAR ABBY: What are you supposed to do when you are sitting in a salon having your hair cut and styled, and the next appointment shows up early and engages your stylist in nonstop conversation?

My wife says this happens often in beauty parlors and I should suck it up. I wanted the stylist's full attention so I could get a good haircut. She's not cheap. Am I right? What would you do? — PERPLEXED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: For the stylist to carry on an ongoing conversation with the next customer was unprofessional. If it happened to me, I would take my stylist aside and explain my feelings.

For the next customer to monopolize the stylist's attention was rude. The person should have been asked to sit somewhere and make him- or herself comfortable until you were finished.

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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 and Moon in Leo if born before 5:33 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG.17, 2012:

This year marks a new beginning in your life, and you feel as if nothing can stop you. Use this powerful time to manifest a key desire or long-term goal. Your ability to focus defines your success. If you are single, you certainly will be noticed. Sometimes you overspend in an effort to impress others. Be your authentic self, and you could meet someone significant to your life history. If you are attached, the two of you might have very different approaches to reaching your goals. You'll learn not only to respect, but also to help each other achieve what he or she wants. **VIRGO** can be intrusive about your finances. 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)

★★★★ Your spunk comes out no matter what you do right now. Your humor and grace appeal to many people; however, use these traits with care. If you're out and about, complete errands first in order to have some free time later. Tonight: Out with pals you see often.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Your focus is on home and perhaps an emotional or financial investment in a property or domestic matter. You might be too serious as you look at the pluses and minuses of this situation. Lighten up by choosing a fun activity or spending time with a child. Tonight: Get loosened up for the weekend.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep communication flowing, and know what is necessary to accomplish what you want. It would be easier with more support. A child or particular situation rains on your parade and throws some heaviness into the moment. Tonight: Home is where the action is.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Balance your budget before you make any decisions to spend more money. You need to tame the wild-spending child within that sometimes comes out. A late-afternoon discussion brings new information forward. Tonight: Let the discussion continue.

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

★★★★ Make the extra effort to understand an unhappy friend or somber situation. You can say everything

you want, but you cannot change the prevailing mood. At this point, resolutions have momentum. Do not hesitate to verbalize more of your desires. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

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

HHH Enjoy a short period of being in the background, where you can ponder and observe what is happening. Before you know it, you must take a proactive stance. Make sure that you are very clear as to the ramifications of heading in a certain direction. Tonight: The world is your oyster ... finally.

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

★★★★ You get through a situation quickly with certainty and direction. You also have style and determination. Just the same, you see a matter differently from and perhaps even a bit more negatively than others. Open up to new possibilities. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

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

★★★★ Others bend — with some difficulty — to your way of thinking. You might feel some resistance from someone, but ultimately this, too, will pass. Bring others together toward the end of the day. You just might be able to celebrate. Tonight: The more, the merrier.

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

★★★★ An overview helps you gain understanding. You might not be ready to take the lead just yet. Realize the opportunities that lie in the near future. Make a call to someone at a distance to discuss plans for the short term. Tonight: You might be more visible than you would like.

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

★★★★ Reach out for someone you care about, and do more listening. You could be challenged by someone who considers him- or herself to be your supervisor. Sometimes you are overwhelmed by all the demands that surround you. Tonight: Loosen up to good music.

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

★★★★ Others come toward you. Clearly they know what they want and will ask you for exactly that. Honor who you are, and ask for more feedback. One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. Tonight: Go for togetherness.

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

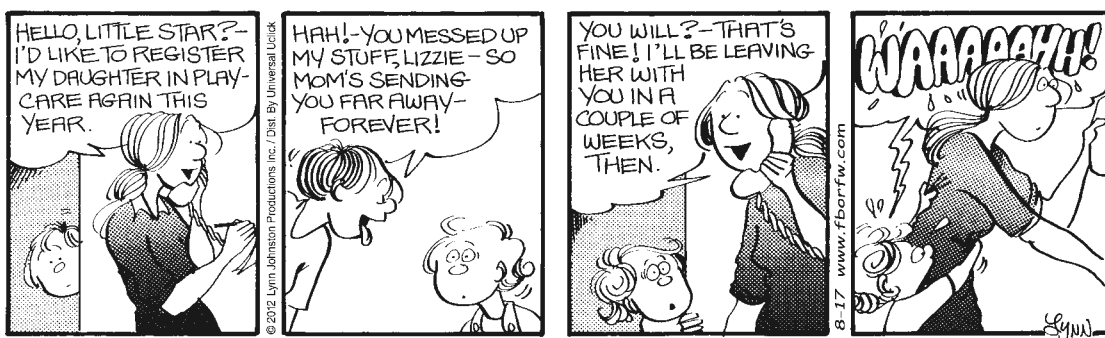
★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by what remains on your plate. Dig in, and get as much done as possible. You will show the results of a hard day's work, and you will be even happier to greet the evening. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

