

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"August has five weekends this year. That means we get to take a really long vacation."

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

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This lawyer has been

injured! Does anyone

speak legalese?!

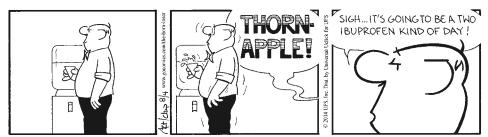
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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Fear Of The Future Paralyzes Woman Who Wants Children

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married, 26year-old female with just one problem: I'm afraid to have children.

I have always wanted children, and it's something my husband and I often discuss. Anytime we are asked when we plan to start our family, we always say four to five years, but we have been saying this same thing for four years. I always thought I'd be ready by now.

My husband has been very sick for the past few years and had to take time off work. We were able to scrape by on my salary, but it was tough. He returned to work recently and is fine. But now all I can think about is how much children cost, and I'm afraid we'll never have enough money to have a baby.

I also worry about what if our child would be killed in an accident, molested or kidnapped! I ask myself why anyone would want to bring children into such a scary world, yet I still want them. Please help me. I am very upset and don't know what to do. - UNCER-TÂIN IN TULSA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: I understand your con-cerns and they are valid. Having children is an act of faith as well as an investment in the future.

If you think about it, life itself is a gamble. Mature individuals do everything they can to keep the odds in their favor. They work hard, live healthy lives, buy insurance, start an education fund for their children, etc. There are no guarantees — but people keep having children anyway.

Because you feel stuck in making this decision, it would be helpful to discuss your concerns with a licensed mental health professional who can help you put your fears to rest.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old mother of a 5-year-old girl. I have been dating "Mack" for two years. Everything was great at first,

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 Leo and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 4, 2014:

This year you will want to take a leap of faith more often. You are in a year of expansion and good luck, but be aware of the possibility of encountering a problem. Arguments can surround your home and domestic life if you hold on to grievances. Let go, and respect others' differences. If you are single, you could meet someone of signifi-cance in the next 12 months. Depending on your stage in life, a commitment could emerge. If you are attached, the two of you need to learn not to act on negative thoughts, and you also need to trust each other more often. SCORPIO is even

more stubborn than you are. 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)

 $\star \star \star$ You know you have a great idea, but the feedback you get could be negative. Try to present but when I moved in with him things changed.

I don't have a car right now. I work less than a mile away, so I walk mostly and don't

mind. The problem is, when Mack gets off work, he picks up his son and goes straight home. He doesn't call or text me to ask where I am, or drive by to see where my child and I are walking. When I arrive home, I'll find his son watching TV and Mack doing something else.

I keep telling him I need respect. What would you do if you were in my shoes? Temperatures are in the mid-90s here in the summer, and it can get to you when you're walking. — UPSET MAMA IN TEXAS

DEAR UPSET: If you haven't ASKED Mack to pick you up when he leaves

work so you're not stuck in the blazing heat — with your child, yet — you should. That he wouldn't think of it himself shows not only a lack of consideration for your feelings but also for your little girl's welfare.

Because his behavior has changed since you started living with him. consider this change to be a red flag. If things don't improve, start looking for other living arrangements for you and your daughter because it appears you and Mack do better when you're not cohabiting.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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could be more deeply ingrained in your mind than you realize. Free yourself up and extend the weekend. You will like taking a break from your routine more often. Tonight: Enjoy a special dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Of all the signs, you know how important it is to communicate with excellence. Do yourself a favor and work on your communication skills to learn a variety of styles. Honor a decision to change how you relate to one particular person. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might choose to be more forthright about a financial matter, but later, you could decide that it isn't wise to be that open. If you have doubts, hold back and check out the people you are dealing with more carefully. Do research regarding an investment. Tonight: Order in.

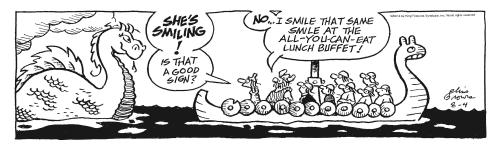
SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You can choose to hold back, but you could make others feel uncomfortable. Instead, you might want to open up a conversation and share more of your thoughts. Try to be forthright and trusting with the people who are permanent fixtures in your life. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You know when to lie low and simply lis-

HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS







it again using a different method. You might think that someone is not supporting you, but you will be wrong. The attitude you detect has little to do with you. Tonight: Make it cozy.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Others dominate, and you'll have a difficult time putting in your two cents. You might feel as if you have jumped a hurdle with a loved one. You could be wondering if that is really true, especially since old patterns are hard to stop. Be patient. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You speak, and others respond. You could discover that others will take a leap of faith when you explain the problem with continuing certain habits. A respected person in your life will dominate the scene, as he or she has a strong sixth sense. Tonight: Get some exercise.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ When you see a hassle, you tackle it. You will feel especially thankful when you see how well you can adapt to different situations. A surprise makes its way toward you. Express your caring through a thoughtful little gift. Tonight: Ignore the fact that it's Monday night!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might want to use today to handle a personal matter. The list of what must be done

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

ten to your inner voice. You might not realize just how important it is to follow your gut. Politely back out of a situation where you feel awkward and maybe not in touch with a key person or persons. Tonight: Go for some extra zzz's.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might decide not to waste any more mental thought on a goal or project. You simply will need to leap in and make what you want a reality. If you decide to head in that direction, you will be nearly unstoppable. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ For whatever reason, you might feel as if the weight of the world is on your shoulders. You will meet your responsibilities, but you might want to say "no" with greater frequency. Think about your vision of your life, and then make a decision. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Reach out to someone you care about whom you seem to have less and less communication with. Honor what is necessary to complete, and then free yourself up to spend some quality time with this person. A last-minute trip could be in the making. Tonight: Use your imagination!

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MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

