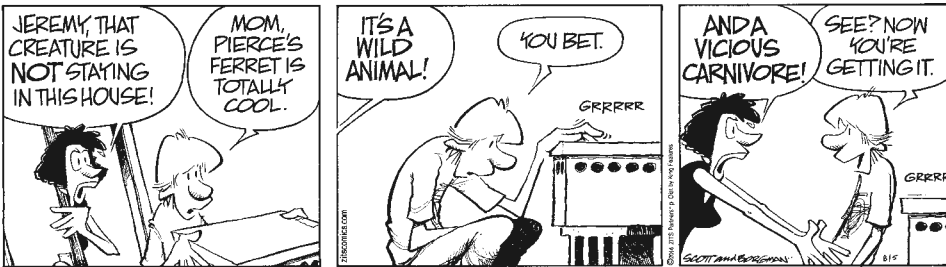


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



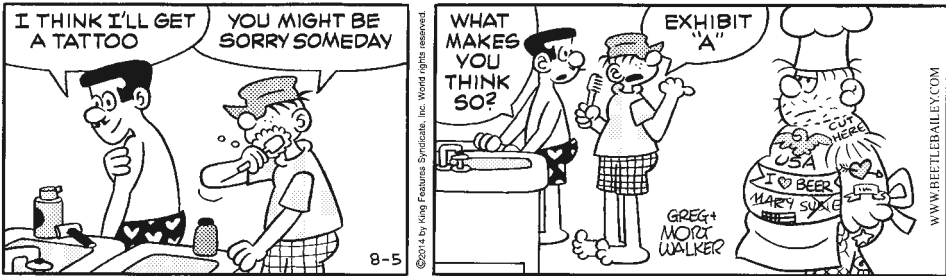
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



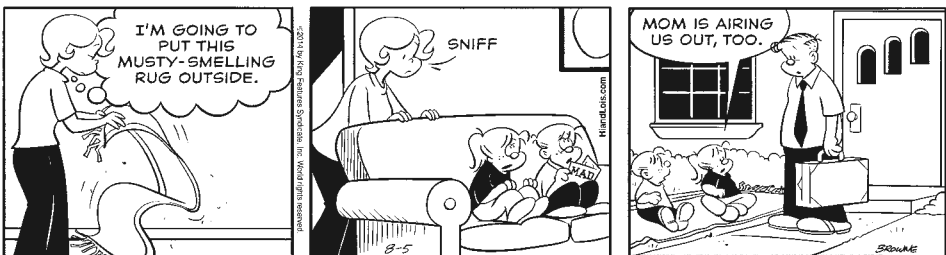
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



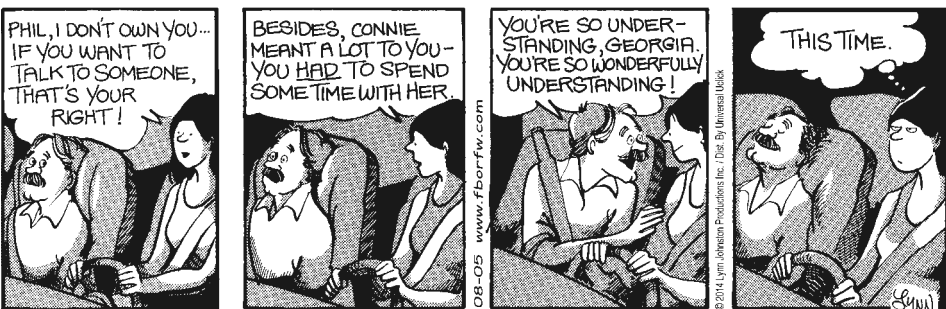
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Tread Carefully When Naming Baby After Deceased Relative

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol for naming a baby after a deceased person? If the name you want to use is a deceased family member's name, do we ask his next of kin for approval? Do we say nothing? Is it assumed that people who wish to use someone's name when naming their child should seek permission (whether the person is living or dead)?

Obviously, some people will use the name regardless of being granted a blessing or not, but I'm wondering what is appropriate in this situation. — PREGNANT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR PREGNANT: In the Jewish faith, it is traditional for a baby to be named for a deceased parent or grandparent — or at least given a name with the same first initial. However, if the person who died was a child of a close relative, I can see how that could be very painful for the parents who lost their child.

The appropriate thing to do would be to first have a conversation with the surviving family member(s) to be sure it will be considered the honor it is intended to be and not open fresh wounds. If it would cause pain, perhaps the expectant parents should consider making the name of the deceased their baby's middle name instead of first name.

DEAR ABBY: During my teens, I was diagnosed with depression and institutionalized following a suicide attempt. Depression is something I live with daily. Unfortunately, my parents and siblings have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy when it comes to anything that may stir up emotions. I feel that it's detrimental to my well-being.

My doctor has suggested cutting my family out of my life. Dealing with them gives me great anxiety. My mother is a master manipulator who denies my suicide attempt ever happened, and I'm afraid she will tell my extended family members (many of whom I

have relationships with) that I have "abandoned the family."

No one outside my immediate family knows about my depression or suicide attempt, and I feel I may be forced to reveal that very private part of my life in order to defend my actions. I don't know what to do. — RELUCTANT TO REVEAL

DEAR RELUCTANT TO REVEAL: I think you should follow your doctor's advice and not be intimidated. You have an illness — depression — that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is shared by about 9 percent of our population. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

Because you're afraid of what your mother will say, explain to those relatives you feel close to what you need to do and the reasons for it. I can't guarantee that some of them won't take sides, but I'm sure not all of them will. Sadly, not all families are functional. Not all parents are good parents, and some of them are toxic.

P.S. Because your struggle with depression is ongoing, I hope you are still under the care of a psychotherapist. If you're not, please consider it.

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Leo and a Moon in Scorpio if born before 6:19 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 5, 2014:

This year no one can say you are not creative and dynamic. Some people see you as a solution person. In your personal life, your creativity and adventurous personality mix well. You always seem to have something going on or are in the midst of cooking up wonderful ideas. If you are single, your magnetism attracts others. Your ability to select the appropriate person for you emerges. You might go through several people before you find someone you feel comfortable with. If you are attached, you energize your significant other. Often you are like two kids off on adventure. As a couple, you find life to be exciting. A fellow LEO always tries to outshine you. 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)

***** Others might be taken aback by your energy. You seem to be nearly unstoppable. Good timing adds to your creative energies and increases the intensity that surrounds you. Many people would be hard-pressed to say "no" to you. Tonight: Use your imagination.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** Work with a loved one to get the results you desire. Listen to news with more of an open mind. If you become too set on having your way, you will encounter failure. If you are open to suggestions, you'll discover even more workable ideas. Tonight: Visit over dinner for two.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** You won't be dragging for long. By the afternoon, you could be crossing off one finished project after another from your to-do list. A respected elder or boss will be observing and admiring your abilities. The two of you will have a conversation soon. Tonight: Be a little more docile.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

***** Don't put off creative interactions for later in the day. You'll want to use the morning for that, when your charm levels are much higher. Complete as much as you can, and know when to go off and find a friend or two. Tonight: Get some exercise.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

***** You'll move past a hassle with ease

because of what someone reveals. Your creativity could point you in the wrong direction. Test out your thoughts on someone you respect. This person's feedback could be imperative. Tonight: Let your imagination lead the way.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

***** Be more direct, and follow through on what is needed. Financial availability will be critical in letting a family member know where you stand. You could get tired of the constant feedback and might not be able to pursue the course you want. Tonight: Spend time with good company.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

***** Your ability to express yourself emerges. You finally will get through to others. The response and support you get could be most gratifying. Share your ideas, and be willing to have them critiqued. Friends surround you, no matter which path you choose. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

***** You might be more forthright than you realize. Your imagination is likely to pique others' interest, which could result in a discussion. Look at what is happening within your immediate circle. Try to incorporate some practical insights. Tonight: Clear out some errands.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

***** In the afternoon, you might realize that what you want could fall into place with ease. Reveal more of your energy and thoughts, and you are likely to attract a lot of support and great ideas. You might want to chat with a friend. Tonight: Why not plan a weekend escape?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

***** Take news with a grain of salt. Listen to what others share. An idea that might appear to be frivolous could end up being worthwhile if you try to work with it. On some level, you could be taken by the wisdom of using this approach. Tonight: Only with someone you enjoy.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

***** Refuse to gossip about someone who might be disruptive to your plans. Let this person be, and try to understand his or her agenda. When the time is right, you can walk away. By that time, you will have learned a lot of important information. Tonight: Accept someone's invitation.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

***** You'll want to try a different approach for following through on a key issue. You always are imaginative, and you tend to mobilize your ideas well. Your effectiveness will be highlighted under the circumstances. Tonight: Out and about till the wee hours.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

