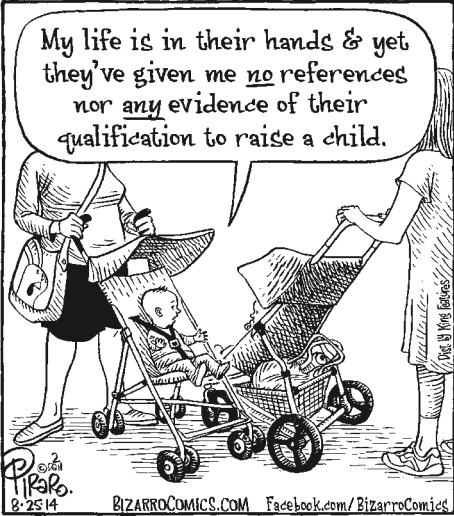


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



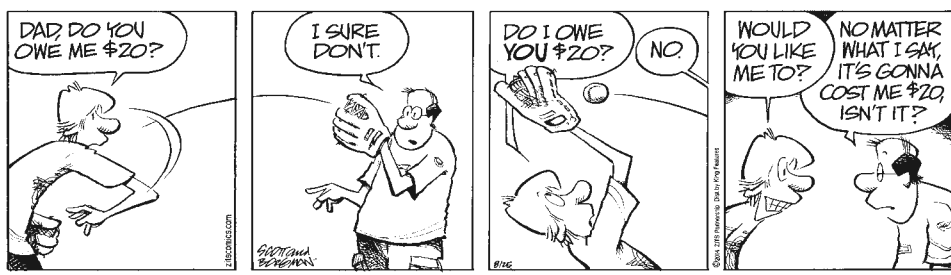
8-25
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www.familycircus.com
"When I say 'go,' I want you to do something cute so I can film you."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

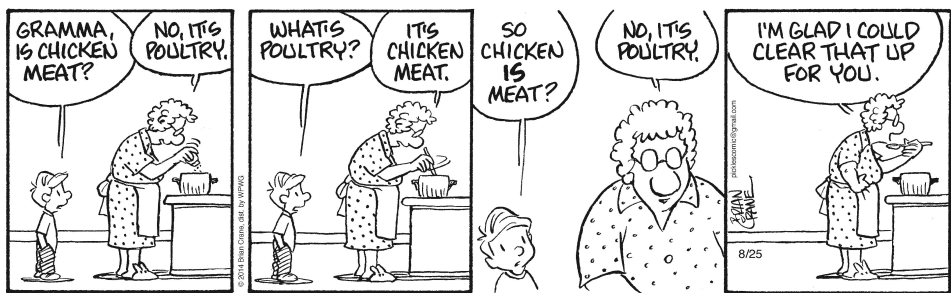


My life is in their hands & yet they've given me no references nor any evidence of their qualification to raise a child.

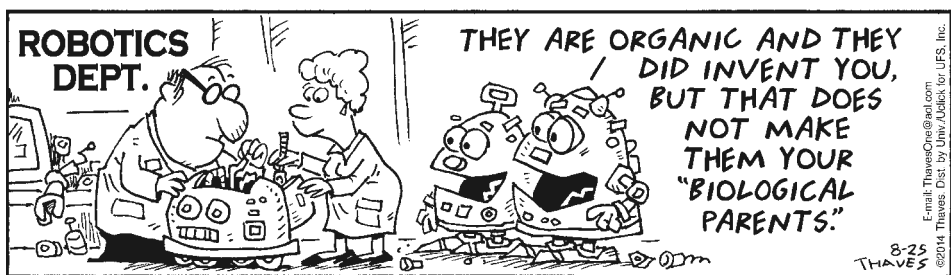
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



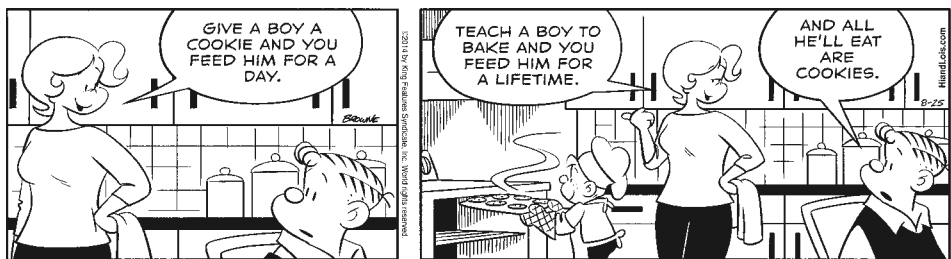
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



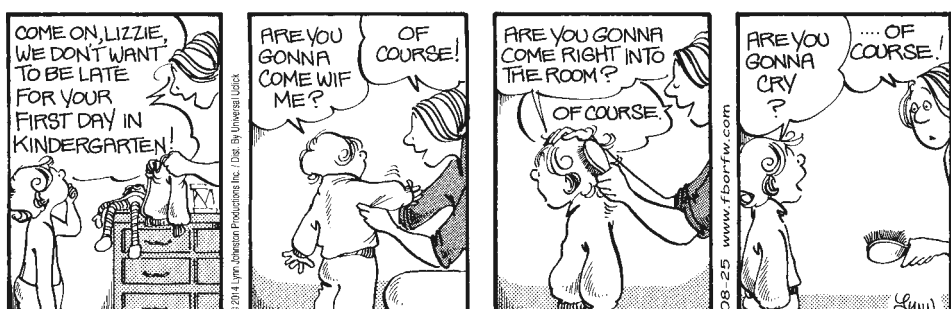
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



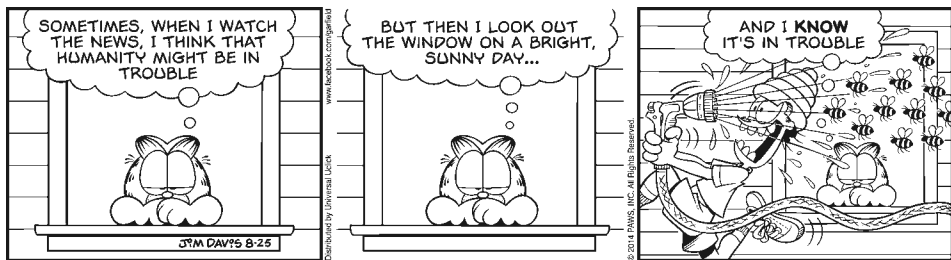
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Baby Adoption Will Leave Hole In Grandmother's Heart

DEAR ABBY: My teenaged daughter will be giving birth soon, and she has decided to place her baby for adoption. I have told her that whatever she decides, I will support her decision.

Here is the difficult part: This will still be my biological grandchild. When this beautiful child is lovingly handed over to the adoptive parents, I will be losing a grandchild. I am already in mourning.

Are there other grandparents out there who are going — or have gone — through this, and how are they coping? I already see a therapist, but I would still like to know how others are coping. — UN-GRANDPARENT IN OHIO

DEAR UN-GRANDPARENT: I wish you had told me more about the kind of adoption your daughter has chosen for her baby. If it is an open adoption in which she will be kept informed about the child's milestones and progress, ask the adoptive couple if they would welcome you as an "extra" grandparent for the child.

I will have to talk to my dad about it, because I know he was looking forward to it although we do NOT have a close relationship. I have lived on my own since I was 17. How do I communicate to him in an appropriate way that my daughter, who has been my family for the past six years, will walk me down the aisle and not him? — CONFUSED BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR CONFUSED: Because you aren't close to your father, this may not come as a shock to him. However, if he was asked to walk you down the aisle, he may be very hurt and it could cause a rift.

Be as diplomatic as possible when you break the news. Start by saying, "I was talking about the wedding with little 'Jennifer,' and she came up with an idea Jon and I think is adorable. Instead of being our flower girl, she wants to walk me down the aisle. We feel it would bring our little family even closer together. I hope you don't mind ..."



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a low-paying job and I am trying to see that he gets a better one, but each step I take he regards as pestering him. This has driven us apart from each other. It really hurts me because we are now like strangers living together. What do I do? — SAD WIFE IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

DEAR SAD WIFE: Change tactics. What you consider helpful encouragement may be regarded by your husband as constant nagging about a sore subject. Tell him you love him, didn't mean to pressure him — and if you see some ads seeking men with his skills that offer a higher salary, let him know about them. That's what I would do.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 25, 2014:

This year you open up to the possibility of letting go of what no longer works. You are one year away from starting a new life and luck cycle. In order to maximize the effect of this cycle, eliminate everything that doesn't add to your life. You then will be clear to allow new opportunities and people into your life. If you are single, you could meet someone who is emotionally unavailable. Take your time getting to know this person. If you are attached, the two of you love to go on weekend get-aways together; it adds to the glue between you and increases your emotional security. VIRGO can be very critical of 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)

Tap into your creativity when dealing with a willful associate. This person could be irrational, and he or she might be stuck on an idea about a particular topic. Take a deep breath, and decide on a new resolution. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You might not be in a Monday mood right now; you probably would be happier being frivolous or in weekend mode. A partner or loved one could be quite irritable and difficult. Your feelings will intensify as the day goes on. Tonight: You have a choice to make!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Return calls right away, as there could be some information waiting to be shared. Schedule meetings only after you have caught up on those calls. You might want to change your plans slightly. Check out an offer that might affect your personal life. Tonight: Implement a change.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Take stock of your finances before you go going today; you might have made a mistake in your math. A risk will seem like a bad idea, no matter how you look at it. A discussion in the late afternoon could be more significant than you initially realize. Tonight: Let work become play.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You'll start the day feeling energized,

but an obstacle with a family member is likely to slow you down. Consider your options more carefully. A partner will have a lot to share. Be more open today. Tonight: Meet a friend for munchies and to catch up on news.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You could wake up on the wrong side of the bed. Sometimes it takes a lot to get you straightened out when you are this off-kilter. You tend to be guarded with your words right now. Tonight: Feeling your Wheaties. Anything goes.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

A friendship holds unusual significance at this moment. This person makes all the difference in what happens to you and your choices. You'll feel supported. An issue that causes financial tension could need some clarification. Tonight: Vanish quickly.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You might want to head in a new direction or do something very differently. There is a side of your personality that is not a risk-taker, and it could hold you back. A discussion later in the day will point the way to a path that suits you better. Tonight: Be noticed.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 19)

Look beyond the obvious. Detach in order to see what is going on behind the scenes. You'll need to get past a moment of negativity that could be coloring your thinking. Once you decide to go in a certain direction, others will follow. Tonight: Could go very late.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

A partner or associate has a vision that he or she would like to share with you. Try to be supportive, even if you feel out of sorts. A meeting will allow everyone to air out his or her feelings. Pull back rather than trigger. Tonight: Use your imagination.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Others will come toward you. You are likely to gain a new perspective as a result of what you hear and see. Try to get a broader vision of what is going on. A must appearance later in the day might get you thinking. Tonight: Enjoy chatting with a favorite person over dinner.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

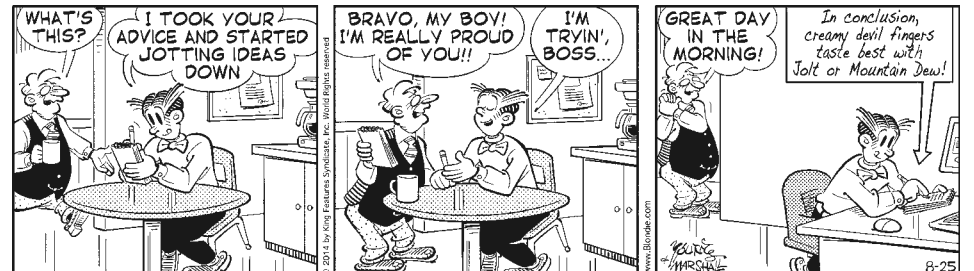
Move in a new direction. Don't over-think things; otherwise, you could feel your confidence drop. Someone will want you to follow him or her. You might want to say "yes" and see a situation through this person's eyes. Tonight: It would be best not to be alone.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

