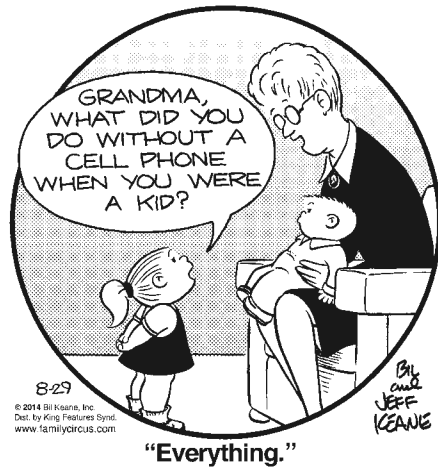
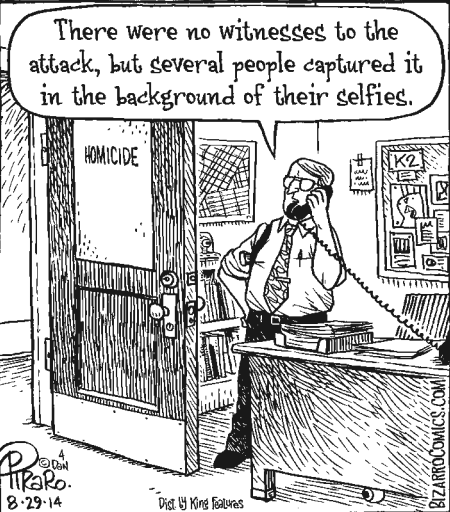


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



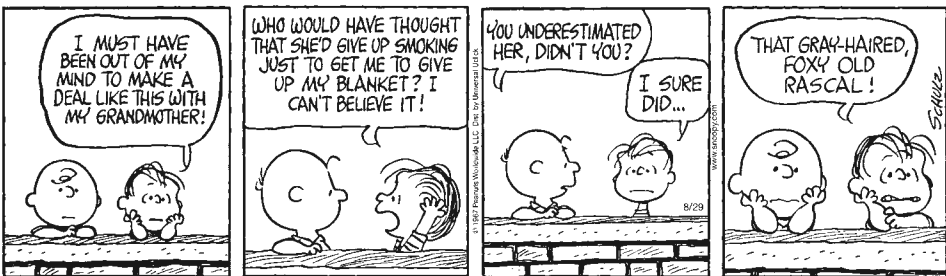
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



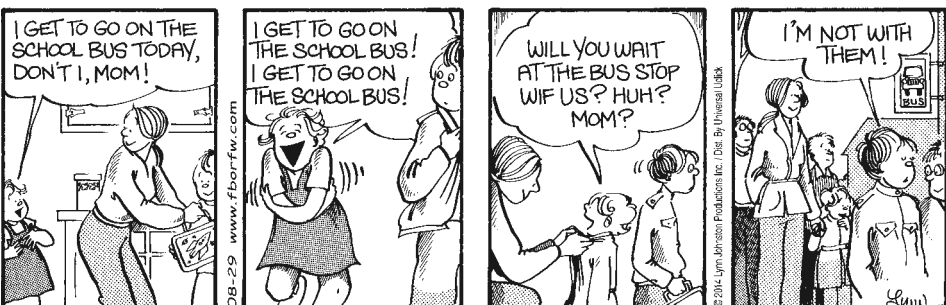
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Responsibility For Birth Control Falls On Both Men And Women

DEAR ABBY: I am sick to death of hearing about people who have too many kids and the hardship it imposes. Common sense for the women is to use birth control, but why don't men step up to the plate and have a vasectomy? I had one years ago and it has worked well for me.

I never hear it mentioned on talk shows or read it in any advice columns, including yours. Men of America, wake up! — JOSEPH IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR JOSEPH: I'm sure the word "vasectomy" has been used in previous Dear Abby columns, but I'm glad to remind my male readers. While I have never taken a poll on this subject, I'll hazard a guess or two about why men are reluctant to have them:

One, they equate it with castration; two, they think at some point they might change their mind or their partner; and three, they're afraid it will be painful. Drumroll: For any men out there who are worried that some tragedy might wipe out your family and you will have to start over, sperm can be banked for up to 20 years and used should the need arise.

P.S. There are also more options open to women than the pill. These include IUDs and, if they're sure they want to be finished with childbearing, tubal ligation.

DEAR ABBY: I raised three kids in a normal household, putting them to bed between two sheets. Now my two younger ones no longer sleep between sheets, but wrapped up in a blanket on a sheetless mattress. One of them has children, and is passing the habit on to them.

The only thing I can conclude is that it's laziness, and I'm wondering where I went wrong. Has anyone else encountered this? — TAKEN ABACK IN MISSOURI

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: People have varying sleep "styles." If, when your children lived with you, you taught them to launder their sheets and make their beds, then you didn't go wrong. (One can only hope they wash

those blankets regularly.)

If possible, invite your grandchildren for sleepovers so they can experience how the "other half" lives. You would be doing them a favor because children can't learn what a parent hasn't taught them.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 25-year-old woman and lonely. I'm interested in a guy I have known for years. He's my older brother's friend, and we're only six years apart. When I expressed my interest in him, he politely let me know that he would not date me because of my brother.

Is there a secret code that I'm missing? Is it taboo for a man who is your older brother's friend to date the younger sibling? I am confused as to why it would matter since we are both adults. — LONELY IN WISCONSIN

CONSIDER

DEAR LONELY: While it isn't "taboo" to date the sibling of a close friend, it can lead to complications if the relationship doesn't work out. Friendships have become strained or ended because of it.

Not knowing the man you have your sights set on, I can't speculate whether the reason he gave you was the truth. It could also be that the feelings you have for him are not reciprocated, but regardless — now that you know he isn't interested, it's time to look elsewhere for someone to assuage your loneliness.

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

© 2014, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 29, 2014:

This year you head in a new direction with the support of a loved one. You have a way of juggling a lot of concerns at once. Remain stable and forthright with others. If you are single, you could be delighted by someone who enters your life unexpectedly. Spending time together and getting to know each other well will allow you to have a more secure perspective. If you are attached, your sweetie often wants to confide in you and spend time with you. Schedule a special vacation together, and take more trips as a couple. LIBRA can be pushy. Step back.

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)

★★★★ Get past any interference quickly in the morning. Others admire your versatility and quick responses. An imaginative friend could spark your ingenuity. You'll become more aware of the possibilities, especially with others involved. Tonight: Out among the crowds.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You'll gain insight into a certain person in your life. Several friends or associates might inspire you to take a leap of faith. Follow their advice, and you finally will be able to clear up a restriction. A loved one will be delighted. Tonight: Enjoy some alone time.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. Express your caring in a way that is meaningful to this person. Tap into your verbal skills, your innate wit and your strong ability to visualize. You'll be able to cruise through nearly any issue with ease. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Make an extra effort regarding a personal matter. You'll receive good news that might seem almost magical. Invite several friends over for a Labor Day weekend get-together. There will be a lot of sharing about the summer. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Touch base with someone at a distance. You are in the mood to start this Labor Day weekend in style. Make an important call early on

to make plans. Be careful with your money. Your good humor will help others move forward. Tonight: Celebrate friends and the summer.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to open up more to someone you really care about. Take your time so that you can discuss any reaction this person might have to what you say. Be careful with funds, as you could be subject to overspending on indulgences. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ You'll smile at the thought of what lies ahead, yet you might be confused about which direction you should head in. Some of you might not know what you want to do about a relationship. Choose to stay present in the moment. Tonight: Time to join others.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might opt for a slow night, as you know what lies ahead. No matter what you end up doing, play it low-key. You might have something planned for the long weekend. Be more present in the moment. Tonight: Surround yourself with friends and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to juggle your plans some at the last minute. You will enjoy yourself more if you do. Don't worry about completely clearing out your desk. Leave what can wait until next week. Stop on the way home to visit with some friends. Tonight: Let the party begin.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Take a stand and honor a change in someone's mood. You might be inspired and finally decide to make a change you have wanted to make for a long time. A partner or loved one is likely to have a fun invitation just for you. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Even if an invitation comes to you suddenly, there is no reason to say "no." If you can take off at the last minute, by all means, do. Understand what is happening in a special relationship; a conversation will confirm whether you are correct. Tonight: Let the good times in.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

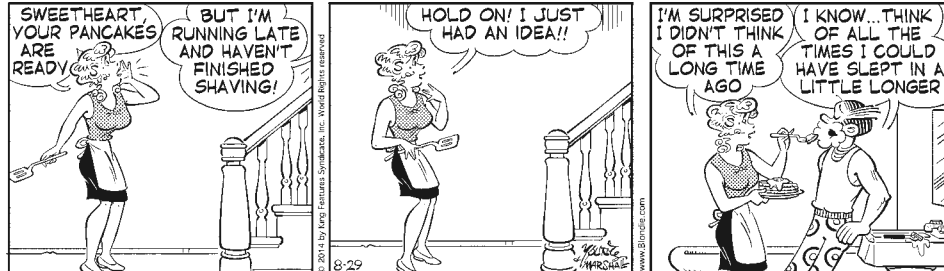
★★★★ You tend to enjoy life more when you are on an individual basis with one person. Your imagination sometimes goes beyond the call of duty, and today might be a good example. Confirm what you are hearing. Tonight: Out for dinner with a loved one.

© 2014, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

