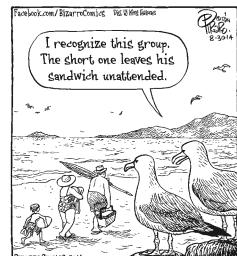


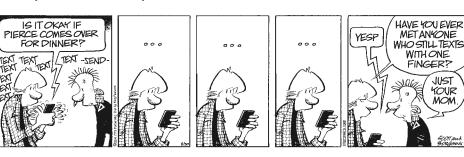
PAGE 6

"Which way am I s'posed to turn this jacket: inside out or outside in?

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



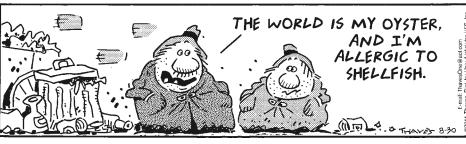
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



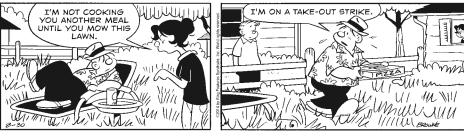
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON







GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Shared Finances Are The Ties That Bind Man And His Mom

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 22-year-old college student. My boyfriend of seven years and I are engaged. Because we were high school sweethearts, we have watched each other grow into the people we are today.

For the most part, I'm very proud of the person he has become. When I quit my full-time job to continue my education, he stepped up to support me. I never asked for it, nor did I expect it from him.

"Liam" is very frugal. ("Cheap" might be a better word.) I never understood it because he makes enough money to support us both and put plenty into savings. However, I recently learned that every payday, his mother calls, and he goes to her house and gives her money. It wouldn't bother me if she was ill, unemployed, etc., but she's well-off and earns a good living.

Abby, what concerns me is that while Liam is 24 years old, he has a shared bank account with his mother. She seems to call him only on payday, EVERY payday, without fail. She also seems to have more control of his spending than he does. He won't pay his bills without first consulting her. She was very clear when she told him he had spent too much on my engagement ring.

I don't want to come between Liam and his mother, but I'm not sure I can marry them both. It's not that I want his money, but after we're married, I feel the husband and wife should share bank accounts and bills, not my husband and his mother.

Do I have a right to be concerned with this matter? — FRUGAL FIANCEE IN FLORIDA

DEAR FIANCEE: You and Liam need to have a frank talk about money. There may be a reasonable explanation why he gives his mother money every payday. (She may invest it for him.) But you'll never know if you don't ask. While "Mama" may not have been overjoyed at the amount her son spent on your engagement ring, it appears she did approve his chipping in for your education, so she's not what I'd call a miser.

That said, I cannot stress enough how important it is for you and Liam to be on the same page when it comes to finances and how

decisions will be made after your marriage. Premarital counseling covers subjects like this because marriages have been known to fail when couples disagree about money.

> DEAR ABBY: I am a contractor. My job requires me to stay at a job site from three days to six months. I am happily married with one child who is grown, gone and has a child of his own.

My son and I are estranged, and have had no contact in 10 years. When making small talk on the job site, inevitably the question comes up, "Do you have children?" I don't want to get into that part of my life, but I also don't want to alienate people who

are trying to be friendly. If I say "no," I am lying. If I say "yes," it opens up a can of worms, like "Where does he live?" "Do you see him often?" etc. If I reveal that I am a grandparent, it can get especially uncomfortable. Do you have any advice on

how to handle this situation gracefully? — NO EASY ANSWERS IN THE MIDWEST DEAR NO EASY ANSWERS: Yes, I do. Be honest and say, "I have a son and we are estranged." You don't have to give more details

than that, and you may be surprised when the person you're talking to says, "Me, too!" The situation is not as uncommon as you may think — as I discovered not long ago when I attended a luncheon and realized the common denominator among the guests was they were all estranged from their children or stepchil-

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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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 Virgo and a Moon in Libra if born before 4:53 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 30, 2014:

This year you will be more prone to excess. Your self-discipline seems to be off, and it could become a problem. Friends surround you often, and your popularity grows. Your communication skills also become even better. If you are single you are likely to meet someone who seems exciting. Only time will tell if this person is truly emotion ally available. Remember, there are other fish in the sea. If you are attached, keep communication flowing, and don't get involved in little spats. SCORPIO knows how to trick you into sharing a

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)

★★★★ Whatever your plans might be, use your instincts. Make sure you also relax. You tend to worry or get nervous. This is not the time or day for such stress. Kick up your heels, and head off to a baseball game or go join your friends at a local spot. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You will be out of ideas until someone starts sharing his or her weekend plans. This person even might invite you along. Be more spontaneous; you will enjoy the change of pace. Do not bring your personal life into your work life, or vice

versa. Tonight: Let it all hang out. **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

★★★★ A friend might question your judgment as you spend time with someone this person simply can't relate to. Honor an opportunity to clear the air; otherwise, you could be backed into a corner. Keep discussions light and easy. Tonight: Only do what you want.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your sense of direction will be tested. A question could trigger more thoughts and possibilities than you might have expected. You'll realize the provocative nature of what was said so innocently. Avoid a conflict at all costs. Tonight: Toss yourself into the festivities.

★★★★ Excitement marks your interactions with others. A loved one seems to be full of sur-

prises. Your imagination is strong enough to baffle many people, but one person could shock you with her creativity. Make plans more often together. Tonight: The action is at your place.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You have a tendency to tell it like it is. Your ability to get past someone's resistance could surprise you. This person is likely to let his or her guard down, and it might force you to rethink how you relate to him or her. Be kinder than you usually are. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

 $\star\star\star$ You tend to get very involved in festivities only to regret it later. Try not to overindulge, and you will be happier. Stay focused, and spend some special time with a family member. A party or casual get-together will be hard to resist. Tonight: Wherever the party is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

* ★ * * * You'll lead others toward the appropriate festivities for this long weekend. With any luck, an offbeat idea will pay off. A parent or older friend might not want you to forget him or her. Make it your pleasure. Tonight: Others depend on you; don't decide on a quiet night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be in the midst of a conflicted situation. Consider how much of the problem might be coming from your perceptions. Ask for feedback from someone you respect and who can tell you the truth as he or she sees it. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Make a point of touching base with your friends right now. You won't want to leave someone out when planning a party. How you see a difficult situation could change with the hospitable mood you are in. Let bygones be bygones. Tonight: Only where the crowds are.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen to what someone older chooses to share with you. As a result, you'll get a better sense of this person and where he or she is coming from. Be aware of what is happening with a loved one. Listen well, and you will be rewarded.

Tonight: Off to a get-together. PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Make it OK to invite someone to a gettogether at the last minute. Even if you live several hours away from each other, this invitation will mean more to this person than you might realize. Friends could play an instrumental role in the events of the next few days. Tonight: Be merry.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

