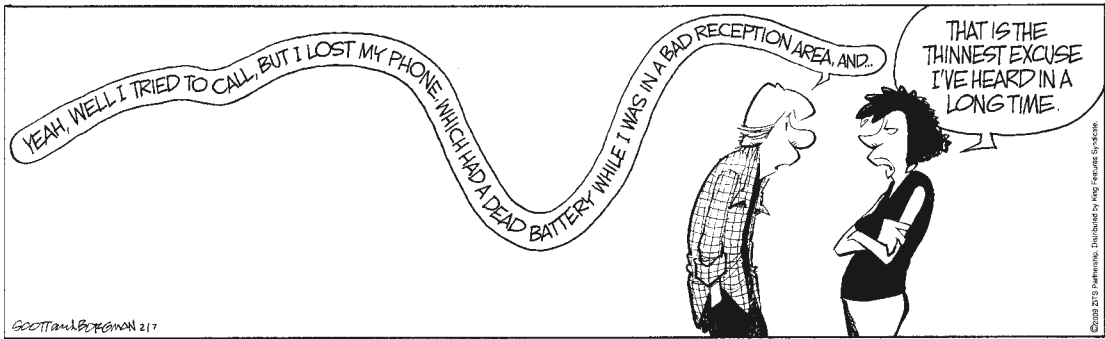


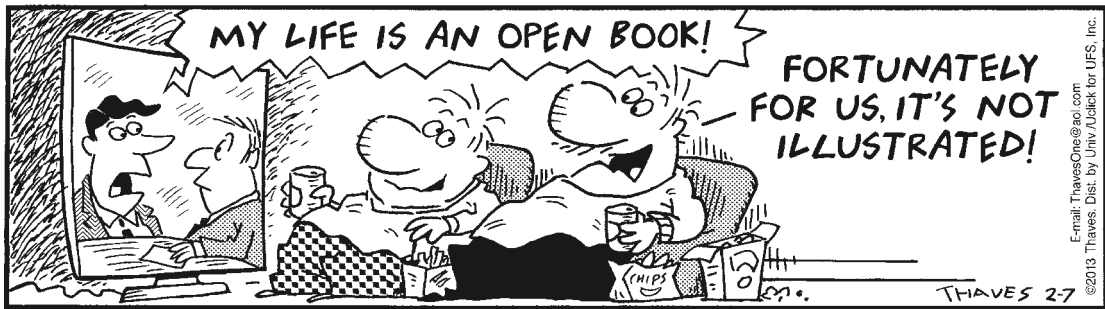
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



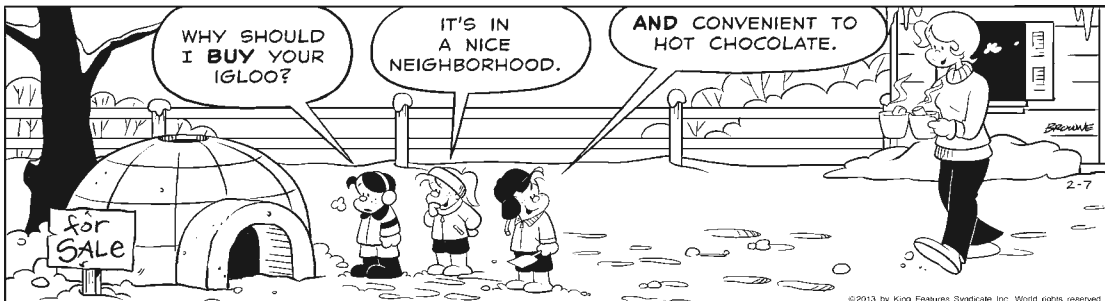
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Readers Warn Teen To Avoid Becoming A Parent Too Soon

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for the compassion you showed "Wants to Be a Mom" (Nov. 24), the 15-year-old girl considering motherhood with her almost 18-year-old boyfriend. Having lost her dad at an early age and having a mother who prefers drugs over her daughter, must have made this young lady feel very unwanted. I understand why she might think a baby would give her the love she's missing.

I applaud you for not judging her, but instead kindly helping her to understand the consequences of her potential actions. I wish her the best and hope she'll have the wisdom to realize how important an education will be for her future. With luck, in a few years she'll be a young adult ready to assume the responsibilities of being a parent. — LINDA IN MICHIGAN

DEAR LINDA: "Wants" was smart to write for advice before acting on impulse. She deserved a thoughtful response and not just a reprimand. Readers had much to say about her letter:

DEAR ABBY: At 15, I had the first of my five daughters. By the time I was 20 I was raising the babies by myself. Would I do it all over again? Not in this lifetime!

"Wants," your boyfriend is immature. He should finish school and get a job before thinking about children. You are only 15 and have your best years ahead. One thing that never crossed MY mind was how I would be able to support my child without an education. I learned the hard way.

If you and your grandma aren't getting along, it's up to you to change your attitude. Grandma has more experience than you do in this world. Listening to her will help you avoid many of the pitfalls that I went through, and that you face presently. — WAS THERE ONCE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ABBY: I had my first child at 21, and while I love my son there are times I wish I would have waited a while. I missed out on college and figuring out who I was and what I wanted to do. My son and daughter turned out to have special needs, so my life has been busy taking

care of them. Please tell that teen that having a baby is not at all like it is in TV commercials. — MARIA IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: A mentor to teen boys told me that some of them deliberately try to impregnate girls so they'll have a "trophy" of how manly and virile they are. The more babies they help conceive, especially without having to be responsible for them, the more bragging can go on in the locker room. Every parent needs to know this behavior is going on. Some of these boys have punched holes in condoms and convinced a reticent girl to have sex — then laughed at her and dumped her when she became pregnant. — NURSING SCHOOL STUDENT IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY: That 15-year-old's boyfriend's desire for her to have a baby seems like a control issue to me, and it will set the tone for their relationship. She needs to say no or she will most likely be under his power for the foreseeable future. I have seen this happen too many times with high school girls. — FORMER TEACHER IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR ABBY: Some states will accuse the young man of statutory rape, and he could end up in jail and be branded a sex offender for life. And the girl will wind up with a baby, no education and no husband to help her. Children have no business hav-

ing children. — FLORIDA READER

DEAR ABBY: Tell that girl and her boyfriend that if they want a baby, they must support that baby on their own. Those of us who are working and raising families are tired of entitlements the young ones count on for support. Life is hard. It's expensive. And it is about more than what you "want" on a whim. — KATHY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR ABBY: Please tell her to visit Planned Parenthood. It promotes responsible parenting and healthy sexuality. I checked its website and there's an office in Blacksburg, Va., not far from where she lives. My best to her. — SOMEONE WHO CARES IN NEW YORK

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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 Aquarius and a Moon in Capricorn.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 2013:

This year, when thinking about difficult situations, you often feel as if you would like to throw away all the hard work you've done in order to start over. Be careful if you choose to proceed in this manner, as few people can adjust to such radical actions. If you are single, you could attract someone who often is involved in uproar. In some way, you enjoy the excitement; otherwise, this person would not last. If you are attached, be sure that you both agree on how to handle a situation that could affect your relationship. CAPRICORN makes a great healer for 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)

★★★★ You might feel as if someone has caused you an unwarranted problem. Give this person some space so that he or she can see the damage that's been done. You could reverse an opinion if you decide to toss out prior judgments and/or assumptions. Tonight: A must appearance.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Revise an idea by starting over from scratch. Carefully consider your different options, especially if they take you down a new path. You might need to adapt your thinking and past judgments. You can't avoid a loved one's concerns. Tonight: Out and about.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your wit and adaptability emerge when dealing with a loved one. Remember, you have been known to overindulge this person. You will see his or her true essence emerging. Adjust your schedule in order to include an important matter. Tonight: Togetherness.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Others clearly dominate. Realize that the situation won't change, no matter what you do. You might want to step back and not interfere; others will get the results of their actions that way. Call someone at a distance about weekend plans. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You can get only so much done by yourself; however, with additional help, that situation could change.

You know how to encourage others to pursue a certain course of action, and you could reverse directions quite suddenly. Know your limits. Tonight: Join a friend.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might not know how to switch gears right now. Speak honestly about how you feel at this particular moment. You will need to rebuild from the beginning if you should change your mind. Ask questions before making a decision, not after. Tonight: Observe.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Not everyone gets your distinctions, which is why you could have a lot of misunderstandings. The good news is that you are so present in the moment that you often make someone feel like the most important person in your world. Tonight: Happily head home.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Share more of your heartfelt desires. You will revise a situation and approach it in a more dynamic way. Others will remain responsive, unless you decide to be a strict taskmaster. Try to explain yourself rather than cop an attitude. Tonight: Chat the night away with someone special.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Decide whether you have the time and funds to pursue a special invitation. Be reasonable. Though you often deviate from your budget, it would be wise to honor it now. Be sure that you can really afford this adventure. Tonight: Treats do not have to break the bank.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Weigh the pro and cons of following the logical, yet difficult, course. You might want to be more optimistic and trustworthy. Know that doing so would make you far happier. You clearly have the capacity to make changes anytime you so desire. Tonight: Trust yourself.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

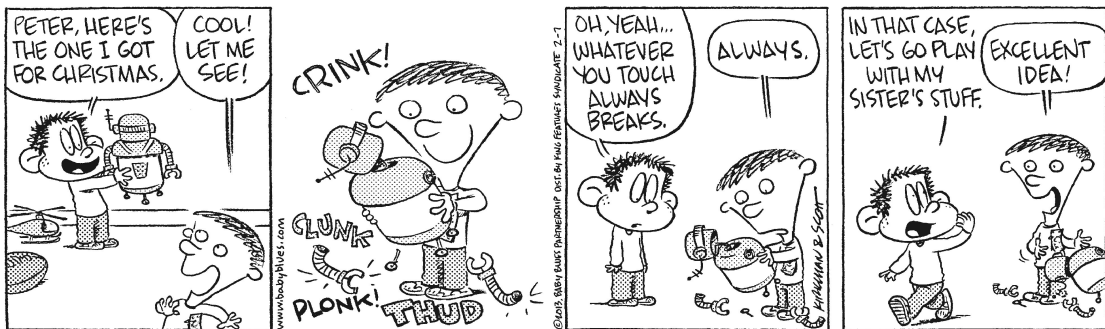
★★★ You still might be trying to come up with a solution to an immediate problem. A reversal seems likely, regardless of whether you say or do anything. Your imagination could be creating some far-out scenarios. Understand what is happening within you. Tonight: Get as much sleep as possible.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

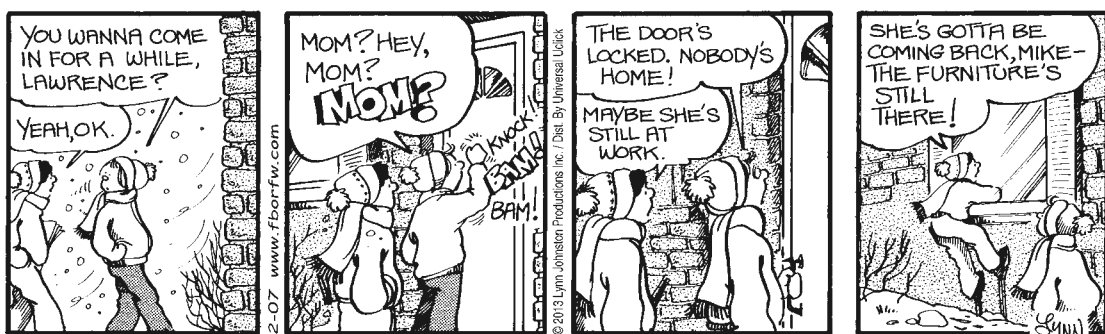
★★★★ Don't hesitate to pursue your dreams and desires. Just because something is OK for one person does not mean that it's OK for someone else. Laughter marks a gathering with friends. Tonight: Lighten up the moment by not getting overserious about the moment.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

