

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



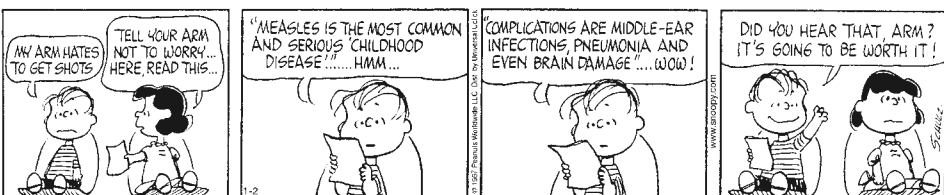
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



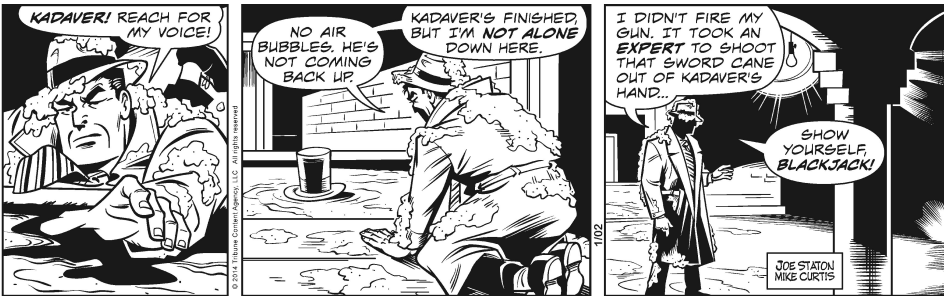
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



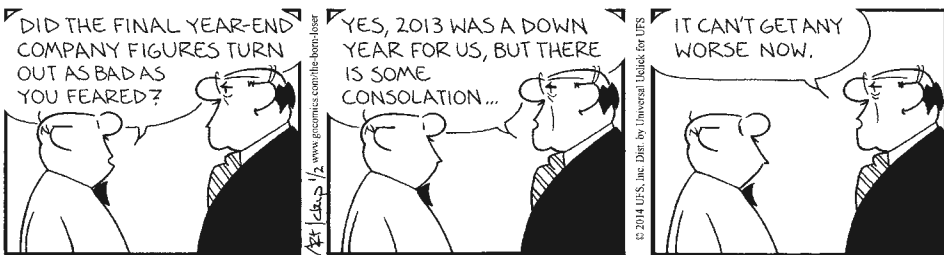
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Family Feuds Over Child Of Sister Facing Jail Time

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Nicole" faked several pregnancies to keep her boyfriends around until they wised up. She is now really pregnant by a married man.

Nicole has a long criminal history and has been in and out of jail for various offenses. She's now facing drug charges that could land her in jail for the next 10 or 15 years. If she's found guilty, my mother will get custody of the baby so it won't have to stay in foster care.

My parents are in their late 50s and financially capable, but they're not in the best of health. Mom plans to raise the child until Nicole gets out of prison because my sister "always wanted to be a mom."

My husband and I have been discussing adopting a child and would love to adopt Nicole's baby. If we did, we'd get a child and could provide the love, safety and security my sister cannot. And the child would get a stable home. Mom feels Nicole "deserves" to be a mom, despite the fact that she's going to jail and flits from man to man searching for someone to love her.

How can I get my mother to see that the needs of this baby HAVE to come first? She should be more concerned with this innocent baby than her drugged-out daughter. Am I wrong to feel hurt and think my mother is choosing her over me? — HEARTBROKEN IN ALABAMA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Stop personalizing this as a choice your mother is making between you and your sister. Try instead to make her understand how traumatic it will be to a child who could be as old as 10 or 15 to be handed over to a virtual stranger who has no job, no money and a long uphill climb to try and build a future.

Your sister may have always dreamed of motherhood, but the most important part of being a parent — aside from loving a child — is being PRESENT. If your sister is found guilty, she will be absent long after her child's primary attachments will have formed.

If this doesn't convince your mother to

change her mind, you will have no choice but to accept her decision and consider adopting another child.

P.S. Perhaps your father will understand that what you're proposing makes sense and will speak on your behalf.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

■ Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

she doesn't want to live alone. I wouldn't call that abuse but I do consider it to be selfish and self-serving.

You should not sacrifice your lifestyle to live with someone as manipulative as your mother. When she attacks, laugh and deflect her with humor. Assure her that as incompetent as she thinks you are, you're "muddling through." And if she persists, point out that if she doesn't ease up, she'll be seeing less of you.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 and Moon in Capricorn if born before 9:03 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 2, 2014:

This year you jump into the limelight. You also have good money sense. Try not to become too adventuresome and cause yourself a problem. Someone of the opposite sex finds you very charismatic. If you are single, you could develop an intriguing tie with this person. Others are unusually clear about their interest in you. If you are attached, the two of you could choose to indulge a little more than in past years. Be careful with a higher-up, especially if he or she is an AQUARIUS. You might assume that you are on cruise control when you really aren't.

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 or a key person in your life could become hot-tempered when dealing with an interpersonal issue. The presence of your friends might clear up who is doing what to whom. Remember, it takes two to tango. Tonight: A dream's realization could be on the horizon.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Tension builds. As much as you might like to diffuse a situation, any action you take could prove to be problematic. Tune in to your higher self, and attempt to see the big picture. Good will could come through. Tonight: A possibility will become a reality.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for new ideas. Consider planning a vacation for you and a friend or loved one. Your ability to touch someone and calm him or her down will be more appreciated than you know. Continue being a good listener. Tonight: Surf the Web.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be more in touch with what you need than you realize. Sometimes you feel as if you give too much away, but your need to give feels good in many ways. Perhaps consider establishing stronger boundaries. Tonight: Share with a favorite person.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A gentle, kind attitude will be appreciated. News could surprise many people, including

you. Your ability to adapt will emerge. You'll see the total perspective, whereas many people won't. Someone's words sound harsher than he or she anticipated. Tonight: Speak your mind.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Be careful with your funds and count your change. Make sure your wallet is nicely tucked away. You might want to indulge a child or loved one. Recognize that there are other ways that do not cost much or are free. Tonight: Get into the pace of a normal week.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You seem to be releasing pent-up feelings. You easily could snap at a family member over a domestic issue. A close associate might be unpredictable, which is one of the reasons you are disgruntled. Recognize where the problem comes from. Tonight: Let off some steam.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be tense over a domestic matter or a misunderstanding with a roommate or family member. Express your concern about what is happening without expectations of a response. Be patient. Tonight: At home with a good book.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ A friend easily could lose his or her cool. Your ability to communicate can and will make a difference here. Don't allow this person to intimidate you. A close friend or loved one could point you toward a new venture or interest. Tonight: Hang out with a family member.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have. You might not be comfortable with everything that is going down. Your finances demand attention and precision. A family member once more could make demands that you might feel you can't meet. Tonight: Pay bills first.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Many thoughts might be going through your mind. You would be wise not to discuss all of them, as you tend to go back and forth between ideas. Someone from a distance could be irritable. Use caution with this person. Tonight: Someone wants to court you.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Defer to someone else, and know full well how this person will approach what you deem a difficult situation. Once this individual walks in your shoes, he or she will have great respect for you, your decisions and how you handle challenges. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

