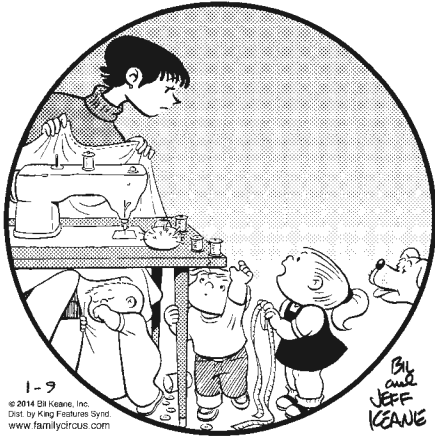


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



1-7
© 2014 Bill Keane, Inc.
"Maybe you would rather we all go watch a little TV. Okay, Mommy?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



It's eye before flea, except after sea.
BIZARROCOMICS.COM

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



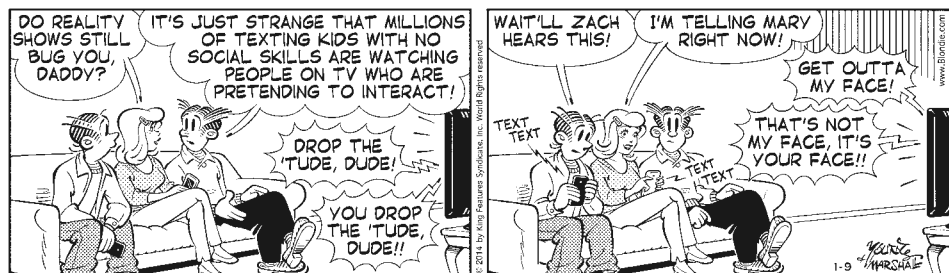
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



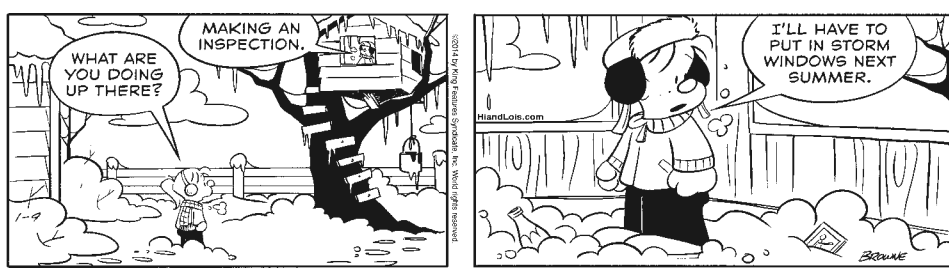
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Eager Grandmas Must Defer To New Family's Wishes

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter from "Family First in Florida" (Nov. 3), it's no wonder her son and daughter-in-law want some peace and quiet when their new baby arrives. Grandma-to-be appears controlling, entitled and someone who will be more of an endurance test than a helping presence.

I wanted privacy during and after childbirth, and I'm grateful my mom and MIL respected our wishes. I needed time to establish a nursing routine, heal and get to know my baby before I was ready to host overnight guests.

My kids' grandmas both have strong, loving relationships with their grandkids, so please remind "Family First" she's not missing out on anything. She'll still get to be a doting granny, but for now she should back off and remember the arrival of the child is not about HER.

DEAR MOM: I'm pleased everything worked out well for you. That woman's letter hit a nerve with my readers. A sampling of their comments:

DEAR ABBY: I had the same vision of being there when my grandkids were born. However, my kids have not involved me the way I imagined.

"Family First's" son is putting HIS family first, as he should. He and his wife have chosen what they feel will make the smoothest, least-stressful launch for their new family, and he is protecting that plan.

DEAR ABBY: The essence of a mother's love is sacrifice. It's time to put aside her dreams and help her son fulfill his.

DEAR ABBY: The new parents are greatly misinformed about the importance of having grandparents around just before and immediately after the birth of a new baby. It helps to

have a family member in the waiting room to update other family and well-wishers so Dad can devote full attention to the new mom and baby.

My mother was a godsend, taking care of everything while we bonded with our child. She did the cooking, the chores, and gave us needed breaks during the day so we were able to tolerate night feedings.



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.

Childbirth is difficult. I don't think this new mom realizes she won't be able to do it all.

DEAR ABBY: My son and DIL told everyone, including the other grandparents, who live near them, they wanted NO visitors for at least six weeks.

DEAR ABBY: When I declined my mother-in-law's offer to help out when my son was born, she paid to have a catering service deliver daily three-course dinners for two weeks so I wouldn't have to cook.

In the first year, the baby learned our voices and saw our faces often. When we met again, it was like we'd always been there.

DEAR ABBY: While she isn't invited to be there for the birth of her first grandchild, I'm sure her son and DIL will be begging her to come for the next one.

DEAR ABBY: I had the same vision of being there when my grandkids were born. However, my kids have not involved me the way I imagined.

DEAR ABBY: The new parents are greatly misinformed about the importance of having grandparents around just before and immediately after the birth of a new baby. It helps to

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.

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 2014:

This year you will want to break barriers and create much more of what you want. You will discover that you have several key people who will make a big difference in your life.

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)

Your instincts work well with your finances right now. If you feel like you are lucky, go out and buy a lottery ticket.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You are energized and a witness to new possibilities. A discussion could encourage you to go for a long-term goal.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Take your time and let your mind wander. Your daydreaming contributes to your success and creativity; just don't do it in front of your boss.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Listen to feedback, and know what you desire. Friends seem to be supportive, and they probably will stay that way while you accomplish this goal.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You beam, and others naturally come toward you. The problem you might have is that you can't really let go because of all your responsibilities.

Still, others do respond to you well. Use your instincts with someone you must answer to. Tonight: In the limelight.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Listen to a friend, who might be the source of surprising news. What you say and how you respond will make all the difference.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You might have indicated that you would accept extra responsibility. If you are exhausted and feel as if you have very little to offer, questions will sense it, and your leadership could be questioned.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Touch base with someone in the know. You can't continue the way you have been without taking a bigger look at a situation that will help you expand your thinking.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Take news with a grain of salt. You might want to check out an associate's thoughts on the matter. You could be unwilling to take a risk until you feel the situation is a lot more grounded.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You might want to revisit a situation involving a loved one. Your decision could dramatically change your choices afterward.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Listen to news carefully. The person delivering the information might be as rigid as you are. Avoid viewing this situation in terms of "your way or my way."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Listen to the creative muse within, as you could have a rare opportunity to express yourself freely. You will do just that in an unprecedented manner if you refuse to hold back.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

