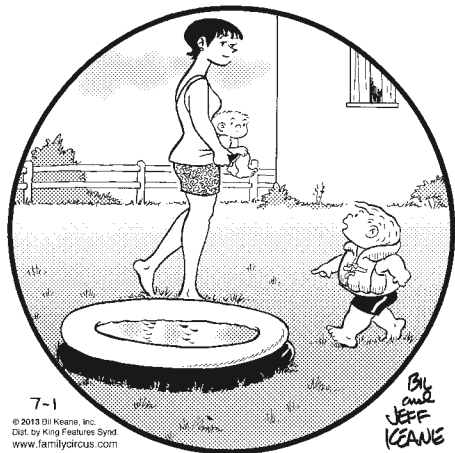


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



7-1  
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"Don't worry, I'm just gonna be swimmin' in the shallow end."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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# Visiting Mom's Sweet Perfume Puts Household In Sour Mood

DEAR ABBY: My problem is my mother-in-law and her abundant use of perfume. The last time she visited, it was so bad we had to open our windows to air out the rooms. (This was in January in Minnesota.)

My husband addressed the problem with her when I was pregnant, but now that the baby is here she's back to her old habits.

We are all sensitive to perfumes and get headaches when exposed to it. When she visits, we can't get away from the smell. I don't wear perfume, but was always told that "perfume is to be discovered, never announced." However, when I say that around her, she dismisses it.

What's the proper etiquette in addressing the perfume cloud that surrounds her? — THE NOSE KNOWS

DEAR NOSE: I receive complaints about perfumes almost daily. Perfume "in abundance" can cause serious allergic reactions in people who are sensitive to it. And when they are exposed to it in enclosed places (elevators, airplanes, houses with storm windows, gymnasiums, etc.), it can cause real problems.

Your mother-in-law should be reminded again that her perfume is causing headaches and asked to please not use it around you. Depending upon how old she is and her sense of smell, she may not realize she is using as much as she is.

Women's perfumes and men's after-shave lotions and colognes can also cause problems at the gym. When people who are exercising begin to sweat, the smell can become overpowering and a nuisance to others. Scents that were applied the day before can turn rancid, so a shower before working out would be considerate if this could be you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a son, "Billy," who will be 9 soon. He was conceived through rape by a man who was physically, emotionally and sexually abusive, as well as controlling

and manipulative. He threatened to kill me and Billy, but I eventually got free. I have a criminal no-contact order on him, and he has no legal rights to Billy.

I have raised my son without any knowledge of his father. I feel it would be cruel to tell him how he came into the world. My mother disagrees. She thinks it will backfire if and when Billy finds out. She points out that Billy has two half-sisters he doesn't know about. I don't like to keep that from him.

I need to protect my son, no matter what. But am I doing the right thing? I sometimes question what is in my son's best interest and that of our relationship. Please give me some advice. — LIVING IN THE PRESENT

DEAR LIVING IN THE PRESENT: I'm surprised your son hasn't already asked about his father, because surely he must have questions. When Billy asks, he should be told some of the truth in an age-appropriate way. He does not need to know about the rape, but he should know that his father was violent, so for your safety and his, the courts decided Billy's father should not

be in contact with the two of you. Billy should also be told that until he is an adult it will have to remain that way.

When he's older, he can be told that there are half-siblings. (I agree with your mother on that.) While you can't protect your son forever, you can keep him safe until he's old enough to process the information.

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. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

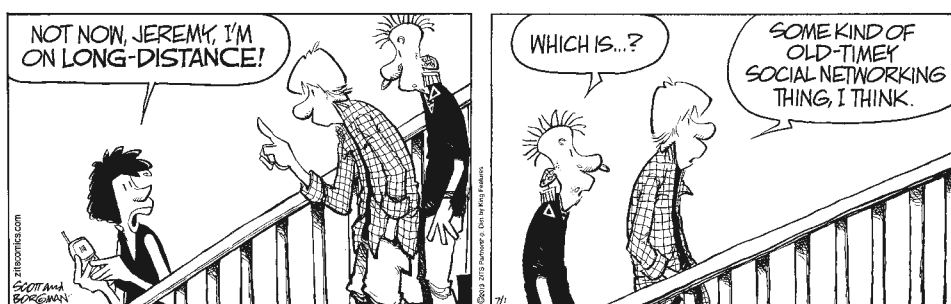


DEAR ABBY

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.

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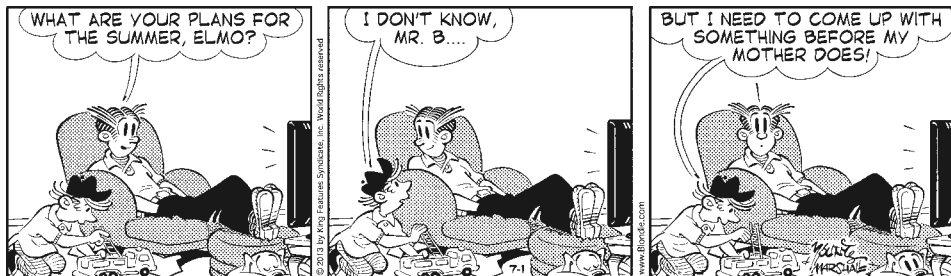
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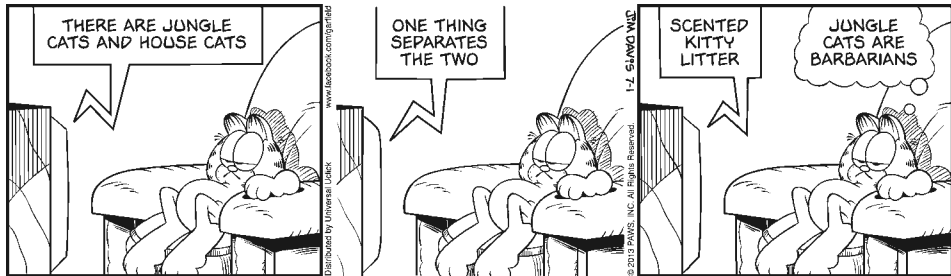
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



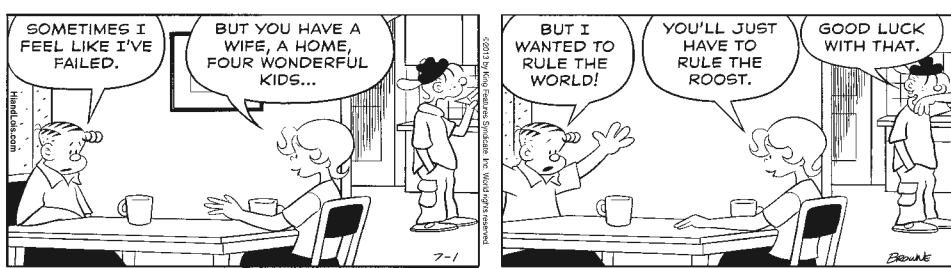
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



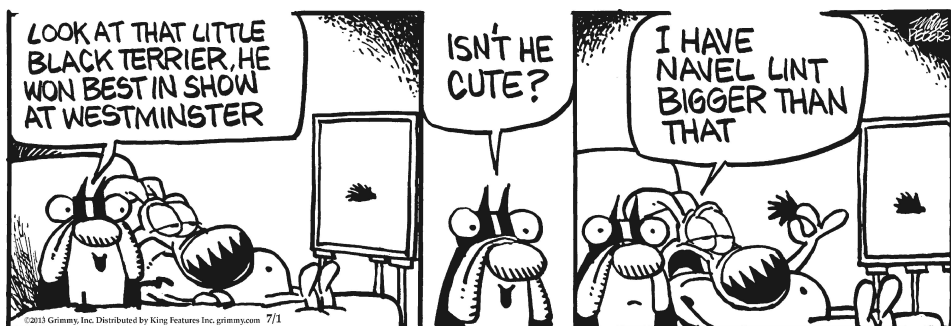
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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 Cancer and a Moon in Taurus if born after 2:43 p.m. (PDT). Before that time, the Moon is in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013:

This year new beginnings become possible in a key area of your life. Optimism evolves as you get into a new luck and life cycle, which will last 12 years. Generally, the first year is one of the luckiest. If you are single, and you sincerely want to change your status, you will meet someone of marriage caliber. If you are attached, this could be one of those special years where you experience unusual happiness together. TAURUS makes a very loyal, yet sometimes stubborn, friend.

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)

★★★★ Use the morning through lunchtime for important matters. Avoid making any formal agreements, as communication could be confusing today. You even might have to repeat a conversation at a later date. Be aware of others' negativity. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Though you might have a problem getting energized in the morning, by midafternoon, you'll be close to unstoppable. You greet warmth from your inner circle, but negativity from a key person. You can turn around a difficult situation, if you so choose. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Get an early start. By midafternoon, you'll have a lot to think about. Whether you are doing research or speaking to an expert, you could come to a conclusion slower than you might like, but you will be on solid footing. Realize the possibilities. Tonight: Do your own thing.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Many responsibilities could be dropped on you. You might be exhausted and looking for less to do, but you'll get the opposite. A late-afternoon meeting helps you find a way out of the present problem. Know that luck is on your side right now. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You have an innate glow that others notice, despite themselves, and you'll sense this vitality. Communication easily could get messed up, so

you might want to take your time dealing with a change. Realize that others will be watching you carefully. Tonight: In the limelight.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Make it a point to step away from the group, as you need to get a bigger picture of what is going on. Don't accept quick conclusions that are not well thought-out. A meeting is not only provocative, but it also indirectly gives you support in your quest. Tonight: Follow the music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Stop pushing so hard. A partner would be more than happy to pitch in and help. This person loves spending time with you -- allow this to happen. Close relating brings better results in both the professional and personal world. Tonight: Follow someone else's suggestion.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Someone could be very challenging, and you might want to avoid this person. However, the ramifications could be an issue. In either case, there is a lot to figure out. There is no reason not to hope for the best, as long as there are guidelines in place. Tonight: Head home first.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to understand exactly what is happening behind the scenes with a loved one. Know that you could be more negative than you realize. Let events play out, but choose not to verbalize your reactions. You could see events far differently, given time. Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Let your creativity emerge. Understand what is happening with a child or loved one who could be rejecting every solution that comes forward. Go back to the creative cauldron; you will be surprised at how much you learn. Tonight: Be less disciplined. Let go and enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Tension builds. Understand what is happening with a family member. Your mind keeps returning to this situation. The smart decision would be to stay close to home. A situation surrounding work can't be postponed indefinitely. Tonight: In the middle of everything.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will open up to conversations. Listen to your inner voice, and figure out what needs to be done. You have to be OK with your ideas and plans, because someone easily could run interference. Laughter surrounds a situation, once you relax. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

