

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



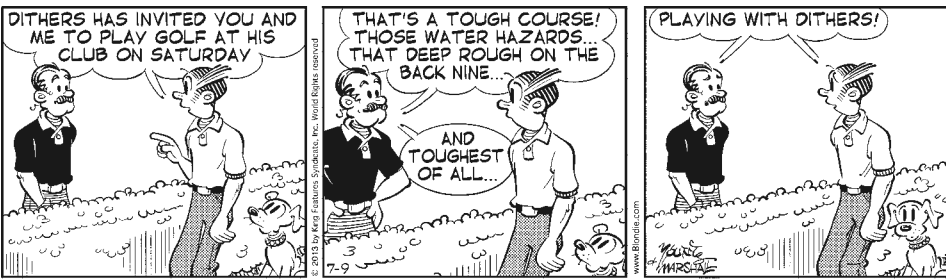
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



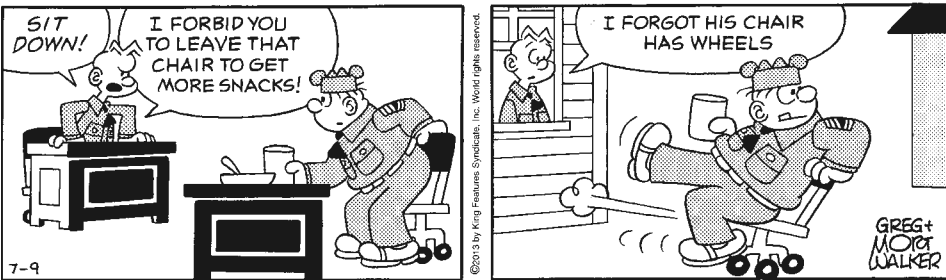
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



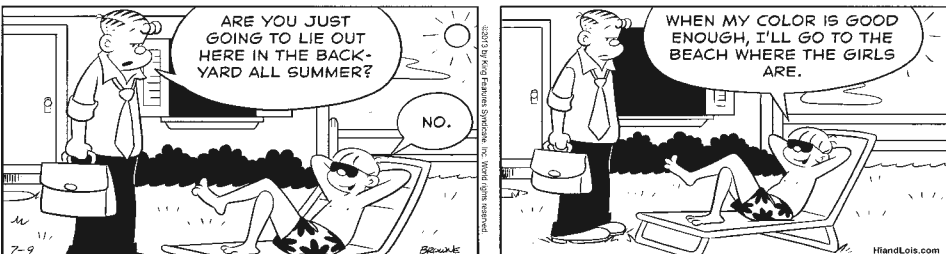
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



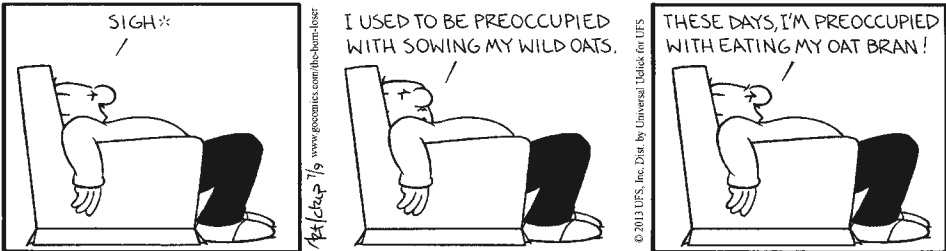
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Idea For Surprise Wedding May Need Further Thought

DEAR ABBY: I am thinking about planning a "surprise" wedding for me and my fiancé. We have been together for eight years and have lived together for seven. We put off the wedding for many reasons, chiefly the cost because those things are expensive. We do not want to just elope.

The idea of having a theme party and inviting all our friends and family occurred to me the other day. Then, in the middle of it, we could bring in a priest and tie the knot! I have figured out the cost, and it shouldn't be more than a grand. We could swing that.

But my question is, do we tell anyone about it beforehand? I told one of my girlfriends and my fiancé, and they think it's a great idea. It would take a lot of stress off. Should I tell my parents? They sometimes blab (Dad is worse than Mom) when they're excited about something. — STEALTH BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR STEALTH BRIDE-TO-BE: One person you should definitely discuss this with would be the priest. Ask if he would be willing to marry a couple who has been living together because some aren't, and also if he'd prefer the solemn vows be taken in a house of worship rather than a theme-party atmosphere. If that's the case, you may have to settle for an officiant of another faith or a justice of the peace to perform the ceremony.

Also, I suggest you rethink your idea of keeping this happy news from your folks, who may have been praying for this for seven years. They might feel very hurt to find they were kept in the dark.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's stepmother and father send religious-themed gifts for every holiday. We have an abundance of unused books, DVDs, stickers, coloring books, dolls, bookmarks, etc., purchased from local Christian stores for a hefty price.

We don't see them often during the year because we live in different states, but we would like our kids to have a good relation-

ship with them. The kids don't seem to be fazed by it, but they also don't get excited about opening and using these gifts.

We pay for our children to participate in religious education as well as attend several church functions during the school year. We believe grandparents should be interested in learning about what each child is drawn to, and not so much about preaching their own religious beliefs to us. It makes us uncomfortable and resentful at times.

How does one politely tell in-laws to stop sending religious-themed gifts? — OVERLOADED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR OVERLOADED: One doesn't. A better way to handle it would be to communicate with them in between these holidays and tell them what activities the grandkids are involved in, and any new interests they may have. A stronger hint than that would be offensive, and I don't recommend it.

As to what to do with the unused items — donate them.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter calls her mother-in-law "Mom," it hurts my feelings. I gave birth to her, worked hard to put a roof over her head and food in her mouth. She has only one mother during her lifetime — ME. I never called my mother-in-law "Mom." The name meant something to me, and it was reserved for the woman who gave me life! — DISAPPOINTED IN IDAHO

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Many women besides your daughter call their mothers-in-law "Mom." Rather than be jealous and territorial, you should be happy that your daughter has such a warm relationship with her mother-in-law.

However, because you feel slighted, ask if she would be willing to call her MIL "Mama Smith" — something other than her name for you when you are all together in order to avoid "confusion."

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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 Cancer if born before 3:48 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013:

This year you are unusually expressive, and you appear to have dynamic moneymaking skills. Do not take what anyone else says for fact, especially regarding your finances. You are in the first year of a new luck cycle. If you are single, forming a relationship could seem difficult; however, once it happens, you might find that it's just as difficult to get out of it. Be sure you really want to relate to this person. If you are attached, the two of you could decide to make a deeper commitment to each other. LEO knows how to spend money!

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)

★★★★ Do not hold back. You could come up with an even better idea than what is being worked with. Share your thoughts, but be ready for a brainstorming session to evolve. At some point, you might feel frustrated, but you will need to move on. Tonight: Dinner out with a loved one.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You see many possibilities, especially involving your home. You like many of these ideas, but when you share some of them with a roommate or partner, his or her immediate reaction might be far from positive. Give this person some time to think. Tonight: Make a favorite treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to grasp what is happening before you even respond. You could get a lot of calls, but one request seems quite significant. Ask questions to make sure that the person you are dealing with has all the facts. Think before you react. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Verify that all bills are paid and your finances are in order before making any more purchases. If you feel as if you are about to enter a risky situation, be smart and walk away. Playing it conservatively is not a bad thing. Tonight: Relax to a movie or hop on the Web.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You have the ability to beam in anything you want; the problem is figuring it out. A complication involving your personal life could put

a damper on your day, if you allow it to. Move through the day with an eye to positive changes. Tonight: Jump over an obstacle.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to write down some of your thoughts instead of sharing them right now. You could be confused as to which way to head. Whether you realize it or not, you might be causing yourself a problem where there need not be one. Tonight: Chat the night away.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Meetings might be more important than you realize. Someone younger than you will step up and tell you his or her thoughts. On one level, you might not like what you hear. On another level, you'll discover what you need in order to move forward. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your attitude could be preventing you from knowing what choices to make. You might even misread a boss, parent or key person in your life. Detach, and try to remove all of the judgments you have made here. Then look again, and you might be surprised. Tonight: Up late.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ As difficult as it might be, you might want to break precedent and do something very different. Understanding evolves if you are ready to detach and honor your inner voice. Build on a new friendship, perhaps with someone who is quite off-beat. Tonight: Think positively.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might want to rethink a decision involving a partner and money. You might not see eye to eye. Honor who you are, and initiate a conversation. You both could have missed the obvious solution. Find an unbiased friend to brainstorm with. Tonight: Meet someone halfway.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

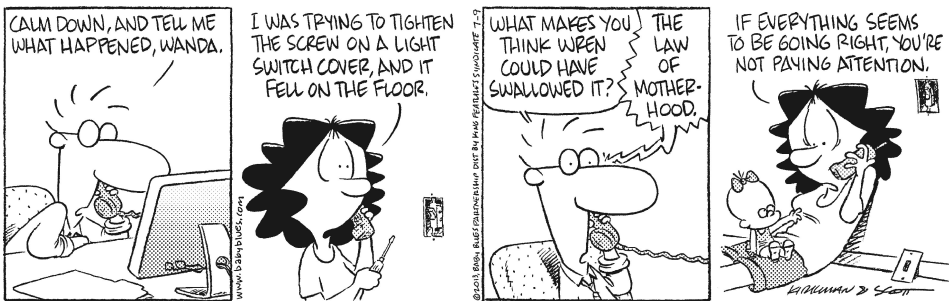
★★★★ After you listen to a loved one, partner or dear friend, you could be convinced that he or she is right. You have little to lose by going along with this person's ideas. Visit with an older friend or loved one at a distance. Tonight: So many invitations for you to choose from!

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Stay mellow, and understand the limitations of your present path. You could be out of sorts and wondering what to do next. Stay level-headed, have discussions and get feedback. Someone might rain on your parade. Ignore this person. Tonight: Do something for you.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

