

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



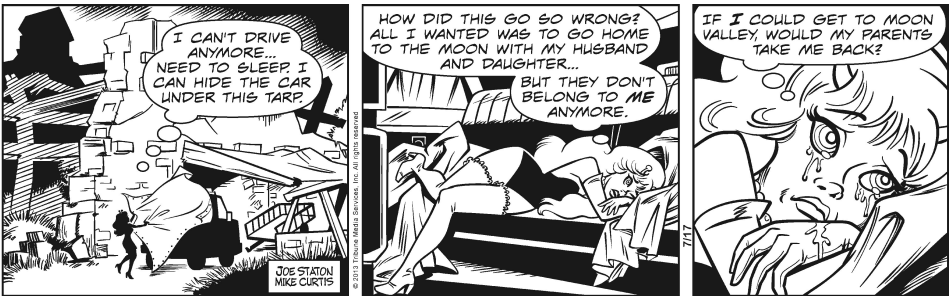
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



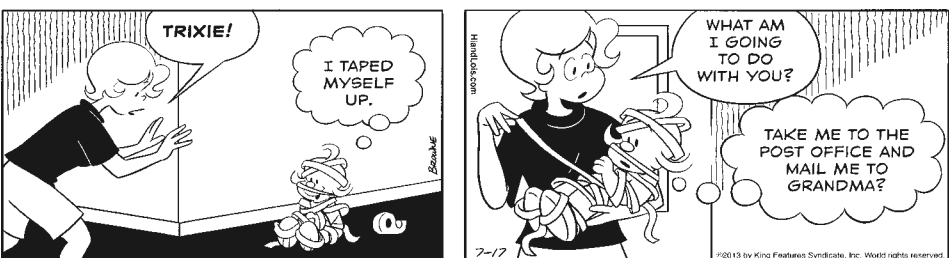
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Teach Children About Sex Before They Become Active

DEAR ABBY: I became sexually active at an extremely young age. I know my whole life would be different, as well as my children's lives, had I just known better. I have a 4-year-old daughter, a 7-year-old son and a 12-year-old stepson. I want desperately to protect them from making the same mistakes I did. I feel like the best way to prevent this is to speak openly about sex.

The closest anyone ever came to speaking to me about sex was my grandfather (of all people!), who gave me a Dear Abby booklet that was written to inform kids about sex. Even though I was embarrassed when he gave it to me and I ran back to my room to hide, I still read the whole thing from front to back. It was interesting, but unfortunately, it was too late. I have always wished I would have been given that booklet a couple of years sooner.

This was about 15 years ago. Is there any chance you know the book I'm talking about and where I could find a few to pass on to my children? Obviously, the family around me were not comfortable speaking of sex. Please know how grateful I am even all this time later that you provided my grandfather with a way to reach out to me. — GRATEFUL IN HOUSTON

DEAR GRATEFUL: Many parents find the subject of sex a difficult one to raise with their children, so they postpone it. As happened in your case, that discussion often comes after it is too late.

Because children are now maturing at earlier ages, these discussions should be part of an ongoing dialogue that begins before puberty. My booklet is written to help "break the ice" and start the discussion more easily. It can be ordered by sending your name and 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. It would be helpful for you to review the booklet again so you can prepare beforehand to answer questions or guide the conversation.

Among the important topics included in my booklet are: "How old must a girl be before she can get pregnant?" "How old must a boy be before he can father a child?" "What time of the month is a girl 100 percent safe?" and "Can a girl get pregnant the first time she has sex?"

Also included is a section on various sexually transmitted diseases and what to do if you think you may have one. This is extremely important because STDs need to be treated right away, and not doing so can have life-long consequences.

Knowledge is power. The more information children receive, the better they will be prepared for making intelligent, informed decisions.

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away 10 weeks ago. I plan on wearing my wedding ring for the remainder of my life. Your opinion would be appreciated. — GRIEVING WIDOW IN TEXAS

DEAR GRIEVING WIDOW: Allow me to offer my sympathy for the loss of your husband. Because the ring brings you comfort, you may wear it as long as you wish.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 in Cancer and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013:

This year the unexpected plays a dominant role in your community or your professional life. You might not know what will happen next. At first, you could have difficulty seeing anything positive emanating from all the surprises; however, you soon will understand how your creativity can point you in a new direction. If you are single, a relationship could have wild swings. Do not hesitate to date others until you are sure of what you want. If you are attached, the two of you might be welcoming a new addition, or a positive reflection of your bond will come into play. SCORPIO's intensity can weird you out.

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 can expect a change in how you view your downtime and the people around you. Keep in mind that your reaction will have much to do with the outcome. Opportunities come in situations where you are able to remain levelheaded. Tonight: Chat with a trusted confidant.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Know when to defer to someone else, as a situation could be much more significant than you think. Pressure rises, and it streamlines the possibilities. Stay neutral. If you detach, the right solution or response will appear. Tonight: Make plans to go out for dinner with a pal.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your ability to move through problems and change direction reflects your optimistic perspective. A friend could change course when you least expect it. You see a unique quality evolve in a meeting. Know that everything is subject to change. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You will feel empowered. Your creativity saves the day with an unanticipated problem involving someone you put on a pedestal. Everything changes in time, so don't worry about what is said or what is happening — just stay centered. Tonight: Do only what makes you smile.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might hear shocking news. By the time you recuperate, you could be rethinking a de-

cision with more care. Consider what needs to happen in order to make you feel more comfortable. Accept change, as it seems to be inevitable. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Understand that you must keep communicating, even if you don't want to. You subconsciously might want to sever the tie with someone. Once you are in a meeting with this person, you will detach and see a situation from a different perspective. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be wondering how much is "enough." Think through a problem carefully, especially if you are hearing the same reaction from others. Take a break for several hours, or take the day off. Afterward, you'll approach life from a more relaxed perspective. Tonight: Pay bills first.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You'll want to switch gears and head in a new direction. Trust that you will have the opportunity to do so. The offers that open up after a shakeup could be quite surprising. Use your knowledge of a situation to turn it around. Tonight: Ask for something you've been wanting.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★ You might not want to overextend yourself. Your sixth sense and ability to see beyond the obvious could be strong right now. You will see the unexpected playing a big role in a new relationship. Know that you are more of an observer than a player. Tonight: Kick back.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You know what you would like to happen, just as a key person in your life knows what he or she would like to happen. Look to similar long-term goals rather than squabble over petty matters. Let go of what you think must happen. Tonight: What you want — just not alone.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

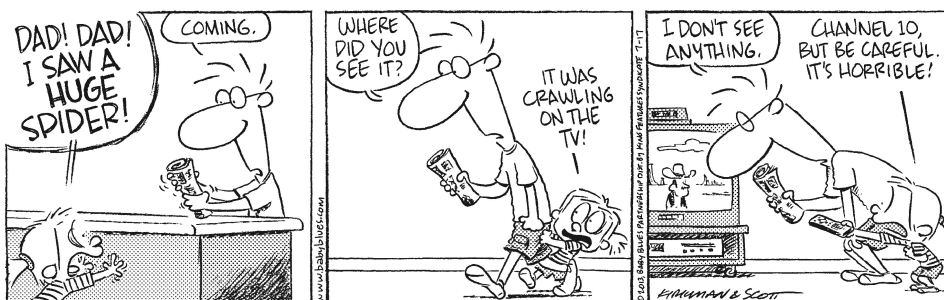
★★★ You might be a little too sure of yourself, which is why you could have a difficult encounter with someone whom you feel has power over you. At the risk of creating uproar, take a step back from the situation and say that you have had enough. Tonight: Write an important letter.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your ability to detach allows you to recognize the high road and figure out the best way to proceed. Use care with your funds, as a sudden expense could shock you. A partner or loved one will be instrumental in helping you see other opportunities. Tonight: Use your ingenuity.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

