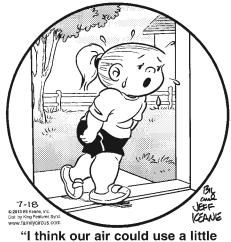


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"I think our air could use a little more conditioning."

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HRAPO.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

BIZARROCOMICS.COM Facebook.com/BizarroComics Did & Kris Robins Good news. Your prostate isn't enlarged

after all. The rest of you is shrinking.

acartan,

FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE







Mom Resists Risking Good

Money On Son's Bad Credit

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby is written

by Abigail Van Buren,

also known as Jeanne

founded by her mother,

Pauline Phillips. Write

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

DEAR ABBY: We have a grown son who is married with his own family and home. He and his wife have jobs. My husband and I are semiretired — not rich, but we live comfortably. Our credit score is great.

My son wants us to co-sign a loan for him. I know his credit is not good because I get phone calls from collection

agents looking for him. We really don't want to co-sign.

Press&Dakotan

How do I explain this to him? I feel that because I'm his mother it obligates me. I am also afraid he will stop letting us see the grandkids if I refuse. — SCARED OF THE DOTTED LINE

DEAR SCARED: Since debt collectors are calling because your son isn't paying his bills, do not co-sign for a loan for him! If you do, you could wind up having to pay it off yourselves.

Your son is an adult. That you are his mother does not obligate you to assume responsibility in case he doesn't pay his bills. If he retaliates by not allowing you to see the grandkids, so be it. If you knuckle under to emotional blackmail, it won't stop, and it could affect your standard of living for the rest of your lives.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in high school and my daddy just passed away. I want to know why I have so much anger and hurt about this. I feel like he never got to see me reach any of my goals in life. The main goal was to see my graduation.

What is the best way I can get my mind off this? — YOUNG GIRL IN ALABAMA

DEAR YOUNG GIRL: I am sorry for your loss, which is a particularly difficult one at your age.

It's important that you understand the feelings you are experiencing are normal. Anger is a part of the grieving process, and it may take some time for you to get beyond it.

The best way to "get your mind off this" would be to find a safe place to TALK about it. A grief support group would be helpful.

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 if born before 10:54 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR T THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013:

This year, especially early 2014, you will experience life with renewed vigor and happiness. You could be overindulgent, partying and socializing to the max. During this period, you will start a new luck and life cycle. If you are single, you could meet someone you put on a pedestal. Be sure that this person belongs there before he or she falls off. If you are attached, the two of you might want to fulfill a longtime dream this year. You both will be excited! SAGITTARIUS is a workhorse who pushes you to be the same way. Your clergyperson could help you find one and so could your family doctor.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding the letter from "Appreciative in Hitchcock, Texas" (June 17) about the importance of sending thank-you notes.

Maybe this will help others: When our three children were young, we had a "note rule." When they received a present, they had five days to write the note. If written within two days, the note only had to be three lines long. On the third day, it was four lines. On the fourth day, five lines. On the fifth day — the gift went to charity!

None of them ever complained about doing their notes, and it became a habit while growing up. We were proud of each of them when their wedding thankyous were out within a week! — STRICT PARENTS IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR STRICT PARENTS: Good for you! You taught your children that there were consequences for shirking responsibility. That's an important lesson because the same is true when they become adults.

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering, do you ever read a letter and say to yourself, "If this is all you have to worry about, you're lucky"? — JEFF IN FORT MCCOY, FLA.

DEAR JEFF: No. I have more respect for my readers than that. However, many people have written me to say that after reading the letters that appear in my column, they felt lucky!

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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out of nowhere, and it could be instrumental in finding the right solution. You will know when you've found the right solution. Tonight: Have some fun.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Make calls and set up appointments. Keep in mind that having a conversation could eliminate the need for some meetings. You will enjoy your friends, even if you are together for more serious matters. Make time for a get-together later. Tonight: Someone puts a spell on you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of the weight your words carry. You tend to be quite articulate and incisive, but you could put off someone who makes a difference in your life. Honor your feelings. You might decide that you are not hearing the whole story. Tonight: Join friends for drinks and munchies.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star\star$ Do not underestimate yourself. Let go of



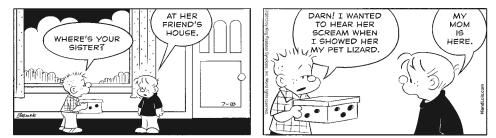
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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 might be delighted at how someone's change of attitude can brighten your day. Good feelings and a sense of being integrated will help you get what you need done. Confirm afternoon meetings, as far as times and places. Tonight: Break past a self-imposed restriction.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Work with an associate in order to find out what is best to do. You might be delighted by what emerges when you team up with this person. Your creativity will surge, and you'll come up with effective solutions. A friend helps you gain perspective. Tonight: Go for togetherness.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to try a different approach or do something very differently. You communicate in a very effective manner. How you see a situation could change radically because of some confusion that surrounds your domestic life. Tonight: Let someone else take the lead.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Your sense of direction takes you down a new path. Be willing to handle vagueness and perhaps an overly uptight personality. You might misinterpret what a boss, older friend or relative means. Remain optimistic, and be as direct as possible. Tonight: Follow your intuition.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You'll find that answers come quickly -far more quickly than you originally thought possible. A brainstorming session might emerge from

your insecurities, even if you feel misunderstood. Be aware of how much you are spending, especially if it's going toward something you are not 100 percent committed to. Listen to your instincts. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to understand what someone expects before delivering what you think he or she wants. You have a tendency to overindulge and get carried away. You'll want to keep others in mind as you claim your power and enjoy living more. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Understand when it is more beneficial to back off, no matter how assertive someone might seem. You will gain a new perspective by saying much less and assuming a more passive role. Listen to news without trying to figure out the best solution. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

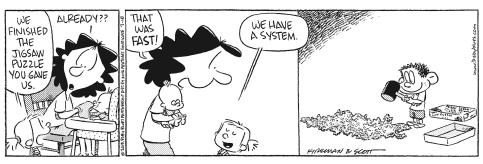
★★★★ You might want to rethink your stance regarding a friend. You often feel as if there is something about this person that might not be on the up-and-up. Realize that you don't need to say anything, but you do need to observe more. Tonight: Go out for dinner and a movie.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Assume the lead in carrying out a project. This drive will be more likely if you feel pressured and see the benefit of completing this project. You might not completely understand what someone says, so ask questions. Tonight: Take a walk or listen to some relaxing music.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON





