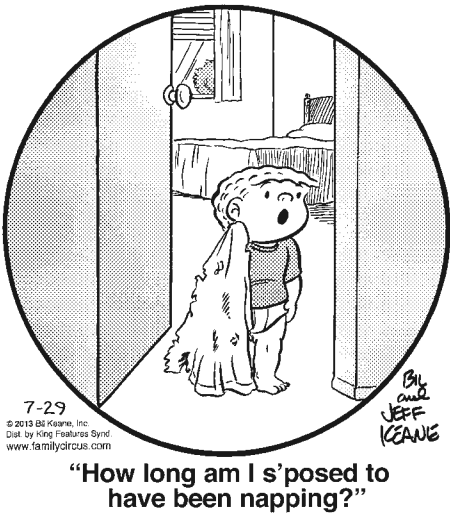
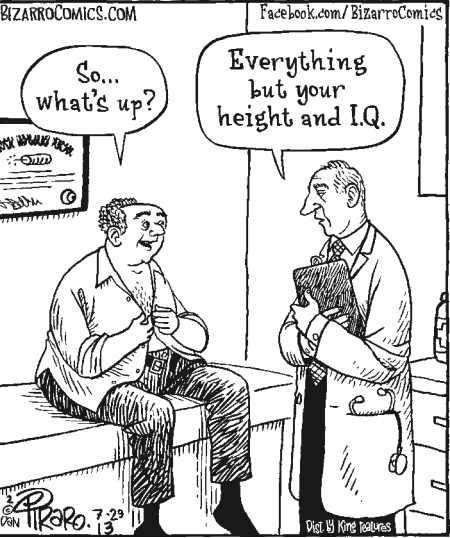


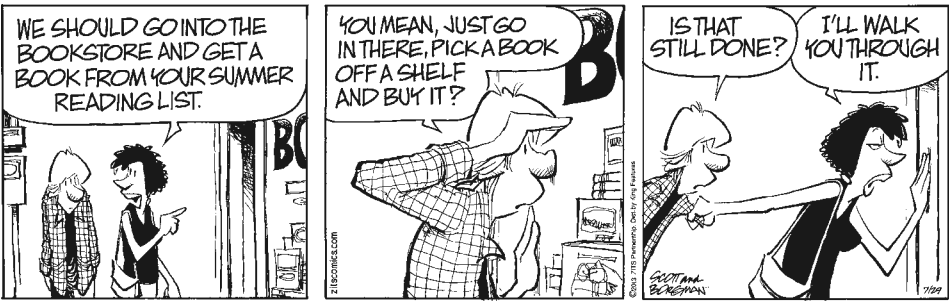
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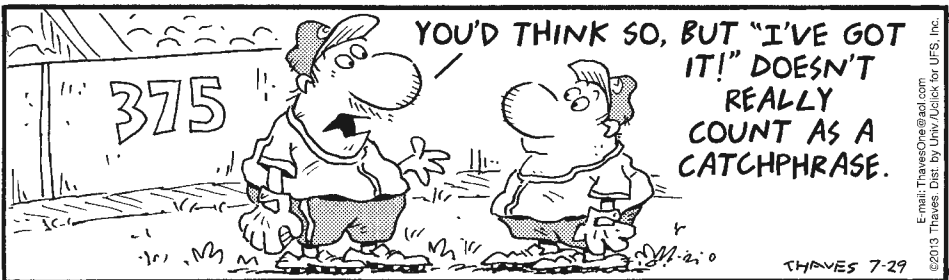
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



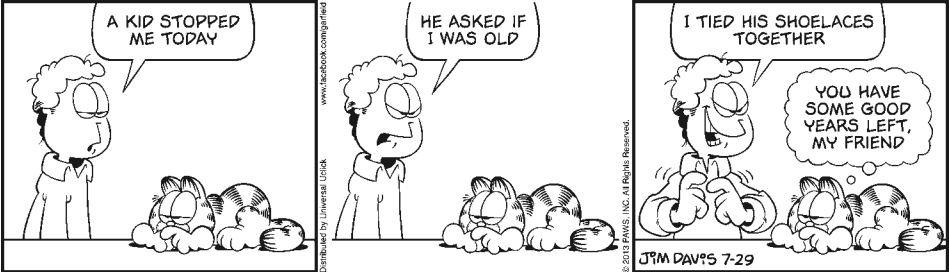
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



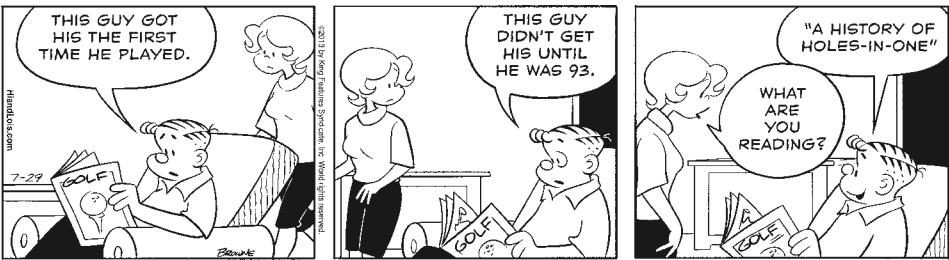
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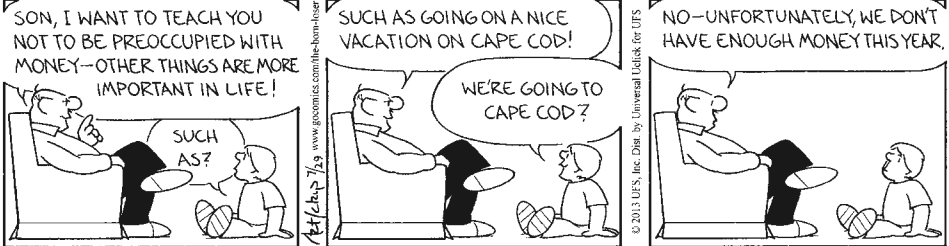
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Grandmother's Empty House Needs Family's Full Attention

DEAR ABBY: My grandmother made the decision to move to an assisted-living facility two years ago. She left most of her belongings in her farmhouse, which has sat empty since then. Her health is fine, so she should be around for many years. It has already been decided that my dad will inherit the house, but he doesn't want to live there anytime soon because of the location. (It's way out in the country.)

I'm afraid the house is going to become unlivable if it sits for years without utilities or anyone taking care of it. Dad mows the grass, but that's about it, and all of Grandma's belongings are collecting dead flies. Nobody seems to care but me. Dad has three siblings, and between them there are nine grandchildren. How do I get my family to take care of Grandma's house? — CONSCIENTIOUS IN KANSAS CITY, KAN.

DEAR CONSCIENTIOUS: Your father may be inheriting the house, but is he also inheriting all of the contents? If the answer is no, there should be a family discussion about the disposition of the furniture, clothing, linens and any possible heirloom items.

I agree with you that nothing good can happen to the house if no one is paying attention. It's an invitation to theft or vandalism. The furniture should be covered with sheets to keep it as free of dust as possible. Someone should check the place at least once a month.

If no one else in the family is willing to step up to the plate and help out, because you are conscientious, it looks like you're elected. If it's too much for you, perhaps a caretaker could be hired to watch over, or possibly live in, the house.

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Joe," is 19, a high school graduate living at home with his dad and me until he leaves for college next year. He will be paying his tuition, and we are charging him a token rent (\$100/month) while he's not in school. He eats dinner with us most

nights, and I usually do his laundry. He has a part-time job.

This has been working out fine except for one thing. Joe has a longtime girlfriend, and he has been spending some nights at her house. (She lives alone.) We haven't forbidden this because he's an adult, and I worry that if we say no he will move in with her.

However, we are not comfortable with his spending nights there.

Part of our objection is we don't like the example it sets for his 13-year-old sister, but aside from that we don't think it's a good idea, although we can't say why. We know they're sexually active regardless of who sleeps where. Are we old-fashioned, or is it reasonable to ask him not to spend the whole night with his girlfriend? — OLD-SCHOOL PARENT

DEAR OLD SCHOOL: Because you have misgivings about your son spending the night at his girlfriend's, you and your husband should talk to him about it together. Although he is an adult, I agree that what's going on sends a wrong message to his younger sister who, unless you talk to her about your family values, will think this is acceptable.

You should also take time to think through why you are uneasy about what your son is doing. If it has anything to do with worry about an unplanned pregnancy, your husband might be able to get through to him better than you can. If he intends to complete his college education, becoming a father could slow him down, if not end it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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.

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 Leo and a Moon in Taurus if born after 2:43 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon is in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013:

This year you might feel conflicted about your choices. A situation involving a roommate or family member often leaves you feeling insecure. It is good to evaluate but not undermine yourself. You have good judgment. If you are single, you have a natural magnetism that mixes well with the fun personality of a Leo, and you will have many admirers as a result. Choosing the right person could take time. If you are attached, you have many different areas where you differ from your significant other. Don't argue -- just understand that you are different and respect your differences. TAURUS can be loyal but stubborn.

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 want to clarify what is happening financially with a partner or close friend. You could feel stressed out by what you see and/or hear, but you will be able to move forward because of a general sense of well-being. Others appreciate your actions. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ The summer often carries a lot of tension for you. Right now, you could feel forced in a certain direction. Your friends or someone close to you will prove to be a very positive force. This person supports you in your ventures and your attitude about living. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You have a lot on your mind, yet you might not be sure of your choices. A wise investment could come through for you. A partner won't be supportive of your needs. In fact, this person might toss what you ask for right back in your face. Tonight: Choose your company with care.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You are more upbeat than you have been in a while. During a meeting, you'll wonder why everyone is being so positive. You see a situation in a different light than many. It would be wise to share your vision and explain your rationale step by step. Tonight: Where people are.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Take a stand, if you must. You could feel pressured by a commitment involving business or

your community. You also might feel burdened by domestic matters that require your full-time attention. Trust that your instincts will be right on. Follow them. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll want to understand all aspects of an issue, as well as what the different parties involved think about it. A meeting will prove enlightening, and it could help direct you toward the appropriate path. One person could be defensive and difficult. Tonight: Be impulsive.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might not be sure how to dissolve a group discussion of a topic effectively. Count on your resourcefulness; you will come up with many solutions after the fact. Do not push a partner too hard about an invitation involving the two of you. Tonight: Let off steam by taking a walk.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Someone feels challenged by you, so be ready to take a stand. It is not an issue of the quality of your work or ideas; rather, this person feeds off making you look foolish. Don't worry -- others see through his or her game. Tonight: Say "yes," and go along with the program.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You will be taken aback by someone's good fortune, which also could impact you. Understand what is expected, and deliver just that. Luck will come to you, as long as you don't become sarcastic. If you do, you won't believe what you could trigger. Tonight: Off to the gym.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might be juggling a lot, but you can get through it. Tap into your creativity in order to eliminate what is no longer necessary. Your ingenuity could save the day. Be careful with someone whose temper could trigger you over nothing. Tonight: Catch up with a loved one.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You will find it intuitive and natural to stay close to home. If you have a home-based business, it will be easier. Be careful with electronic devices and machinery, as your mind might be elsewhere, and you could have an accident. Tonight: Adapt to someone else's mood.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You have a lot on your mind. It would be wise to start sharing your thoughts with others, especially when they are relevant to them. You will feel less pressured as a result. A child could be unusually difficult, and a new flirtation might be touchy. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

