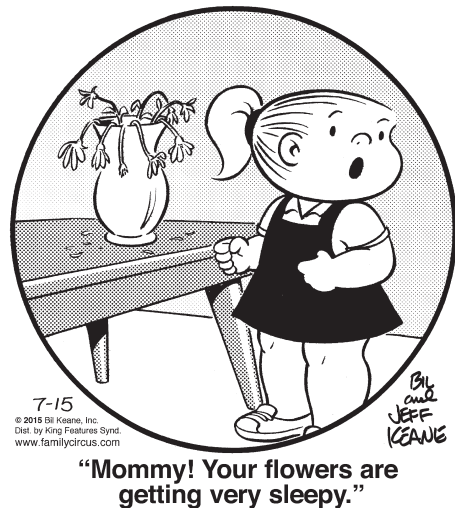


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



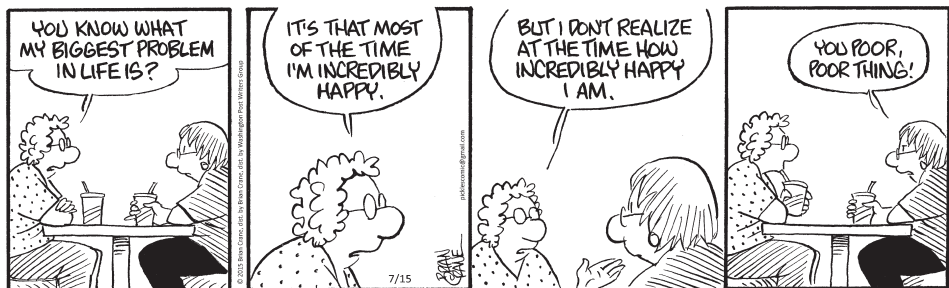
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



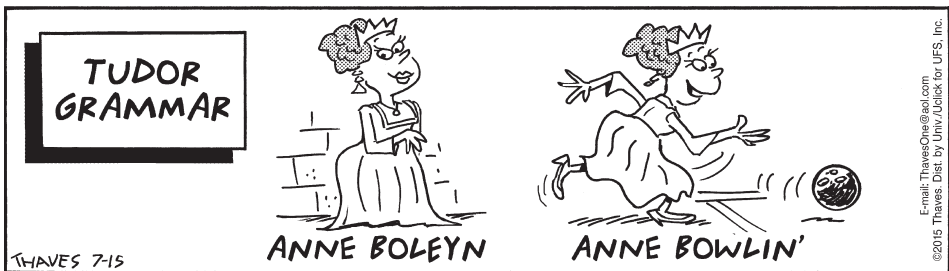
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



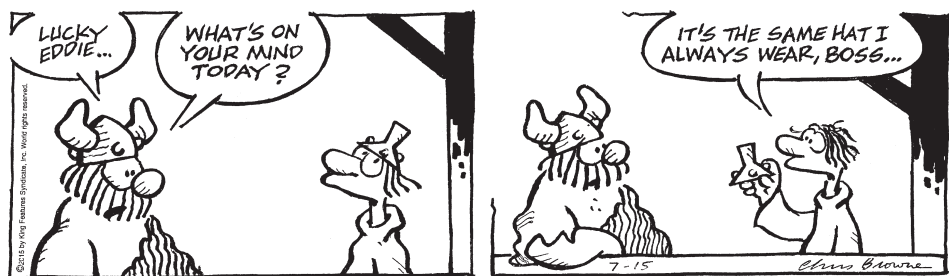
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



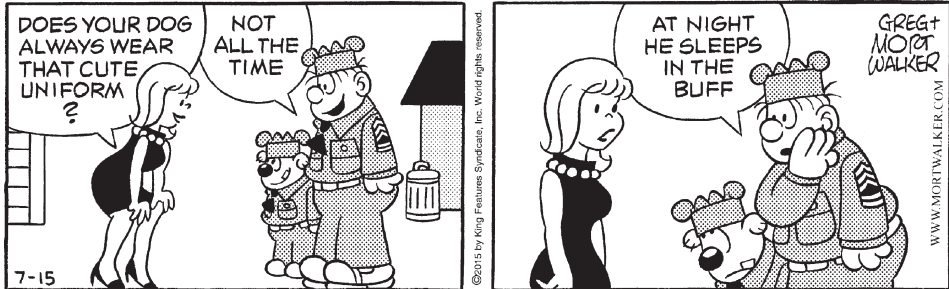
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



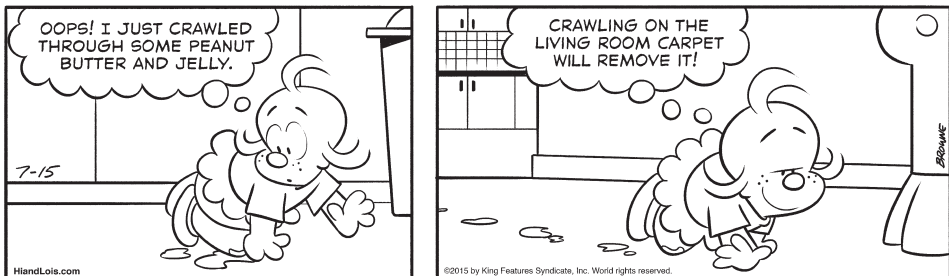
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Teen Booklet Will Help Parents Start Conversation About Sex

DEAR ABBY: Do you have any information or advice on how to talk to my 12-year-old stepdaughter about sex? I have a pretty good idea about where to take the conversation. I don't plan to make it a big deal – not so serious as to scare her, but not too lighthearted either. You never know what kids are saying about it in school these days. I want her to know the door is always open should she need to talk. (My mother did that with me, which I appreciated.)

If you have any pointers or reading material suited for her age, that would be great. – STEPMOM IN TEXAS

DEAR STEPMOM: I'm glad you are opening up the subject because "the talk" with your stepdaughter should have started long ago as part of an ongoing discussion. For a variety of reasons, young people today mature much earlier than they did years ago. She should be told that, if they haven't already started, the changes that will take place in her body are normal and nothing to fear.

As for reading material, my booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know" can help you to start that conversation. It has been distributed in doctors' offices and used to promote discussions by educators and religious leaders, as well as parents who find it hard to discuss these topics with their children. You can order one 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. You should review it before starting the conversation so you will be prepared in advance to answer her questions. The more information you can give her, the better prepared she will be to make intelligent decisions in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old, well-educated woman, engaged to a wonderful man. Although we don't plan to wed for another couple of years, I have a question on my mind. Neither of us is traditional or religious. What should I do about my name?

My fiance would be honored if I took his name, but wouldn't be insulted or hurt if I didn't. For a long time I had thought that hyphenating would be an appropriate solution, but the more I consider it, a long double name on everything I will have to sign might become an inconvenience. I don't dislike his last name or have strong feelings against taking it, but I like the name I have now. Part of me likes the idea of always carrying it.

Since children are not going to be part of the equation, there's no risk of confusing them or their teachers.

What do other young couples do? I would love an outside perspective. – NAME GAME IN KANSAS

DEAR NAME GAME: It is no longer unusual for women to retain their maiden names after marriage. Many choose to do it because they have become established/successful in their careers, others because they want to maintain their identity as an individual.

Some women solve the problem by using their husband's name legally and retaining their maiden name professionally. Others use their maiden name as a middle name and their husband's last name. Please don't worry about this; you have time to make your final decision.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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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.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015:

This year you experience life more intensely. You also have an opportunity for a new beginning in your life. You are unusually creative and dynamic. Others count on you for solutions. If you are single, romance will knock on your door anytime from September on. This person might be very important to your life's history. If you are attached, as a couple you might decide to do a special seminar together or take a long-desired trip. This event will add a great deal of depth to your relationship. You might see a lot of limitations in a fellow CANCER. Could they also be in you?

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 overwhelmed by everything you see as you encounter power play after power play. Whether to get involved in one of these control games will be your decision. What you do could surprise others. Tonight: A new beginning is possible once you rid yourself of frustration.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You will try to explain where you are coming from, but someone else might decide to throw his or her issues into the mix as well. This person seems to want the spotlight on him or her right now. Try not to get involved in a power play. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's wild day.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have a lot to say, and you want others to hear what you're saying on an authentic level. A loved one could become very controlling over a financial issue. Step back and let this situation play out. You might opt for a new beginning. Tonight: Curb a tendency to be rebellious.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Others listen to what you have to say. You are open-minded and full of ideas. A partner could be very demanding, angry and sometimes even controlling. You are likely to get into a tiff with this person. Tonight: Avoid a difficult situation, and you will be much happier.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might want to get away from the wild interactions happening around you. Your temper

could flare up suddenly and catch you and others off guard. Sort through any angry feelings that keep bubbling up, and process them before sharing. Tonight: Get some distance from others.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what is going on with a group of friends. Maintain a caring position, especially with a dear friend. A power play is likely to occur around a loved one. Know that you cannot interfere or protect this person, despite your desire to help. Tonight: Join your friends.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Understand what is happening with a family member. You might experience some pressure from someone who is in charge. Your responsibilities demand attention, and there is no way around it. Expect a tantrum from a loved one. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Your beliefs could trigger quite a response. You might need to use other words to communicate what you are feeling. Express your thoughts in a meaningful way. A friend could shock you with his or her actions. Tonight: The fun begins when you decide it does.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ One-on-one relating will help make your path easier throughout the day. You might have difficulty believing that, though, as you feel someone has his or her eye on a situation that's near and dear to you. You would be well-advised to back off. Tonight: Use self-discipline.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You might feel unusually ornery, and could unintentionally take it out on others. A little restraint would make your life substantially easier during the next few days. A loved one will want to have a new beginning or say goodbye to a problem. Tonight: Be cool.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

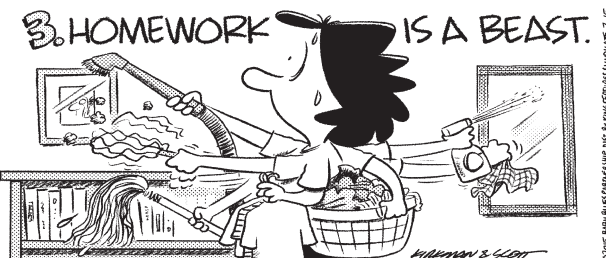
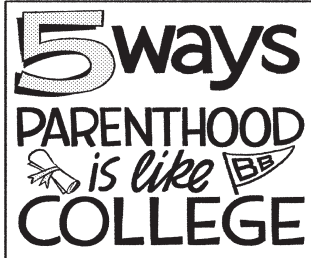
★★★★ You might want to stay home or dive right into work. The objective remains the same: Avoid the myriad personalities in your life who could be reacting to the New Moon. High energy and uproar will surround you on some level. Tonight: Get away from the raving crowds.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

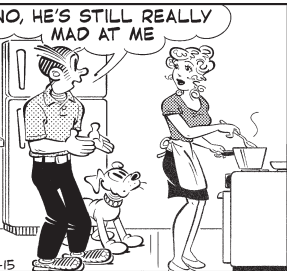
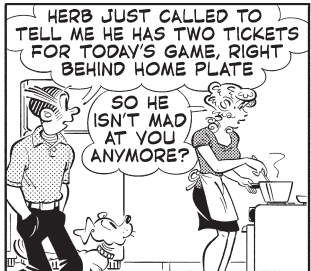
★★★★★ You might enjoy some of the ups and downs of your day. Tap into your ingenuity when something falls apart or when a friend seems to change his or her attitude toward you. Keep an open mind, and don't take comments so seriously. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

