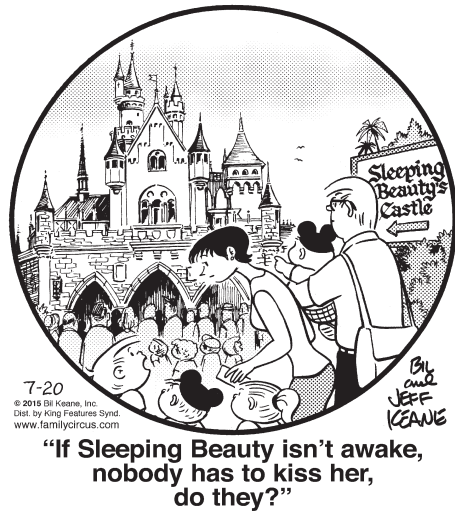


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



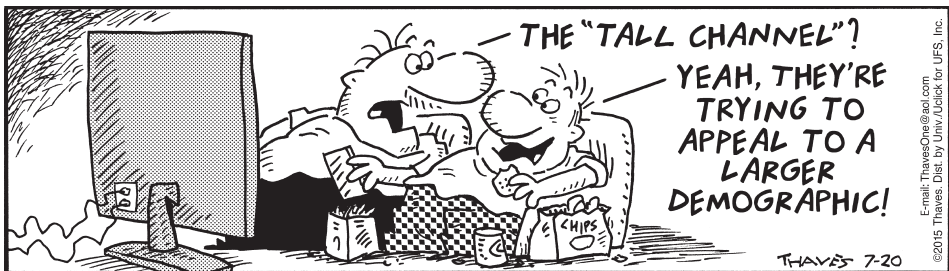
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



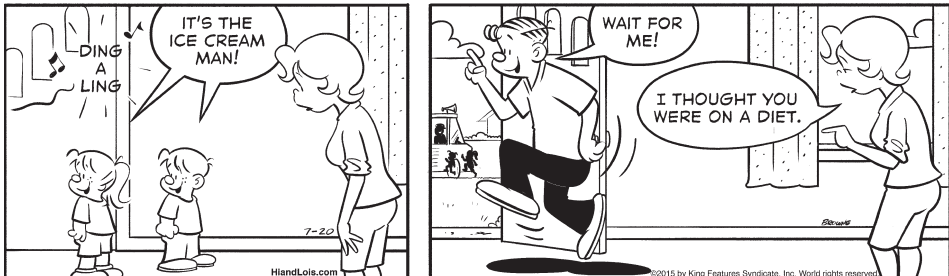
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



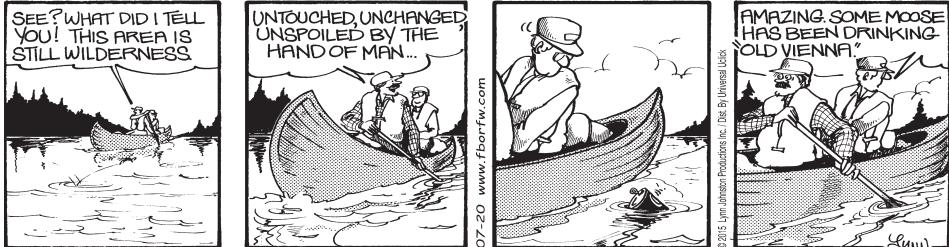
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Curious Daughter Discovers A Bombshell In Mom's Diary

DEAR ABBY: I recently found a notebook of my mom's. On the outside cover it said, "Disclaimer: Do Not Open Unless You're Me!" Being the curious soul that I am, I opened it despite the disclaimer.

As I flipped through the pages, I learned many things about my mom that I didn't know, like her faith in God and how the things that happened in her life molded her into who she is today. I stopped at the page titled, "The Summer of 10th Grade." As I read it, I learned the truth about how I was conceived. Written in capital letters were the words "I WAS RAPED." It felt like the world had stopped. I had no clue.

I'd always assumed Mom got pregnant at 16 because she made stupid decisions, but I was wrong. I could never imagine how my mom could get through a day without looking at me as a reminder of what happened to her.

Where do I go from here? Should I confront her about it? I have no one to talk to, so I hope you can give me some advice. — CHILD OF RAPE

DEAR CHILD: I'm glad you wrote, because it gives me an opportunity to point out that if you hadn't been wanted, your mother had other alternatives. If you had no clue, it's because you are the daughter she loves, and I'm sure you have been a source of much joy in her life.

If you feel the need to discuss this with her, then you should. Because she left the notebook in a place where it could be discovered, she may have subconsciously wanted it to be found.

DEAR ABBY: At 24, I am fortunate to have loving, functional relationships with my mother, father, stepmother (of 15 years) and stepsister. I attribute my healthy childhood to the fact that my mom and dad have always acted as best friends when we're together, despite having been separated almost my entire life.

However, lately I have been finding my parents' relationship very inappropriate. They have been hanging out together often without me, and almost certainly without my stepmother's knowledge. I have stumbled upon suggestive texts that imply a flirty relationship, and probably more. I don't know whether these are recent developments or if I have just stopped being naive.

I would never want my stepsister to discover anything about my mom and dad the hard way. I especially don't want to see her hurt by becoming a child of divorce. Would I be overstepping my boundaries if I asked my mom and dad to spend less time together and restrict their relationship to being parents to me and that's all? — HURT CHILD-WOMAN

DEAR HURT CHILD-WOMAN: If you approach it the way you have written it to me, yes, I think you would offend both of your parents. If you are afraid your stepsister may be hurt if her parents separate, be there to comfort and support her, but do not insert yourself into what may or may not be an explosive minefield. This may be the way your mom and dad have always related to each other, your stepmother may be aware of it, and you could come across as extremely presumptuous.

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 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 in Cancer and a Moon in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015:

This year you can verbalize your thoughts and feelings more clearly than you have in the past. People respond to your efforts. You will be busier and happier than you have been in many years. The period starting mid-August could bring a lot of emotional fulfillment. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone of significance. You won't have to go far to meet this person; it will happen naturally. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy clear and expressive communication. Schedule more dates and weekends away together. VIRGO has a precision that you lack.

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'll feel as if you can handle whatever heads your way. You could be feeling this way all day long, so make the most of it. You likely will be greeted by the unexpected. You will see many fast changes when you go in a new direction. Tonight: Take time to chat with a pal.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your creativity encourages you to head down a new path. This new vision is the result of being able to detach. In the next few months, you will see a change in your romantic life. As a result, you will be much happier. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You will appreciate some downtime, even if those around you don't encourage that kind of behavior. You will open up and be more creative once you get some much-needed personal time. Use caution with money matters. Tonight: Let the party go on and on.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. How you handle a certain situation could be much more effective if you detach, ask questions and are willing to re-evaluate your perspective about a key person in your life. Tonight: Catch up with a neighbor who has news to share.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Use caution with your finances, and

you will avoid trouble. Your sense of humor comes into play when dealing with someone unpredictable who is full of light and energy. Understand what is happening behind the scenes, and move forward. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Relate directly to someone you care about. This person will be delighted to have your time and attention. In general, reactions today will shock you and send you into another dimension. Maintain a sense of humor. Don't overthink a situation. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Know when you need to step back and say little. Close associates seem unpredictable. You might take someone's comments personally and not as they were intended. Keep smiling, and know what results you desire. Life might take an interesting turn. Tonight: Make it a quiet night.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your ability to understand where a friend is coming from should be treasured by that individual. Don't push someone too hard right now. You'll have an opinion about what needs to happen, but so will he or she, and you might not concur. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You have the capability to turn a situation around if you so choose. Nevertheless, you can't seem to stay focused on one issue at the moment. Try to be more direct and upbeat in various areas of your life. Let go of what is difficult for now. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You'll push hard to achieve certain benefits, especially in business and financial matters. Remember that emotional security also is a high priority. Listen to what is happening with a friend or associate who might be far away. Tonight: A new vision becomes possible.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ A partner, friend or loved one seems to want to push you in the direction that he or she would like you to head in. If you don't want to head down that path, speak up — there are different paths follow. Expect a certain amount of flak. Tonight: Be a duo.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

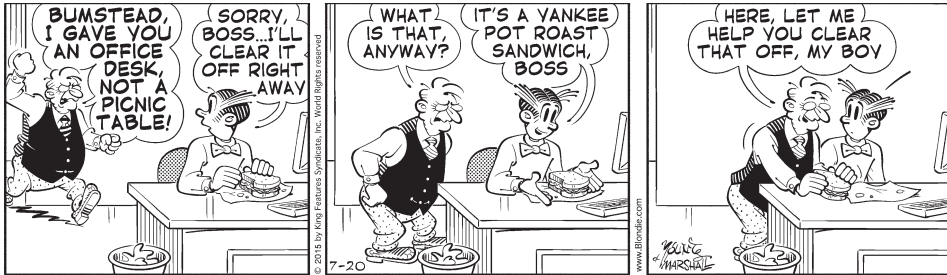
★★★★ You might feel out of sorts as you head in a new direction. What you think you want and what you actually receive could be two different things. You need to lie low, even if someone is being fussy. What happens here could be crucial to your well-being. Tonight: Say "yes."

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

