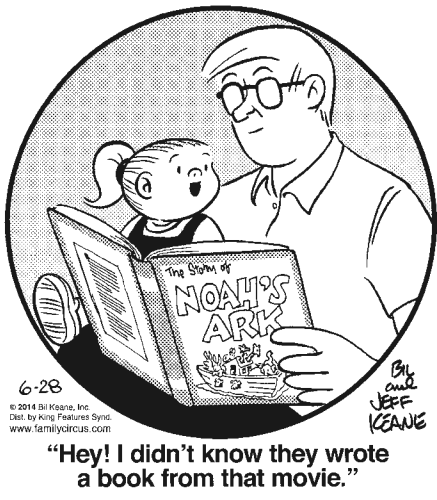


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Hey! I didn't know they wrote a book from that movie."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



With Dan Piraro 6-28-14

Family's Hard Times Knock Teen Off Track For Diploma

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and a junior in high school. My family has recently been hit with hard times. We lost our home and are living in a motel, and I am struggling with depression. I haven't attended school since last September. However, I am feeling well enough to the point where I'd like to start attending school again.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

I would be willing to take more than six periods and, if necessary, I would be willing to attend summer school. I want to graduate from high school, but I don't know if that's possible.

My mother has never been OK with any decisions I have made, so I don't know how to tell her. I don't want to disappoint her, but I do want to do this. Any advice you are willing to give would be appreciated! — ANONYMOUS GIRL

DEAR GIRL: You are clearly an intelligent young woman, and your determination to finish school is something that should be supported by all of the adults in your life. If possible, go back to the school you were attending and talk with a counselor or the principal about your family's circumstances — including your struggle with depression. Whether you can resume studies at your former school may depend upon whether the motel you're staying in is within the district. But a counselor should be able to help you to transfer if that becomes necessary.

I wish you the best of luck. Your mother should be proud of you because I certainly am.

DEAR ABBY: I am pregnant with my third child. There has been a large gap between baby No. 2 and baby No. 3. With my second child, my husband and I were just starting out and used hand-me-downs. But now we

are established and can purchase items to suit our preferences.

Many well-meaning family members and friends have started inundating us with hand-me-downs (some ask first; others are just dropping things off). I really don't want any of these items. However, I don't want to seem ungrateful or rude because the well-wishers seem so excited to give me these things. The way I was raised, I have a hard time turning down offers such as these. How do I kindly tell these people I don't want their hand-me-downs? — CONFLICTED IN PHILLY

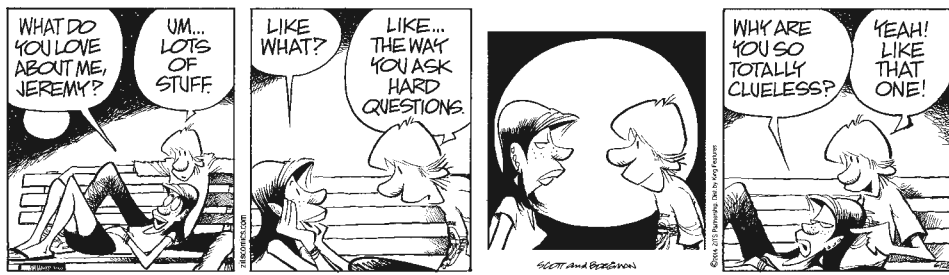
DEAR CONFLICTED: Thank the donors warmly for their thoughtfulness and generosity, and say you already have all the things you need for the new baby. It is not necessary to allude to the fact they are "hand-me-downs." If the person insists on giving them to you anyway, donate them to a charity such as a homeless shelter. (Warning: To avoid possible hurt feelings, do NOT include them in a yard sale.)

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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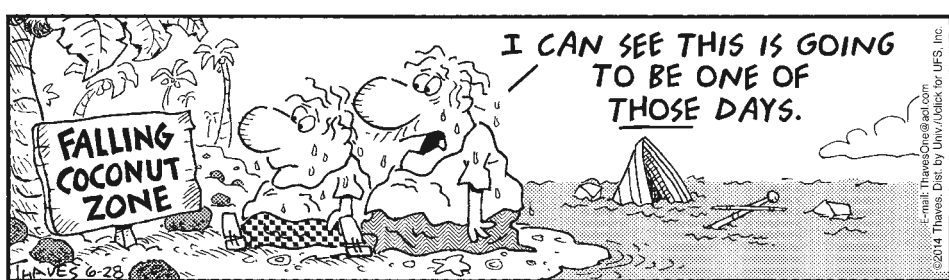
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



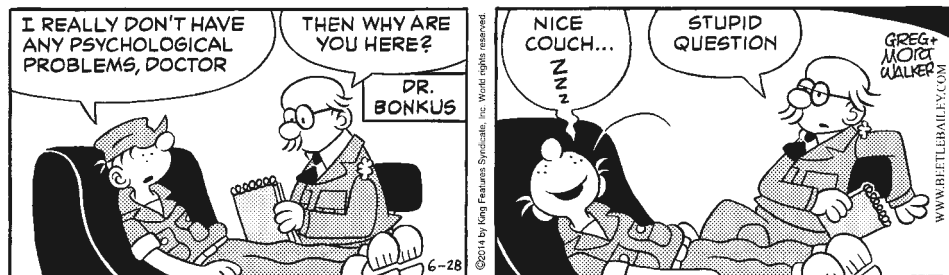
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



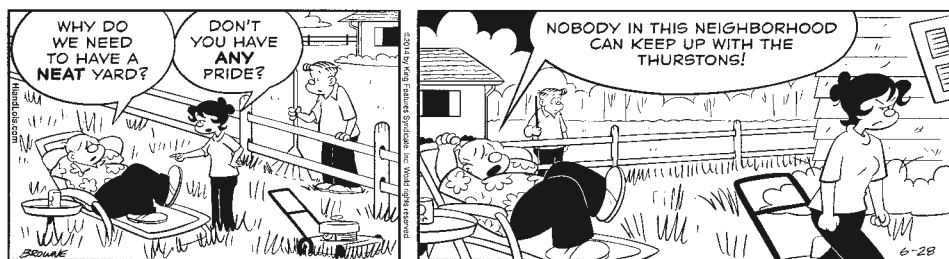
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2014:

This year you will be more dynamic than you've been in the past. Your personal life will take priority. Some of you will be in a position to buy a new home after July. You are likely to see a pay raise head your way this year. If you are single, others find you to be extremely attractive. You have to sort out who you would enjoy relating to and who offers you what you need. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your life together more and more if you remember to be more sensitive to each other. Re-enact one of your first dates together in order to add more romance to the mix. A fellow CANCER is as temperamental as you are!

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 understand more of what triggers excitement and unpredictability in your life. If you enjoy this element of the unexpected in your life, then do not worry about it. Your stability comes forth in these situations. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ If someone repeatedly seeks the same response, understand that he or she is testing you. You'll gain unexpected insights, though you could be quite frustrated by this situation. A new beginning becomes possible later on. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's happenings.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might consider an alternative approach to a situation, especially as you see what is happening on a different level. A child or new friend could become quite rebellious. Try to maintain a more centered, quiet approach with this person. Tonight: Ever playful.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could feel tired and pushed to the max. Just the same, you seem to be more stable than you normally are. You have the ability to be direct in how you handle situations and people. A family member could be on the warpath. Tonight: Say "yes" to a pleasing offer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★ Know when you need to move in a new direction; however, keep your thoughts to yourself for

now. You might want to accomplish a lot on your own. If an irate friend or loved one shows up, stay cool. Nothing will be gained by getting angry. Tonight: Choose personal and quiet.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could be more confused than you realize. You suddenly might be able to turn a situation around, no matter how unsure you are about your choices. You know what is acceptable, and you won't opt for anything less. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Tension builds to a new level, where you easily could feel like a firecracker. Be conservative with your funds, no matter how great an idea might seem. Remain optimistic about a decision you have yet to make. Just give yourself time. Tonight: All eyes turn to you.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Take news with a grain of salt. You might feel very upbeat right now, and that will encourage a positive response. Check out the details and facts of a situation before you give the OK. Be as clear as possible with others. Tonight: Opt to be entertained.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to see a situation evolve to where you can relate on a one-on-one level with a friend. You could be low on energy, yet your intuition will tell you to act anyway. You might be amazed at how good you feel once you make a move. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Defer to others, and try to get a better sense of direction. The unexpected might occur with a partner, whether you like it or not. A disagreement could evolve out of the blue with someone who is essential to your community involvement. Tonight: Go with a loved one's suggestion.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might want to listen to feedback from someone who is far more serious than you are. You could disagree, but this person will enlighten you about other styles and ways of handling a situation. Consider a trip in the near future. Tonight: Invite friends over.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could discover that someone has been holding back and not sharing some of his or her negative feelings. You might be the recipient of the sum total. Be diplomatic, and back away, for now. Have a discussion once the waters are calm. Tonight: Kick up your heels. Be a kid again.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

