

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Hardworking Couple Reluctant To Help Freeloading Relative

DEAR ABBY: My spouse and I, after many long years of school, advanced degrees and work in the corporate world, are now retired. We are (we hope) financially secure.

Both of us have siblings who were less successful for various reasons. What obligation do hardworking people have toward their less successful siblings, especially one who has been a freeloader his entire life?

"Rusty" sponged off his aging parents to keep from having to earn a decent living. We feel sorry for him, but it's the bed he made for himself years ago when he took shortcuts. We're afraid if we give him a hand, he'll expect an arm next time.

As far as I'm concerned, only Rusty's laziness prevents him from getting a part-time job to help pay the bills. If we give him money, we'll have to do it for the other siblings on both sides.

I know this sounds uncharitable, but we worked for 40 years and struggled through everything life had to throw at us. We saved every penny we could and invested wisely. How do we deal with family members who can take care of themselves, but don't? — ANONYMOUS IN AMERICA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: You decide on a case-by-case basis, unless all of your family members are like Rusty. And if they are, you sympathize, but don't subsidize.

DEAR ABBY: Most of my childhood was spent with my grandparents, who raised me until I moved out at 21. I have always regarded them as my true parents because they were always there for me.

My biological parents were also a part of my life. I would visit them on weekends. I love them, too, and appreciate that they allowed me to have a stable childhood with my grandparents.

I am engaged to be married next summer, and I need to decide who should walk me down the aisle. I'd like my grandfather to have that honor, but I don't want to hurt my father

by not asking him to do it.

What should I do when the time comes to make the decision? — NAMELESS IN THE MID-WEST

DEAR NAMELESS: Consider asking both of them to walk you down the aisle. I'm sure it would touch not only their hearts, but also those of your guests to see you honor your grandfather, who was your "week-DAY father," as well as your dad, your "weekEND father."

DEAR ABBY: Organized religion has caused me many difficulties throughout my life. I would like to distance myself from it as much as possible. I consider myself a "religious independent." I believe in God, but I don't believe organized religion has anything to do with God.

My question concerns my funeral. Since a funeral is an organized religious ceremony, is it possible to have one without clergy being present? Have you heard of anything like this, and what would you suggest? — WASHINGTON, D.C., READER

DEAR READER: Instead of a funeral, many people choose to have a "celebration of life," independent from religion. Make sure your family and friends understand your wishes, then talk to a funeral home director and make pre-planning arrangements.

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.

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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## 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 Gemini and a Moon in Pisces if born before 12:01 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014:

This year you seem to be in the right place at the right time. You are able to verbalize exactly what is on your mind and have the other person receive the message clearly. You also are capable of communicating in many different styles, when needed. If you are single, romance becomes a distinct possibility after July. You have a newfound charisma that seems to attract others like a bear to honey. If you are attached, the two of you will cruise into one of your special years together. Just let it all flow. ARIES is lucky for 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)

★★★ By midday, you'll perk up and feel as if the world is your oyster. With that drive and determination, you seem to weather any potential storms. Return calls, clear your desk and complete whatever you must to go cruising into the weekend. Tonight: Others like your ideas.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a domineering friend. At a certain point, you will need to establish some boundaries. You might feel limited by this situation. Use the afternoon to respond to calls and emails. Know that you are on top of your game. Tonight: A much-needed timeout.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Take care of what is important to you. If you get tangled up in a situation that you cannot get out of, simply adapt your schedule. A meeting could spring up during the day. You will be delighted to meet up with someone you haven't seen in a while. Tonight: Find your friends.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Use the morning for any talks. You might decide that someone is simply too difficult to speak with. In this case, postpone the talk or let someone else make the call. A boss, parent or older relative might need some of your time in the afternoon. Tonight: A must appearance.

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

★★★ Finally someone will share what is on his or her mind. As a result, you will experience a

sense of relief. Mentally, you will feel freed up to take a risk. Make calls and catch up on others' news. Consider taking a weekend trip in the near future. Tonight: Hang out with your pals.

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

★★★★ You might be best off deferring to others for the moment. Though you have a lot of people in your life, one person remains your major concern. Plan a late lunch with him or her, or perhaps get together some time during the weekend. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

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

★★★★ Dive into your work, and get as much done as possible. Consider a new offer or a different job in the proper perspective. You might have received a lot of mixed messages as of late, but others have been stressed out as well. Tonight: Go along with someone else's suggestion.

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

★★★★ The Romeo or Juliet within you emerges, perhaps because it is Friday. At some point during the day, you will need to settle down and get some responsibilities cleared out. Once you are in work mode, you will accomplish a lot. Tonight: Be true to yourself.

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

★★★★ You will move past any sluggishness by noon. You have the ability to make a difference with a problem or with difficult interactions. Use your time well this evening. Someone might want to have a long-overdue chat. Tonight: In a flirtatious mood.

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

★★★ Know exactly what you want from a roommate or a domestic matter. You clearly are sure of yourself, and you are unlikely to be responsive to a change in goals. As a result, others will bend to your will. Tonight: Keep your mindset, though your focus might be on something else.

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

★★★★ You have a way of turning a difficult situation into a positive interaction. You know what you want, and you will edge someone into seeing your point of view. Return calls and stay caught up with your emails. Know what you want. Tonight: Reach out to a loved one.

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

★★★ Use the morning to clear up an important matter or some work responsibilities. You might want to be slightly more frivolous and indulgent in the afternoon. Be aware of what you have to offer. A family member or loved one will open up. Tonight: Let off steam.

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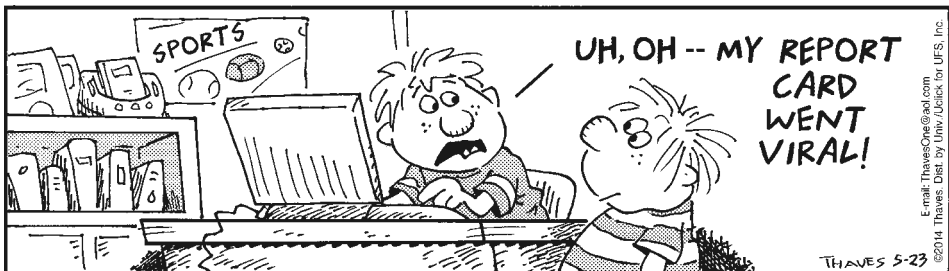
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



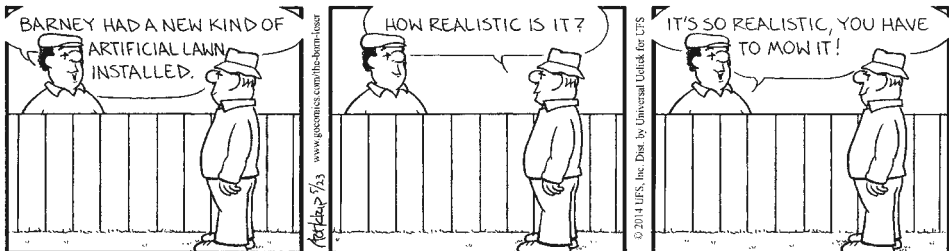
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



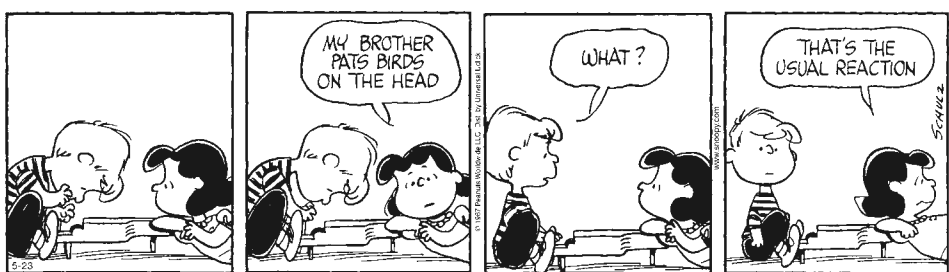
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



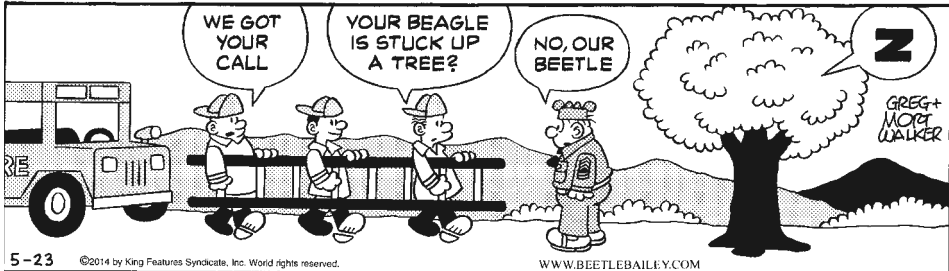
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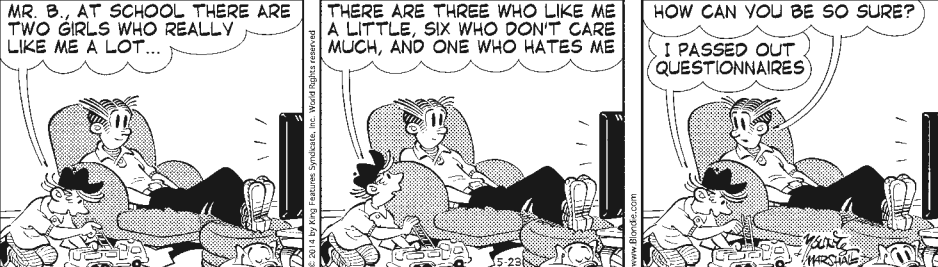
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MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

