

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



Little Billy draws up one more of his family observations.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Wife Is Crushed To Learn Man Doesn't Want More Children

DEAR ABBY: I had been single a long time when I married a wonderful man, "Edgar," who had custody of his two children. After we had dated awhile, he told me about his vasectomy. He said he and his wife had agreed not to have any more children. As our relationship progressed, Edgar told me he would have the vasectomy reversed if I wanted to have children — which I said I definitely did. After two years of marriage, I finally brought up the subject. Edgar then informed me he didn't want to reverse the operation. He said he couldn't handle having another child. Abby, I am crushed. I thought Edgar loved me enough to give me children out of our union and love. I love his children and wouldn't favor our children over his. I would never consider leaving Edgar over this, but I don't know if I can ever forgive him for deceiving me and leading me on. My husband has denied me the children he knew I so desperately wanted. Abby, I urge couples who may find themselves in a similar situation to be honest with each other before they marry. — CHILDLESS AND HEARTBROKEN

Will is not a good "people" person. He's hard to have around when I have parties, and he constantly interrupts me when I'm trying to talk to other kids. He just doesn't know the right things to say. Also, he comes from a very wealthy family, and sometimes makes sick jokes about middle-class people. This has offended me and some of my friends.



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.

Will is obsessed with politics and likes to strike up debates with me over petty issues. It's really annoying. His obsession with politics makes people think he's a geek. He really can be sometimes, but he's also a nice guy. My main problem is that at lunch he follows me around when I go to talk to my other friends. When I move to another part of the table, he moves, too — right across from me — so I can't talk without him butting in. He's like a maggot sticking to me!

I wish he could find some other friends and not hang out with me all the time. I like him as a person, but what can I do to make him stop following me? — BUGGED IN CHATHAM, N.J. DEAR BUGGED: Level with him privately and tell him exactly what you have told me. You would be doing him a kindness. Explain to him that while you like him, you also need to spend time with your other friends — and to please make other seating arrangements a couple of days a week. That way, you're not cutting him off completely.

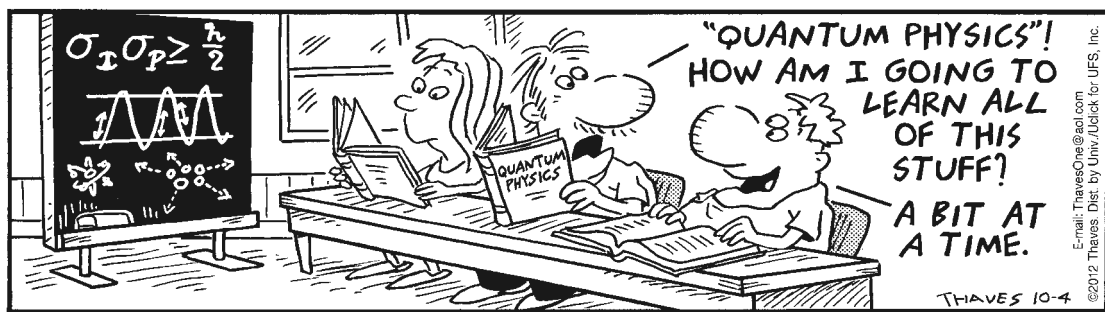
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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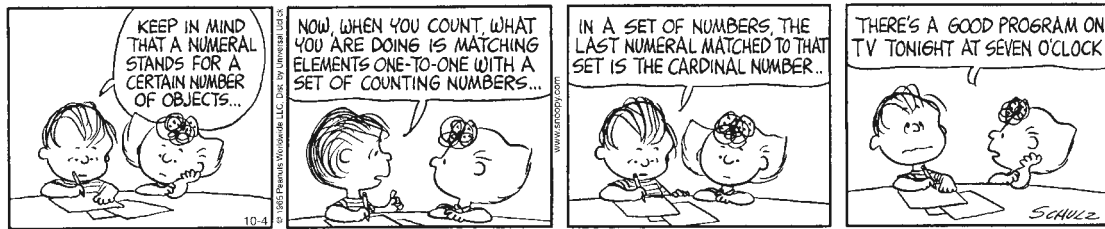
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THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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 Libra and a Moon in Taurus if born before 4:47 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 2012:

This year others can count on you for feedback, as you tend to be quite verbose. Your ability to detach from yourself and your life will prove to be essential to your year and overall happiness. Distant elements, educational opportunities, travel and issues involving the law might not move as fast as you'd like, but you will arrive where you want to be in due time. If you are single, you could meet several people. The person who is quite different will be the right one for you. If attached, a trip will invigorate your relationship. Keeping communication open will be a snap. GEMINI always has a different perspective.

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)

Remedy any confusion, at least on your side. With your busy pace, you might regret nixing an event or an offer to take a break. Be aware that in the next several months, you might very well have a similar opportunity again; just don't let it slip by. Tonight: Express what you have been holding back.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Note an emerging possessive streak. What is going on with you? You might need to take a timeout for a personal assessment and for working on your self-image. Consider making a much-needed change that you have in mind. It will only serve to benefit you. Tonight: Take care of errands first.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You are comfortable with having a plethora of options. You might regret a recent decision you have made, but you will have an opportunity to remedy that remorse soon enough. Hang in there. A boss or higher-up acts in the most unexpected manner. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You have several days before you have to make a decision. Think carefully about what you will choose. Make appointments to see your doctor and dentist — not that you will have a problem, but it could prevent a problem from happening. Surprises lie ahead. Tonight: Get some R and R while you can.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You could regroup and become upbeat about

a difficult situation. Use this skill more often to avoid being upset or for trying to understand a different perspective. You might be hoping for some positive news. It could be delayed, but it will happen. Tonight: Find fun with a friend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Be willing to take a stand, no matter what is occurring. Key people might act erratically. Someone dotes on you adoringly; let this person know what you want. You feel upbeat, despite your many responsibilities. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Reach out for someone at a distance. A cohort could be distorting a situation more than you realize. You will gain more information and insight about this person if you speak to him or her about opening up lines of communication. Tonight: Times are changing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You have a lot to say and do. A close associate steps in, as he or she needs attention and wants to express some creativity. Be careful — the unexpected could occur with this person. An offer or invitation will reappear. This time, be sure to make a fast decision. Tonight: Try out a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might be overwhelmed by requests. In some cases, you will need to say "no." Some of the key people in your life could be more unstable than usual. Give them space if a difficult conversation occurs. Tonight: Consider starting the weekend early.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Focus on errands and your own well-being. If you are working, you might experience a need to be very attentive. Take nothing for granted today — not your pet, health, favorite plant or group of friends. Make sure to give enough attention to each of these. Tonight: Put your feet up. Relax.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

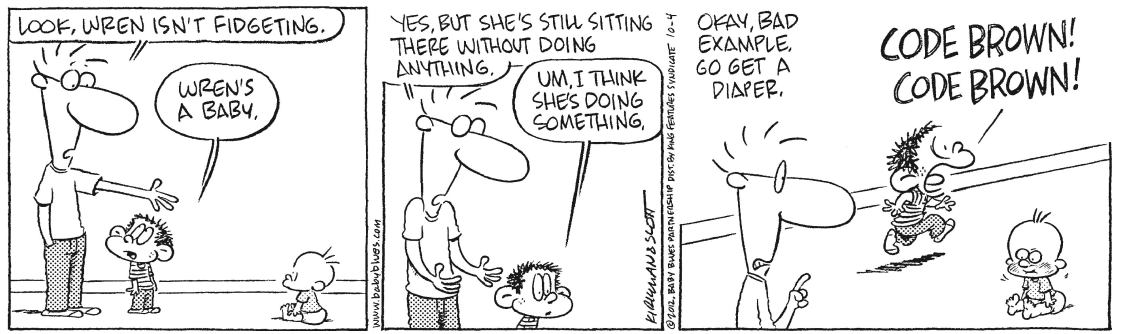
Your creativity and ingenuity could take an interesting turn. You might wonder exactly what works and what will remain experimental, until you find the answers. Remember that with you, everything changes quickly. A child or loved one needs to open up, yet he or she might pull back at the slightest lack of interest. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Anchor in and enjoy yourself. You could have a lot of questions about a real-estate matter and/or a domestic issue. You cannot push right now in these areas, but you can remain open to conversations when others are ready. You might feel differently in a few days. Tonight: Order in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

