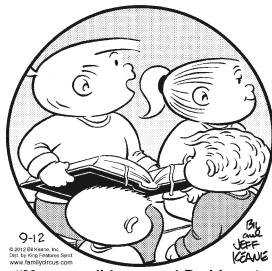
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FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

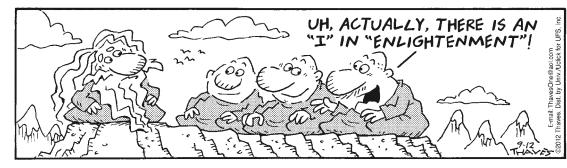


"Mommy, did you and Daddy get this Bible before or after we were begat?"

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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A Good Conversationalist **Lets Others Have Their Say**

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

Abigail Van Buren, also

and was founded by her

mother, Pauline Phillips.

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

Write Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I'm really bad when it comes to speaking. It's hard for me to squeak out the few words I can. I am shy and not very sociable, so when I'm with people, even my two friends, I feel like I come across as rude. I never have the right things to say. When I'm with my family, I don't usually have this problem.

In public, it seems like everyone else is so much more interesting than I am. Making conversation is a lot of trouble. I know this sounds silly, but do you know if there is anything that can be done about it? I heard you had a booklet about being more social. Is it still published? If so, how can I get one? — VICTORIA IN SOUTH CAR-OLINA

DEAR VICTORIA: Making conversation may seem like "a lot of trouble" to you because making conversation is a SKILL that you haven't yet mastered. A surefire way to contribute in social situations is to become informed about what is going on in the world by reading books, magazines, the Dear Abby column (of course) and going on the Internet. The more informed you are about the world, the better you will be.

You don't have to be an "authority" on everything. A good conversationalist is interested in what other people have to say instead of feeling pressured to fill the air with the sound of his or her own voice. My booklet "How to Be Popular" is filled with suggestions about how to polish one's social skills. It isn't meant to be read just once and then put aside. Read it often because it covers a variety of social situations. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Popularity Booklet,

ACQUELINE 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 Virgo and a Moon in Leo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12, 2012:

You approach life with sensitivity, yet you demonstrate the ability to openly accept the many surprises that head down your path. Sometimes you might get angry or en-raged as a result of being left out of plans. If you are single, often you might feel excluded. Know that this feeling stems from your childhood, and try to get through it. If you are attached, you often might pull in tightly to your sweetie, especially when you feel insecure. Don't worry this person understands. You pitch in when your significant other needs or wants your support. LEO reads you cold. 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)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You flex and adjust to someone else's plans. You might want to understand what is going on with a key person in your life. If you are too abrupt, what happens as a result might not be all that pleasant. A partner has very different ideas from you. Tonight: Play the night away.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. There are tips not only for what to say, but also what NOT to

say, which is one of the keys for becoming the kind of person other people find interesting, attractive and want to know better. If parents, teachers and clergy know people who need help in this regard, it might make an inexpensive gift that could help change the course of their lives.

Most people can concentrate on only one thing at a time. One of the best cures for shyness is to forget about yourself and concentrate on the OTHER person by asking about what he or she is interested in. Try it, and you'll find it works.

DEAR ABBY: I have this little boy I tutor. He is 7 and says he loves me. I'm 18. I try to tell him I'm way too old and he isn't my type, but all he says is, 'Age ain't nothing but a number." Help! I need to know what to do. -ALÉX IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ALEX: Start by telling him that the word "ain't" isn't appropriate

- that what he should be saying is, "Age isn't anything but a number." Then tell him that while you are complimented, he is there to study — so you'll revisit the subject when HE is 18.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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anger rather than saying something you might regret later. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You have the ability to make a difference within your immediate circle. You seem to be able to read others through their actions and sense their feelings. Your responsiveness could make all the difference to someone. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Honor a long-term desire, and find out what you need to do. A meeting points to your relationship within a particular group. You could be surprised by an in-vitation that seems to come from out of nowhere. If you choose to accept, your schedule will have to change. Tonight: Find your friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star$ You could find yourself being observed by others. You might wonder whether it would serve you to do something different. In some sense, you are offended; on the other hand, you are flattered. Know what you desire and need from a situation. Tonight: Into the wee hours.

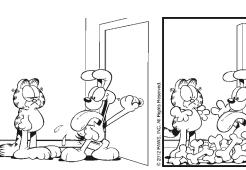
SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Use your ability to relate to one person directly. You might want to step back from a control game. The unexpected occurs surrounding a personal matter. A discussion could become quite verbal. Be spontaneous. Tonight: Be direct with a loved one.



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS





YOU HAVE BRAINS

BETTER TASTE

GREG+ MOP9 WALKER

BEAUTY AND CLASS. YOU SHOULD HAVE

οн,

CHIP.

THAT'S WHAT I

NEED ... BETTER

TASTE!

SNAP

(B)

YOU'RE NOT

GOING TO FALL

LINE, ARE YOU?

BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



★★★ Keep a close eye on a certain situation, even if vou wish you could do something else or join a friend. To ensure that you are headed in the right direction, you will need to stay on top of a problem. Tempers flare as the day goes on. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep your conversations open and flowing. You might not like what you are hearing. A problem ensues where you least expect it. You do not need to get in the middle of it. Keep your distance, if possible. A boss or older relative surprises you. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ New beginnings become possible if you make an effort to express your deeper feelings and allow more of the unexpected into your life. Sarcasm marks an interaction. Do you really need to add that touch? Tonight: Your efforts count. Reach out for someone.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

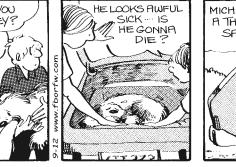
 $\star \star \star \star \star$ You want to understand what is going on behind the scenes. The element of surprise makes all the difference. New beginnings become possible. Curb your

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

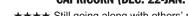






MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS





 $\star \star \star \star$ Still going along with others' plans? If you can't stand it anymore, make a point to be alone. This period is important for others to appreciate how very much you do and offer. Your skills are unique. Tonight: Lighten up the moment with friends.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Count on giving more than 100 percent, no matter what you are doing. Your efforts to pitch in and help others might be more appreciated than you think. Do what you want for you, and not for others. You will be much happier as a result. Tonight: Choose a favorite stressbuster.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ Your very playful personality emerges, which allows greater give-and-take. With humor, you can say much more than usual. People have a more relaxed response when approached in this manner. Use your ability to empathize to sort through an issue. Tonight: Let your hair down

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