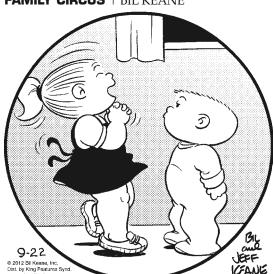
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"My birthday's tomorrow, so tonight we get to celebrate birthday eve!"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



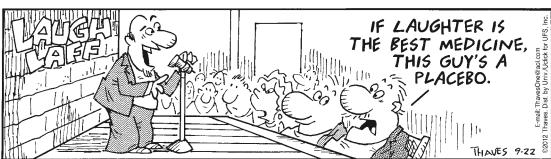
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN







FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ









DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



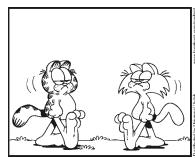
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE







GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS







BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER





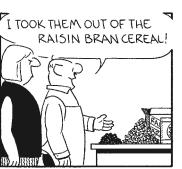
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM





Teens Play The Same Notes, But **Aren't Making Music Together**

DEAR ABBY

■ Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

and was founded by her

mother, Pauline Phillips.

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or

geles, CA 90069.

Abigail Van Buren, also

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and I really like this boy, but I can't find the courage to ask him out. I'm pretty sure he likes me, too, because whenever we're together he holds my hand or puts his arms around me.

He has a great smile and personality. We have many things in common, such as we both play an instrument, we make each other laugh and we're both close with our families. What I don't understand is why he hasn't made a move yet to ask me out. — NEEDS LOVE HELP

DEAR NEEDS LOVE HELP: I can think of a few reasons, and none of them have anything to do with how much he likes you. He may not be able to afford to ask you out, he may feel shy, he may not feel ready to date, or his parents may prefer that he concentrate on something other than romance. Some teens get around this by socializing in groups, so instead of asking him "out," consider asking if he'd like to join you and a group of your friends sometime.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an 18-year-old woman who lives at home with my parents. I have been seeing an amazing person for a while now. There is just one problem. My mother has decided to put "rules" on our relationship.

By rules, I mean: a curfew, how often I see him, where I am to be with him and various other things. Also, she randomly blurts out that I am "never to move in with him until I am married." I don't plan on moving in with him until we both have our college degrees.

I am technically an adult, which means to me that I can make my own decisions and suffer the consequences if there are any. I know I live in my parents' home. I follow their rules and respect their wishes — but this is a bit extreme, don't you think?

Abby, please advise me on how to explain to my mom that I'm an adult and not a newborn baby as

she regards me? — NOT A CHILD ANYMORE IN OHIO DEAR NOT A CHILD: Although you may be an adult in the eyes of the law in Ohio, you are not IN-

DEPENDENT. As long as you are dependent upon your parents for shelter, food or anything else there is a price you will have to pay. In this case, the price you are paying is your mother's loving but hawklike supervision. And if you think you or I can talk her out of it, you're dreaming.

> DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were invited to my brother's wedding, and we accepted. Later, my brother asked me to be a groomsman.

My wife is upset because I didn't ask her if she minded that I'll be in the wedding and I will walk down the aisle with one of the bridesmaids. She feels that my walking with another woman is a "date" and disrespectful to her. Is it proper wedding etiquette to accept an invitation to be in a wedding if you are married? — GROOMSMAN IN THE

DEAR GROOMSMAN: It is very common for the brother of the groom to be in his wedding party — and marital status has nothing to do with it. Escorting an assigned bridesmaid to and

from the altar is NOT a "date," nor is it disrespectful to your wife, who may really be upset because she wasn't also asked to be part of the wedding party.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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

A baby born today has a Sun in Virgo if born before 7:49 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, it will be in Libra. The Moon is in Sagittarius before 12:20 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, it will

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 2012:

This year you'll want to be more authentic. You also will want to reveal your playful side more often, no matter what age you are. As a rule, say "no" to stress and "yes" to living. All you need to do is act on this philosophy. Resist overthinking; instead, try to simplify your day-to-day lifestyle. If you are single, Cupid seems to be running rampant in your neighborhood. Enjoy it! If you are attached, the two of you act like newlyweds. As a couple, you become more open-minded. CAPRICORN expresses his or her mischievous side with 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)

* ★ ★ ★ ★ You get a boost this morning from the Fall Equinox. Others likely will be livelier than expected. More and more, you will see a close loved one lightening up. Seize the moment and take off with this person. You want adventure. Tonight: Check in with an older friend or relative.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

* * * * * You might have had an unusual dream or idea occur in the night. Decide to follow through on it; as a result, you could see your energy level rise. Detach from an issue, and you will see a new path. Do not forget a long-distance friend. Tonight: Where there is music.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision. Invite a loved one to join you. Yes, tension exists between the two of you, but can you imagine how much more stress there would be if you chose not to invite this person? Tonight: Add some romance.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ What seemed effortless suddenly becomes stressful. Take a walk or jog to release some tension. Physical activity is a sedative of sorts for you. News or a call from someone at a distance could be far more exciting than you realize. Tonight: Go with someone's sugges-

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Put your heart into your communication. You might not be satisfied with the outcome of a personal matter unless you do. You do not need to be overserious just be authentic. News heading in your direction could surprise you. Tonight: If you need a nap, take it.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might note an inclination to be more possessive and less direct. Be aware of what you offer and know what your expectations are. You could be surprised by a dear friend or loved one. Until recently, this person was not so quirky. Tonight: Return home, and see what

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are energized by the Sun moving into your sign. Make phone calls in the morning, as complica-tions could interfere with your plans. Once more, you are not an island. Pitch in with a friend's project. Tonight: Entertain from home if you must.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Sleep in and rest up. You could be exhausted by the recent hectic pace. You know what you want, but you could undermine yourself if you do not get sufficient R and R. By midafternoon, you'll perk up. Tonight: Out and about

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Use the morning to the max. Focus on a long-term desire. You have the capacity to make it happen. Help an uptight friend relax a little. The experience will help you get to know this person better. Tonight: Treat a loved one to dinner.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are full of energy and happy to share your afternoon. However, you do need the morning for some "you" time. An older person in your life makes demands that you might be overwhelmed by. Think positively or just say "no." Tonight: As you want.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max and plan on some private time. You will accomplish a lot in this small window. Getting a perspective on a situation has been difficult for you as of late; perhaps you have been too tense. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

* ★ ★ ★ Clear out heavy responsibilities in the morning. You will want to free up your schedule to spend some quality time with friends or a potential sweetie. You work hard. Now give yourself permission to play equally as hard. Tonight: Wherever you are, the party is.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

