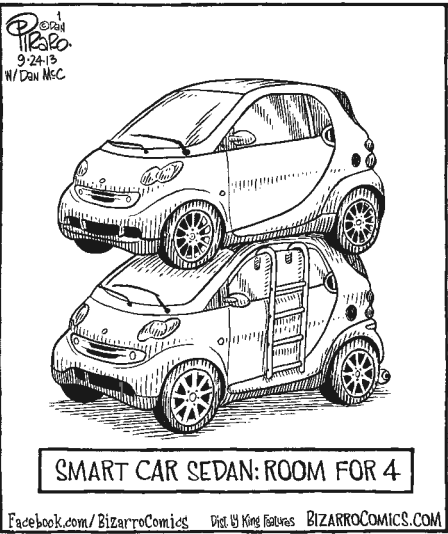


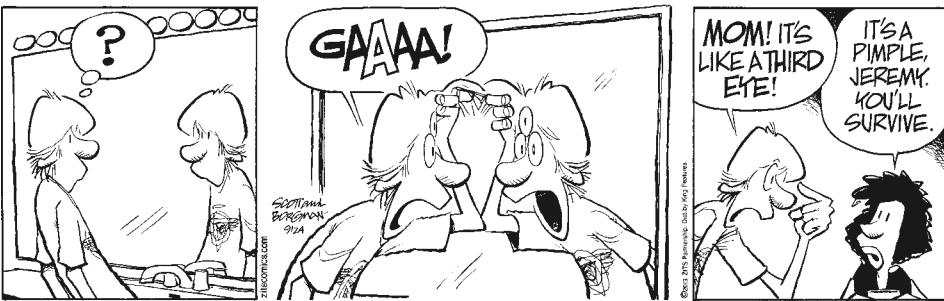
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



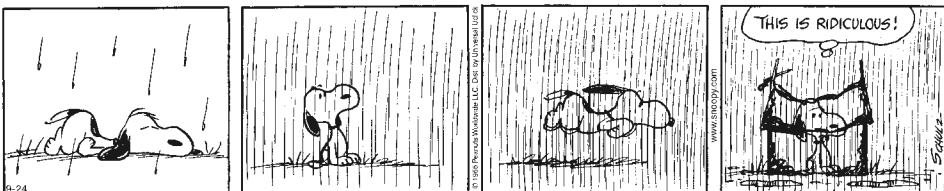
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



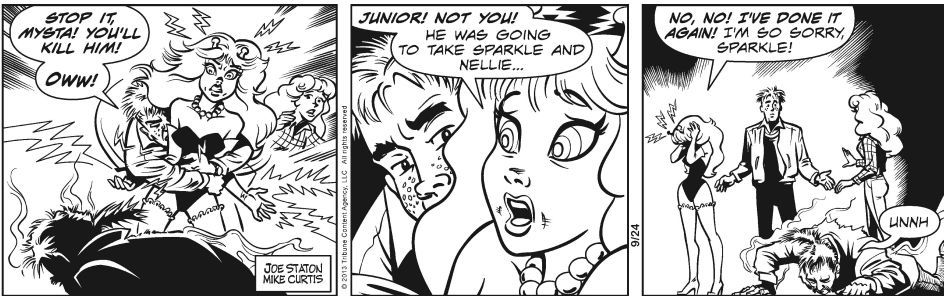
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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



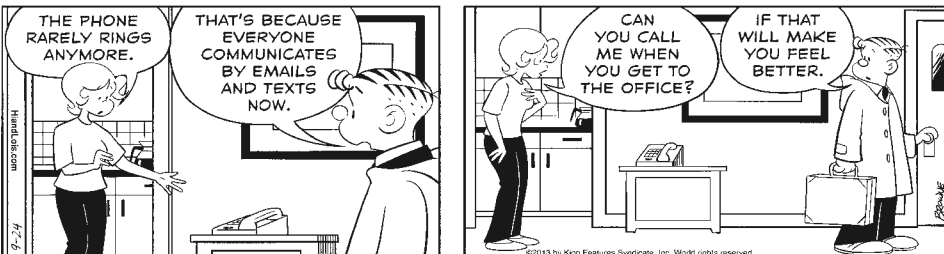
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



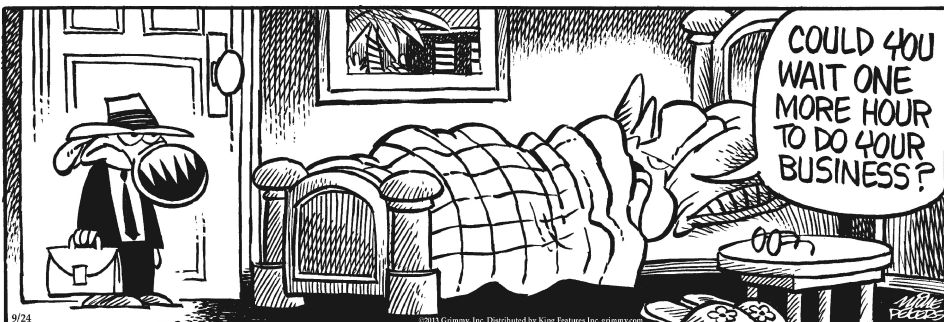
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Overprotective Parents Are Driving Daughter Out The Door

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old woman who still lives at home. I have been working for the last five years and have saved enough to live comfortably on my own. Unfortunately, my parents have forbidden me to do it because they think I'm being manipulated into it by my boyfriend, that I just want to "do whatever I want" and be out until late (although I'm rarely up past 9 p.m. and they know it), and because I "can't stand them" anymore.

I have no privacy! My mail is opened "mistakenly" and my calls are listened in on even when I politely — and sometimes angrily — ask them not to. They have even imposed a rule that I must show them my bank balance weekly.

They have told me I will not leave the house without being married first. I would like to live on my own before I actually marry so I can experience what it's like. This is something I have always wanted to do. If I do move out, they say I'll "bring shame and embarrassment" to the family.

There seems to be a double standard going on here because my older brother has his girlfriend sleep over. How can I accommodate my parents without being disowned? — FEELING HELPLESS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FEELING HELPLESS: Your parents have chosen to ignore that you are an adult, self-supporting and entitled to make your own choices. They may be well-meaning, but they are extremely heavy-handed. Their hyper-vigilance — opening your mail, eavesdropping on your phone calls and insisting on checking your bank balance weekly — is over the top. They would like you to be "safely" married before you leave their protection.

Is their problem that they disapprove of your boyfriend? If you get a place of your own, do you plan on moving him in? If that's not the case, there is no reason why your liv-

ing independently might shame or embarrass them.

Not knowing your parents, I can't judge whether their threat to disown you is serious or not. However, if it is, realize it's a form of blackmail, and you will have to decide which is more important — your freedom or their support.



## 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.

have a scientific and logical explanation. — SOMEONE'S WATCHING IN GUILFORD, MO.

DEAR WATCHING: While many readers shared similar experiences, the majority had a logical explanation as you did. However, I still feel that if what she's experiencing brings her comfort, the important thing is what she chooses to believe.

*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 Libra and a Moon in Taurus if born before 12:34 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 24, 2013:

This year you see the big picture more easily. Some of you will opt to travel more and visit different cultures, others will go back to school, and many will become more interested in spiritual studies. If you are single, you naturally could start meeting a very different type of person. Come summer 2014, your dating life could revolve around someone quite special. If you are attached, as a couple, the two of you benefit from making a public commitment to each other. Get out more, and you will be happier. GEMINI knows how to appeal to 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 might awaken thinking about a dream. By the time you are done with breakfast, you will find a way to integrate an idea from this reverie into your life. Others will express their interest when you share your thoughts with them. Tonight: Friends delight in your originality.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You might feel like heading in a different direction in order to achieve better results. You might believe that you are able to tackle a financial risk, as you live and act on your innate optimism. Tonight: Make sure that your checkbook is balanced before you walk out the door.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll feel as if you have many opportunities, but you want to choose the right one. Know that there is an element of confusion around you. To see what you want with clarity might not be possible right now. Let friends play devil's advocate. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might sense that there is much more going on than meets the eye. You'll want to proceed in a different direction from others, yet choose not to express your concerns. Realize that you are not the only one feeling this way. Go with the moment. Tonight: Where the gang is.

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

★★★★★ You project a strong, magnetic personality. In fact, a secret admirer might reveal him-

or herself as a result. Take notice of who comes forward, as well as this person's expressions. You could be just as taken with this individual as he or she is with you. Tonight: Go with the flow.

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

★★★ You assume responsibility naturally, and others count on that fact. A loved one has a way of wrapping you around his or her finger and making you think a lot about him or her. Make plans to get together soon. Tonight: Discussions about a situation in vague terms might irritate you.

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

★★★★ You can see what others don't today. Detach, and you will gain a new perspective. You'll be able to see what is muddying the waters and find a solution. If your associates can't see the situation as you do, how can they see the answer? Tonight: Go with the unexpected option.

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

★★★★ Someone might seek you out for what he or she believes is an important decision. You could view this issue far differently from how this person does. You might opt to keep your thoughts to yourself. Your caring is deep and intense. Tonight: Opt for an old-fashioned date.

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

★★★ Be ready to adjust to others' requests. They might not be handling matters as you would like, but they come close with some creative touches. Let these people try out their concepts. They always are challenging you, so give them a chance. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

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

★★★ You might be eager to jump into the fray and lead the way out. You clearly see how to get the outcome you desire. You will need to work hard and listen to what is being shared. You can work with an idea and make it practical so that others will see its value. Tonight: Take it easy.

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

★★★★★ You might think that others understand more than they do. Most people base their concepts on a conventional model. You could have a lot of ideas that you'll need to translate in a way that others will grasp them. Tonight: A love interest is batting his or her eyelashes at you.

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

★★★★ You will feel centered and ready to run with the ball. When you see a situation from someone else's perspective, your first reaction might be confusion. Try to clear up what is confusing you in order to come to a more positive decision. Tonight: Stay close to home.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

