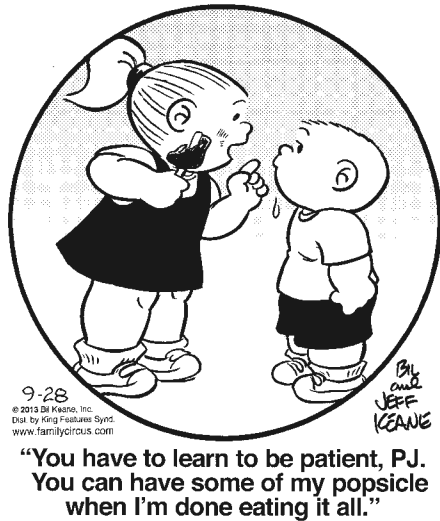
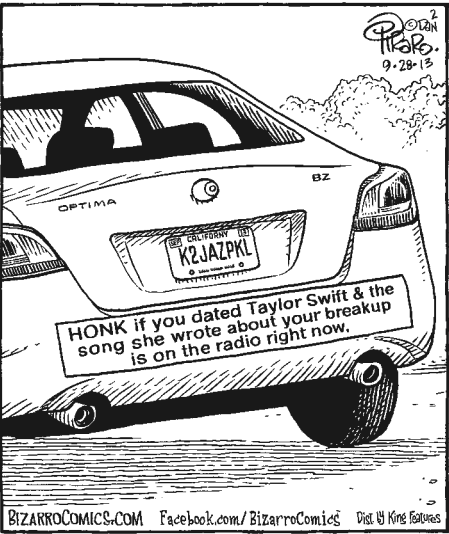


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Teen Must Show Her Parents She's Mature Enough To Date

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl who's having a disagreement with my parents about dating. There's this guy, "Connor," who likes me, and I'm very comfortable with him. His older sister and I are good friends.

The trouble is, my parents have strict rules against dating and I think it's unfair. I think I'm mature enough to date, and I know right from wrong. My friends say I'm very mature for my age, and they approve of Connor because he's friendly and has an outgoing personality. I have tried talking to my parents about this, but I always end up in tears.

Can you tell me how I can convince them to give this guy a chance? — GROWN UP AT 14, PRINCE GEORGE, CANADA

DEAR GROWN UP: A sure way to show your parents you're mature enough to date would be to show them you're a responsible person. Do they know when they ask you a question that they'll get an honest answer with no evasion? Have you shown them that you respect their curfews? Do you do the chores that are expected of you without having to be reminded? Is the same true about your homework?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then do they KNOW Connor? Do they know his parents? If they do, they might feel more comfortable about your seeing him, IF it's in a group rather than one-on-one.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 years old and I recently enrolled in a new school. I have met two boys, "Jake" and "Cory," and I have been crushing on both of them.

I really like Jake for everything, but I'm not sure he likes me back. I like Cory for his looks and popularity, and I'm positive he likes me because he said so. Should I ask Jake to go with me first, and if he says no, rebound to Cory? — CONFUSED IN RAYMOND, MISS.

DEAR CONFUSED: The school year has

just started and it's a little early to be asking someone to "go" with you. If you take your time — say, wait a month — Jake may find the courage to tell you he likes you, too. If he doesn't, tell Cory you're interested in him and see if he still feels the same way about you. (The odds are 50/50.) And who knows?

In another month, there might be a third guy.



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.

DEAR ABBY: My brother thinks I eat too slow, and I think he eats too fast. He claims it's rude to eat slow and make others wait for you. I say eating slowly is healthy, and it's better than wolfing down your food to keep up with the people you're with. Who's right? — AT MY OWN PACE IN EDDINGTON, MAINE

DEAR AT YOUR OWN PACE:

You're both right. If you eat so slowly that the rest of the people at your table must wait for you to finish, ask them to proceed with their dessert and coffee so they won't have to sit there and watch you masticate. And wolfing down one's food causes some people to overeat, which is why weight-loss specialists advise against it.

DEAR ABBY: What do new fathers hand out today instead of cigars? — NONSMOKER IN SAVANNAH

DEAR NONSMOKER: Because so much more is now understood about the dangers of tobacco, many new fathers today hand out small gift bags of candy instead — blue for a baby boy or pink for a daughter.

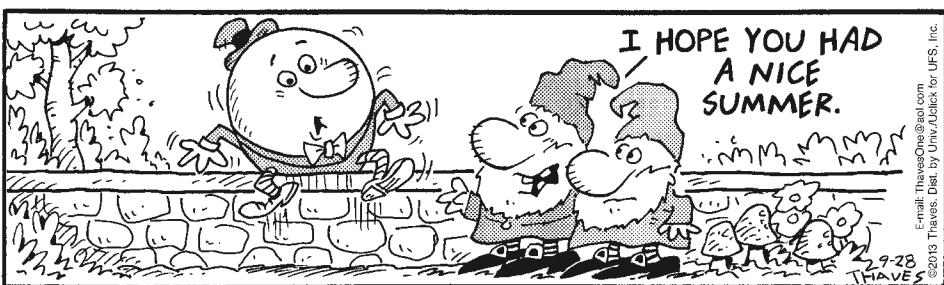
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling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

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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



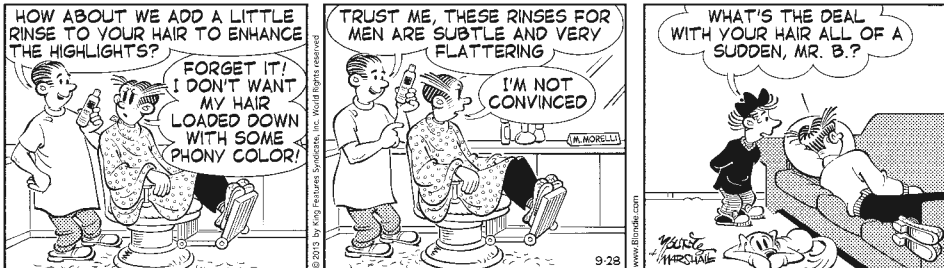
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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 Cancer all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 2013:

This year you make a difference in a way that surprises many people. You become more emotional than you have been in years. You often seem cool and collected to others, but there is a newfound intensity. If you are single, you attract a very different type of person. You might enjoy relating more with your feelings. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy a greater sense of intimacy because of your willingness to be who you are. CANCER often has an attitude 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 might be taken aback by a choice that you've made. Your desire to please a loved one or a child comes to the forefront. This person — most likely a family member -- appreciates your positive caring and responds accordingly. Tonight: Make it cozy. Put your feet up and relax.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ What you say and do could be very different from what you originally anticipated. Pressure could build to a level of discomfort if you attempt to go along with someone else's agenda. Be realistic; he or she probably realizes what an effort you're making. Tonight: Snuggle.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Be aware of the cost of heading down your present path. You might want to switch gears and try something very new and different. Keep an eye on the long-term costs of taking the course you want. Ask yourself if it is really worth it. Tonight: Make it your treat.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You'll beam in many opportunities, but you might want to stop and think about which ones you really would like to jump on. Understand your limits and make choices accordingly. Others seem to agree to what you want, no matter what it is. Tonight: Surrounded by friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ If you want to take a day to yourself, do. You might have a great time having no plans or restrictions. Let your imagination lead the way, and you might have a surprisingly good time. If you are

attached, be careful, as you could incur some jealousy. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to make a situation work emerges. In fact, you suddenly might realize that you would enjoy bringing friends from all walks of life together. What happens could be talked about for a very long time. Enjoy the people around you. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take a stand with a boss or an older friend, if you must. This person respects your opinion and values your feedback and perceptions. Go with the flow of a certain situation, for you understand the process and know that the debate will be lively. Tonight: Near good music.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might want to relate on a one-on-one level, whether you are going to the movies or having a late brunch. Resist inviting others to come along. All relationships need this quality time. A brief tiff could make both of you lighten up and laugh. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might feel entitled to make an investment when someone gives you the OK. However, what if others involved are not in agreement? Consider their perspectives, and listen to what they have to say. Manipulation probably won't work. Tonight: Go on a good old-fashioned date.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You can't help but enjoy a sudden surge of popularity. Having to make a choice about what to do -- especially if you are single -- could be somewhat difficult. Resist the urge to follow your knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: You are the honey, and everyone wants a taste!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

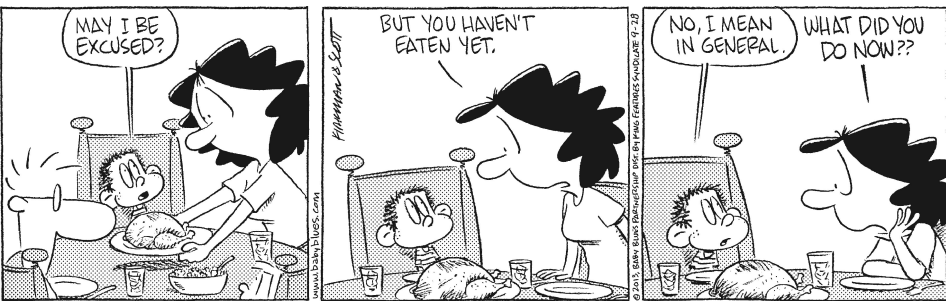
★★★★ You have the ability to see beyond the obvious. You will be able to surmount a problem with ease, if you detach. Get into a project or perhaps do some early season raking and get ready for fall. You might feel the tension ease as a result. Tonight: Invite a friend or two over for pizza.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You'll make this day as close to perfect as possible. You know what you want and where you are heading. Others might decide to be your companions. Go off and allow your inner child to romp around. You will be much happier as a result. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

