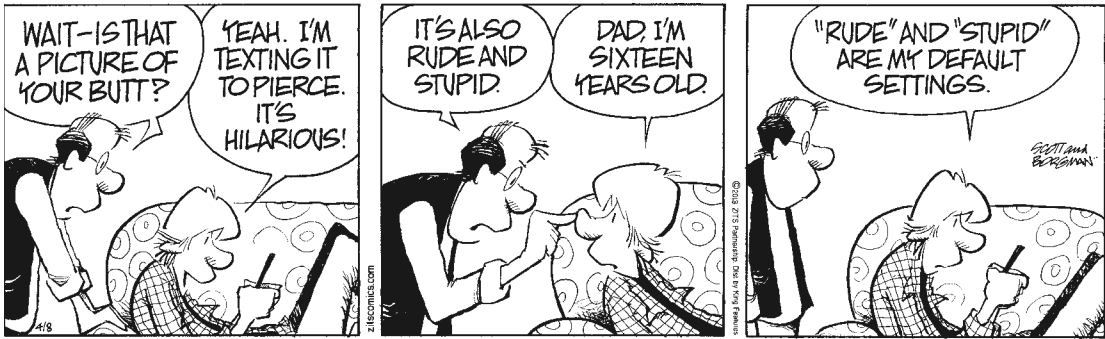


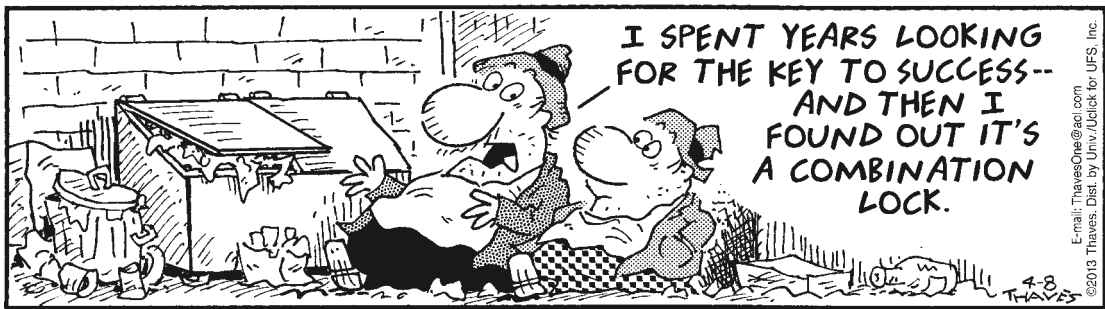
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



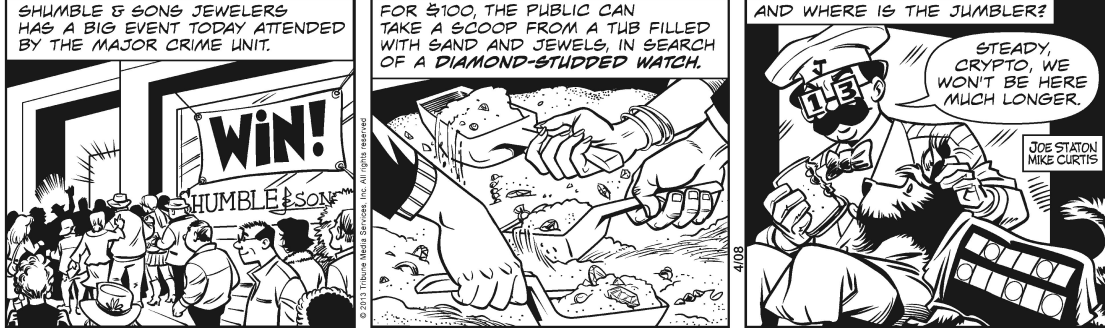
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



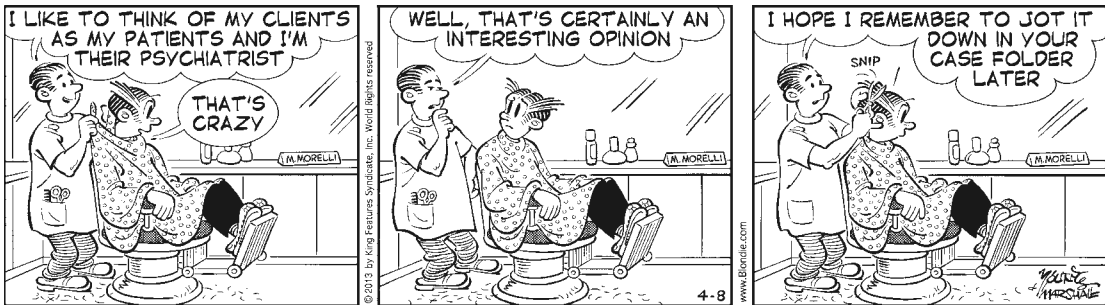
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



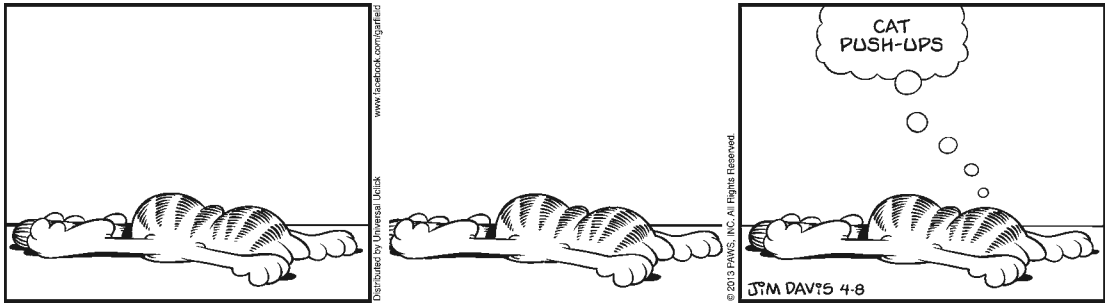
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



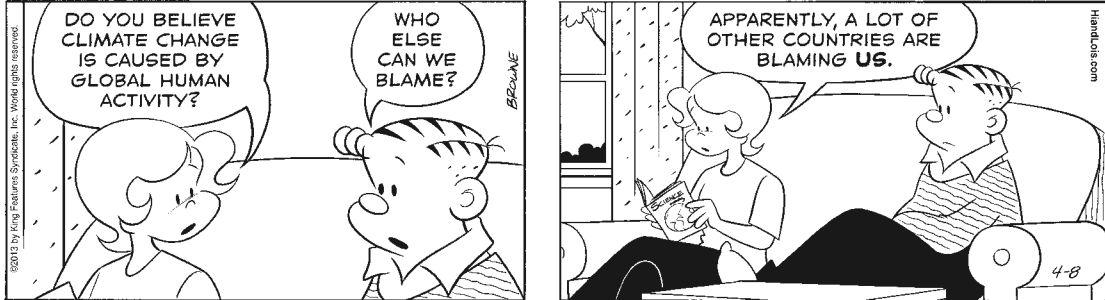
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



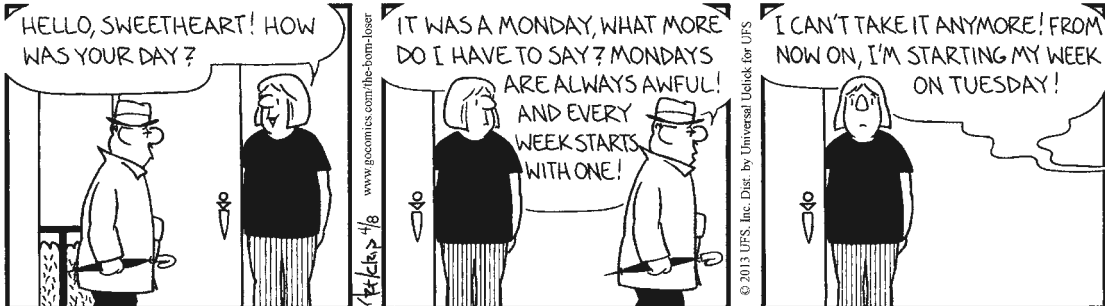
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Childhood Abuse Casts Long Shadow Over Couple's Intimacy

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with the man of my dreams for five years. Everything is great between us except for one huge thing — we are no longer intimate.

I have recently come to the realization that this isn't the first time I have had this problem. I always thought it was an issue with the relationship, but now I suspect it may be linked to molestation I suffered when I was a child. At that time I was told "people who love you don't touch you like that." Logically I know this is different, but my partner tells me I just freeze up when we are together.

I think I need professional help, but I'm embarrassed and don't know where to start. Do I need a therapist? How do I locate a good one in my area? — REACHING OUT IN CLEVELAND

DEAR REACHING OUT: Please accept my sympathy. Considering your history, what you're experiencing is understandable, and yes, you need to talk to a therapist. The therapy should have started at the time you were molested. To find a "good one," ask your physician to refer you to several so you can find a person you feel comfortable talking with.

Please do not be embarrassed to be frank, because most therapists have heard everything. It isn't their job to judge you, only to help you. None of this was your fault, and your problem is fixable.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, kids and I moved out of state seven years ago, leaving behind our extended families. Now, whenever we plan a vacation in our home state, we encounter the same issues. The first is trying to accommodate everyone's schedule into our own. The second is dividing our time between my family and my husband's. (His family is smaller than mine.)

Is it fair to divide the time in half — half for his family and half for mine — even though I have so

many more relatives on my list? Or should we divide our time by the number of households we need to see? These issues cause my husband and me to argue, and it makes what is supposed to be a vacation very unpleasant. I already feel like canceling the trip. — VACATION ISSUES

DEAR VACATION ISSUES: A solution would be to have two large family get-togethers — one for your family and another for his — during your visit. Then, if you want to visit with the relatives from the two branches of the families individually, you can "divide and conquer." He can spend as much time as he wishes with his relatives, and you can spend time with yours.



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: Every year my workplace sponsors a community blood drive. I am invariably asked by co-workers if I am going to donate. Because I am HIV-positive, I answer no. Then the person asks me why.

Abby, it is no one's business. There could be many reasons — ranging from health to religious to personal. Or a person may simply not want to donate.

I would give if I could. Please ask your readers not to question others about whether they will donate blood. Have you any suggestions about how I should respond? — ON THE JOB IN IDAHO

DEAR ON THE JOB: A polite deflection would be to make light of it by saying, "I just don't."

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Aries and a Moon in Pisces if born before 12:02 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013:

This year you will express yourself in an assertive and clear manner, and you'll see excellent results. Still, you might become reclusive for short periods of time. Know that with your high level of creativity and energy, you will need some downtime. These moments will remain instrumental to your success. If you are single, you could attract someone quite different. Be careful, as this person might not be exactly as he or she seems. Take your time getting to know a potential sweetie. If you are attached, be on guard. Avoid becoming too me-oriented. A fellow ARIES might not be the right person to have a fight with. 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)

★★★★ By midafternoon, you simply can't be stopped. A change of pace often energizes you. What you can accomplish in a few hours might surprise many people. A discussion will be directed from the perspective of the other party. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Use the morning for a meeting or getting an important errand done. Once that matter is handled, you'll feel more relaxed and perhaps like a different person. You might want to stop to do some research or return calls. Tonight: If you need some time to yourself, just say so.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is falling into your lap. You must handle certain matters directly, but you can delegate different projects to others. You need time to think through a decision. Tonight: Chat with a friend.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Are you feeling burdened by everything you have to handle? Detach first, and then take a look at a different way of handling this overload of responsibilities. Organization and prioritizing might be essential, but don't hesitate to ask for some much-needed help. Tonight: Up late.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Spend the morning dealing with a situation

that keeps getting postponed. By midafternoon, you could feel as if your spirit is free -- you'll be open to trying anything, within reason. A discussion points to many different opportunities to choose from. Tonight: Go for the moment.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might be tired of not having a stronger influence in a conversation. Decide how to proceed in regard to enlarging your role in your present situation. When you are able to accomplish this, others will appreciate your feedback. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Get as much done as possible by midafternoon. You will have an important discussion with a loved one or an associate. Understand what would make you happy. You very well could be just a few steps from realizing exactly that. Tonight: Follow someone else's suggestion.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Tap into your creativity in the morning. One idea builds from another, and so on. You will come up with a workable solution given some time. Focus on a certain key task or project in the afternoon. You still might gain a new perspective. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be trying too hard to be reasonable, which prevents others from experiencing the excitement of your spontaneity. Being more authentic could move a situation along faster. Later today, your creativity will merge with your impulsiveness. Tonight: Keep it light.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Ask your follow-up questions. You will come out ahead of a situation and be fully aware of what needs to happen. Your sense of humor helps ease your path, as well as others'. Stick with a certain perspective, and share it with others. Tonight: Head home early, if possible.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ A quick look at your finances tells you what the problem might be. Discuss the issue with someone in the know. You will know what to do in the afternoon, though you might choose to get different opinions. Only you can decide what would be most effective. Tonight: Join a friend.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

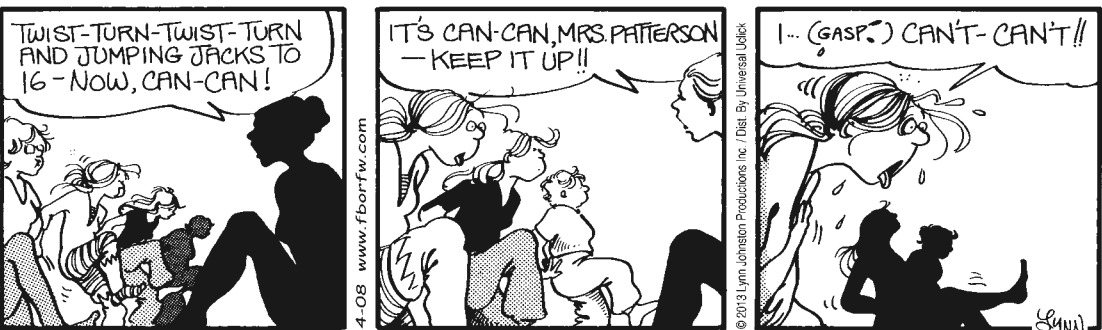
★★★★ You are in your element in the morning. Others respond to your requests. By late afternoon, you might decide to be a little more indulgent. Understand if a friend or loved one can't join you immediately. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

