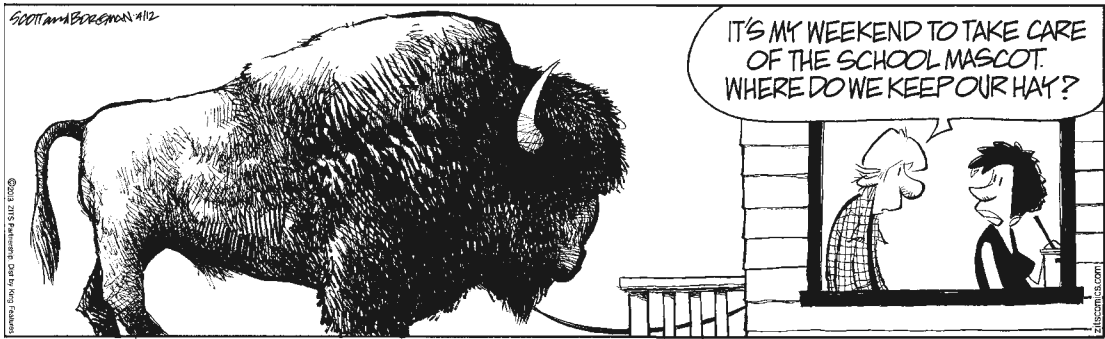


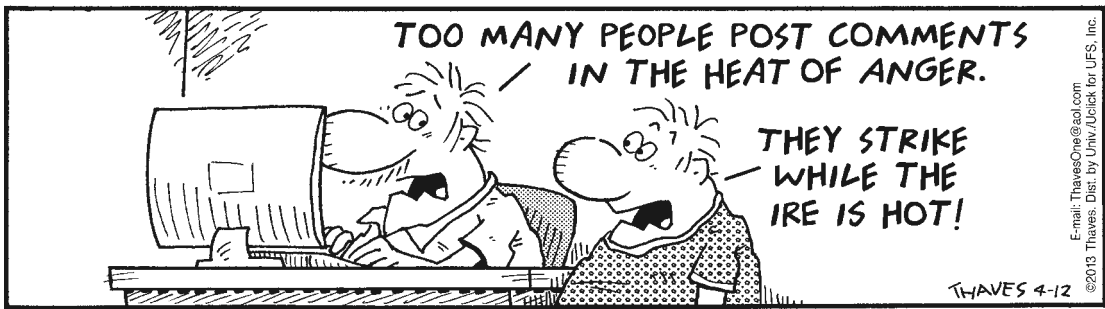
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



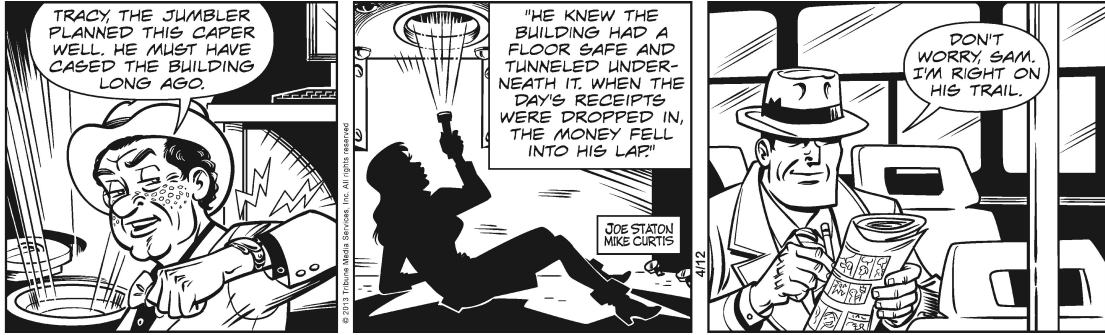
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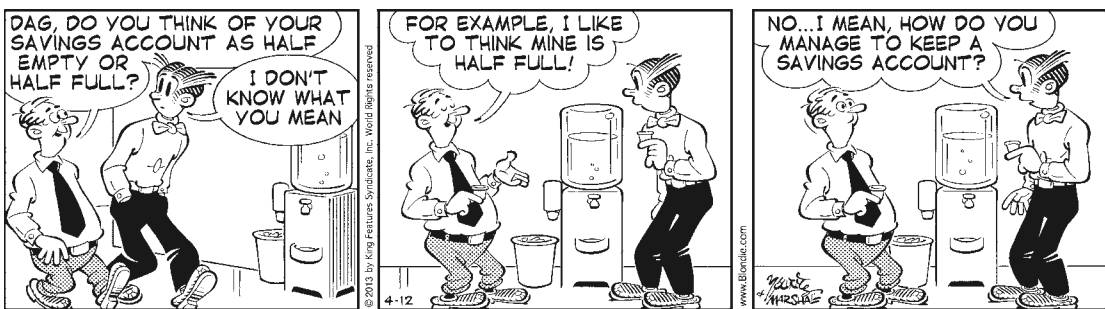
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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



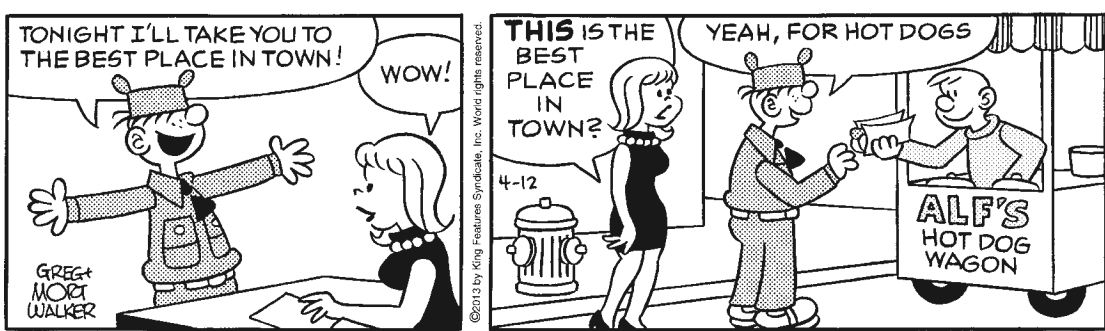
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



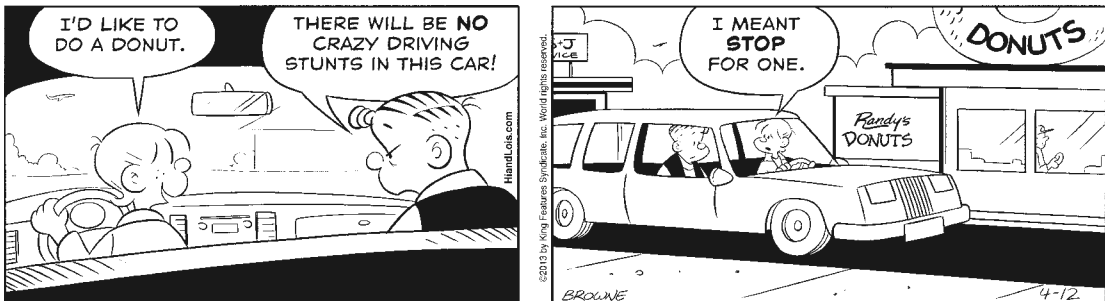
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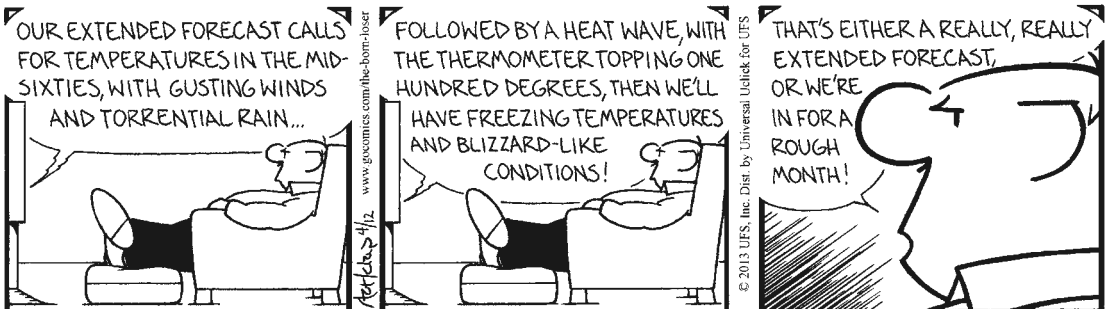
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



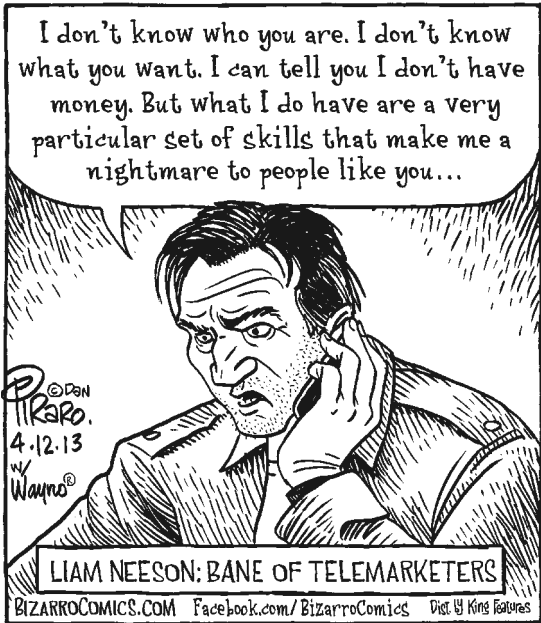
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Prisoner Regretting His Past Has Trouble Seeing The Future

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 50-year-old man who is serving time for robbery in West Virginia. Every day I wake up acting as if I am in control and don't have a care in the world. The truth is, I'm scared, lonely and feel totally helpless. All my life I have lived on the dark side of the street, taking for granted the values in life and the love so many people tried to give me.

Two failed marriages and several relationships with good women are over because of my determination to follow an unhealthy dream, not to mention all the friends I have lost as well.

Now as I look around me, there's no one there. No one to love and no one to love me. I never knew until now that chasing that dream would cost me everyone I ever loved.

I know I have made bad choices in life. I deserve the time for the crime I committed. But am I also sentenced to a world of loneliness? Can I ever be loved again and be happy after all the wrong I have done? Is there someone out there who would be willing to give me a chance? Is it too late to start over?

Abby, you have so many answers for so many people, I am just hoping you have an answer for me. — SERVING TIME

DEAR SERVING TIME: It is never too late to start over. With penitence comes redemption. If you are willing to journey down a different path, the relationships you form along the way will be rewarding, long-lasting and mutual. Because of your criminal record you may have to work harder to gain trust, but I promise you that if you're willing to work at it, it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband, the father of our two children, was retired from the Air Force. He passed away 18 years ago. He had a full military funeral, with draped flag and all. His wife at the time was presented with the flag, which was proper. They had no children. When she passes on, would it be proper for her

family to give the flag to his biological children? After all, they were with him — as was I — throughout his entire 22-year military career. When my daughter mentioned it to his wife, she got angry. — C. IN TEXAS

DEAR C.: Your former husband's wife was entitled to whatever property was left after his demise. The flag is hers to bestow — or not. I don't know how your daughter's request was phrased, but the woman may have been offended by the way the question was asked. I can't think of any other reason she would become angry.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding a letter you printed Jan. 26 from "Wants to Be Polite." I appreciate the person's sentiments because I, too, want to use good manners and a "You're welcome" or "Have a nice day" is a pleasing reply to hear.

What I do NOT like is a "No problem" reply to a "Thank you." It does not seem like a sincere response to me. In fact, it sounds like I was expected to be a problem and just happened not to be one. Any thoughts on this? — ARKANSAS LADY

DEAR ARKANSAS LADY: You may not like hearing it, but you had better get used to it. While "You're welcome" may be more gracious, saying "No problem" reflects a generational shift in the vernacular. And while it may seem jarring, it is intended to be a polite response, so accept it graciously.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Taurus.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013:

This year you will experience a change in yourself when you're in front of crowds or at work. An interest in popularity, control and effective communication evolves. If you have big goals, there is no better year than this one to try to achieve them. If you are single, you will meet an admirer when you're out or at work. This person could be important to your life history. If you are attached, include your sweetie more in your social life. He or she will appreciate being involved. GEMINI knows how to get you fired up. 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)

★★★★ Be careful what you ask for, because you just might get it ... and later be sorry that you did. Stay centered. Try not to exaggerate, especially when dealing with an authority figure. This person could be quirky at best. Deal with others on an individual basis. Tonight: Your treat.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Someone you are dealing with could do a total reversal. Your discussions might have seemed right-on, but obviously there was a vulnerability that was not discussed. Be nurturing, and give this person space to open up. Tonight: Know that you have done as much as possible.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★ You might want to rethink your direction in a partnership. At the last minute, this person could pull the rug right out from under you. Do you really want to deal with this kind of behavior? Think about how to proceed. Get feedback. Tonight: Whatever feels right.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You can't hide your enthusiasm for the upcoming weekend. You still might need to complete a project, whether it's doing your taxes or spring cleaning. Just when you thought a situation was going one way, it suddenly might change direction. Tonight: Only what you want.

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

★★★★ Others look up to you. Just when you think

everything is under control, chaos erupts. Someone is taking a lesson on how to handle pressure just by watching you. Recognize when you hit a brick wall, and walk away, at least for now. Tonight: To the wee hours.

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

★★★★ Someone's stubbornness forces you to detach and rethink your plans. You need to head down a path with fewer obstacles. Understand that this person probably does not expect this response from you. Unusual reactions head your way. Tonight: Take in different vistas.

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

★★★ You might be off on some adventure -- at least in your mind -- when someone suddenly hits you with unexpected news. You might not appreciate this touch of reality, but you will be grounded as a result. Deal with the problem at hand. Tonight: Togetherness works well.

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

★★★★ You have a way of testing others' limits, and today is no exception. Calls come in and meetings happen. Know that you inadvertently could trigger someone. Expect to be jolted by this person's reaction. Claim your power. Use it well, and when it is important. Tonight: Hang out.

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

★★★★ Your creativity emerges when dealing with a sudden change. Be cautious about taking any risks, especially if they are financial, as you could set yourself back in a big way. Be willing to distance yourself or just say "no." Tonight: Head home. If possible, go for a walk.

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

★★★★ You have started using your creativity more frequently, and now you are fairly sure of yourself. Some people find you to be an endless source of inspiration. Be practical when dealing with a difficult issue, as there are unseen complications. Tonight: Let the weekend begin.

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

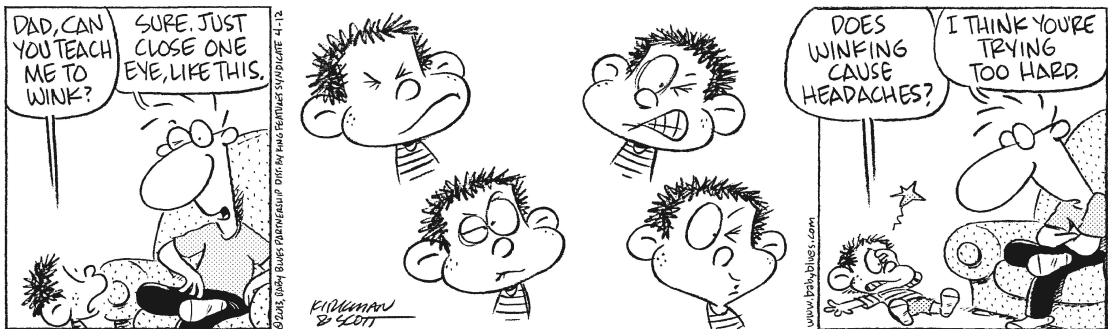
★★★ Your mind is focused on a personal or domestic matter. You also could be going over the pros and cons of a situation. Try to get through what you must, quickly and efficiently. Allow yourself more dream time -- but not at work. Call it an early day. Tonight: Out and about.

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

★★★★ You have a way with words that makes others step back and listen. You might not be as sure of yourself as you could or should be. A friend or a meeting seems to stand between you and a long-desired goal. Bypass them both. Tonight: Meet friends for munchies and drinks.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

