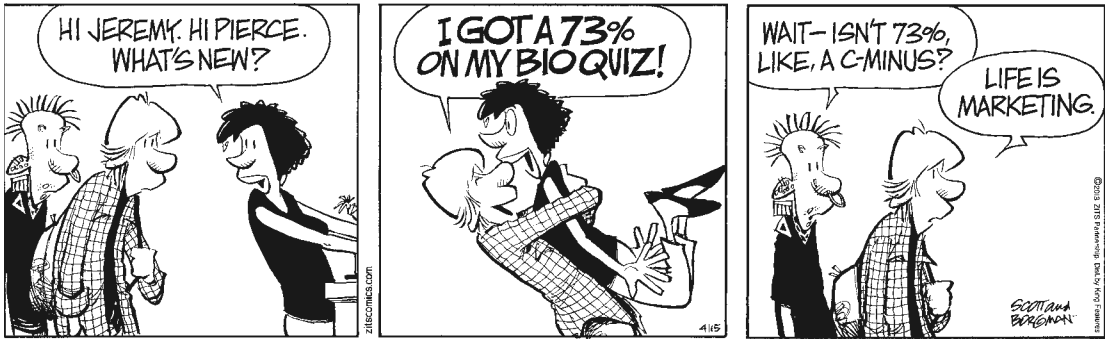


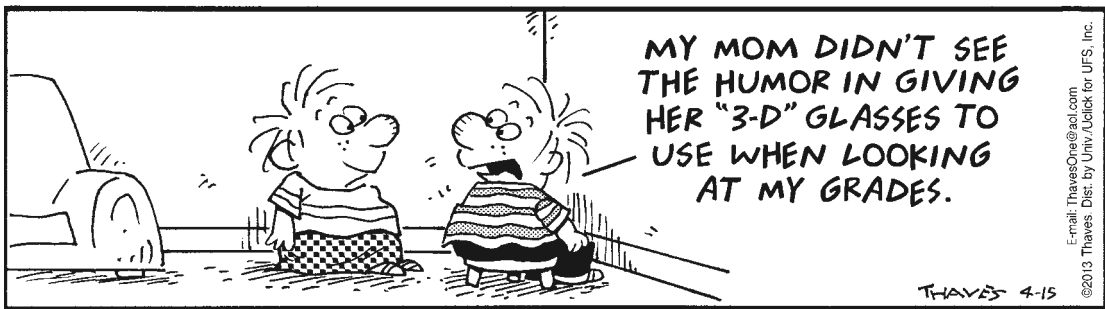
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



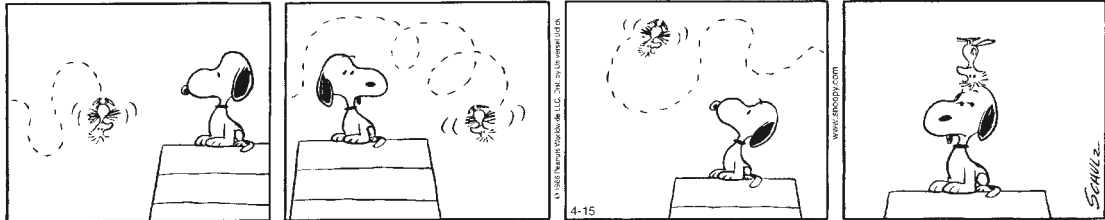
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



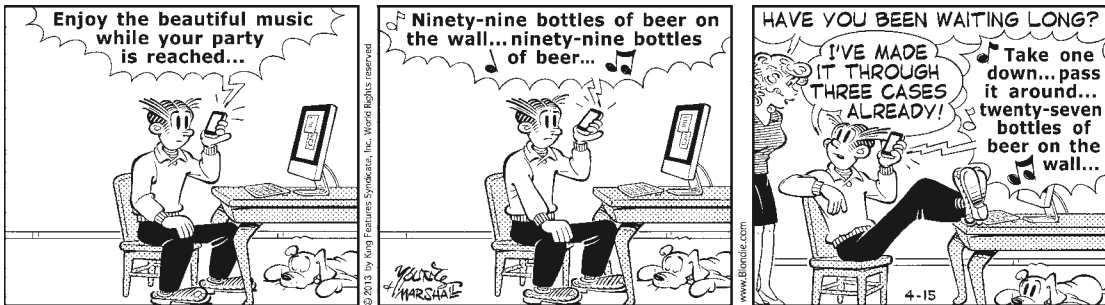
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



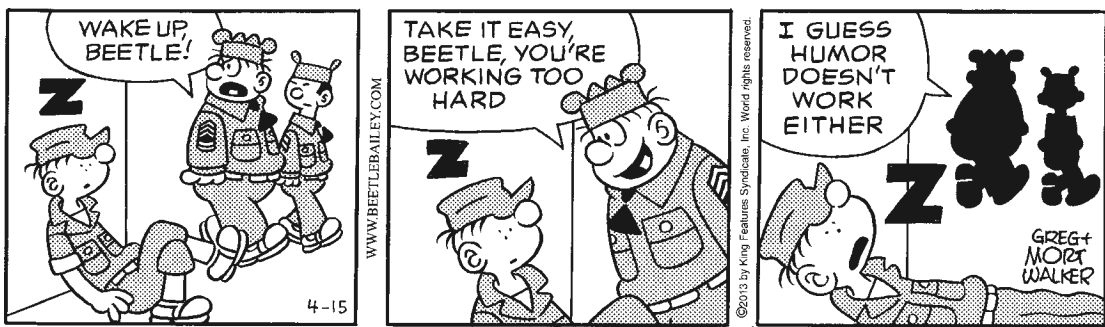
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Little Hellion Makes Visit To Gram's House A Real Chore

DEAR ABBY: My daughter died in a car accident two years ago. She and her boyfriend, "Reed," had a 4-month-old daughter, "Angela." Since then, Reed has been very understanding and liberal with visitations. However, it didn't take him long to find another girlfriend, who has a 4-year-old daughter I'll call Madison.

The first time I went to pick up Angela, the new girlfriend hinted strongly that I should also take Madison. I didn't like it, but I took her. Abby, Madison is the meanest, rudest child I have ever met. She called my dad ugly, my daughter ugly and my house "stinky." I saw her push Angela down and laugh. Then she tried to smother my granddaughter by sitting on her head on the couch. The last time I brought Angela home, Madison told me that everything I bought for Angela I had to buy for her, too.

I don't want to take Madison anymore. It has been difficult losing my daughter, seeing her replaced with a new girlfriend and now being expected to include an unpleasant "step-granddaughter" in everything. But if I don't take her, I'm afraid they won't let me visit Angela. Do you have any advice? — ANGIE'S GRAM IN MISSOURI

DEAR GRAM: If you haven't already spoken to Reed and the girl's mother about her behavior, you should. Madison may act out because she's jealous of Angela and, among other things, she needs to learn better manners before she's included in any more visits. If she had pulled the shenanigans with me that she has with you, I would have taken her home immediately. This is not to say that Madison should be permanently excluded, but you should have time with your granddaughter one-on-one. The same is true for Madison and her grandparents. You are not a built-in baby sitter, which appears to be how you have been made to feel, but nothing will change until you broach the subject.

DEAR ABBY: I feel fortunate to find myself with the love of my life at 24. "Josh" is charming, intelligent, a hard worker and a wonderful partner. I know we can achieve all the things we hope for. We have discussed where we stand on issues such as children, family, finances, living arrangements, etc. We are mostly compatible, and where there is tension, we work it through and compromise.

We are clearly headed toward engagement. He has picked out a ring and I want it badly, but I am hesitant. I am afraid I won't give him what he deserves.

I dated a man in college for three years. We talked about our future, made plans, and then I changed my mind. The pain I caused was terrible. I still regret hurting him, although I don't regret leaving. I'm afraid I will do it again. I'm so anxious I sometimes think I should bail now and cut his losses just in case. I don't think I will, but who can see the future?

My mother says I have always been obsessed with making the right choice. Am I being foolish and letting my anxieties run away with me? — SUSAN IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR SUSAN: There are better ways to cope with your anxiety than "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." You are not the same person you were in college. You have grown and are obviously more aware of the consequences of your actions.

Because you are anxious about making a commitment to "the love or your life" — someone with whom you have many things in common — it's time to schedule an appointment with a licensed counselor to discuss it. It will be time and money well spent.

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.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Gemini if born before 7:49 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013:

This year you often express your views and communicate intellectually; however, there are times when you swing from being logical to being more emotional and conflicted. Do not let co-workers, acquaintances or those you don't deeply trust see these swings. You will change after this year. If you are single, you'll meet someone very important to your life and well-being after June. Enjoy it! If you are attached, the two of you need to plan special mini-trips alone as a couple. **CANCER** sometimes irritates you to no end. 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)

★★★★ Before you attempt to change a pattern, know that your efforts might need to be repeated. Plan your activities appropriately. You will be busy communicating with others — remember to keep it light. Avoid signing any important papers today. Tonight: Happily head home for a chat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Look at your finances. Are they balanced? Study alternatives before making a decision. You usually think there is only one right way, but know that there are many different paths. Involve yourself in work that you are passionate about. Tonight: Catch up on news over the phone.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have strong feelings, and you communicate them to others. Sometimes you go overboard in making your points. A male friend could be extremely assertive; let go and see what happens. Get a close friend's opinion. Tonight: Spend your money wisely!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You need some time away from others. Seclude yourself if possible; otherwise, you could find yourself in a difficult situation where your grumpiness will emerge. The power to prevent this outcome from happening is in your hands. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might want to understand more of what

is going on behind someone's strong statement. When you hear this person's message, be sure to ask questions in order to find out where he or she is coming from. Be as clear as possible. Tonight: Take a much-needed break.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ The possibility of an eye-opening experience appears on the horizon. You might want to jump on this opportunity within the next few days. For some of you, a foreigner will enter your life who shares your vision and goals. Tonight: Catch up on a good friend's news.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening around you. Do not minimize the importance of a loved one. Open up to new possibilities through discussions on a one-on-one level with a key person. A partner could be grumpy. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your emotional side dominates right now. What you want will take time, but it will allow you to do certain things differently. Listen to your inner voice. Try to detach from knee-jerk responses. You'll be able to get a better sense of direction as a result. Tonight: Rent a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You have get-up-and-go. Do not minimize your energy or your creativity. You find answers and solutions out of the blue. Be more in contact with your basic needs, and honor them. You often give up your power. Resist the urge to do so now. Tonight: With a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Know what is happening around you. Stop and observe. You understand the position of a very detached person, even if you feel triggered. Articulate your feelings and intellectual view clearly, and others will respond in kind. Tonight: Return calls before you decide.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

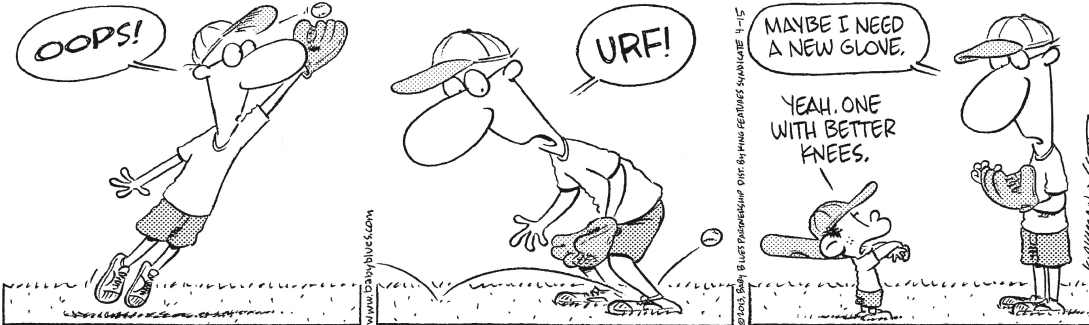
★★★★ Your ingenuity comes out in a discussion, and others understand your opinions. A loved one might choose to test your limits. Be careful with your temper during the next few days, as you could say something you'll regret later. Tonight: Don't overthink a situation.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ A domestic matter dominates right now. You could be feeling off-kilter regarding a problem within your household. Know that you will do whatever it takes to clear up this issue, though the cost might be more than you expect. Center yourself and relax. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

