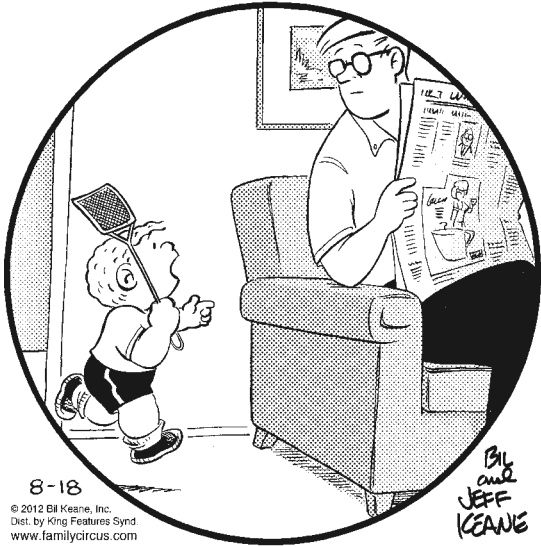
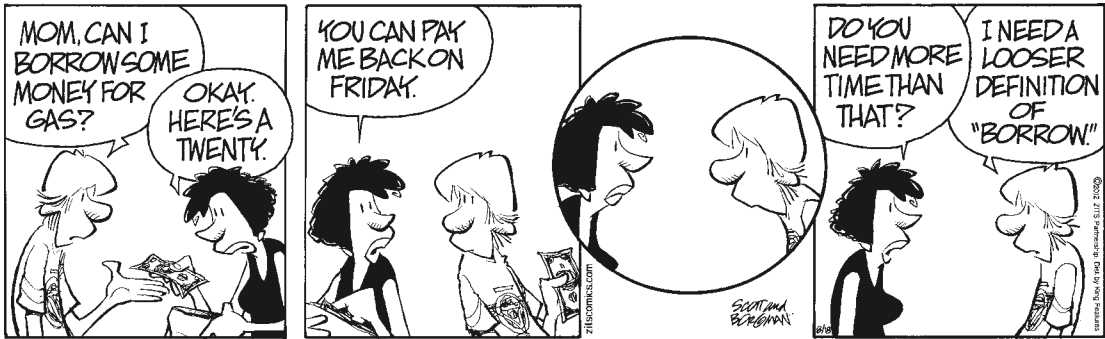


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

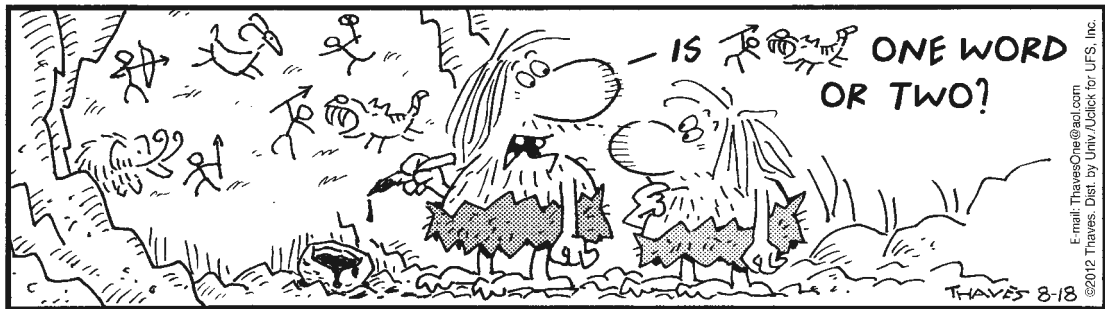


“Have you seen any flies come this way?”

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



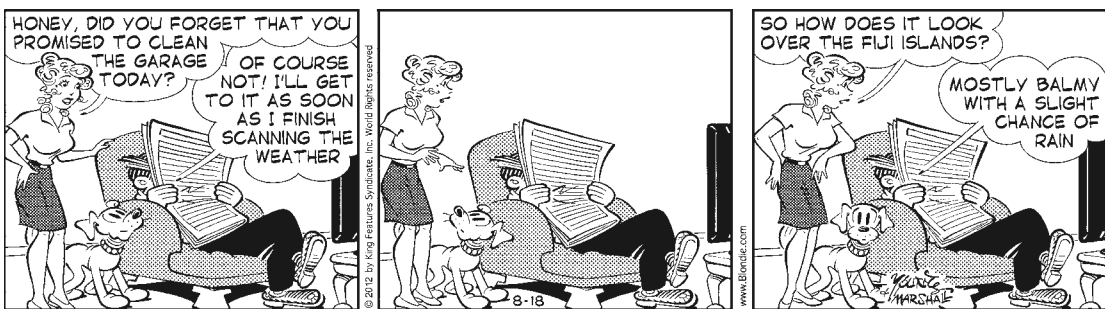
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



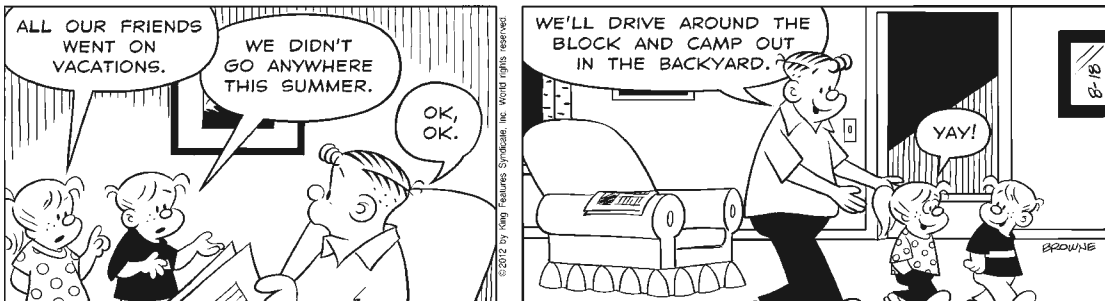
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



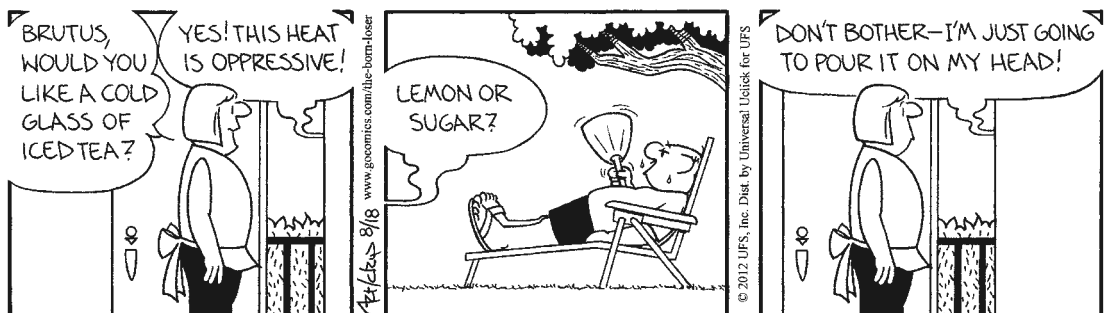
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Girl Is Grossed Out By Night Noises From Her Parents' Room

DEAR ABBY: One night I woke up to my cat scratching at my bedroom door to be let in. When I got up and opened the door, I heard my parents making love. They were so loud it grossed me out, because my little sister is 10 and we share a room right next to theirs. She still doesn't know about this kind of stuff.

I want to tell them they don't need to be doing that, because what if she got scared and woke up and tried to go in there? What should I do — tell them to go to a motel? — GROSSED OUT IN MADISON, MISS.

DEAR GROSSED OUT: Do NOT tell your parents to go to a motel. If the cat hadn't wakened you and you hadn't opened your bedroom door, you wouldn't have heard a thing. Be glad that you have parents who love each other and that you didn't overhear them fighting.

If your sister ever wakes up and gets scared, she should know she can wake you up.

P.S. At age 10, your sister shouldn't be completely in the dark about the facts of life. And the person who should be talking to her about them is her mother.

DEAR ABBY: I have an aunt (by marriage) who I think may be suffering from mental issues. All of a sudden, she is calling members of our family and telling them that “so-and-so” (it varies) is talking about them behind their backs. Of course, none of it is true, but it has caused a huge rift in our family. Family members have had big arguments over these calls.

The aunt is in her mid-50s and has always been quiet and sweet to everyone, so of course when someone gets a call, the person tends to believe her. This is tearing our family to pieces, and no one knows for sure if she's having problems or if she is telling the truth.

HELP! My cousins are no longer speaking to one another or me. I'm not close to her, but I have fallen prey to her phone calls to others. What should I do? — SLANDERED IN INDIANA

DEAR SLANDERED: A sudden change in personality can indeed be a sign of mental illness or a physical problem. Those family members who ARE still speaking to one another should approach the uncle to whom the woman is married and express the family's concerns. She may need a physical and neurological evaluation. (And the cousins need to mend fences.) How sad.



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: Have you ever dealt with work addiction in your column? Many mental health care professionals do not take workaholism seriously — probably because many of them suffer from the problem themselves.

I recently researched the topic because the behavior of a close friend was making our relationship suffer. Workaholics Anonymous exists, and some books have been written on the subject. Perhaps you could spread the word. — CARING FRIEND IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CARING FRIEND: I'm pleased to do that. Workaholics Anonymous is an international organization that was founded in 1983. It's a 12-step program based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous for individuals who feel their work lives have gotten out of control. It offers mutual support in solving problems related to compulsive overworking, and it also helps families and friends who are affected.

To find out about weekly meetings and group development guidelines, contact Workaholics Anonymous, P.O. Box 289, Menlo Park, CA 94026; call 510-273-9253; or go to www.workaholics-anonymous.org.

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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 Leo and a Moon in Virgo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 2012:

This year you might be unusually focused on your financial well-being. Perhaps you see a new path open up and decide to walk down it. A friend or loved one also might offer a different approach. If you are single, a friendship is significant to a key relationship. You could meet someone through a friend, or the very nature of a friendship could change. If you are attached, the two of you become an even stronger entity. You will enjoy socializing together, as well as being alone with each other. VIRGO can be so fussy!

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)

★★★★ Everyone has limits, including you. The tendency to test them can be rewarding, yet frustrating at the same time. Return calls before formalizing any plans. Go with something spontaneous, and be open to trying something new. Tonight: Honor your energy level.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You seem to be naturally inventive and creative. Realize what is going on with a friend or family member. He or she might be intimidated by the experience. You could assume a risk that you normally don't have to, and perhaps you won't even care. Tonight: Paint the town red.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Plans you made during the week might not be suitable any longer. You simply need a change of pace. Many of you simply may want to stay at home or be close to home. Whether you're deep into a project or need extra rest, it makes little difference. Tonight: A friend surprises you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Visit with a friend you rarely have time for. It is as if you were never apart once you meet up with each other. Screen calls if you want to stay free. A boss, relative or older friend could be reaching out for you. Tonight: Hang wherever and with whomever you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Be sensitive to your needs and to how far you can extend yourself and still feel comfortable. You might

be planning a trip, but be aware of the cost -- it might be a little too much to absorb. In the long run, you just want to relax. Tonight: A little moderation goes a long way.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your actions are in tune with those around you. An older relative or friend expresses his or her delight at spending some time with you in the near future. A loved one surprises you with his or her reaction. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might not be in the mood to socialize and be the normally charming Libra. Rather than impose your company on someone, change plans accordingly. There is nothing wrong with needing some personal time. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Join friends at a baseball game or the beach. Fun naturally happens when you are out with this particular group of friends. A dear friend or loved one does the unexpected. Smile and go with the flow. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Accept your role in a get-together or with a project. You might want more free time; however, this might not be possible if you are fulfilling your commitments. A friend or loved one gives you a supportive boost. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Reach out to someone you might not see for long periods of time but who means a lot to you. Your calls back and forth keep this bond strong. Move some plans around if need be, in order to free up extra time at home. Tonight: Let your mind wander at a movie or some music event.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with a friend or family member directly. Your attention means more than you might think, and it is helpful in resolving a misunderstanding. Use care when driving and when handling mechanical equipment, as you could be distracted. Tonight: Add some spice to a loved one's life.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

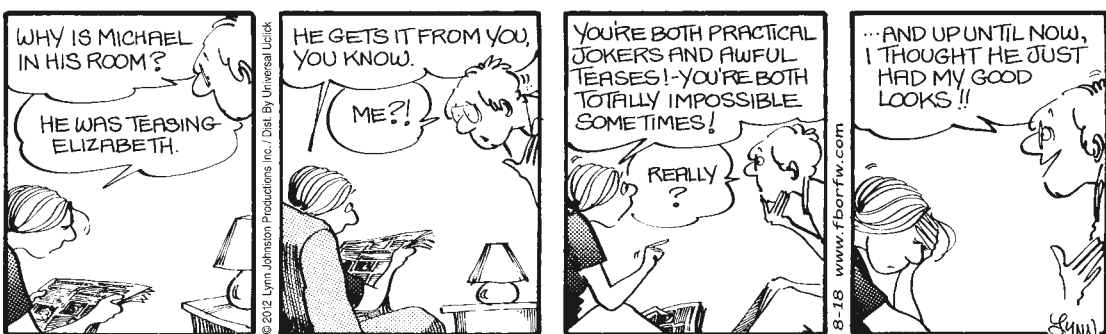
★★★★ Don't worry if you don't have plans. You will, as others seek you out. Follow through only on those invitations with people you enjoy and/or share a preferred pastime with. A friend or loved one shares special news with you. Tonight: At home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

