

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



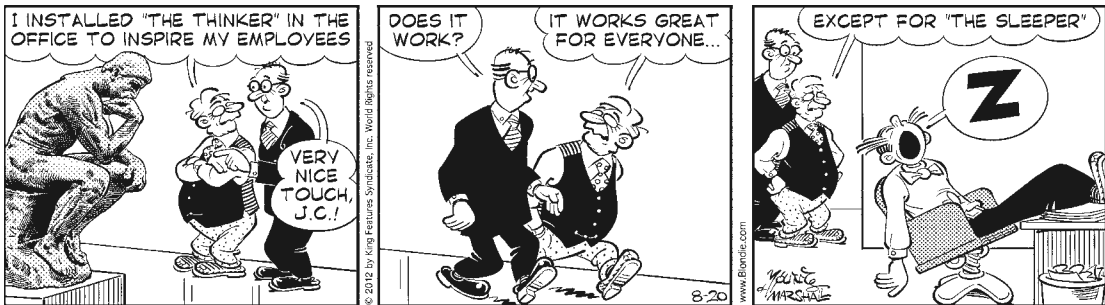
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



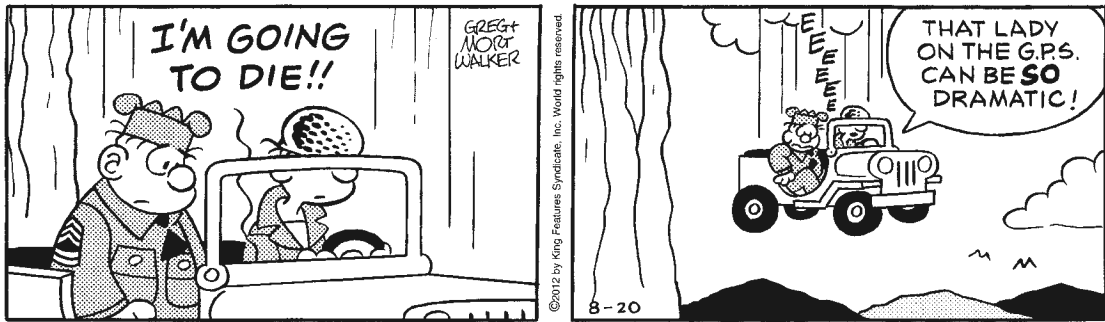
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



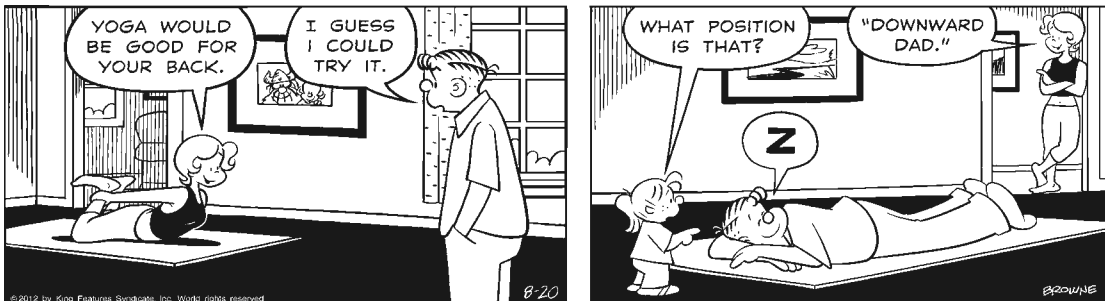
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Old Cellphones Take On New Life For Soldiers Calling Home

DEAR ABBY: My son is a career soldier, Army Rangers Airborne, and yes, I am proud of him. During his 15 years of active duty he has been involved in every "action" around the world. The greatest gift I have been given started with an idea conceived by two high school students in Massachusetts. The program is called Cell Phones for Soldiers, and these are the basics:

Old cellphones are donated and then sold to a recycler, and with that money phone cards are purchased and donated to soldiers all over the world. Eighty percent of calls home by active-duty soldiers are made using these cards.

I have never heard of such a win-win program, and the biggest winner is the family member who answers the phone and hears, "Hi, Mom. I love you. I'm OK." — DR. LISA MORGAN, A VERY THANKFUL MOM

DEAR DR. MORGAN: Until I read your letter, I hadn't heard of the program, either. It seems very worthwhile, and something anyone who wants to support members of our military might be interested in.

Founded in 2004, Cell Phones for Soldiers is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide free communication tools for military serving overseas. There are more than 15,000 collection sites across the United States. Nearly 12,000 calling cards are mailed each week, and since 2004, more than 150 million minutes of talk time have been provided. Anyone interested in learning more should visit cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 21, almost 22, and I have just found out that it isn't the flu. I'm pregnant. The problem is, I don't know who the father is. I have an "idea" of who he might be — but it could be three other guys. I'm not in a relationship with any of

them. No. 1 and No. 2, I wouldn't want my child exposed to because of some of the things they do.

I have heard that if a mother is on state support and the parents aren't together, the father will have to pay child support. Is that true? I don't know what to do. — LOST AND CONFUSED IN MISSOURI

DEAR LOST AND CONFUSED: You are going to need prenatal care to ensure you have a healthy baby. Your local Planned Parenthood health center may be able to provide prenatal care or refer you to other low-cost options.

Your next stop should be your county department of social services so that when your child arrives, you'll be able to feed it. I'm sure they will want the father to contribute financially. Determining which candidate is — or is not — the father is as simple as getting a paternity test.

P.S. And this is important, too: In the future, Planned Parenthood can provide you with reliable, low-cost contraceptive services, so the next time you become pregnant it will be by choice and with a committed partner.

DEAR ABBY: I am 7 years old and me and my parents can never agree on my bedtime. Do you think 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10, 11 or midnight? — BAD BEDTIME IN BOSTON

DEAR BAD BEDTIME: It depends on what time you're expected to get up the next morning. According to the experts, children between the ages of 5 and 10 years old need between 10 and 11 hours of sleep each night. So count backward from the time your day is supposed to start and you'll know what time you're supposed to be in bed (8:30 p.m. seems about right to me).

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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 Libra all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 20, 2012:

This year you become a host to the unexpected. Your life develops an exciting and surprising tone. Your high energy carries you through many interesting events, while your focus gets you through your day-to-day life. Communication obviously will play a strong role. Being the "good" Leo, you will tend to overindulge in many different areas of your life. If you are single, you could attract quite a group of wannabe suitors. If one of them doesn't grab your heart, understand that you still have not met the right person. If you are attached, your significant other will feel most indulged, though you must remain in touch with his or her needs. A fellow LEO will be good to have around. 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 know how to work well with others, yet you prefer to remain the dominating influence. You might believe a situation is evolving in this same manner. Don't be surprised if the other party follows through on his or her need to assume control. Tonight: Sort through the possibilities, then decide.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Pace yourself, and try not to react to a somewhat surprising event or piece of news. Give yourself time to adjust and internalize the information at hand. Schedule a stressbuster if possible. You will want to indulge a loved one. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Allow your imagination to infuse relationships and events with more excitement or intrigue. You tend to add interest and a new dimension to any project. Others appreciate your originality and will ask for your feedback. Tonight: Add more fun to a situation.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could see a personal matter quite differently from others — so much so that you might feel unsure of certain past judgments. In the next few weeks, you could revisit past decisions and choose to change them. It is important to remain confident. Tonight: Happily head home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Listen well, and understand what is going on behind someone's words. You grasp more than you are

willing to deal with right now; however, it does serve you well to get to the root of an issue. Much more caring flows between you and someone else as a result. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Be sensitive to your budget. You might want to deal with a loved one differently. You do not always have to say "thank you" in a materialistic manner. Consider your other options. You might want to see where a friend is coming from. Listening does not necessarily mean you agree. Tonight: Maintain your budget.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are all smiles. The unexpected excitement that a quirky friend generates helps keep your interest. Understand what is going on behind this person's erratic behavior. Listen to your inner voice and let it guide you. Avoid a difficult family member. Tonight: As you like.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Realize what is going on behind the scenes. What is being expressed openly might be hiding a different agenda or problem. Also, evaluate your own actions in a difficult situation. Are you being as clear as possible? Tonight: Not to be found.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You are in a position to transform or walk away from a difficult situation. A meeting could prove to be instrumental. Excellent communication, combined with high energy and drive, allows you to start down the path to realizing a certain desire. Tonight: Find your pals.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Take charge, and understand that others might be slightly resentful or envious of your leadership abilities; they wish they could handle problems as effectively as you do. Be gracious, and do not cop an attitude. Still, don't indulge others too much. Tonight: In the lime-light.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. The unexpected plays a role in your plans. There could be miscommunication out of the blue. Curb a tendency to go to extremes or be reactive. Listen to news with a grain of salt. Tonight: Act on some fun idea that has been on the back burner.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

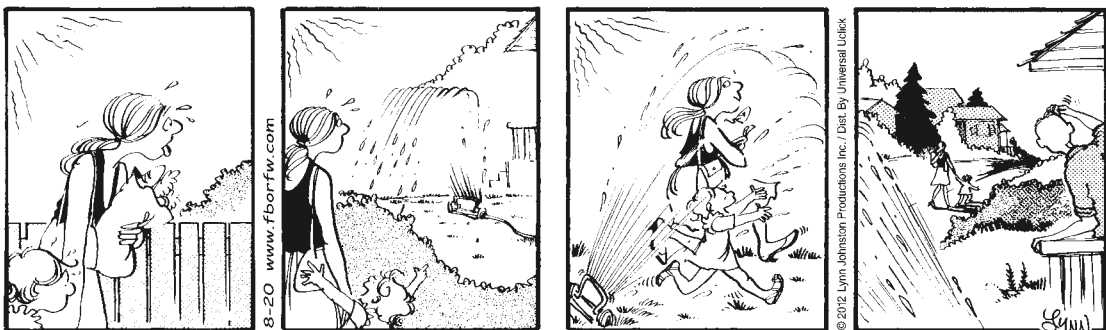
★★★★ A partnership or several key relationships dominate your plans and ideas. You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. Share some of the burden by asking for help. Let others pitch in. You will be much happier with a lighter load. Tonight: Indulge a roommate or family member.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

