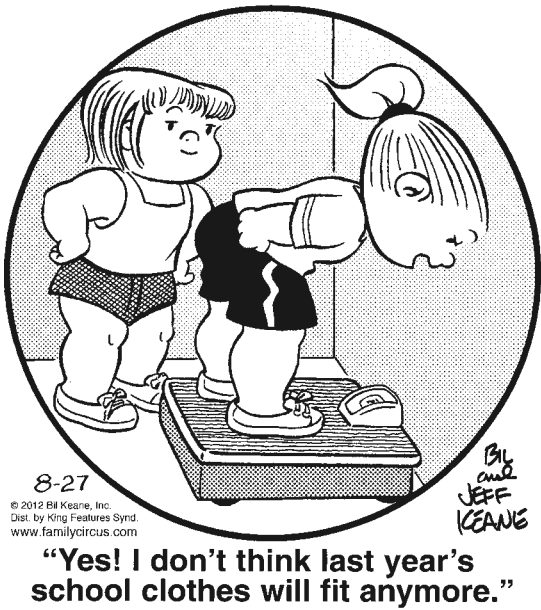


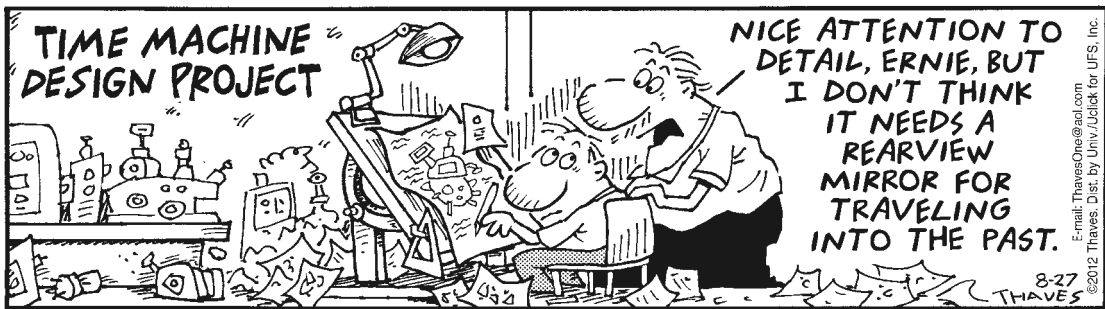
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



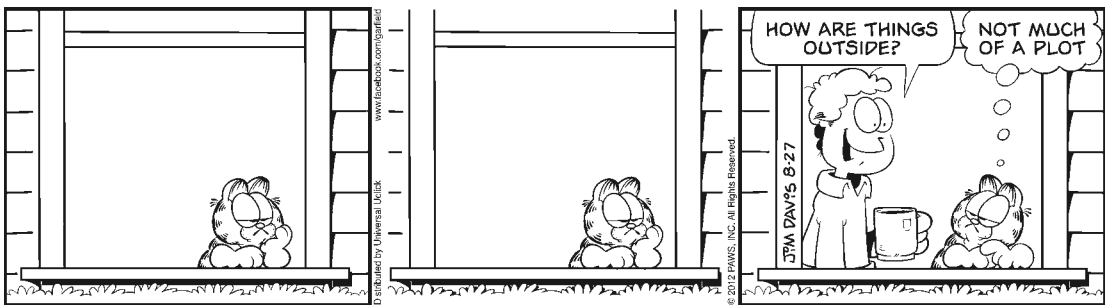
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



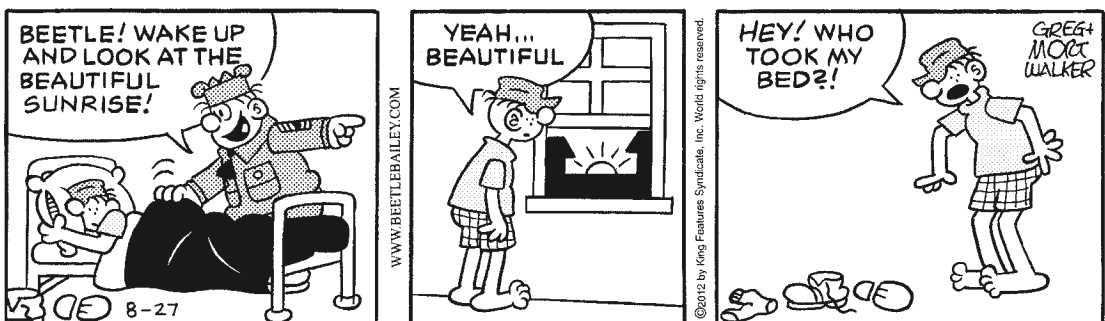
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



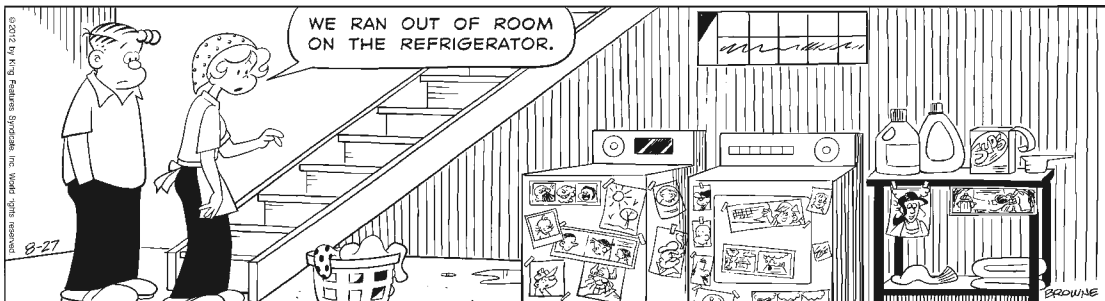
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Tending To His Flock Is This Devoted Pastor's Calling

DEAR ABBY: I am a pastor and just received word that a parishioner died yesterday. "Harold" had been hospitalized for a week in another city, and I wasn't notified. A member of his family said, "We didn't know if we should bother you or not." The saddest part is, I was in that city the night before he died, seeing another parishioner. It would have been easy to visit Harold.

Abby, permit me to share three reasons why I WANT to be "bothered" in the future:

First: The one who is ill is entitled to the care and support of his or her faith community. I have sat at the side of persons who appear nonresponsive, taken their hands and told them who I am. Their hand frequently tightens around mine. When I say familiar prayers, their lips move in concert with mine. Spiritual leaders of other faiths report similar experiences.

Second: My presence may be physically and spiritually helpful to the family and friends of the patient. Many congregations provide networks of contacts for social agencies, additional medical specialists, and even respite care groups within the congregation.

Third: The ill person may have confided his or her wishes regarding maintenance of life, burial and funeral arrangements to his or her spiritual leader. When people come to me to discuss their wishes, I file that information in a secure place. (I also encourage them to share their desires with family and formalize them with an attorney or funeral director.) In at least one instance, the family purchased a burial plot through the funeral home, unaware that one had already been purchased in another cemetery of the person's own choosing.

I urge adult children and others in charge of another's affairs: PLEASE contact the faith community

of the dying person — for the sake of the patient, the faith community and yourself. — A PASTOR IN WISCONSIN

DEAR PASTOR: Thank you for your informative and caring letter. I hope it will convince readers whose loved ones are having medical problems to notify their faith community leader immediately.

DEAR ABBY: I hope you print this because moviegoers worldwide will appreciate it.

Attention, all parents who bring their babies to the movies — PLEASE DON'T! I just spent \$11 to listen to a baby cry and fuss for two hours. It made it impossible to enjoy "Spider Man." Thank you. — SILENT MOVIE FAN IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SILENT: I understand that baby sitters are expensive and not always reliable — and that parents want to see the latest films, too. However, when a baby starts to fuss, the infant should be taken out of the theater to be fed, changed and/or calmed. To do otherwise is unfair to those who have also spent hard-earned money to enjoy a film without distraction.

P.S. DVDs are just what the doctor ordered for new parents — not only can they be paused, but they are cheaper, too.

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 Virgo and a Moon in Capricorn all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUG. 27, 2012:

This year your creativity seeps into nearly everything you do. This gift, combined with your innate logic, allows your ideas to work well ... even if they sound farfetched to some people. If you are single, your uniqueness attracts many suitors. Next summer, as you'll discover, could produce one of the most significant people of your life. If you are attached, the two of you gain from your constantly evolving communication style. Factor in a tendency to go overboard, and you can be sure to count on good times ahead. You delight a certain CAPRICORN.

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)

★★★ Sometimes you must play a role to some extent. Usually, this does not present a conflict. Today, you really want to dote on a family member or loved one, yet where you are and what you are doing will not permit that spontaneity. Tonight: To the wee hours.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ The smartest thing you can do right now is not take any action. A situation might encourage you to actively reach out for a child or loved one. Sometimes it is better to hold off and allow this person to work through the issue on his or her own. Tonight: How about some exotic cuisine?

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ A partnership naturally brings a lot of benefits with it, if you are willing to receive them. Follow your intuition and zero in on a long-term goal. Ask yourself honestly whether an associate or partner would have made a difference. Listen to your answer. Tonight: Chat about this issue over dinner.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You have your opinions, yet it seems as though a partner, boss or associate has opinions that appear to be more relevant. Remember, this person's attitude is natural, as he or she is responsible for this particular venture. Later, he or she will express appreciation for your efforts. Tonight: Do not be alone.

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

★★★★ You could have difficulty focusing on what you

need to do, especially since present distractions are so enticing. Do not judge yourself for being so whimsical. Veering off track is not only refreshing for you, but for some of your observers as well. No one is perfect all the time. Tonight: Take the dog for a walk.

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

★★★★★ Your creativity meets each situation and conversation you encounter, yet you might not want to share everything that comes to your mind. This ever-present ingenuity adds to the delight you are experiencing. Tonight: Fun and games! You choose what.

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

★★★★ Be happy without having to add more excitement than need be. Actually, if you can stay close to home, do. You need to mellow out some. A child or romantic interest keeps coming to mind. Curb a tendency to be self-destructive. Tonight: Order in.

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

★★★★★ Speak your mind, although you could be surprised by others' reactions. Someone draws you in, and the serious "I mean business" attitude seems to dissolve. Before you realize it, the two of you are off sharing a special experience. Tonight: Return calls and emails.

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

★★★ You might not have thought you would let go and enjoy your day as much as you are. You might want to rethink a situation, but there is an element of fun and affection that could weave through your day and distract you. Tonight: Indulge a little.

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

★★★★★ Someone clearly is doing everything he or she can to get your attention. You could be tired and wondering what is necessary to complete. Be more spontaneous, and you'll discover that networking reinvigorates the Goat. Tonight: Be available.

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

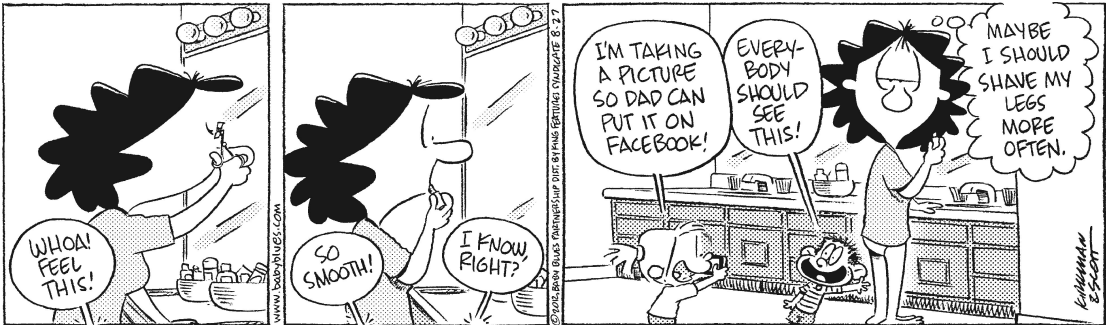
★★★ Be aware of what is going on behind the scenes. It is quite possible that someone is holding back his or her feelings. You sense what is happening. Try to encourage this person to express him- or herself. Be ready for what you might hear. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

★★★★★ Zeroing in on priorities might be a great idea, but at the same time, you find distractions rather alluring. Schedule a late lunch if you need some time to mix work with your social life. Let your creativity flow. Tonight: Use your imagination.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

