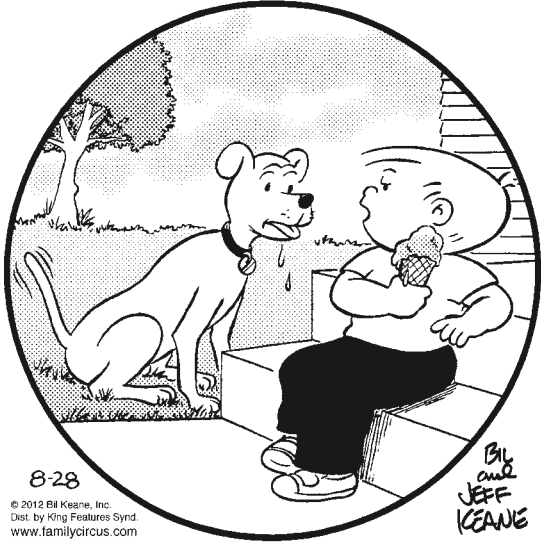


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



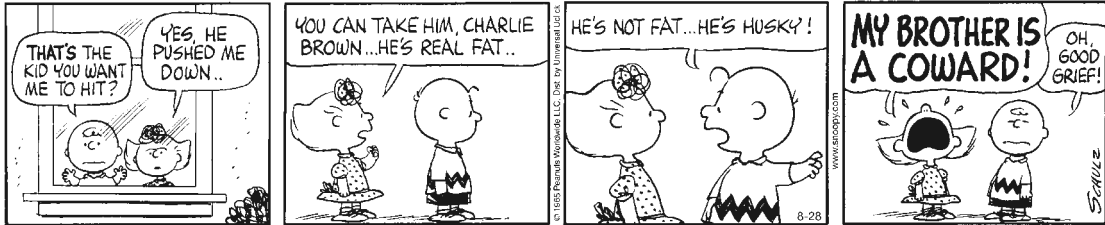
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



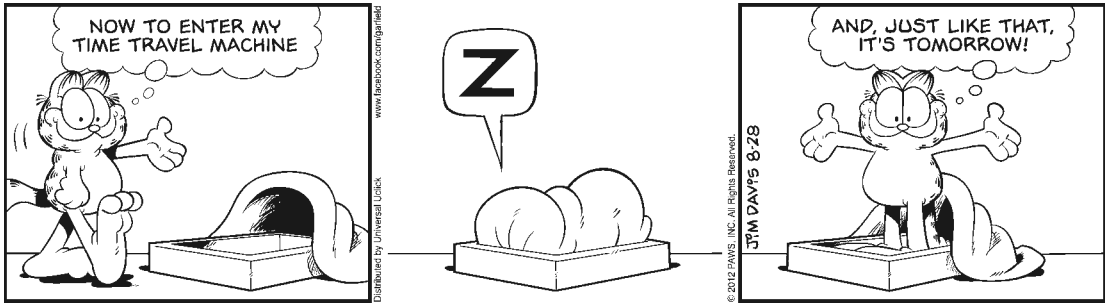
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



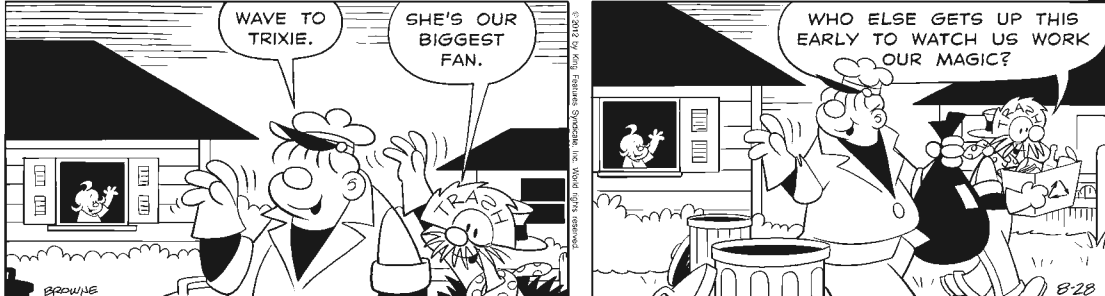
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



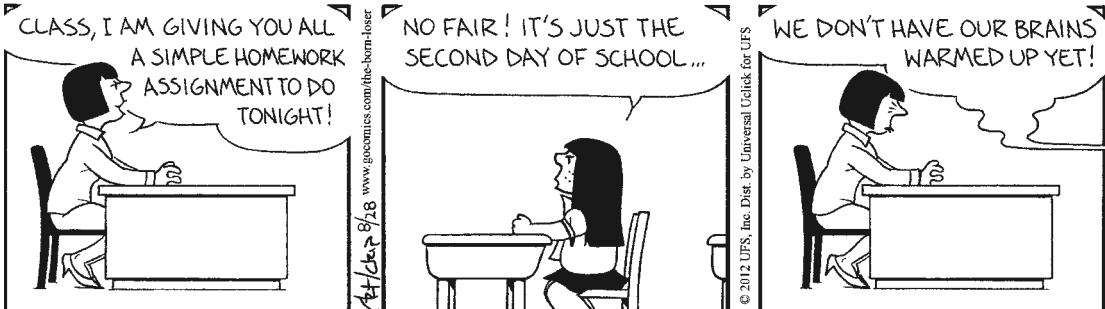
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Woman Wonders If She Hears The Wedding Bells Man Denies

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my early 40s. I have two children. I have never been married. Five months ago I met a fine man. "Mr. M." is in his mid-40s and was married for about four years in the late 1990s.

I am very much in love with Mr. M., and he has shown me how much he loves me in many different ways. However, he says there are no wedding bells in the future.

Do you think Mr. M. is afraid to make a commitment because of his divorce? Has a woman ever proposed marriage to a man? Is there anything wrong with it?

I have one more problem. Mr. M. likes to be all alone some days. And he takes long weekends to get away by himself. Is this common for a lot of men? — CONCERNED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CONCERNED: There is nothing "wrong" with a woman proposing to a man; many women have done it. And yes, it is entirely possible that Mr. M.'s experience with divorce has left him marriage-shy. Since you are serious about him, pursue the reason for his statement that there are no wedding bells in the future.

While it's common for men (and women) to spend "alone time" and have separate interests, they don't, as a rule, involve spending long weekends away by themselves. Much depends on the nature of the pursuit that's taking him away, and how often he needs time to himself. If Mr. M. goes on an occasional spiritual retreat, I see nothing unusual about it. However, if he is a loner by nature — the person who will be lonely is YOU.

DEAR ABBY: We have read about married couples renewing their marriage vows. My wife and I have been married 50 years and thought perhaps this would be a way of celebrating this marvelous milestone. However, the more we discuss it, the more illogical it seems to us.

We took our vows, ending with "... 'til death do us

part." Over the course of the marriage, we have had many wonderful experiences as well as some of the worst life can offer. Through it all, we have loved and cared for each other. There was never a time that we did not think in terms of "we."

We believe it would be an insult to each other to renew that which seems to be in good condition. Vows don't wear out. Devotion to each other becomes a way of life, to the point that life is unthinkable for each of us without the other.

We still find each other attractive, and sexy, too. Like wine, old vows improve with age and become more precious. — YOUNG AT HEART IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR YOUNG: You appear to have an enviable marriage, and I congratulate you both. However, some couples experience the same thrill from renewing their vows that they did in pledging them in the first place. Please do not judge them or minimize the reaffirmation of their love.

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, you have provided me with insight and many grins and chuckles. I hope to return the favor by providing you with at least a smile:

Question: What is the name of Bambi's convent?
Answer: Deer Abbey — JOSEPH IN OVERLAND PARK, KAN.
DEAR JOSEPH: That's cute! I'd send you a buck if you needed the doe.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 if born before 10:38 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 28, 2012:

This year your logic becomes the flagship of your many traits, and often it manages to keep you in good standing. You still could be dealing with some fiery personalities. Be sure to vent your frustration and anger appropriately. Don't try to swallow your anger -- this behavior won't work. If you are single, your magnetism attracts many people. Relish the process of dating and choosing the right person. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy a new magical quality, as long as you funnel your anger appropriately. AQUARIUS presents unusual yet workable solutions.

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 might want to think carefully about someone's lack of warmth and generally irritating personality. Let go of this observation in order to avoid getting into an argument. Deal with financial matters directly, but do not expect easy agreements. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Move forward and read between the lines with an associate who seems to be holding back. Do not start up or play into a combative partner's beliefs. This person is bound and determined to have others agree with his or her views, even to the point of nearly being a bully. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Reach out to others, yet be fully aware that your charm might not work. Instead, use sincerity to get better results. Even when you're stressed, you can count on authenticity being effective. You are building a better network and understanding others' needs as well. Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Understand that you can't do anything to move others into your way of thinking. Remember, you can control no one. Though this might be a depressing thought, keep pushing to find a solution. It is yours to have. Tonight: Let your hair down.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Your intentions might be right on; however, others have their own agendas. You easily are distracted, as

you tend to be more interested in what others are up to. Do not let your frustration get the best of you. Maybe you can squeeze everything in. Tonight: Sort through different ideas.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to focus on your ideas and how to make them come to life. Many of you will enjoy yourselves so much that you won't notice anything else. Do not let your temper get out of control. Employ self-discipline to keep your finances under control. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Tension builds, no matter what you do. Fatigue marks your perspective. In fact, you could be too tired to jump on the bandwagon in order to enjoy what is going on. You might want to give someone more support, but you also need to detach from a personal situation. Tonight: Lighten up.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Use the morning, when you seem more verbal or direct. In the afternoon, you might become befuddled by a personal matter, or simply not want to use self-discipline. A conflict could emerge from out of nowhere, and quite suddenly at that. Tonight: Head home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Opportunities appear if you simply answer your phone, open your email or respond to the knock at your door. Be careful if you find your anger rising. You might want to understand what is going on within yourself. Slow down, and avoid saying "yes" to the first invitation. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Use the early part of the day to the max. You could discover that your appraisal of a financial matter is off. You might be really uncomfortable with what you hear about the situation. A friend pushes for what he or she wants. Tonight: Temper, temper.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

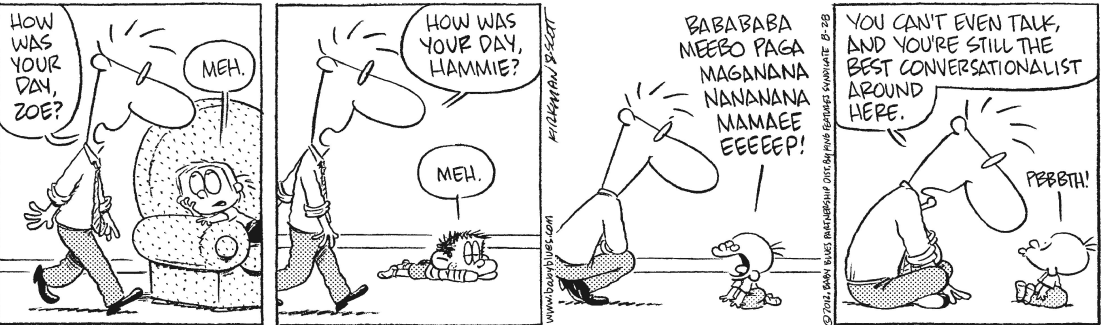
★★★★★ If you discover that someone is being unresponsive, try to get him or her to open up. Be sure to honor this person's mood, though, and say something appropriately nice yet reserved. Let the other party come forward when he or she is ready. Tonight: Detach from someone's anger.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

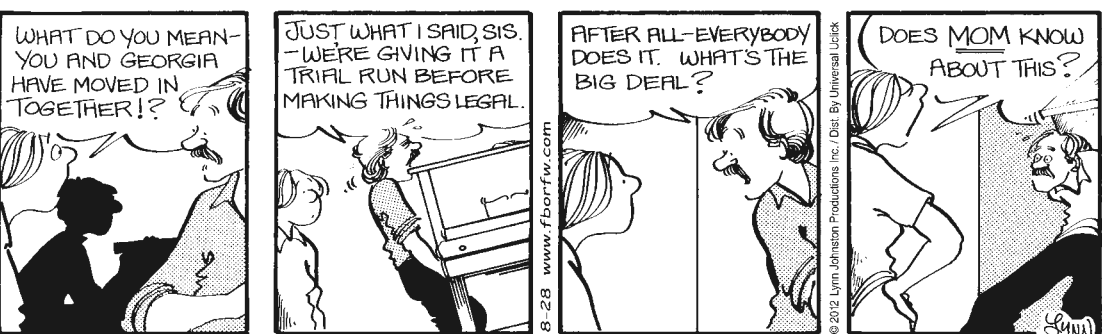
HHH Make an important call first thing in the morning. You might want to maintain more distance from others as the day goes on. Someone could see you as provocative, or maybe it's the other way around. Do not become a victim of impulse. Tonight: Not to be found.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

