

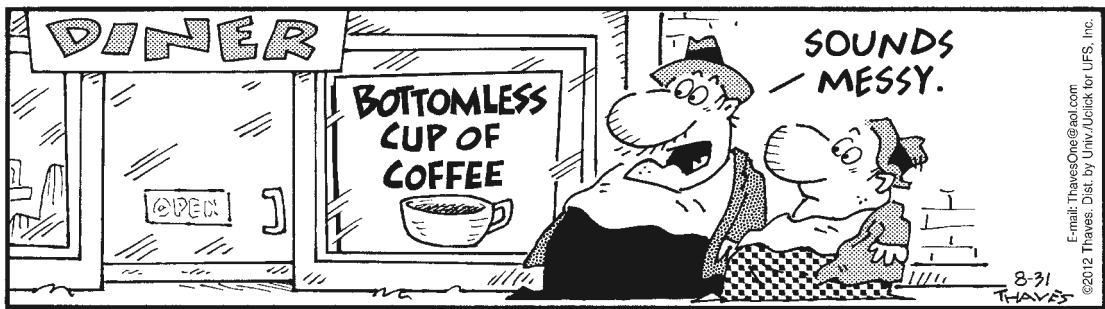
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



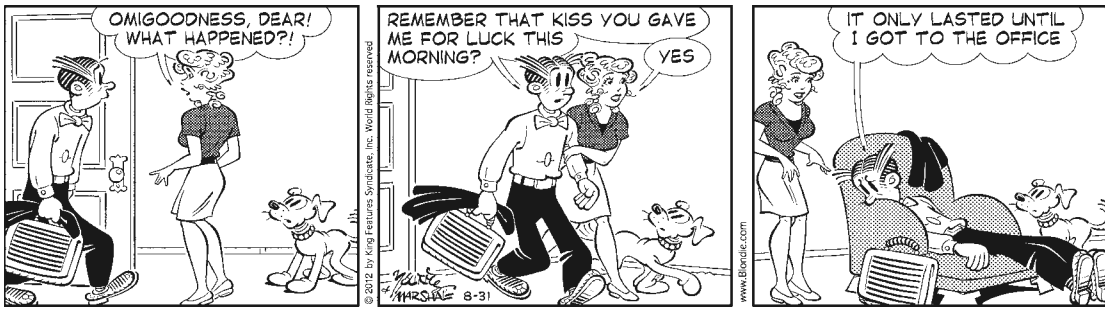
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



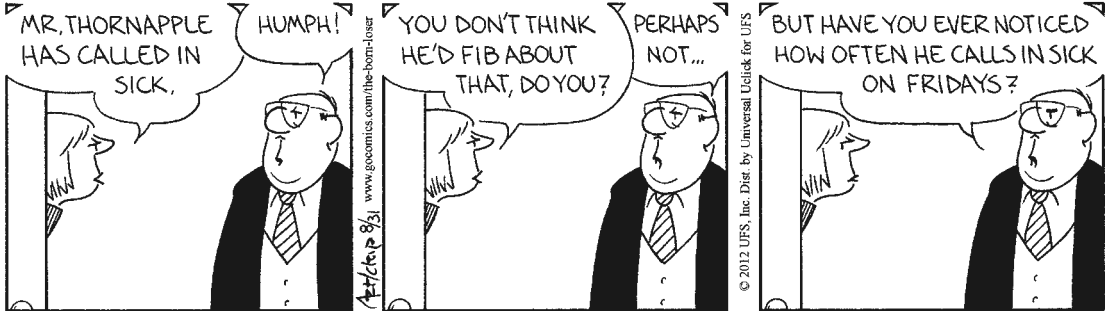
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# When To Bury Dad's Ashes Ignites A Family Flare-Up

DEAR ABBY: My father died eight years ago. Mother couldn't afford to bury him at the time, so he was cremated. Mom asked me to keep his ashes until her time was up so they could be buried together.

I have had them ever since. It makes me feel like he is still with me, that I have not totally lost him. However, over the last year, my brothers and sisters have led my mother to believe that I won't respect her wishes to have them buried together when the time comes. She is pressuring me to bury him NOW. It hurts me that my family could even think I would take that away from my mother.

To this day, my siblings say mean things about Dad, claiming he was a "terrible" father and husband. I'm a lot younger than the rest of them, so it's possible I never saw the bad side of him. The father I knew was a caring, loving man, and it drives me crazy to hear my siblings speak ill of him. They don't remember his birthday, the date of his death or even how long ago it was.

Abby, I don't know what to do. If I go ahead and bury my dad's ashes now, I feel I will be losing him completely. Please help me. I feel so lost. — SAD AND MISUNDERSTOOD DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: Perhaps there is a way to satisfy everybody. Before returning your father's ashes to your mother and siblings for burial, take a small portion to keep for yourself. Your feelings are not all that unusual — and contrary to popular belief, not all ashes are scattered or buried. Sometimes they are retained for decades by family members who are not yet ready to part with them.

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, I began a part-time job for extra cash. My manager and I developed an

attraction for each other that soon led to a sexual relationship. The problem is that he's married with two children, and he is significantly older than me.

I know now that this has to end. I have no emotional ties to him, but I think he is starting to care for me. I can't quit the job because a family member got it for me, and it would seem suspicious if I quit.

Please respond soon because I am trying desperately to avoid being alone with him, and it's becoming more and more difficult. How do I end the affair and remain on decent terms with this man? — NEEDS A QUICK OUT

DEAR NEEDS: It's difficult to remain on decent terms after there has been indecent exposure, but tell your manager your conscience demands that the hanky-panky stop. Then, if he tries to get you alone, tell him, "Nothing doing — I've turned over a new leaf."

I'm sure he'll find a way to handle the rejection. If it breaks his heart, he can seek comfort from his wife, from whom he shouldn't have strayed in the first place.

DEAR ABBY: I'm going into junior high. I'm a straight-A student and get my homework and projects done. But I'm not that organized. I always put my

assignments away, but when I need them, they're never there!

My mom complains to me about it and calls me a troll. My room isn't so hot, either. What can I do? — THE TROLL IN ST. PETE

DEAR TROLL: The time to get organized is now. Begin by cleaning your room and making sure you have a study area that is not messy. After that, you should always put your projects and completed assignments in ONE SPOT, and they won't be lost. You'll be able to find them easily once you have only one place to look.

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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 Pisces all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 31, 2012:

This year you have a frenetic element in your life. Your classic organizational skills might be overwhelmed by everything that could fall on your plate. In some manner, you could feel taunted by many new options and find it difficult to rely on the conventional methods your life has been built on. Change often causes insecurity, but is a worthy risk. If you are single, your attractiveness to the opposite sex cannot be denied. The person you choose today could be different from who you might choose 10 months from now. Use care. If you are attached, the two of you sometimes feel out of sync. Know that you simply are approaching issues differently. Accept this. PISCES offers what you don't.

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)

★★★ Today's Full Moon throws you into a tizzy of sorts. You might choose not to share what is going on. Focus on your daily routine in order to stay grounded. You might be better able to judge what is happening from this perspective. Tonight: Hang out your "Not Available" sign.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You could encounter strong reactions from others. As you witness a lot of changes, you'll feel at peace. You know how you feel and what you are going to do. Listen to what is being suggested, but ultimately count on yourself. Tonight: Where people are.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to understand where others are coming from, especially because they seem hyper. You want to help people, but in order for that to happen, they need to listen to your ideas. You are not in the mood to debate. Tonight: To the wee hours.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for someone and understand where he or she is coming from. If this person becomes difficult, do not push. A little empathy will go much further. Maintain a sense of humor, yet keep communicating ... even if you feel frustrated. Tonight: Hang out.

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

★★★★★ You could choose to juggle various con-

cerns, and you might need to do just that. Today's Full Moon is far more challenging than you realize, especially concerning others and anything involving finances. Nothing is written in stone at the moment. Be direct in your dealings. Tonight: Dance away your problems.

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

★★★★★ Your energy could determine the near future in certain relationships. The good news is that generally you'll err on the side of caution. Where other signs could get into a pickle, you are unlikely to be reactive. Tonight: Out with that favorite person.

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

★★★★ You might be struggling with all the demands of your daily life and the added high-voltage energy of today's Full Moon. Know that this, too, will pass. Make no decisions, if possible. Play the waiting game until tomorrow. Tonight: Easy works.

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

★★★★ You enjoy living to the utmost and seeing what will happen. The Full Moon emphasizes this gregarious quality and your love for life. Take advantage of the moment, be it networking or just taking off for a special adventure with your best friend. Tonight: Live it up.

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

★★★ You could see this moment as critical. Understand that the Full Moon is adding to the sense that this moment might be more important than it really is. Kick back, and do not feel pressured. You might want to stay close to home. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

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

★★★★★ You know what you want to do, and the Full Moon cheers you on. Do what you feel is needed, but save part of the day for you. Return calls, especially those that might intrigue you. News could be shocking. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

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

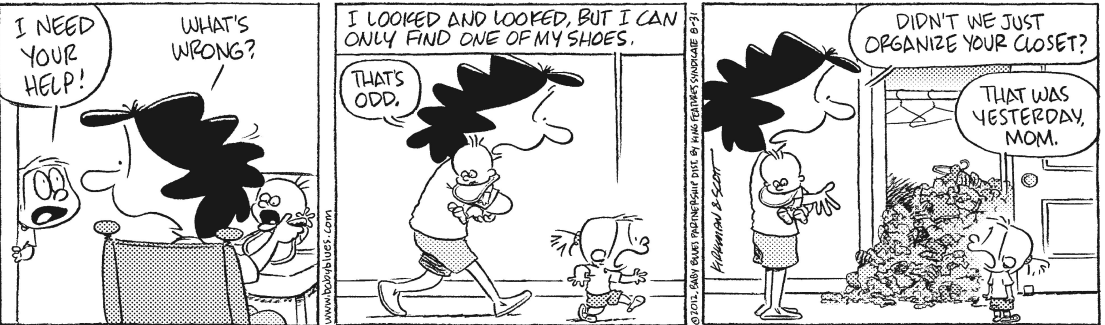
★★★ Observe what is happening with others. You do not need to play into the commotion; you actually might want to distance yourself. Use care when handling your funds. With all the frenetic energy in the air, you might run into an unexpected problem. Tonight: Join friends.

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

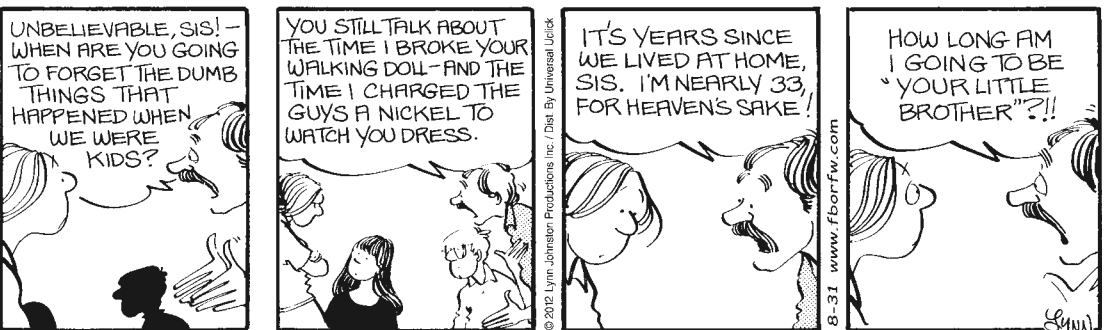
★★★★★ The Full Moon in your sign throws certain opportunities and people in your direction. Even something that might feel problematic could work out fine. Your personality seems to prevent a problem from emerging. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

