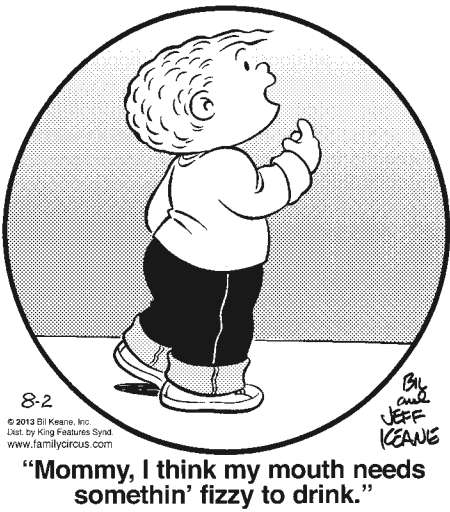
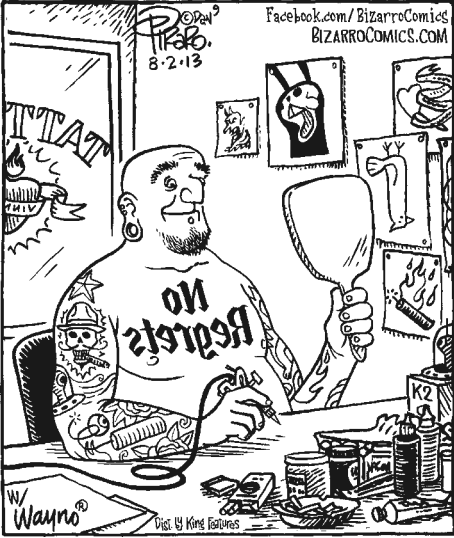


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Summer Fun At The Beach Can Turn Tragic In Blink Of An Eye

DEAR ABBY: I have been a lifeguard for more than 30 years, and I continually see parents and other adults putting children in harm's way. Would you please remind your readers that they need to be vigilant around water? A drowning is nothing like they show in the movies.

As you take your family to your favorite swimming hole this summer, please be careful. If your child isn't a competent swimmer, NEVER allow him or her to go beyond arm's reach. Never exceed the ratio of two nonswimmers to one adult. If possible, stay where the child can touch the bottom.

If your children can swim and you allow them to go into the pool, lake, ocean without you — ALWAYS WATCH THEM! Yes, lifeguards are observing the swimmers — but no one on this planet will watch your child with the same vigilance that you will.

So put down the book, the e-reader, the tablet, the cellphone and ACTIVELY WATCH. If you're chatting with friends, don't look at them; watch your child. It can take as few as 10 to 20 seconds for a person to get into trouble and slip without a sound beneath the surface. I guarantee you: Your parent-to-child ratio is lower than that of any lifeguard-to-swimmer. — LIFEGUARD JOHN IN AUBURN, WASH.

DEAR LIFEGUARD JOHN: Your message is important and timely. Every year we read about families basking in the sun near water, and children who have lost their lives because the person who was supposed to be watching them became momentarily distracted. I agree the best way to protect against tragedies like this is unremitting vigilance. Thanks for giving me a chance to say it again.

DEAR ABBY: I have a brother-in-law whom I love dearly who lives out of state and stays in our guest room frequently. I try hard to be a thoughtful hostess. When he comes, we spend the first 45 minutes rearranging the guest

room furniture because he likes the bed to face west. Currently, it faces north, as do the nightstands and the dresser.

I accommodate him, but frankly, it's getting very old. Am I being nasty to want our furniture arranged the way we're comfortable? Or must I allow him to rearrange it the way he wants it? He is here for only 24 hours and then leaves. — GOOD HOSTESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOSTESS: Your brother-in-law may be a frustrated interior decorator, or want the room to be the way he sleeps at home. A good hostess tries to accommodate the needs of her guests; however, if the furniture in your house has been moved, your brother-in-law should put it back the way it was before he leaves.

DEAR ABBY: Do you or your readers think it's acceptable for a father to ask his 21-year-old college student son whether he and his girlfriend of one year are sexually active? This is his first girlfriend.

I am his mother, and I say it's none of our business. My husband says it's a reasonable question; he just wants to give him fatherly advice — like "be careful." — MOM

IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: Would you still say it's none of your business if your son made his first girlfriend pregnant? I would, however, caution your husband to be more tactful about how he approaches the subject because a blunt question like the one he's contemplating could be off-putting. If he has birth control information he wants to impart, a better way to approach it would be to raise the subject without putting his son on the spot.

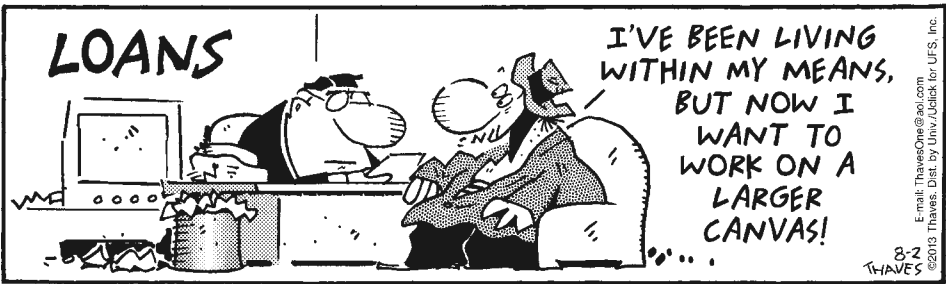
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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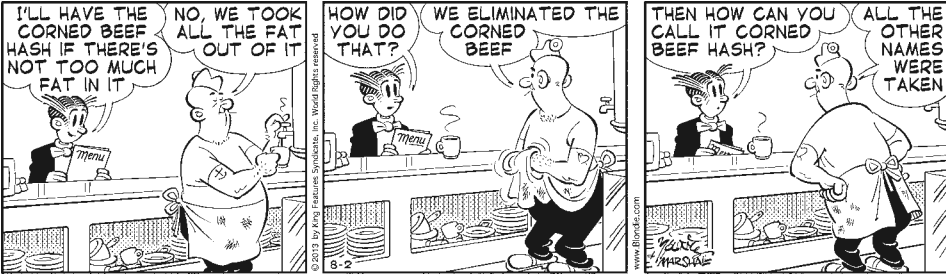
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



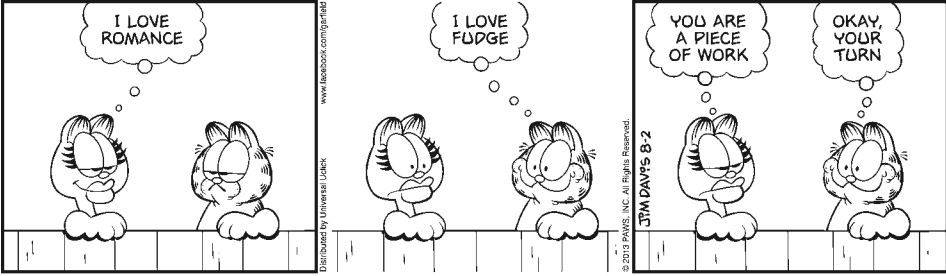
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



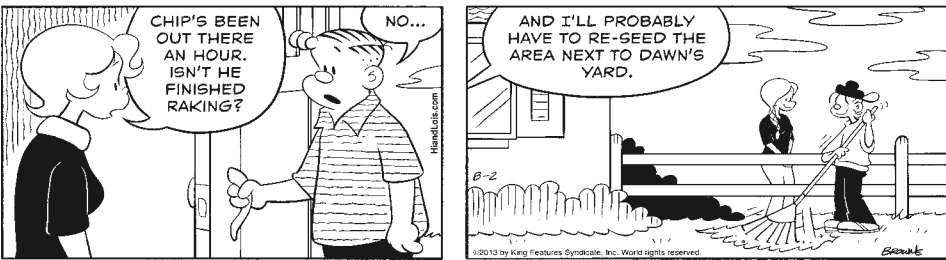
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



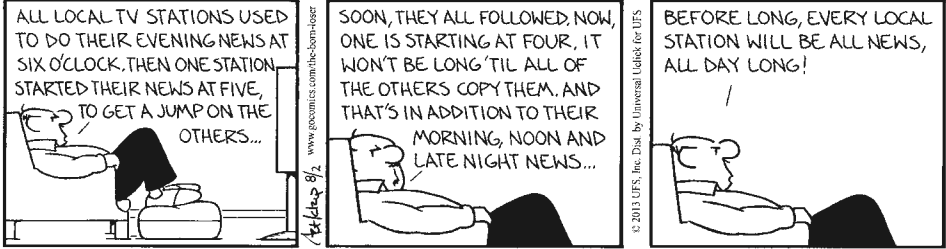
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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 Gemini if born before 9:30 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 2, 2013:

This year you will be in the last year of a 12-year cycle. Be willing to eliminate what does not work if you can't make the necessary adjustments. You will want to enter the next phase of your life with as few problems as possible. If you are single, a potential sweetheart could knock on your door. Be sure that this person is emotionally available before you jump in and commit. If you are attached, the two of you will benefit from taking some time away from everything. You will start acting like newlyweds before you know it! CANCER understands you almost too well.

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)

HHHHH You will accomplish a lot in a small amount of time. You also will be able to straighten out a misunderstanding that could have been a problem. Communication flourishes. Make plans for a late lunch, or take the day off to go on a day adventure. Explore. Tonight: Out and about.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Finally, you'll have the energy you have been wishing for. An emotional conversation could remind you to be more expressive than you have been lately. Sometimes you assume that someone else knows how you feel, but perhaps you are wrong. Tonight: Be a little naughty!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might feel as if you have accomplished a lot. Before spending any more money on a particular venture, consider whether it really will pan out. Do some price comparisons, and then decide whether it is a luxury or a necessity. Be smart. Tonight: Bring your friends together.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You'll want to do your own thing, and you have the energy to complete an important task. Do not hold back, and know full well where you are heading with an issue. A discussion of a sensitive nature would be best postponed until tomorrow. Tonight: Love the one you're with.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A meeting could set the tone for the day, as an intuitive response from a friend or an

associate will warn you that there might be more going on than meets the eye. Think carefully about what is causing a sense of frustration or possibly anger. Tonight: Accept an invitation to join friends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Honor a sense of responsibility. You know where you are heading and why. Expect a loved one to feel differently from how you do; know that this person won't hesitate to express those feelings. Sometimes you can't seem to reach a compromise. Tonight: Run errands first.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be dealing with a touchy situation that involves a special person in your life. Realize that you will need to take a stand. Listen and try to understand where this person is coming from. You might choose to say nothing and just observe. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Rest assured that you'll have the support you need as you pursue an unusual solution. You could be full of get-up-and-go. Listen to news with a more open mind. You'll be able to see several alternatives and possibly a better course of action. Tonight: Catch up with a dear friend.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Others have a way of taking the lead again, but you might decide to undermine their position. The more gently you proceed and the less anger you bring to the situation, the better your success. Tonight: Join your friends for some fun. After all, it is Friday night!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Considering everything that you might want to accomplish, it would be wise to put a little more time into a project. A partner could get upset if you're not free to join him or her. Understand that he or she really would like your company. Tonight: Better late than never. Join friends.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

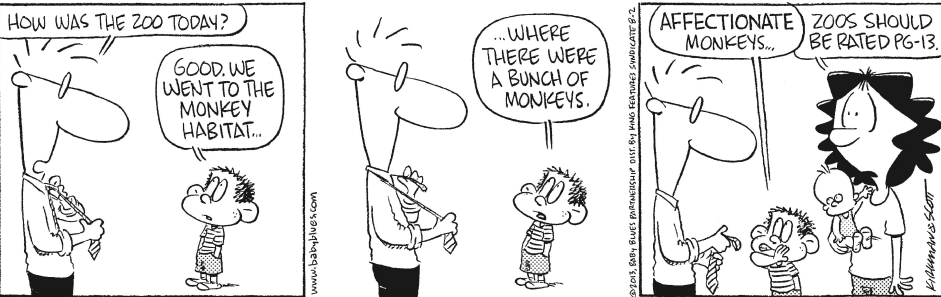
★★★★ Tap into your ingenuity to finish a project quickly. You might want to take the day off, or throw a party with friends. Your playful manner attracts many people. What others might not realize is the amount of effort you've made to free yourself up. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You still might be a bit nervous. You will relax when you decide to find a way to eliminate some of the stress and tension around you. A partner would be only too happy to help you find the right path. Open up to new ideas -- they might work. Tonight: Chill out, then decide.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

