

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



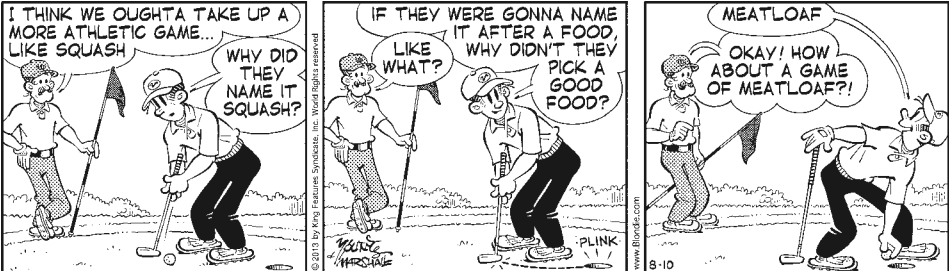
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



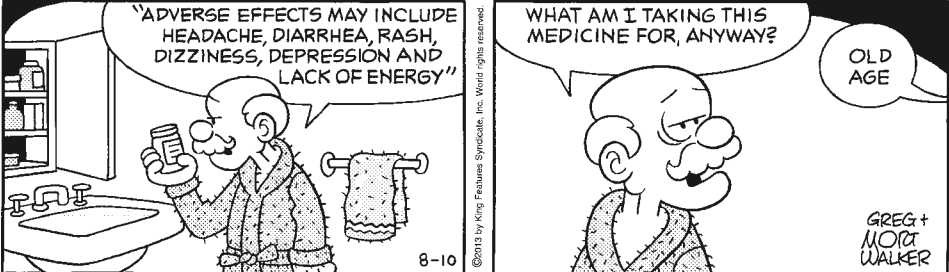
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



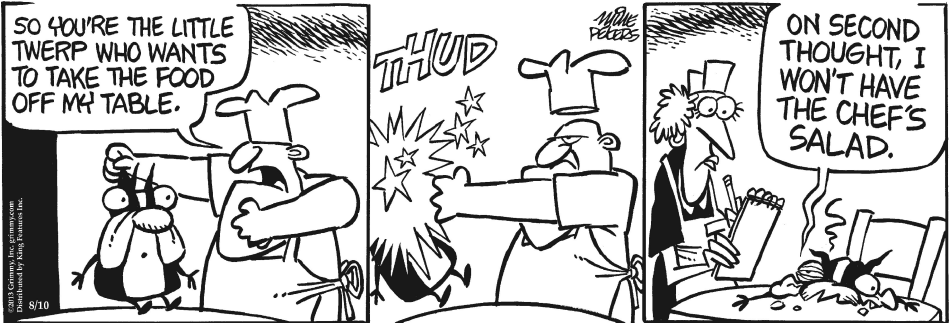
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Four's A Crowd When Daughters Visit Dad And His New Partner

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and have a 13-year-old sister. Our parents are divorced, and we live with our mother. We used to see our dad on visitations every other weekend, but he moved away, so now we see him for two weeks in the summer and one week during Christmas. We talk to him a lot and have a good relationship. We're scheduled to visit him soon.

Dad lives in a one-bedroom apartment and when we're there, he lets us stay in the bedroom and he sleeps on the couch. He has just told us he is "coming out of the closet" and has a partner who is living with him. They plan on getting married now that it's legal. When I asked him what the sleeping arrangements will be, he said he hasn't figured it out yet, but will work it out.

We're really not surprised to find out that Dad is gay, and we can accept that. But we're really uncomfortable about spending two weeks in a one-bedroom apartment along with his partner when we don't even know what the sleeping arrangements will be. We'd like to find a way to get out of the visit, but we don't want to hurt our dad, and because of the visitation agreement, he has the right to have us for two weeks every summer. What can we do? — UNCOMFORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Of this I am sure, your father and his partner will welcome you with open arms and do everything in their power to show you a good time. You and your sister should go and try to be gracious guests. I agree, the space may be cramped, but it's only for two weeks. After they marry, they may move to larger quarters.

If you don't enjoy the visit, keep in mind that in two years you will be 18 and no longer "obligated" to spend three weeks with your dad. But if you give this a chance, you may

be very pleasantly surprised, so think positive.

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law is considering having my two precious little girls' names tattooed on his arm. I'm not a fan of tattoos and would prefer my daughters' names not be displayed in this manner.

Do my husband and I have a right to ask him not to do this? Our history with him hasn't been the most pleasant because he can be manipulative and hard to deal with. I'm afraid if we tell him we are opposed, it will encourage him all the more to get the tattoo. How should we approach this without causing a ruckus? — AGAINST IT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR AGAINST IT: You can offer your opinion, but there is no way you and your husband can control what he does with his body. Because the subject has already come up for discussion, it would not be rude to raise it again and explain NICELY that if he hasn't done it yet, you would prefer the girls' names not be displayed that way.

Of course, the decision is his to make, and while it may not be to your liking, I'm sure your father-in-law considers it to be a loving gesture and a sign (literally) that he's proud of his granddaughters. If the tattoo has already been applied, then please, for the sake of family harmony, try to view it from that perspective.

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.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Virgo if born before 6:08 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 10, 2013:

This year you often find yourself brainstorming with others. You also like sharing stories and catching up on news with neighbors and relatives. You will renew your daily life in order to make it more exciting and meaningful. If you are single, you will meet a lot of people and attract many admirers. You might want to date more rather than commit. If you are attached, make sure that you spend plenty of time with your sweetie; otherwise, he or she could feel left out. LIBRA always loves visiting with you.

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)

★★★★ Make it your pleasure to defer to others. In many ways, you are so responsible that you need to practice letting go more often. A boss or parent could become unusually contrary. The question remains: How would you like to respond? Tonight: Finally, time to unwind at home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You need some time to mellow out. Use today for just that, though you might need to get a few errands done first. You could be contacted by someone you care about, but keep in mind that he or she might be unusually controlling, especially now. Tonight: Out at a fun happening.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might opt to stay close to home or somewhere you can enjoy yourself. You will see a situation evolve that could force your hand financially. Clearly you want something different from the other party. Money is one of the major issues. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You'll want to run errands right away. Plans easily could be made, as you might run into someone you would like to have coffee with. Invitations to join others seem to come in from all directions. Choose where you want to be. Tonight: Let the party happen wherever you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Make your best effort to draw someone in. You will find that by asking the right questions, you will understand where this person is

coming from. A discussion could help you both relax. The problem might revolve around a domestic matter. Tonight: Out in your neighborhood.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a friend's provocative style. Perhaps you have tried initiating discussions about this in the past to no avail. You might be best off letting this person revel in his or her challenging mood. Try not to get pulled in. Tonight: Just don't stress yourself out.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ You'll finally feel as if you have cleared up a problem. You might be far more upbeat than you have been lately. A conversation in the morning could mark a new beginning. Be careful with a hot-tempered family member in the afternoon. Tonight: Let the good times roll!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Step back some. You need more private time to accomplish what you want and also to relax. Consider including a frivolous activity or two. A conversation revolving around a domestic issue could have you feeling angry or pushed to your limits. Tonight: Be willing to disappear.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Conversations will help you understand others and allow you to help them resolve their differences. You might be wondering how to eliminate a barrier. Why not just decide that it doesn't exist? It will dissolve with more relaxation. Tonight: Be where people are.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could feel put off by a friend's attitude. You might wonder what is necessary to make a situation work. Pull back after indicating your preferences. You'll be full of energy, but do not apply it to a control game. Let others work through their issues. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ If you are thinking about someone at a distance, pick up the phone and call him or her. Do not stand on ceremony, even if you have had a disagreement. Mend bridges. Do not get tied up in someone's power play. Tonight: Squeezing in all of your invitations might not be possible.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a partner or friend's feisty attitude. Have a long-overdue conversation with a loved one. You do not always need to see eye to eye with this person, but it is important to have mutual respect. Tonight: Invite a favorite person over for dinner.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

