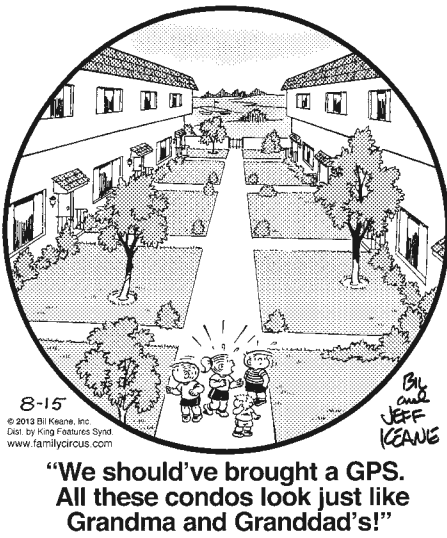
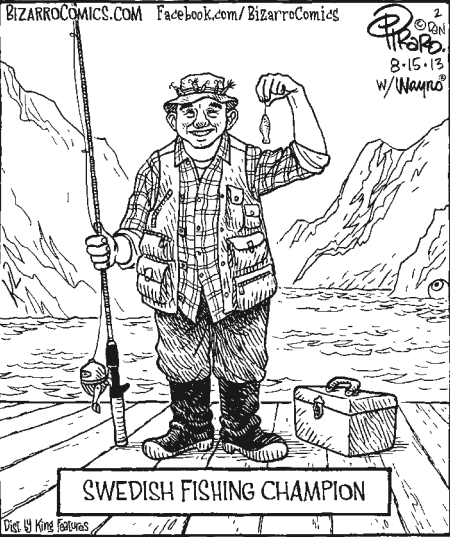


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Teacher Looks For Lesson In The Etiquette Of Tipping

DEAR ABBY: I am a teacher, and at the end of the year I receive many gifts and notes of appreciation from the parents of my students. This year, one of my parents, a beautiful, presented me with a gift certificate for a facial.

Last week I made the appointment and was given a fantastic facial by this mom. I didn't tip her afterward because I wasn't sure how to handle a gift like this.

Was I right in not tipping her? Since this was a gift from her, I'm hoping I didn't insult her by not offering one. If I was wrong, I'd like to go back and give her the tip she would have earned. — WONDERING TEACHER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TEACHER: Because the gift certificate came from the person who delivered the service to you, you did not insult her by not offering a gratuity. (In fact, had you offered one for her gift, it might have been taken the wrong way.) If the facialist who performed the service had been someone other than the mother, a tip would have been in order, but not in a case like this.

The proper way to convey your gratitude for her fantastic facial would be to write a short note telling her what a treat it was and how much you enjoyed her gift.

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old granddaughter, "Grace," has confided to me that she's smoking pot and drinking. When I asked her why, she said she does it to make herself feel better. I told her she has a serious problem, and something has to be done.

Grace doesn't want to tell her parents and, frankly, I think they would just yell and scream and not understand what's really going on. At this point, I don't know what to do. The person who's supplying my granddaughter is someone who is always around. I refuse to have that other girl in my home, but I can't tell Grace's parents why. What should

I do? — IN A FIX IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IN A FIX: You're correct that this is serious, and something does have to be done. Alcohol and weed are not the solutions to your granddaughter's problem. Self-medicating won't fix what's wrong and could make her problems worse.

Grace needs to be evaluated and diagnosed by a physician. The way to ensure that it happens is to talk to her parents about the fact that you're worried about her. If you make clear that Grace is getting stoned to "feel better" and not partying, they may be less inclined to react with anger.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

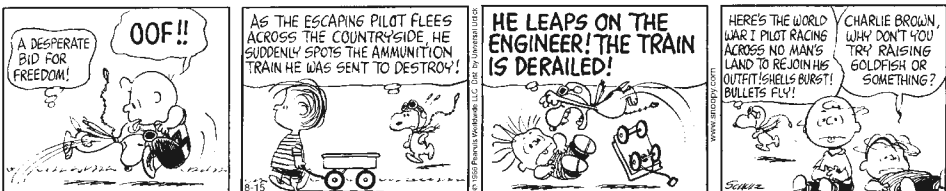
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



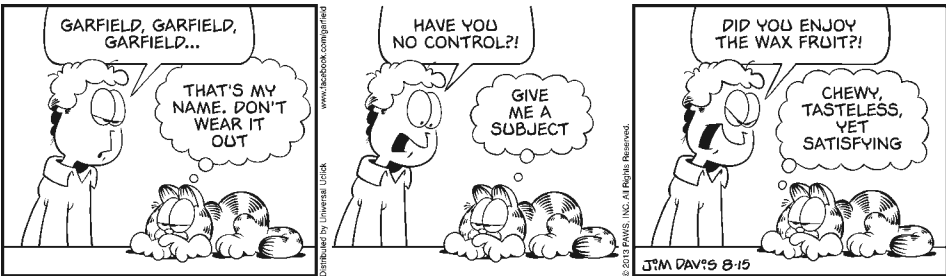
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



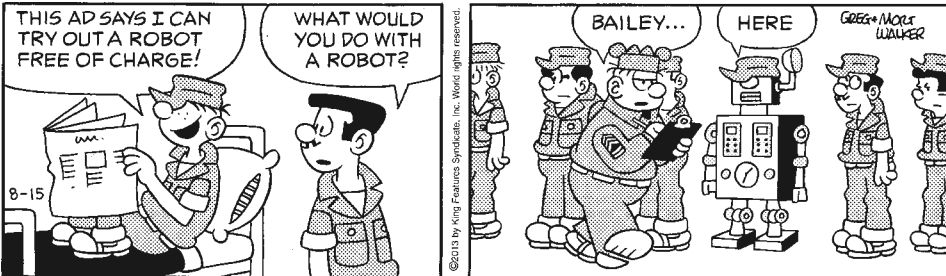
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



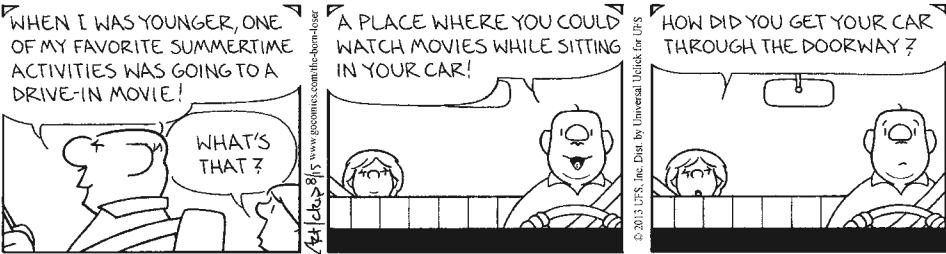
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART 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 the Sun in Leo and the Moon in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 15, 2013:

You might be most comfortable this year with a strong sense of direction involving your personal life. You could discover a need for a sudden move or change. Listen to your options and be aware of how you block yourself. If you are single, you might be shocked at how fast someone makes your abode his or her home. Be sure you want that. Ask yourself how well you know this person. If you are attached, the two of you will fulfill a goal and a longtime dream if you team up together. Take a vacation or break by water. PISCES confuses you, because sometimes Pisces is confusing!

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 give in to a whim after an important conversation about living well. You are responsible and accept more than your fair share of responsibilities. Some lightness could help you enjoy your life more and improve the quality of your work. Listen to your inner voice more often to prevent negativity. Tonight: On a roll.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Give yourself the opportunity to confirm an insight before you act on it. Communication easily could go on overload. Listen to news and be aware of the possibilities opening up before you. If you look carefully, you will see an unusual path. Tonight: Share with a favorite loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Be receptive and not the initiator. You often are the force in communicating; being the receptor is different, especially if you have to integrate everything you hear. You like to spin information and get feedback. This situation is different. Tonight: With your friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself. You have a lot of ground to cover. You have the energy and the wherewithal to do just that. Others remain responsible and give you plenty of feedback. Try not to be defiant with a boss or older relative or friend. Tonight: Exercise. Walk the dog.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A brainstorming session could straighten out a misunderstanding and bring strong results. You might see where the problem developed. Recognize that your past choices might have been off for someone else. Regroup and walk

in another person's shoes. Tonight: Add that special unique quality associated with you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Consider a home office or increasing the time that you spend there. You can develop a high level of efficiency if you are able to concentrate and eliminate distraction. You could find home a better place to work from. Communication flourishes, providing a lot to think about. Tonight: Think weekend plans.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are more in contact with others than you have been in a while. How you view a situation could change once you open up a discussion. What you believed to be a given just might not be. Your sense of accomplishment emerges once you bridge a gap. Tonight: Return calls, then decide.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

HHHH Be aware of your financial bearings. Honestly decide what might be extravagant and what is possible. Reflect on your choices and directions. Find an expert or two, and be open to his or her feedback, even if you do not like it. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons of a decision.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might be tripped up by a situation that you choose to look at wearing your rose-colored shades. You will gain insight if you are willing to be more realistic and listen to others' feedback. You cannot change someone, but you can change your response to him or her, allowing the other person to see an issue. Tonight: As you like it.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Use the moment to reflect and gain more information. You might be involved with some research, while some of you will be gaining their information from their skills of observation. Asking the right question also is helpful. Trust your judgments. Tonight: Lie back again.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

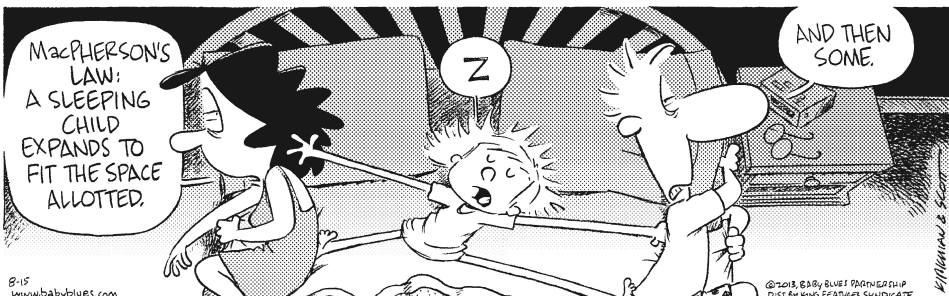
★★★★ A meeting could be exciting, as you hear the most unanticipated news. Yes, you do have reason for celebration, but you also must look in another direction, integrating this news into your life. The change could be dramatic. Tonight: Doing exactly what you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like to be. In fact, you often might be confused. A boss or superior could be making you more uncomfortable in a discussion without intending to. The issue is you are not grasping certain details with your rose-colored shades on. Tonight: Living it up.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

