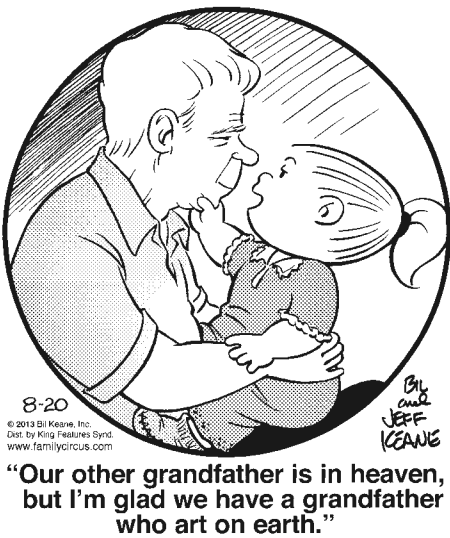
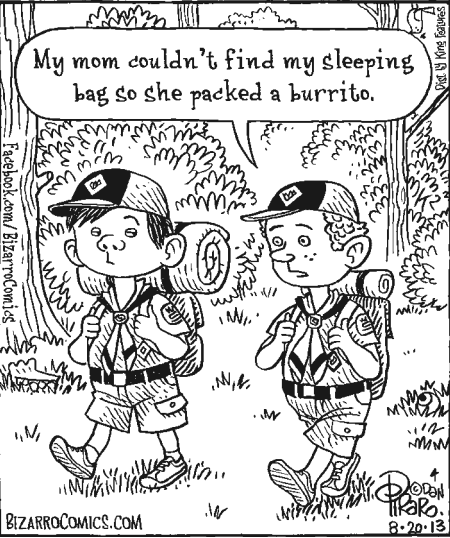


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



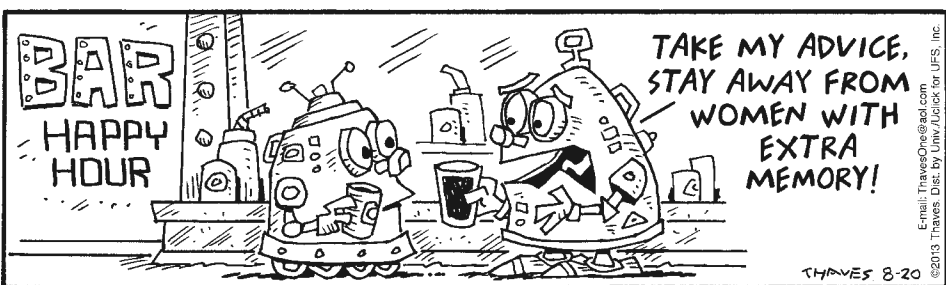
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



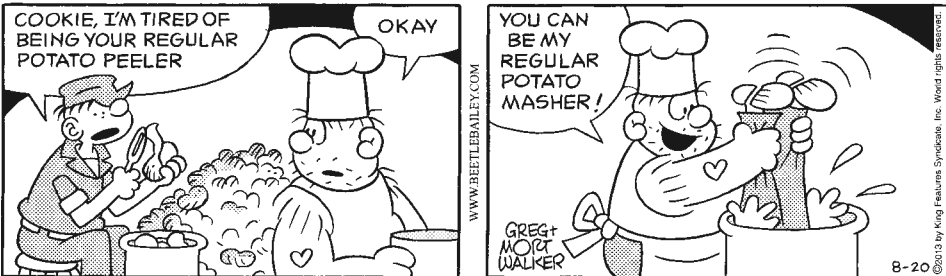
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



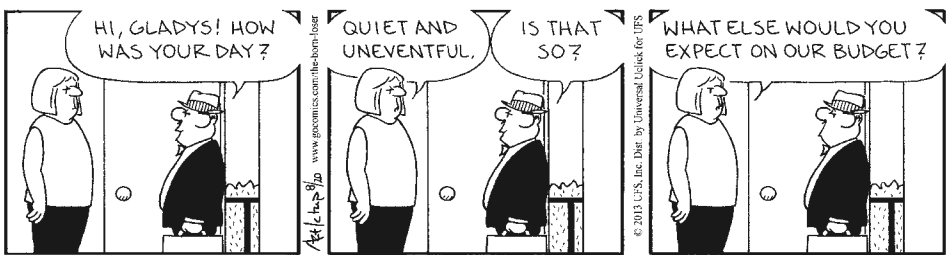
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



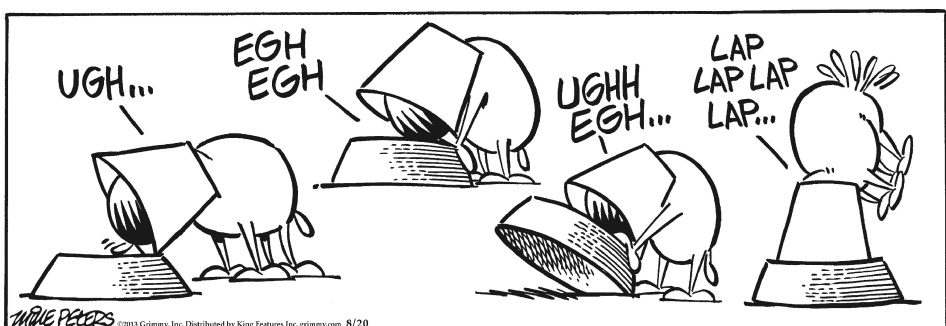
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Thin-Skinned Groom Berates Guest Who Sent His Regrets

DEAR ABBY: I recently declined a wedding invitation because my spouse and I will be out of town on the date of the wedding. A few days after I sent the RSVP, I got an email from the groom saying he had "suspicions" that I wasn't attending because I was bitter about not being in the wedding party.

I was shocked by the email. Not only do I not care about who is in the wedding party, I don't think we're such close friends that we should have been invited in the first place. I think it's appalling that he would accuse someone who declined an invitation of having ulterior motives for not going.

I emailed him back, explaining that we will be out of town and how upset and disappointed I am that he would think something like that. Wasn't what he did a breach of etiquette? — APPALLED IN NEW YORK

DEAR APPALLED: Yes, it was. Your inability to attend the wedding appears to have brought to the surface the groom's insecurity about his social relationships. I don't blame you for being appalled. The man's behavior was inappropriate.

DEAR ABBY: My sister is 63, divorced, educated, intelligent, self-employed and receives monthly support from her ex-husband. The problem is she takes no responsibility for her health. She's extremely overweight because she overeats and doesn't exercise. She complains every day that she feels "terrible." (I call it self-pitying whining.)

Our other siblings think it is too late to confront her about it. I want to address the issue now, before she gains even more, or has a stroke or heart attack and, quite frankly, won't be able to care for herself. I don't want to see the responsibility fall on her three kids or us siblings. It's not fair. She's just too lazy to make necessary changes and constantly whines! Your thoughts? — SIBLING STANDING BY

DEAR SIBLING: The problem with "confronting" someone is that it usually makes the

person being confronted defensive. In a case like this I don't recommend it. However, a family INTERVENTION might work. If the family members were to get together and, as a group, talk to your sister about your concern for her health, it might be the wake-up call she needs.

No mention of "whining" should be made, but suggest that she might have a touch of depression that could be helped if she brings it to the attention of her doctor. Tell her you all love her, that you're worried about her, and are willing to help her schedule an appointment with her physician if she's willing. I think that would be a loving thing to do.

DEAR ABBY: When my wife and I go to a busy restaurant or a concert where we can pick up last-minute tickets, I often ask her to hop out of the car to find out if the wait times are reasonable or tickets are available while I wait in the car. I do this so I won't have to find a parking space until we're sure we will be staying.

My wife says my doing this is tacky. I believe it is efficient. What are your thoughts, recognizing that I usually come up with the short straw on matters of man-

ners? Thanks! — JOHN K. IN WINDSOR, CONN.

DEAR JOHN K.: Your request makes perfect sense to me. Parking spaces are sometimes hard to find and valet parking isn't cheap. However, because your wife resents doing this, either she should be the one to drive so you can "hop out," or tickets and reservations should be made in advance either online or on the phone.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Aquarius if born before 9:43 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon is in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 20, 2013:

This year you often weigh the pros and cons of being spontaneous and emotional against those of being intellectual and logical. You will see which voice works best for you by your next birthday. If you are single, others often express their admiration of your daring love life. You want to date and have fun rather than commit. If you are attached, as a couple, you often might have disagreements. Learn to respect your differences rather than trying to convince each other that you are right. AQUARIUS likes people as much as you do, but he or she might be far more detached.

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)

★★★★★ Many of your ideas could be challenged, but that doesn't worry you. Your friends will manage to add a touch of chaos to your life, as they will be clamoring for your attention. You might feel as if there is no way to continue on with your plans. Tonight: Go with the flow.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You could feel pressured by several different situations. An important matter at work demands your attention, but a roommate or family member also needs your feedback on the domestic front. Know that you can't please everyone all the time. Tonight: Work late.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You respect this person and often get important information from him or her. At the same time, an overwhelming amount of people seem to need to give you their feedback. Tonight: Catch up on a good friend's news.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You are unusually responsive to the Moon phases, and today's Full Moon could find you juggling your needs while also trying to be there for a significant other. Realize what is happening and consider how pressured you feel. Tonight: Continue the juggling act.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Others will be a little too challenging for your taste. You also might feel overloaded right

now. It could be difficult to figure out how to handle all the requests, calls and appearances. Just try to enjoy your popularity. Tonight: Go along with the suggestion that you like the most.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might be feeling out of sorts, and you will have no difficulty telling someone just how you feel. You could find that several disagreements will emerge at the same time if you are not careful. Take a step back rather than make a mistake. Tonight: Stay levelheaded and calm.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ A flirtation might have a lot more power over you than you initially had intended or even considered. You might not be sure whether to attend an important get-together tonight or hang out with this person. Ultimately, the choice is yours. Tonight: Try to squeeze it all in.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

HHHH An authority figure could be more ornery than he or she has been in a while. This person even might be a parent or higher-up. Do not let this situation, or perhaps a different one involving your personal life, get out of control. Tonight: Be where you are happiest.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Your phone might ring right off the hook. You could become rather crazy as a result of dealing with all the knocks on the door. Do not plan on getting everything accomplished that you wanted. Save some of your energy for later on. Tonight: Beam in more of what you want.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You might be a bit too busy juggling your budget, your responsibilities and other people's needs. You could feel overwhelmed by everything you need to get done. Do not take any risks before you do more research. Only then will you be able to decide. Tonight: Indulge a friend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

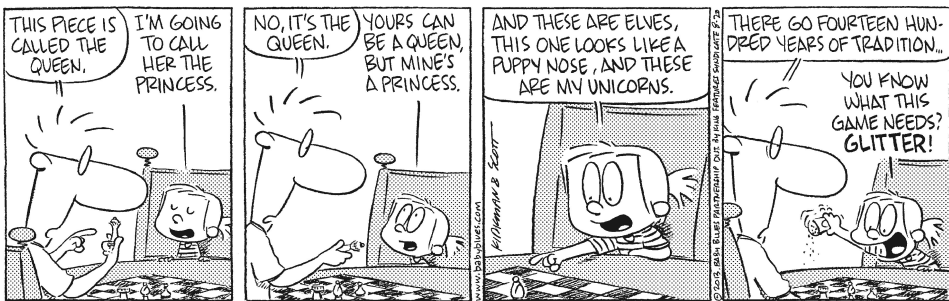
★★★★★ You will have a lot of energy and want to channel it into what you feel would be most appropriate. Listen to your inner voice. You might want to be more spontaneous, but understand that you could hit some opposition along the way. Tonight: Do whatever you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Stay centered, and realize that you might not want to get sucked in to the high energy that is swirling around you. Even when trying to focus, you could experience many disruptions. A close friend refuses to agree with you. Avoid the confrontation. Tonight: Do your own thing.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

