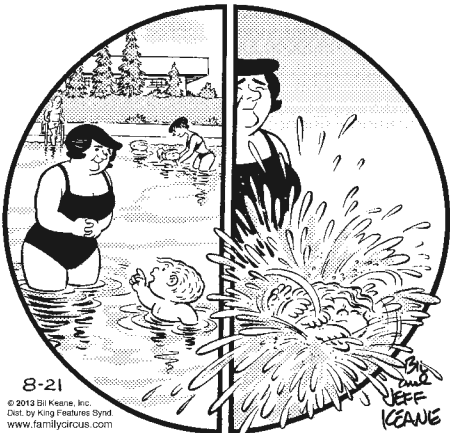


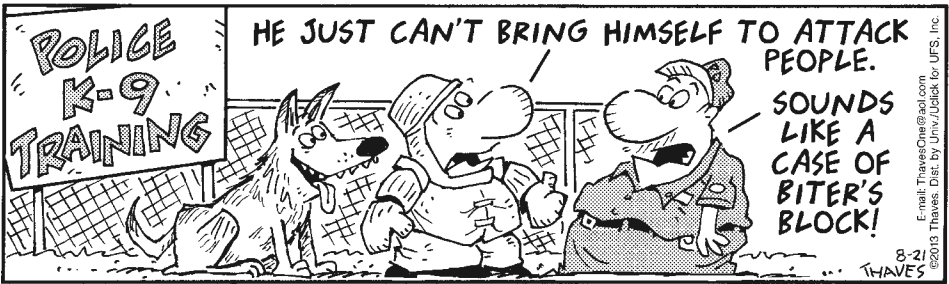
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



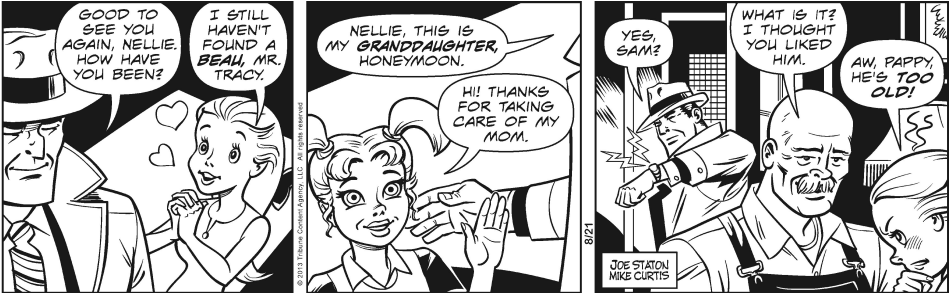
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



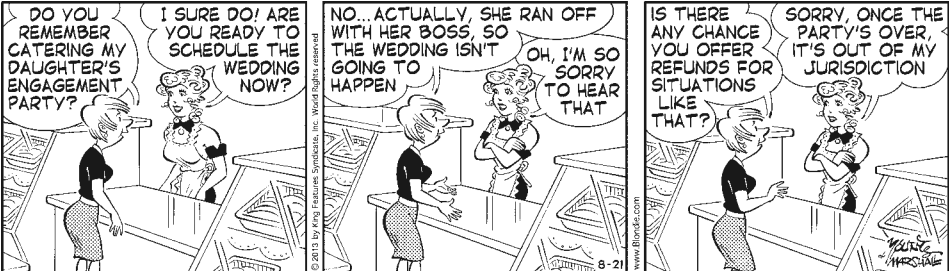
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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 SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Woman Considers Her Place In Affair With Married Man

DEAR ABBY: I am a twice-divorced woman who has never been good at choosing the men in my life. Two years ago, I met a man who is 12 years my senior. He is sweet, thoughtful and caring, and would do just about anything for me. What started as companionship has turned into a full-blown love affair. The problem is that he is married.

His wife is not well. She has a chronic disease and other medical problems. The way he cares for her is what attracted me to him in the first place. He spends what time he can with me, but mostly he is there for his wife.

I am OK with the situation, as I don't want him to leave her for me. I have tried breaking it off with him, but he gets me to take him back, saying he doesn't know what he would do without me in his life. He is very strong-willed.

Abby, I feel like I'm in the background waiting for her to die so I can take her place as his wife, and I hate this feeling. What should I do? — GUILTY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR GUILTY: Your feelings are well-founded. You ARE waiting in the background for this man's wife to die. But what if she doesn't?

You say you have never been good at choosing men, and I have to agree. Please don't think I am unsympathetic, but it's time to ask yourself why you chose to get involved with someone who isn't available except for a few stolen moments. If marriage is what you really want, your priority should be to find a man who doesn't have the kind of previous commitment this one does.

DEAR ABBY: I have recently been contacted by an old boyfriend who is now incarcerated. He claims I was the love of his life and he thought about me often after our breakup. He is now asking me to become his pen pal and send him money occasionally.

I have bitter memories of our relationship, so it's hard to believe he cared for me as much as he says. He is begging me not to "abandon" him or forget about him, but I don't want the role of pen pal and provider. How do I share my thoughts without hurting his feelings? — RELUCTANT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RELUCTANT: If you are smart, you won't respond to him at all. I have printed letters from more than one prison guard who wanted to warn kind-hearted, gullible women that inmates send multiple "solicitations" of this kind in the hope that SEVERAL of the recipients will send money.

You are not responsible for this man's well-being. Since your breakup, your lives have obviously gone in polar opposite directions. My advice is to keep it that way, for your own sake.

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper way to dispose of leftover milk in your cereal bowl? To dump it out is wasteful, to spoon it up like soup seems a bit much, and to drink it right from the bowl seems rather cat-like. Does the answer differ if you are in your own kitchen vs. a restaurant or other residence? — GOT MILK IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR GOT MILK: If you're in a restaurant, you should not lap liquid from the bowl. If you're at home — anything goes. And if you have so much milk left in your bowl after the cereal has been consumed, you are pouring too much in and need to adjust the amount.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Leo and a Moon in Pisces all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21, 2013:

This year you are more in touch with the deeper meanings of life. You also are more sensitive to the people in your life. You have the ability to walk in others' footsteps with ease. If you are single, with this additional compassion, you will have more than your share of suitors. You do not need to commit, especially if you are enjoying being by yourself. If you are attached, your sweetie will respond positively to your kindness, which adds to your mutual happiness. PISCES can be quite emotional.

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)

★★★ Emotions could be running high right now. Though you'll want to have an animated conversation, the other party will need more gentleness. You might have to tip-toe around this person's mood, but by the end of the experience, you'll be all smiles. Tonight: Observe.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Meetings will prove to be important, as will the need to come to an agreement. You could have the kind of support you want if you'd just ask. An associate initially might seem moody, but by the end of the day, he or she will be more upbeat. Tonight: A midweek break.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is occurring around you. Life might seem demanding, especially when it comes to your career. You might be considering a move in a different direction. Be reasonable, and do what you must. Tonight: Happily live the good life.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Tap into your intuition, and realize that more answers are needed. Detach from a situation involving someone who knows how to trigger you. What starts out as a serious and heavy conversation could become a fun, light interaction. Tonight: Accept a friend's offer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your spunky ways attract many people. The problem is that most of them want to be close to you, even just as friends. Expect to be ex-

tremely busy. Let someone else take over some of the tasks that can be delegated. Listen to a suggestion. Tonight: Out with a special person.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You are full of excitement. You might want to make a major change. Right now, you barely can discuss what's on your mind, as others keep seeking you out to help them with their issues. Transform this unbalanced situation, and you will be happier. Tonight: With friends.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You have your hands full. Prioritize, and you'll clear out your to-do list. People could demand a lot from you, but be sure to meet your personal needs first. Initially you might feel tense, but by late afternoon, you will be celebrating. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ No one will deny your creativity. You sometimes limit yourself by being negative and closing off your options. Review those decisions that were recently made, and assume a positive stance — you will see the difference. Tonight: Make sure that music is involved, no matter what.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to stay close to home or work from home. Sometimes, when people are not used to spending so much time at home, they will feel isolated. Look at the situation positively and imagine everything that you could get done. Tonight: Make an easy dinner and kick back.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Make calls and listen to what is being shared on the other end of the line. Know that you don't need to go along with plans if you don't want to. Be aware of someone's generosity. If you do not feel the same way, don't push yourself. Remain authentic. Tonight: Hang out.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

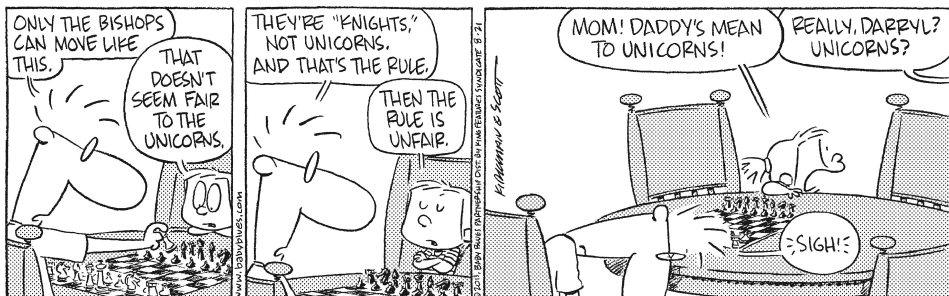
★★★★ Be more forthright and open with others. A money matter could come up in conversation. If you don't feel like discussing the issue, say so rather than being evasive. You might find that your optimism will soar, even when dealing with a difficult friend. Tonight: Could be late.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will be in your element, but realize that others might feel intimidated when you are like this. Be conscious of their discomfort, and try to help them relax. No matter what goes on right now, the final say will be yours. Opportunities will open up as a result. Tonight: Not alone!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

