

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



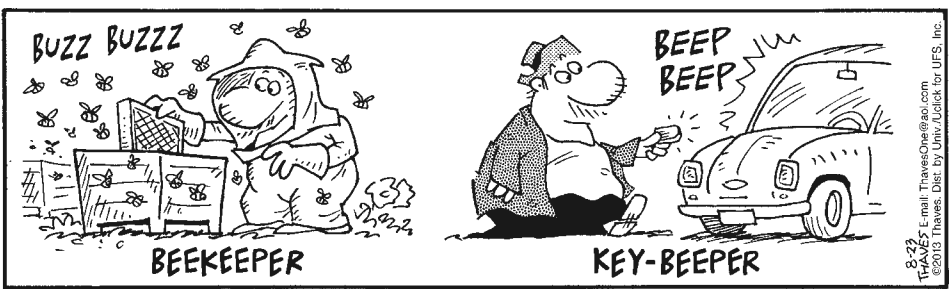
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



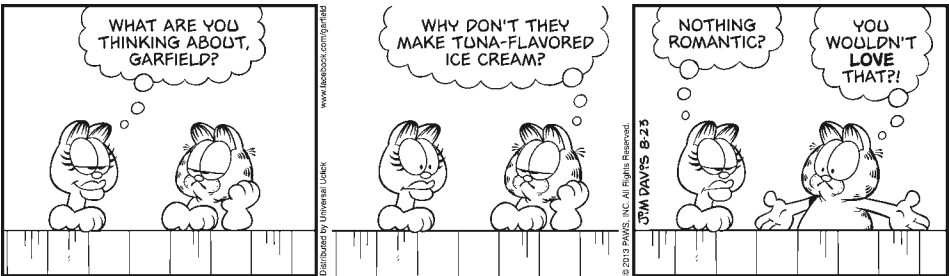
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



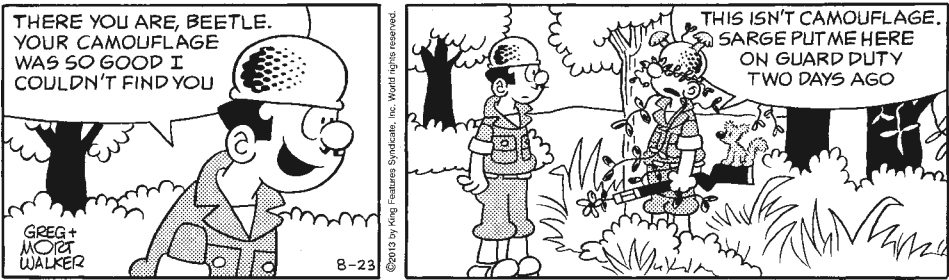
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



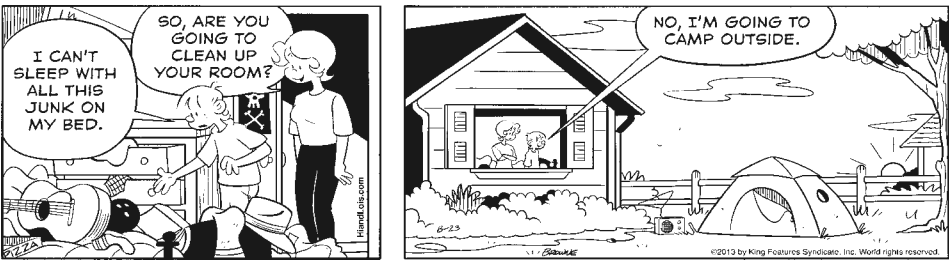
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



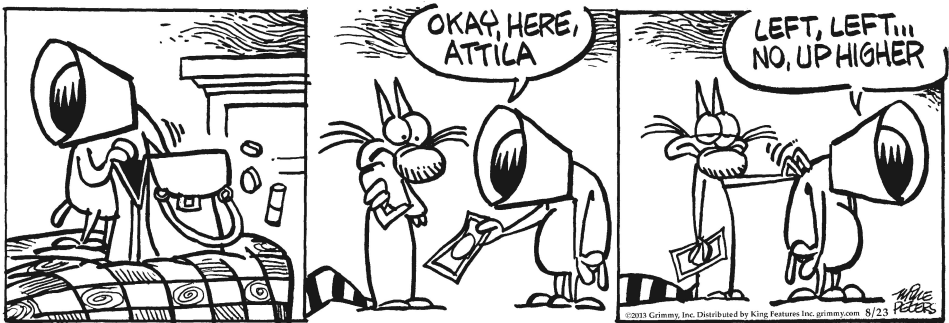
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Retired Military Man Is Bombing With The Ladies

DEAR ABBY: I'm not sure how you can help me, but I'd appreciate some input. I'm in my 50s and retired from the military.

As a young man, I was so shy I couldn't speak to girls. I joined the military early and came out of my shell, but the demands of military life made it hard for me to meet or date anyone. Most of my adult life in the service has been spent taking care of soldiers' emotional, financial and professional needs so they could do their jobs.

I can't seem to convince women to date me. They say I "have no relationship history" so I don't know how to compromise or share. I can change my wardrobe, I can lose some weight, but I can't change my "history." What on earth do I say or do to convince women (both online and offline) to take a chance with me? I just want a chance to meet a special someone. Please help me. — FRUSTRATED IN TEXAS

DEAR FRUSTRATED: You are the second longtime bachelor who has asked me this question in the last several weeks! I don't know what pop psychologist came up with the thesis that never-married men are to be avoided. If anything, your letter shows how dangerous it is to make blanket generalizations.

A man like you has much to offer. You are stable, have no bitter ex-wives who will interfere in a relationship, no children who are still trying to "find" themselves or tell you they hate your lady friends, and no alimony. I assume you are financially secure, and after a life in the military, have taken care of yourself physically.

Perhaps you should mention this to the next woman who tells you she doesn't want to date you because you have no "history." You should not hesitate to post your single status on your profile. Intelligent women will want to meet you, get to know you, and be willing to help you CREATE a history together. And those women who aren't willing aren't worth your time.

DEAR ABBY: My partner, "Kevin," and I have been together for 12 years. Although we have a close and loving relationship, one major sticking point has dogged us from early on.

I am 19 years younger than Kevin and very outgoing. I enjoy spending time with friends and socializing. I understand that when one is in a relationship, time spent with friends is reduced. However, if I become friends with someone, Kevin will find something wrong with the person, make unkind comments about them to me and make me feel guilty for wanting to be with them. It could be the person is too loud, too opinionated, has different eating habits than his, etc.

The friend's gender or sexual orientation has no bearing. I have had to forgo friendships over the years because it's just easier to do that than to argue. I love being with Kevin, but I'm not sure what I can do to resolve this challenge. He doesn't feel a need to change. What should I do? — "DAN" IN PITTSBURGH

DEAR "DAN": Start by recognizing that what Kevin is doing may be a reflection of his insecurity. The more time you spend with someone else, the less you spend with him. He doesn't feel a need to change because his nitpicking has been successful in diverting you from these friendships.

Try this: The next time you become friendly with someone and Kevin starts putting the person down, don't take the bait. Tell him he's entitled to his opinion and if he'd like to join you, he is welcome. If not, you'll see him later. It may help you to establish some independence. Mature adults can do that and still have a healthy relationship.

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.

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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 Virgo and a Moon in Pisces if born before 1:13 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 23, 2013:

This year you will make your imprint by expressing your unique vision and ability to let go of the past. You express a quality of kindness that attracts many people. At the same time, others might become more demanding, which forces you to look at yourself and your expectations. If you are single, you will have many choices. Someone you might meet could be quite picky. Do not move quickly here. If you are attached, romance will flourish, especially when you go away for a few days together. You make a good team. Join ARIES if you want an adventure.

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 have reason to feel energized once again. What a wonderful way to end the week and start your weekend! You seem to cruise through problem after problem. A boss or higher-up will give you nothing but high praise. Tonight: You have plenty of reason to celebrate.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Understand that the less said, the better. This approach works very well, especially when you don't know what to say next. Still, your good humor marks much of what is going on. Curb a tendency to go to extremes with life's indulgences. Tonight: Visit with a friend or loved one.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Tension might build around a domestic matter. Worry less about that issue, and enjoy your positive friends. You'll want to make a big difference, but perhaps right now is a period to relax and be more carefree. Tonight: The more people around you, the better. Enjoy yourself!

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You can't always be the epitome of self-discipline. There seems to be a high level of tension surrounding a particular matter, but you'll be able to handle the tension. You'll come up with a solution with a little help from your friends! Tonight: Take your cue from someone else.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Assume that you don't have all the information needed. Willingly ask more questions

and accept others' theories. Use caution in the next few months when dealing with your funds. Avoid putting words into someone's mouth. Tonight: Consider escaping for the weekend.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You will feel empowered with the Sun in your sign. Work with individuals rather than groups. Others will clamor for your attention. Know that you can handle this, while still achieving the results you desire. An offer is too good to say "no" to. Tonight: A close encounter.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Stay focused, as others might drop a lot of information on you. Consider your options, but be careful not to negate any suggestions. You might need some personal thinking time, which could be difficult to achieve with everyone seeking you out. Tonight: TGIF!

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

HHHH You might need to move in a new direction after some thought. Right now, assess a situation and decide what might be best for you, as well as for others. During the next few weeks, emphasize manifesting more of what you want. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter more carefully, yet the moment seems to take over. Someone in your immediate environment is quite the jovial personality. You can't help but lighten up and be more spontaneous, at least for now. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You could be looking at a matter very differently because of a recent discussion with someone you respect whose perceptions are far more diverse than yours are. Be willing to extend this conversation over several days, if need be. Tonight: Homeward bound.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ You can't help but be in the middle of conversations and plan-making. For now, the world seems to be revolving around you. Do not hesitate to call a special person whom you have not spoken to in a while. The conversation will delight you. Tonight: Out and about.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You might want to continue taking the lead with financial matters. You could be more inspired about a proposition than others anticipate. Your vision is far more complete than that of those making the suggestion. Be as direct as possible. Tonight: Treat a loved one to some drinks.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

