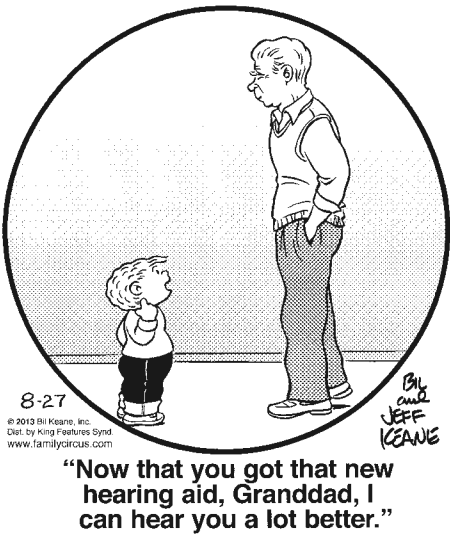


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



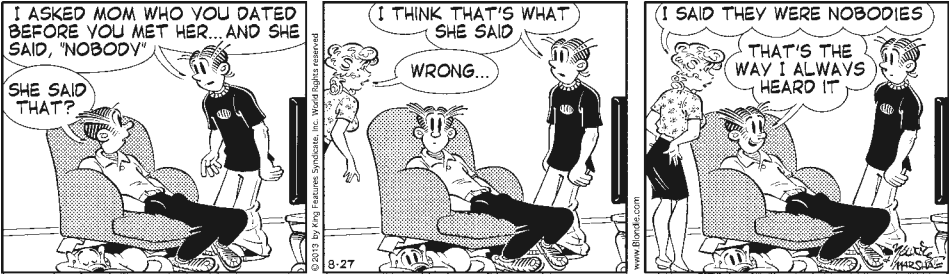
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



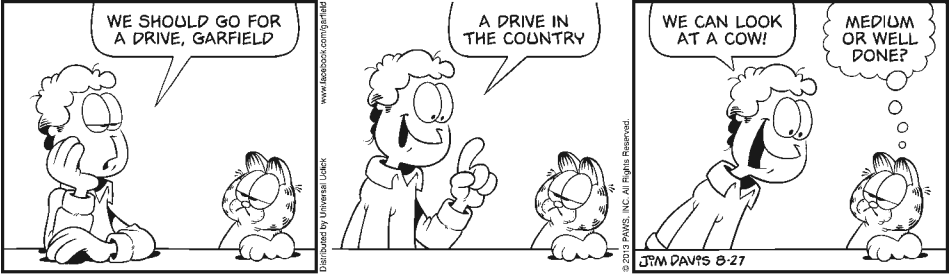
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



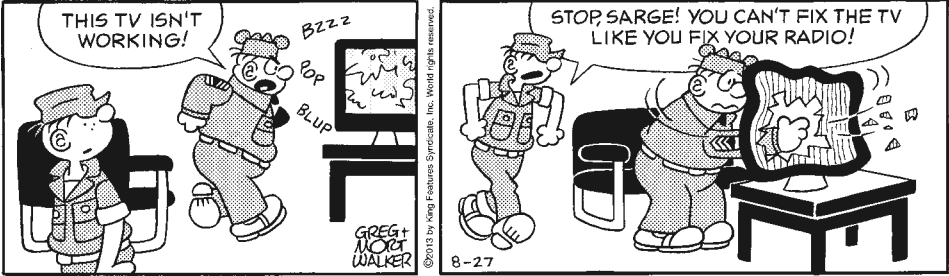
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



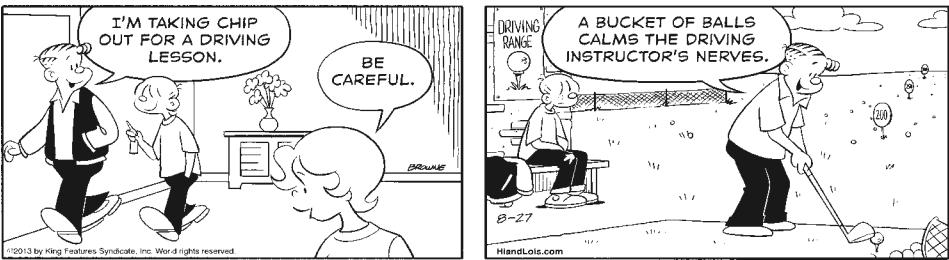
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



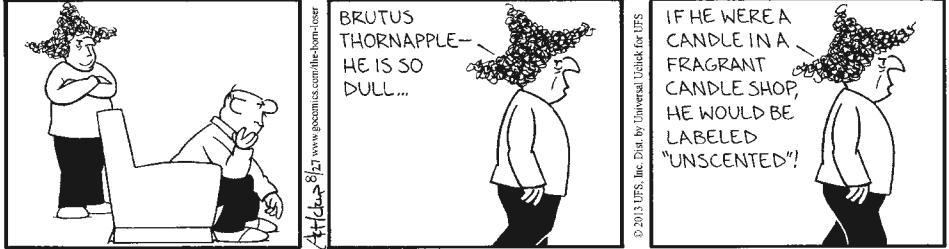
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Woman Battling Past Regrets Must Honestly Face Future

DEAR ABBY: I am a 65-year-old active woman who still works. I play tennis several times a week and have a loving relationship with my kids. I know with certainty that I have many good things in my life. However, since my sister died last year, I have been having second thoughts about a lot of the decisions I have made over the years – especially regarding relationships and my choice of jobs.

I realize now that more than a few of my decisions were based on low self-esteem, although I don't come across that way. I'm feeling depressed and lonely, and it's hard to be positive. I feel like my world is shrinking, and I don't know how to get back on track and be a positive and happy person again. As it is, I'm faking it with my children, and my friends have no idea how I really feel. How do I improve my life at this late stage? – DEPRESSED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR DEPRESSED: One way would be to be more honest with your friends and fake it less. If they are good friends, they'll be willing to listen and give you an honest perspective or the benefit of their life experience. That's what friends do for each other.

You are lucky to be vital and active, because it means your world doesn't have to shrink any more than you want it to. Because you say you're lonely, perhaps it's time to consider enlarging your circle of acquaintances.

The loss of your sister is probably what started your re-evaluation of your life and choices, and that's normal. But please remember that regret is the cancer of life. You can't change the past, and you mustn't allow it to cloud your future. While you may be having second thoughts about choices you made when you were younger, the lessons you learned from them have made you the person you are today.

DEAR ABBY: I think our culture is severely lacking when we don't teach our children how to politely and non-aggressively stand up for themselves when the need arises. People suf-

fer in all sorts of relationships – work, family, friends – because they're afraid of confrontation. Raising a subject that may be embarrassing and risking angering someone isn't fun, but it's COMMUNICATION.

If you have a problem, large or small, address it in private with the individual. And if someone tries to talk to you about something you'd rather not hear, be an adult, listen and respond civilly instead of reacting childishly.

We teach children to respect authority, be kind to others and be leaders – but we don't teach them healthy confrontation, which is something we all encounter in our lives. – TALKING IT OUT IN INDIANA

DEAR TALKING IT OUT: I agree with you. The kind of communication you're describing is a skill. It requires not only a strong ego on the part of the "confronter," but also tact and diplomacy. And the "confrontee" needs to have the ability to listen without responding with hostility to what is being said.

DEAR ABBY: In my university classroom, students place their feet on chairs, teachers lecture while sitting on their desks, and the dean of the school herself sits atop her desk and places her feet on a chair in front of her. Please tell me that this is NOT OK! – PROPER IN WASHINGTON

DEAR PROPER: It appears you come from a generation or culture in which the atmosphere has always been quite formal. I can tell you it's "not OK" if it will make you feel better, but if it's acceptable to the teacher, the dean and the school, then it's time for you to loosen up.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Gemini if born after 4:06 p.m. (PDT). Prior to that time, the Moon is in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 27, 2013:

This year people often don't know which way you will go in situations where your opinion is needed. Sometimes you will be stubborn, as you believe that your idea is the best. Other times, you will want a selection of many ideas to toy around with. If you are single, others could be confused yet intrigued by you. Establishing a steady relationship will be dependent on an accepting partner. If you are attached, you could confuse your sweetie. Sometimes you might be insistent that you are right; other times, you could care less. GEMINI adores your diversity.

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 are surrounded by several people who are quite self-indulgent. You will want to initiate a serious discussion, but the playfulness around you might create a somewhat chaotic atmosphere. Try another time for an important talk. Tonight: Throw yourself into the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Use the morning for anything major you must do. You will feel more empowered than you have in a long time. By midafternoon, you could encounter a hassle that emerges either at work or within your personal life. Walk away, if need be. Tonight: Start or finish a project at home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ If you feel like moving slowly, you have the right idea. In fact, it won't be until midafternoon that you will feel back up to snuff. Initiate a long-overdue conversation with a loved one only when you feel energized and creative. Tonight: Return calls, then decide.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Focus your attention on others, on an important business meeting and/or on an opportunity to head in a new direction. You might be difficult to stop once you start moving. A midafternoon break from the daily grind will allow you to do some thinking. Tonight: Make it early.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You tend to take on more than your fair share of work and responsibility. The good

news is that you know when to kick back and start enjoying yourself. Understand that others are not as spontaneous as you are. Let them follow their own paths. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Look at the big picture, and consider your options. If there is a situation that is stopping you, look at the reason why, and see if it is really worth holding on to. No matter what your decision is, you will need to take the lead. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to look past the obvious with a partner. Try to root out the real cause of this person's interpersonal issue. Know that the situation is resolvable, though you might have to break precedent to find a solution. Tonight: Listen to a great piece of music.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You might not be comfortable with everything that others are saying. Don't automatically deny what you hear, as you will get confirmation to the validity of at least part of the message. Tonight: State your feelings in an appropriate discussion with a partner.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Continue with your focus on work. Little will be able to distract you until midday. Whether you call it networking or socializing, you will become more people-oriented. Hopefully you can learn how to really enjoy yourself. Tonight: Reach out to a friend at a distance.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Review a recent decision before approaching a loved one. A change of mind is not out of the question. You have greater impact than you realize. Approach others with care. You will need to do your share of integrating different opinions. Tonight: Relax -- you need to unwind.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

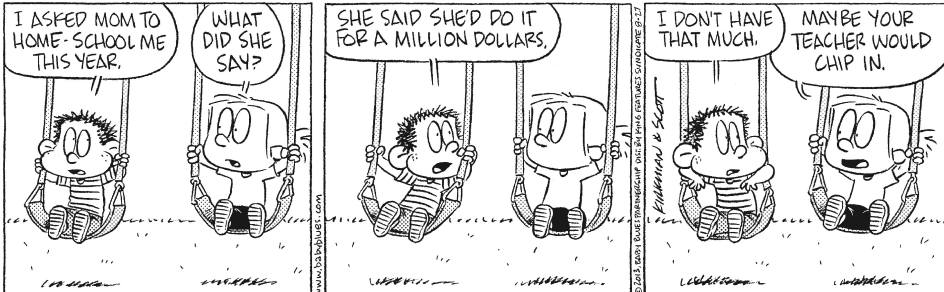
★★★★ If you are able to, try to work from home ... at least through the morning hours. A key situation will encourage you to deal with it first. Once that has been handled, your rambunctious nature might emerge. Tonight: No one can deny that you are a "people person."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Brief calls could turn into lengthy conversations. You might feel as if your whole schedule is being taken over! Resist feeling pressured. Look at the value of these conversations. Important solidifying of different bonds will occur. Tonight: Head home. Face it -- you are tired.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

