

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



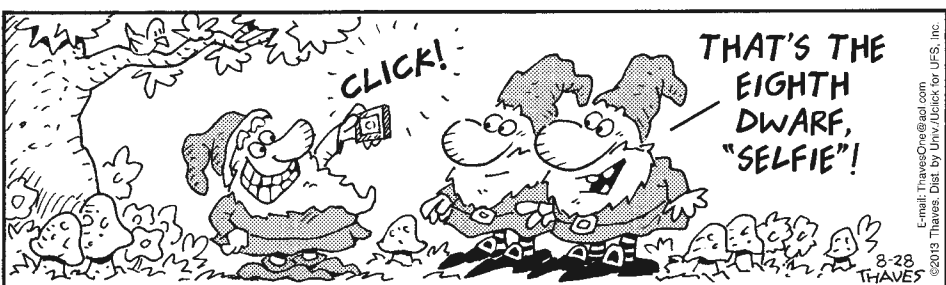
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



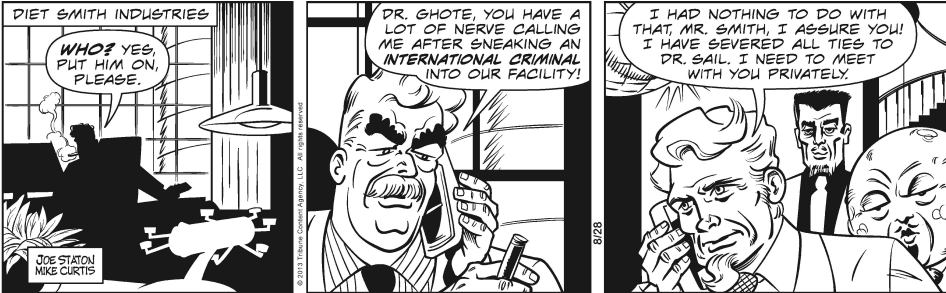
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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



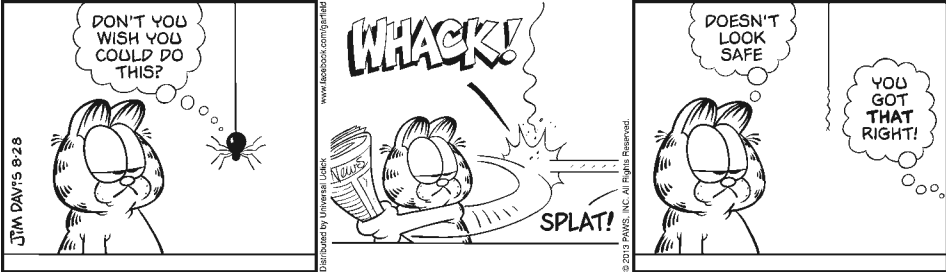
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



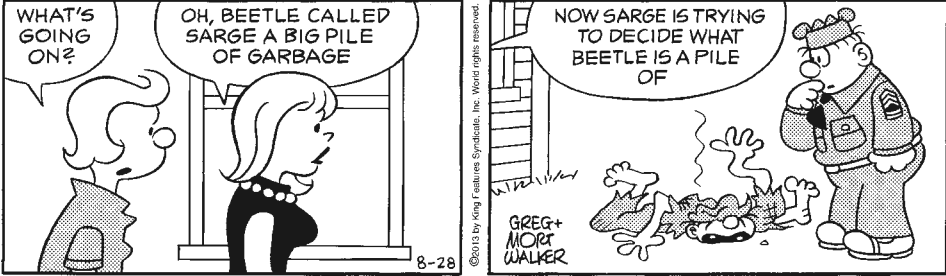
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



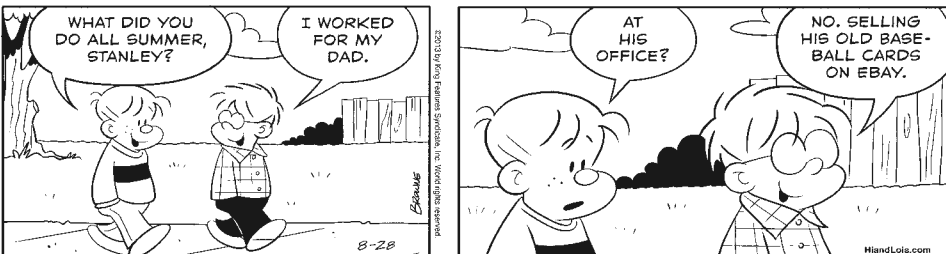
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



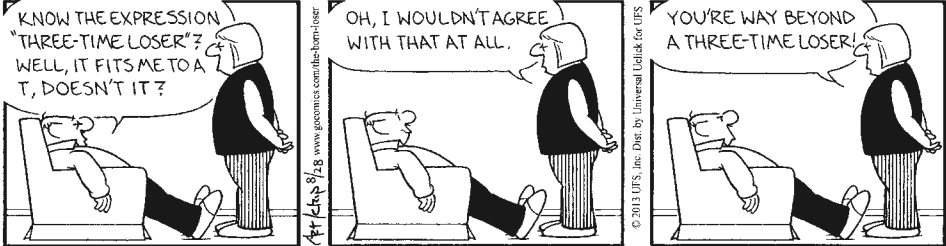
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Fear Of 911 Publicity Causes Some Not To Make The Call

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine was a victim of domestic violence. When I asked her why she didn't phone 911 for help, her response was, "They play those 911 calls on the radio all the time." She didn't want her prominent husband's career damaged by adverse publicity.

Today, a group of us discussed the issue over breakfast. Many of the women said that because of the popularity of 911 calls being broadcast on the Internet, radio and TV, they'd be hesitant to phone for help when needed, too.

Abby, someone is going to suffer serious harm out of fear that their call for help will be publicized. Do you know what can be done about this new "drama entertainment"? I wouldn't want my terrified call heard by the public either, so I'd take my chances without calling for help. I just hope I don't wake up dead one day as a result. — PUBLICITY-SHY IN FLORIDA

DEAR PUBLICITY-SHY: Nothing can be done about "drama entertainment" as long as the public has an appetite for it. The reason for the practice of "if it bleeds, it leads" in the media is that it draws viewers and listeners — which means advertising revenue.

In the case of domestic violence, calling 911 is the lesser of two evils. Out-of-control abusers have been known to maim and kill the ones they "love." Ask yourself if your friend's husband's career was worth risking her life for. It makes more sense to risk a 911 call being broadcast than to have cameras and TV reporters camped on your lawn while the EMTs or the coroner carry your battered, bloody body out on a gurney.

DEAR ABBY: I'm overweight and have a family history of heart disease and diabetes. An injury to my back severely limits my ability to exercise, so diet is an important part of my health plan.

My problem is people CONSTANTLY try to get me to eat. I explain my situation, but they still urge me to have "just a taste." If I go to a

party and shy away from the buffet, the host feels I'm being rude. Recently, my supervisor at work became insulted because I refused some food she brought to a work meeting.

These people wouldn't be upset if an alcoholic refused a drink, so why are they so hostile to me? (Another thing that upsets me is when somebody dies an early death, these same folks say, "He should have taken better care of himself.") — UNDER ATTACK IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNDER ATTACK: For many people, food has become something other than fuel for the body. It can symbolize love, caring, acceptance — and when it is refused it can seem like a personal rejection to the person offering it. (Yes, I know it's crazy.)

Your best defense is to remind your hosts, your supervisor, your co-workers and friends that you have a family history of health problems and are on a doctor-advised restricted diet to manage it. Remind these generous souls that socializing is more about the company than the food, and you are grateful that they understand.

DEAR ABBY: You give so much great advice, I'm wondering if there is a basic principle you abide by in order to help guide you when giving advice. — CURIOUS READER

DEAR CURIOUS: I hadn't really thought about it, but I suppose it's something like this: Show up for work ready to put forth my best effort. Be honest enough to admit that not everyone agrees with me or that I'm sometimes wrong. Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Don't pull any punches, don't preach and always try to be succinct.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Gemini all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28, 2013:

This year there is an element of confusion around you. Your intensity marks your thoughts and actions. It is an "all or nothing" year. The unexpected occurs within partnerships of all sorts. You never know what will happen next. You might pull a wild card financially. If you are single, you could meet someone with whom you feel very insecure or possessive. Think carefully before you get too deeply involved. If you are attached, your sweetie could start acting as if he or she is a wild card, which might encourage you to get separate checking accounts. GEMINI always challenges your thinking.

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)

★★★★ Mixed messages will come through despite your best efforts to be as clear as possible. You'll be holding something back, and it could result in conflict between you and a friend. You might decide to spill the beans; choose your words with care. Tonight: Relax with a loved one.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ It would be a mistake to become too materialistic. You easily could have a misunderstanding about your finances. Recognize that the argument has more to do with your actions than with your feelings. Tonight: Treat a loved one to a special dessert.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could hit a few obstacles today. The first one might be the result of a misunderstanding. You'll want to clear up the problem; it might not have as much to do with the words exchanged as it does with an assumption the other party makes. Tonight: All smiles.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Know when to pull back, as it can make a great deal of difference. Understand what is happening within yourself first, and you likely will decide to say much less than you originally intended as a result. Don't expect a reaction to be forthcoming. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Listen to your instincts with an associate. There could be an

innate misunderstanding that could be difficult to sort out. Start accepting your differences and work from that premise. Exciting news will head your way. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

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

★★★★ You enjoy yourself, no matter what you do. You will come to an understanding with a boss. Evaluate a decision with care that could take you in a new direction and jolt a partner. Once his or her initial reaction has passed, you can have a discussion. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

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

★★★★ Your mind might not be present in the moment, which is one of the reasons a disagreement could start. Make it a point to share more of what is on your mind, and listen to others' feedback. You can't always be right about everything. Tonight: Think about a long weekend away.

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

★★★★ A partner will have a lot to share, and he or she wants your attention. You are likely to hear more if you don't focus too much on the importance of what's being said. The end result will be much better for everyone involved. Tonight: Just a quiet dinner for two.

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

★★★★ Let others make the first move, as their proposals carry more weight. You might need to weigh the pros and cons of a situation carefully. Others could feel insecure when questioned. Be gracious in how you handle their qualms. Tonight: Sort through the many different invitations.

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

★★★ Focus on getting your must-do responsibilities done. Honor someone's misgivings by noting how this person might have misinterpreted what has occurred. A call from someone at a distance involving a personal matter could encourage a schedule change. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

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

★★★★★ Everyone else's mind might be on more practical matters. A flirtation could be overwhelming. It will seem nearly impossible to finish your to-do list. Be willing to enjoy your personal life more, whether it is with a child or a new flirtation. Tonight: You know what to do.

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

★★★★ Be careful with a family member. This person could be off-kilter, which you might have noticed. Avoid an unnecessary argument, but do what you must to help keep this person focused. You could pull the wild card financially. Tonight: Be discriminating when taking a risk.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

