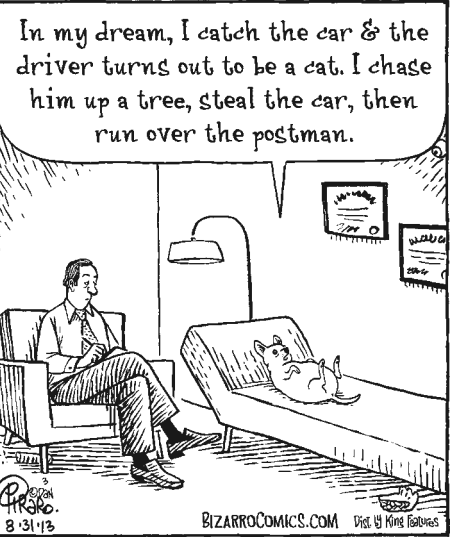


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



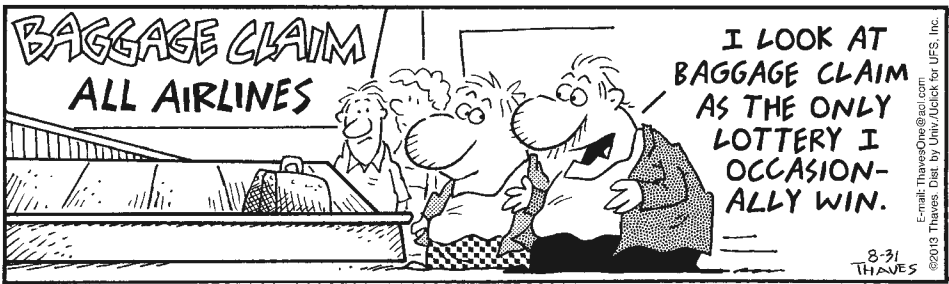
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



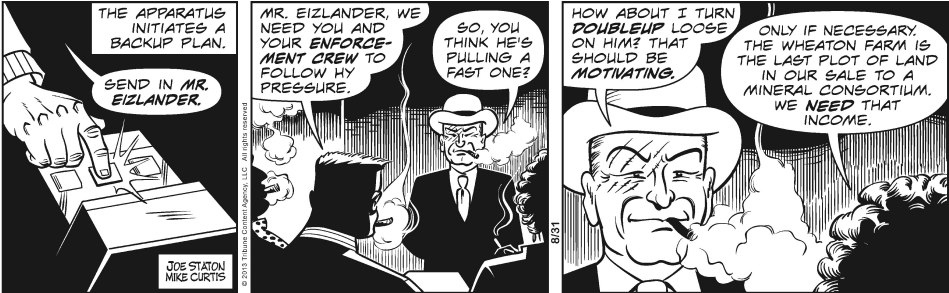
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



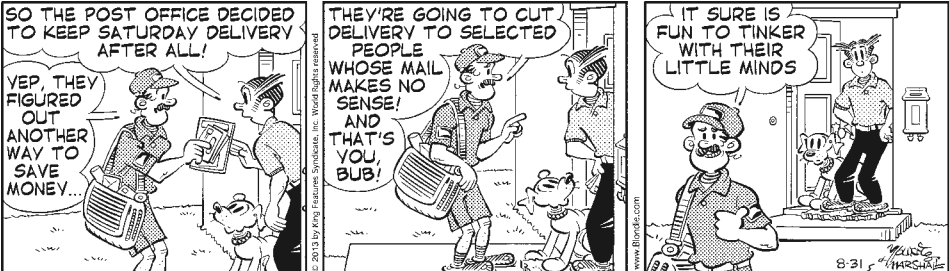
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



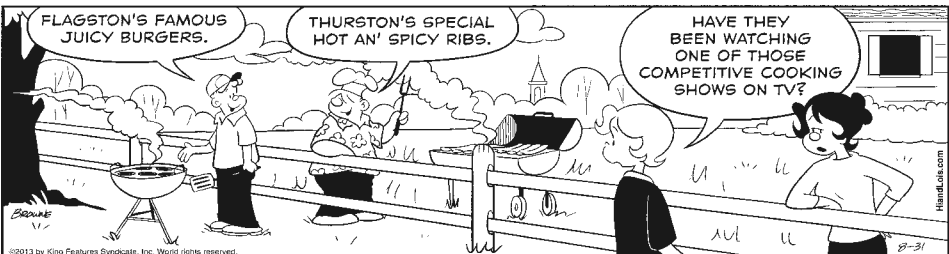
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



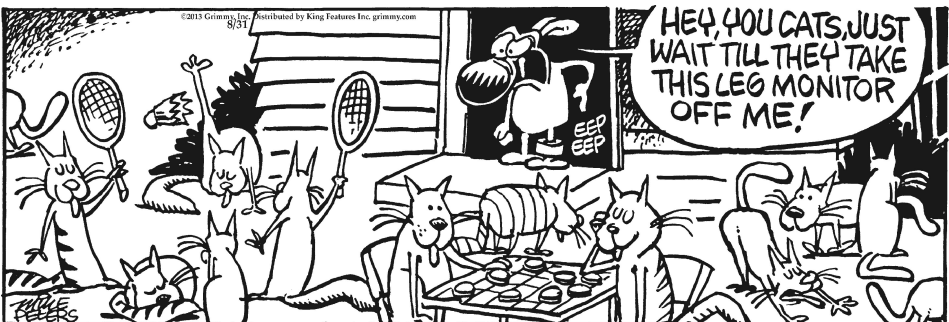
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Water Cooler In Dining Room Is No Reason To Boil Over

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and my brother is 19. He still lives at home and recently acquired a water cooler — the kind you see in doctors' offices. He has it sitting in the dining room and, frankly, I hate it! It's unsightly and unnecessary.

My parents allow it to stay there. They have never cared much about how their house looks. I do most of the cleaning. Is there any way I can convince them to remove the water cooler? It's not the kind you see in home magazines. — WANTS A NORMAL HOUSE

DEAR WANTS A NORMAL HOUSE: Ideally, a water cooler would be placed in a kitchen. However, if there isn't room for it in your parents' kitchen, and meals are shared in the dining room, that's the logical place for it. I can't see why the water cooler would embarrass you. Most people's homes don't resemble the layouts you see in magazines. They are an "ideal" folks aim for until reality compels them to organize their living space in a way that conforms to their needs and budgets, rather than their desires.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for three years. We get along well, but he has the most annoying habit of gnawing his fingernails. It is constant, and he hardly has any left. I find it repulsive and embarrassing when we're out in public.

I have asked him repeatedly to stop. He says he has done it all his life and I should stop nagging. If it were the other way around and I knew something I did bothered him, I'd try my best not to do it because I loved him. I know most people have habits, and this is more of an addiction. What can I say to make him stop? — BITING OFF TOO MUCH IN S. CAROLINA

DEAR BITING: Nail-biting is typically related to stress and anxiety. There are ways to stop, and he should talk about it with his doctor. Beyond suggesting that he make an

appointment, nothing you can say will "make" your boyfriend change his behavior. Because you find the habit repulsive and embarrassing, the question it's time to ask yourself is whether it's a deal-breaker, and no one can answer that but you.

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 years old and have been in a relationship since I was 15. I never had a childhood. At 14 I became an adult and never got to experience any teenage freedom. I realize now that I'm not ready to settle down with anyone, but I know he is. I am unhappy, but I'm afraid of hurting him.

I am the type of person who would hurt myself before I hurt anyone else. I think I'm ready to experience life as a separate individual, but I don't know how to tell him. He always said this would happen, but I denied it. Now I realize he was right. I don't know how to start the conversation. Please help me. — NOT READY TO SETTLE DOWN

DEAR NOT READY: You are the type of person who would hurt yourself before you hurt anyone else? While that is altruistic to the max, it is a dangerous way to live

your life. In a case like this, better HE should cry for a short time than YOU should cry for the next decade or so.

A way to start the conversation would be to say: "We need to talk, and I need to be honest with you. You were right when you said this wouldn't last — and I was immature and inexperienced when I said you were wrong."

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 Virgo and a Moon in Cancer all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 31, 2013:

This year your sensitivity is high, and often you'll feel things before they occur. You also might take comments too personally. Give others the benefit of the doubt. If you are single, be careful when starting to date a new person. Someone will enter your life this year who could be emotionally unavailable. You won't want to be involved with this person. If you are attached, the two of you will start to spend more quality time together. You will crave those special moments. CANCER makes a wonderful confidant.

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)

★★★★ People see you as quite unpredictable, and you tend to give them a reason to think they are right. Once you loosen up a situation, you will be able to get the ball rolling in the direction you want. An insightful comment will take you far. Tonight: Invite friends over for a get-together.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your ability to move past an issue and understand what is going on encourages a smooth interaction between you and a friend. You could be shocked by what gets shared so freely. Don't be surprised if you run into someone you don't expect to see. Tonight: Happy to hang out.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. You could be overindulging and not really grasping how severe the damages will be. In your mind, everything has been accounted for. Try to not make this generalization, and take another look. Tonight: Out late.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You will confirm your plans in the morning and feel confident that you will be able to cover a lot of ground. The unexpected comes in from out of left field. Maintain a sense of humor and ditch rigidity. A sudden opportunity will come forward as a result. Tonight: Just ask.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might want to be more observant. As an unexpected event emerges, you'll see others' reactions. Process them carefully. You might

be happiest sharing your plans with one special person. Good news heads in quickly. Tonight: Not part of the crowd. Keep it intimate.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Whatever brings you and your friends together proves to be fun. Expect some excitement, as one person seems spontaneous. Good moods and laughter surround you. Be aware of what is happening behind the scenes, yet be present in the moment. Tonight: A good time is had by all.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Someone in your life demands your attention, and frankly, you might not appreciate the outcome should you decide to go your own way. You mean a lot to this person, and he or she might not understand why you aren't around more. Tonight: Enjoy a night out on the town.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Invite a friend to join you for a fun drive out of town either today or tomorrow. Know that you don't have to go far. A change of scenery will revitalize you and allow you to see that your perspective on certain issues is off. Your energy will rise as tension lessens. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Spontaneous discussions might pop up. No one seems to be quite sure which way to go, but discussing your options will prove helpful to many. Relate to a loved one or dear friend directly while enjoying yourselves at a late brunch. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Others seem to act before you even get a chance to think. They obviously have had their plans made for a while and seem to be set on them. You have a choice to join in or fly solo. New developments at home could keep life exciting. Tonight: Share your feelings with a close friend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might choose not to be involved in the social scene and do something for yourself instead. That activity might involve putting in extra hours at work. Your even pace and determination will help you breeze through your to-do list. Tonight: Enjoy a family member.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You light up others' lives when you crack a joke to a bored friend or treat a depressed pal to a treat. Using your imagination to please others is wonderful, even if you can't do it all the time. Be careful with your funds, as you could make a mistake. Tonight: Whatever is appealing.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

I LOVE THESE NEW BINDERS!



THIS WILL KEEP YOUR SCHOOL PAPERS NEAT ALL YEAR LONG, ZOE.



YOURS WILL LOOK LIKE AN ABANDONED DUMPSTER BY OCTOBER.



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

