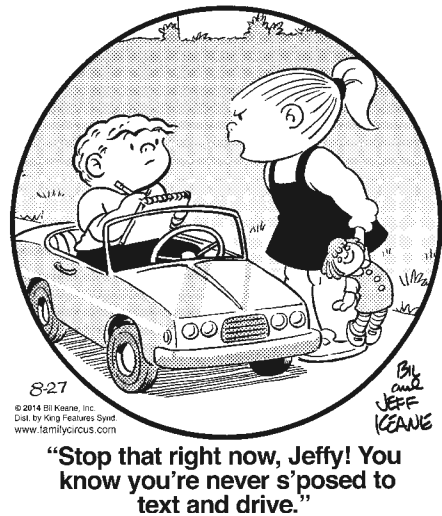
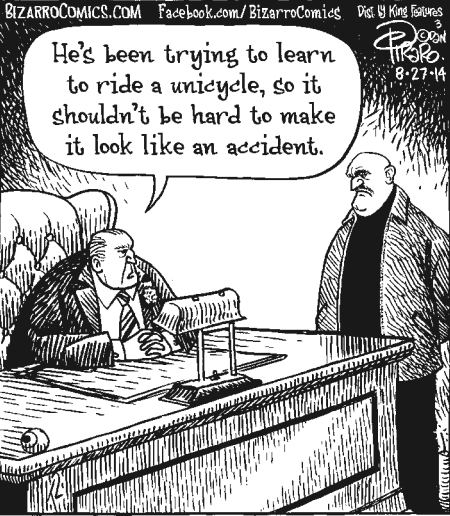


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



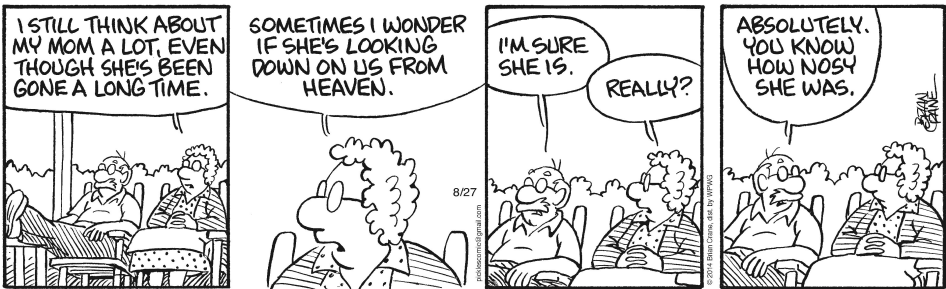
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



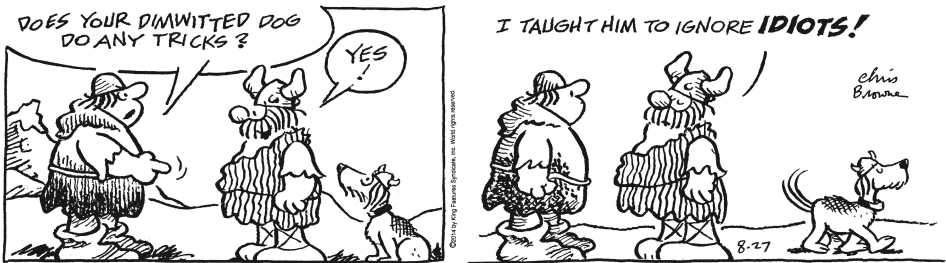
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



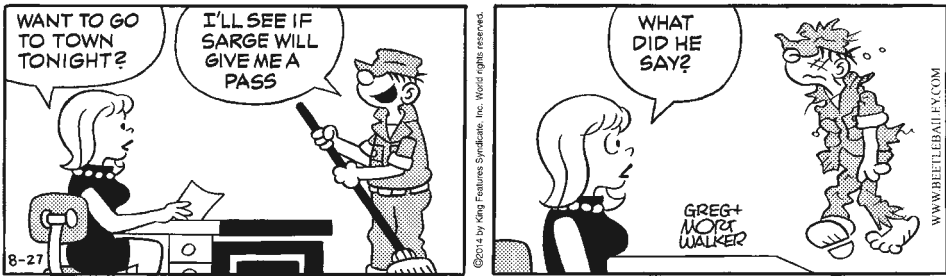
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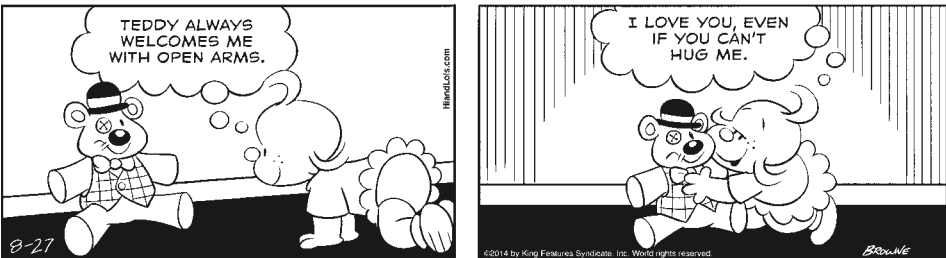
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



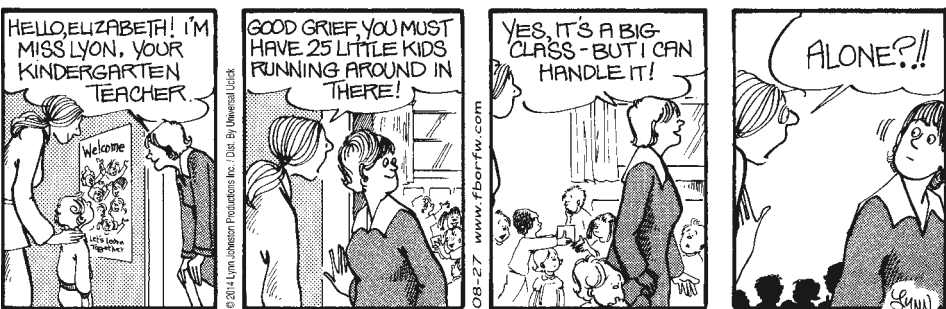
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



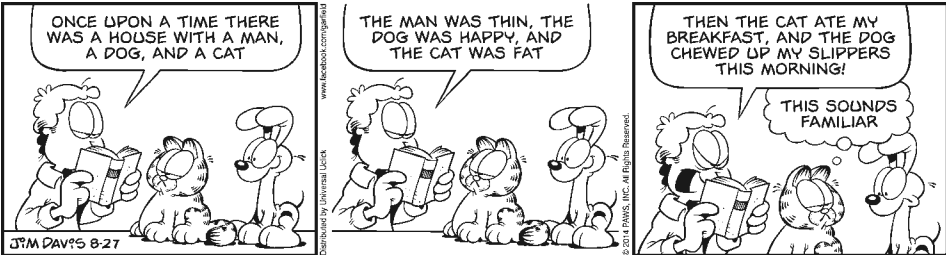
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



# Couple Weighs Reconciliation Five Years After Violent Split

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my husband got drunk and physically attacked me in front of his family. It was horrible. I was in shock, and our relationship never recovered.

The next four years were a series of court visits for custody of our child and eventually a divorce. Last year, his mother began requesting visits with our son. I was happy about it because I have tried to be accommodating to my ex and his family regarding our son.

Finally, late last year, I called my ex to ask if we could sit down and discuss our son (something we had never done). We have met twice during the last two weeks, and each time had long conversations about everything. (Our son, our past, our relationship.) Many misconceptions were cleared up, and it's obvious that we both have made many necessary changes within ourselves.

Now I'm confused about what comes next. Speaking with him has brought back so many feelings. Prior to the attack, our stress levels had been high and our communication was terrible, but there had been no physical violence. I'm not sure if this is the universe giving us an opportunity to give the family we started another chance. Should we start over? — WAVERING IN NEW YORK

DEAR WAVERING: What comes next might be that you and your ex can become good friends and parent your son in a congenial, cooperative fashion. What comes next might be that you rekindle your romance. Or it might be that you get back together and he assaults you again.

If your ex has sought help for his drinking and anger management issues, a reconciliation could work out beautifully. However, if he hasn't, I certainly wouldn't recommend it. Sometimes people can care deeply about each other, but shouldn't be married.

DEAR ABBY: My 95-year-old mom feels

that her age "entitles" her to speak without a filter, and she has become totally intolerant and critical. She is mentally sharp and highly intelligent, which makes her nasty comments even more hurtful to family and friends.

Standing up to her isn't an option because of her age and she knows it. She doesn't seem to recognize how damaging her attitude has become to those who love her. If you could print this and offer some advice, she might recognize herself. — A LOVING SON

DEAR LOVING SON: The fact that someone has celebrated 95 birthdays does not give the person license to be deliberately unkind to others. Negativity is an unattractive trait, regardless of how old you are.

People who deliberately say hurtful things invariably find the circle of those who want to be around them shrinking.

My advice to your mother would be, before opening her mouth, ask herself whether what she has to say is true, helpful and KIND. And if it isn't all THREE, she should rephrase her comment or not say it at all.

DEAR ABBY: What does one say to casual acquaintances who stop by uninvited and with no prior phone call? — NANCY IN AU-RORA, COLO.

DEAR NANCY: Let me tell you first what one DOESN'T say. It's "Come in!" It is perfectly acceptable to explain that the person caught you in the middle of your housework or a project you need to finish and, please, in the future to call before dropping by so you can make some plans together.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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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 and Moon in Virgo if born before 5:38 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27, 2014:

This year you have the chance for a new beginning in a certain area of your life. You also will be completing the last leg of a 12-year luck cycle. You won't want to bring any dysfunctional issues with you into this new life cycle. If you are single, you will have many potential suitors. Your personality will be highly attractive, but take your time getting to know each person. If you are attached, your significant other might feel insecure about your choices right now. Try to judge less and listen more. LIBRA enjoys understanding your motivations.

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)

★★★★ Your fuse is short right now, especially when it comes to any heartfelt projects. Your temper is likely to emerge. Hold on tight, because a bumpy road seems to be in front of you. A little self-discipline will go a long way. Tonight: Funnel your charged energy where it counts.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You will be taking a walk on the wild side if you are not careful. Dealing with certain people who are known to be hot-tempered could be a problem. Try not to get triggered because of someone else's statement or insinuations. Tonight: Share a favorite spot with a loved one.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your creativity comes through with your choice of words. You could trigger a family member beyond belief without even trying to. Be aware that friction seems to be present when dealing with anyone, anywhere -- at least in the day-time. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You are likely to speak your mind, but know that you are likely to get a very strong reaction as a result. People might not be easygoing right now. Think through what you want to say, and perhaps postpone a conversation. Tonight: Buy a favorite dessert on the way home.

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

★★★★ Use care with your finances, and with any sort of commitment that could cost you time or

money. Be open to a suggestion, but don't finalize an agreement just yet. Think before you leap into action. Tonight: At a favorite haunt with favorite people.

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

★★★★ You might not want to show your upset, but you won't be able to help yourself. How you deal with someone and the choices you make could create even more of a problem. Opt for diplomacy, and you'll be happier as a result. Listen to your gut. Tonight: Out late.

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

★★★★ Not until mid-afternoon will you feel a change in the air. At that point, you will blossom and become irresistible. You will feel the difference, and you suddenly might be up for making plans and scheduling meetings. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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

★★★★ You could be sorry that you made a decision involving a friend or a particular situation. You might be seeing some limitations. You will beam in much more of what you want later in the day. You won't be able to bypass a discussion, no matter what. Tonight: Face the music.

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

★★★★ Your temper could explode when you least expect it. You seem to have been holding in some anger for far too long. Review a situation to assess what might have triggered you. Ask yourself when it was that you first experienced that feeling. Tonight: Find your friends.

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

★★★★ You could be in trouble. You might have tried very hard to do the research necessary for a project, but a change of plans will create a problem. Listen to news with an open mind, because what you hear could change your direction with this endeavor. Tonight: In the limelight.

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

★★★★ A partner might give you an earful. You'll need to have a discussion, as you can't postpone it any longer. Take the time to sit down and finally clear up an ongoing issue. The right solution has yet to appear, but it will in time. Tonight: Make plans for the coming weekend.

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

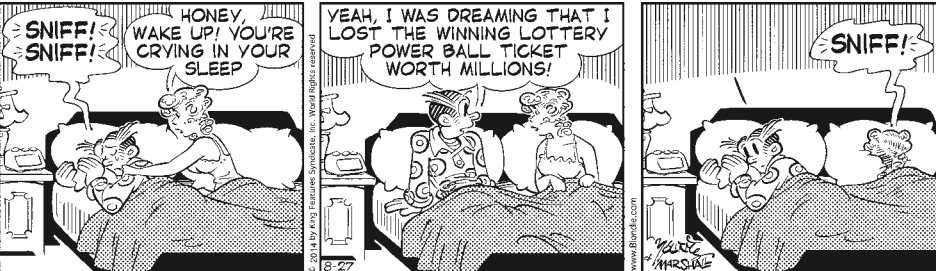
★★★★★ Keep searching for a different opinion. You will hear many opinions today, but the issue will be sorting through them and finding the right solution. Fortunately, it will be your call. Schedule an important meeting for later in the day. Tonight: Say "yes" to a dinner invitation.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

