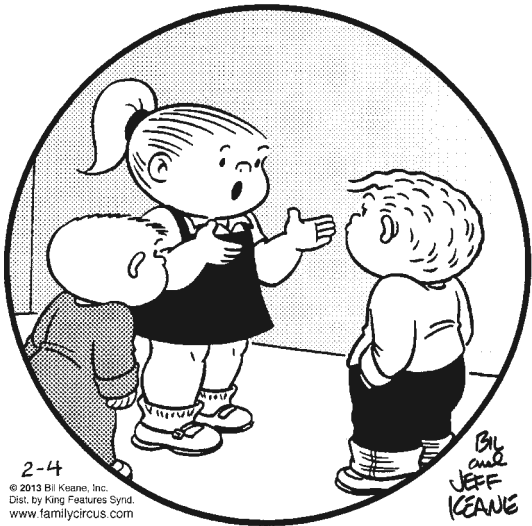


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



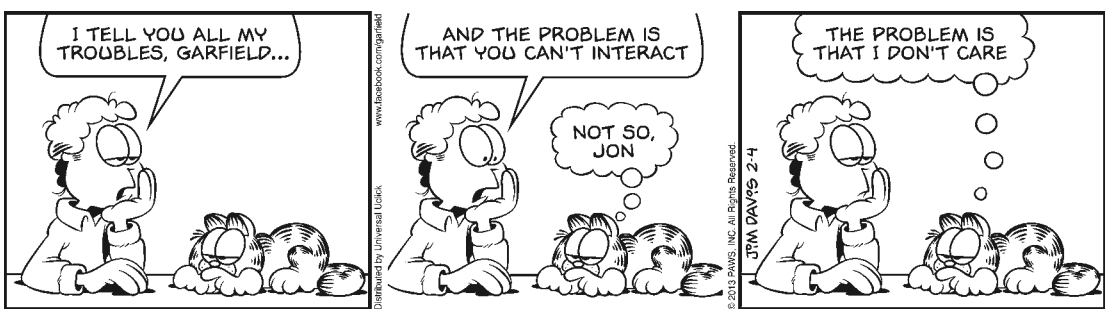
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



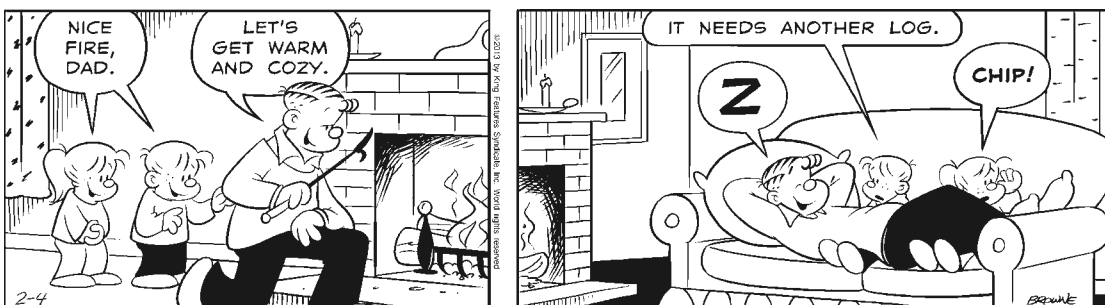
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



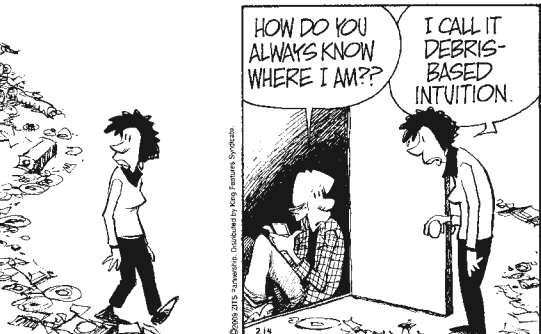
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Military Mother Must Rally All Of Her Family To Move

DEAR ABBY: We're a military family and have moved often since my husband and I married. In the past, relocating was always easy because our two sons were younger, but we have lived in the same community for more than five years now. Our older son is 14 and a freshman in high school.

My husband has reached a point in his career where he can either retire from the military or re-enlist to finish out his 30 years. Either way, it will probably require another move. Our 11-year-old son is a free spirit who seems to adjust wherever we are. The problem is, our teenager is begging us not to move because of the friends he has in school.

I'm torn. I understand my son's reasons, and people who had to move as teens agree it's difficult when they're in high school. We live in a very small town, and I'm sure the move will take us to a larger area. I know my son will see he'll have more to do and will make a lot more friends. But he doesn't want to leave and is becoming very emotional about it.

My husband is willing to leave without us, get settled and let our son finish high school here. I don't want to separate the family. Can you help us? — NOT "AT EASE" IN GEORGIA

DEAR NOT AT EASE: Do not separate your family. If this were your son's last year of high school, I might feel differently. However, there is still plenty of time for him to make new friends at a new high school. Because he doesn't want to lose his old ones, he can stay in touch with them electronically.

What your son is experiencing is one of the realities of military life, and it may teach him to become more adept at social relationships. So think positive and do not let his fear of change hold you back.

DEAR ABBY: I have a pet peeve and it's an aggra-

vation I encounter frequently. For some reason, people do not understand hours of business. Our hours are always clearly posted, so PLEASE don't knock on the door before the business is open.

My personal irritant has to do with closing time. When the sign says we close at 9 p.m., it means the doors lock at that time. It does NOT mean that if you can slide in the door 30 seconds before closing that we must stay and serve your needs for however long you are present.

If you can't complete your business at or before closing time, then come back tomorrow or find a business that stays open later. There are still a lot of duties to be finished after the last customer leaves and before we can go home. — HAD A LONG DAY, RICHLAND, WASH.

DEAR HAD A LONG DAY: Not only was it a long day, it appears to have been a bad one. If it wasn't, you wouldn't have forgotten that the most important thing in running a business is customer service. This sometimes can mean bending the rules.

If you find this too difficult, you can always refuse to open your door early and "remind" anyone who enters just before closing that you lock your door promptly at the posted hour for the reason you stated. Individuals who want more personalized service are, indeed, free to shop at stores with more flexible hours. (And they will.)

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.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Aquarius and a Moon in Sagittarius if born after 3:45 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon is in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 4, 2013:

This year interpersonal communication plays a very strong role in your success. You often might find that your efforts go unnoticed, but because of your constant attention and others' strong feedback, you will achieve what you want and more. If you are single, you'll want to decide what type of relationship you want, because you will be able to manifest just that. Romantic possibilities are most active through June. If you are attached, the two of you might start acting like young lovers again. Plan a special getaway together. SCORPIO pushes you hard. Be patient! 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 might walk into a veil of confusion because someone is not being clear. This person does not totally understand the dynamics of the situation at hand. Communicate your message with more clarity, and you will get results. Tonight: Laugh off a recent misunderstanding.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You are full of questions. Have that long-overdue discussion. Your energy rarely is sporadic, though it could be at the moment. Swallowing your anger could be one of the causes. A money-making idea sounds good — just do your research first. Tonight: Follow someone's lead.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Confusion marks your communication. Assess where the mix-up might be. Excellent ideas could fall flat today. Have some sympathy for a boss or higher-up who might be having a similar experience. Your innate good nature draws in opportunities. Tonight: Go with the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be upset by what you see. Diving in and fixing the problem usually works, only right now the problem isn't obvious. In fact, you could have a hard time zeroing in on the dynamics involved. Remain confident. Tonight: Touch base with someone at a distance.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Where others seem to be baffled, you will have a sense of direction. You might not be able to verbal-

ize where this knowledge comes from. A friend who understands you very well encourages you to go down an unknown path. Trust your sixth sense. Tonight: With the gang.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★ Demands seem to appear out of nowhere. This issue could involve your home, personal life and/or real estate. A parent could be involved. A partner or associate seems extremely whimsical with money, which causes you some concern. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You'll ask a lot of questions as to what is happening within your immediate circle. You want to get to the bottom of a problem. Approach issues creatively today. Do be careful when dealing with anything mechanical. News from a distance thrills you. Tonight: Keep it light and easy.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your creativity surges, and you will cook up a great idea. The problem lies in the cost. Even if you do not anticipate a financial snafu, it still could happen. Use good sense with a child or new love interest. You do not want to go overboard. Tonight: Allow greater give-and-take.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You feel up to nearly any task. You might have an important matter to deal with, which could make you feel a little uneasy. Slow down. You can be successful doing so many different things. Lighten up the moment, and share more of your feelings. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You know precisely where you want to go with a conversation that is a bit overdue. Listen carefully to news, and take time to digest what you are hearing. If you feel uncomfortable, don't push at this moment. Caring flows in an unprecedented manner. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

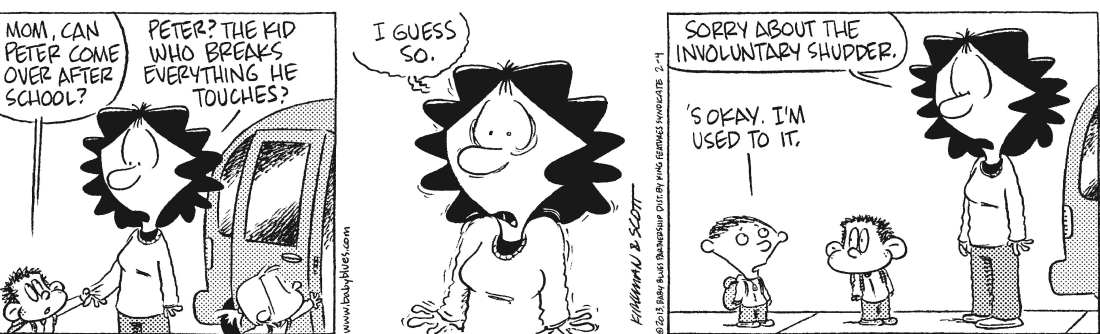
★★★★ Confusion could result in a financial mistake. You can't be careless with money right now. Focus on other matters, where success is more likely to greet you. Your smile will warm up an important friendship. Question a long-term commitment. Tonight: Where people are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

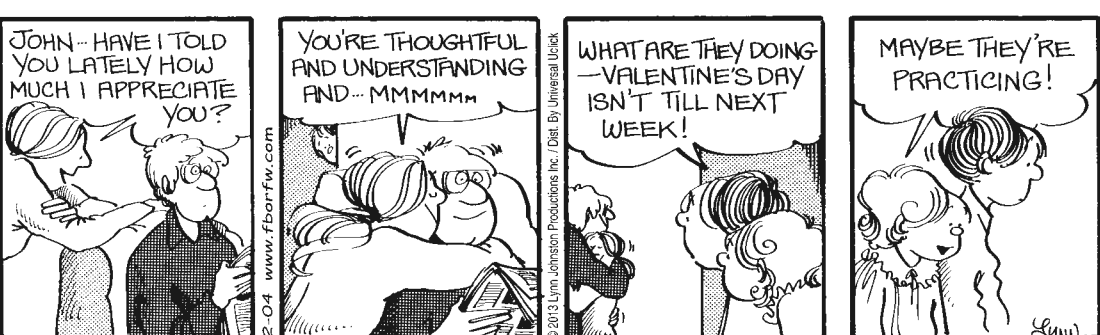
★★★★ Your way of moving through problems usually is excellent, yet today, there could be a backfire. Let others voice their opinions. A decision that already was made could be hard to carry out. An element of confusion runs through your plans. Tonight: A must appearance.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

