

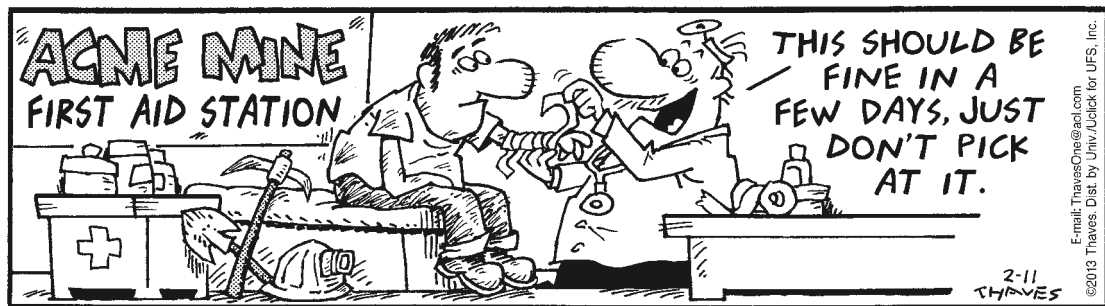
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



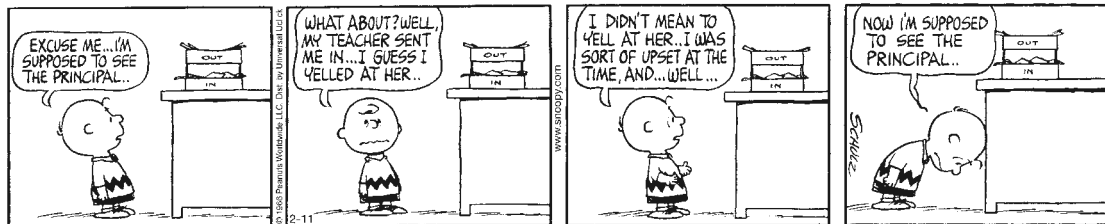
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



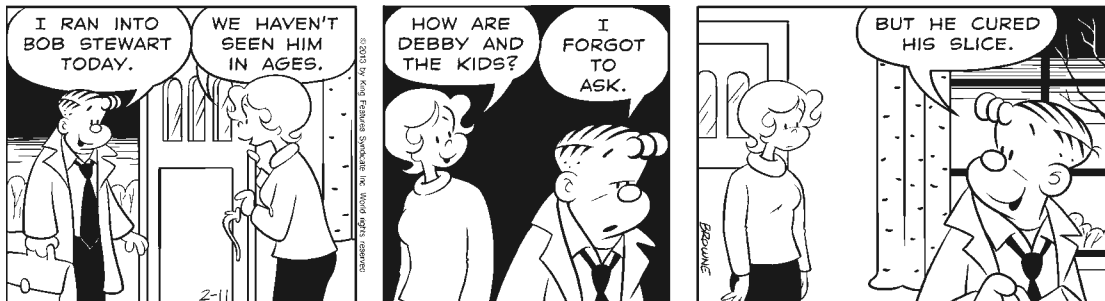
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSONO



Be A Sweetheart And Reach Out To Someone Who's Lonely

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is approaching, and I wanted to write concerning those of us who are single by choice, by circumstance, because of the death of a spouse or divorce.

This holiday was set aside to celebrate love and lovers, but it can be a lonely time for people who find themselves without a significant other. Valentine's Day is so commercialized that one is bombarded by ads for gifts, candy, etc., from every angle, which only enforces one's aloneness. The message is subtly sent — but received loud and clear — that an individual without a partner is worthless.

I would like to urge your readers this year to include those who are alone through divorce or widowhood in their celebration of this day. Make it a day on which they too can feel special, loved, and a part of things rather than isolated, forgotten and alone.

And don't stop there. All holidays can be lonely for those who have lost loved ones. Include these people in your holiday plans. You will be blessed by sharing, and they will be uplifted to know someone cares. — SOLO IN TEXAS

DEAR SOLO: Thank you for your letter. Readers, if you're feeling down because you don't have a special valentine, the surest cure for the blues is to do something for someone else. Call someone who's alone to say, "I'm thinking about you."

If you know someone who's in a nursing home, take some flowers. Put your discarded items in a box and call your favorite charity. Donate some blood. Listen to your teenager. Tell your parents you think they're great. Forgive an enemy. Send a donation to a food program that benefits the needy.

And if you love someone, tell him or her NOW; please don't wait until next Valentine's Day to be a sweetheart again.

DEAR ABBY: I have had an embarrassing problem

ever since grammar school. I bite my nails and cuticles until they bleed. If the pain is severe, or I see a piece of cuticle hanging, I stop until it heals. But then I start up again. How can quit this ugly habit? — MANIC IN GRANDVIEW, MO.

DEAR MANIC: You have a problem that I'm told is shared by one in 12 adults. There is more than one solution for it, and the common denominator in all of them is MOTIVATION. Some helpful suggestions submitted by readers in years past:

(1) "What helped me to finally stop at age 45 was that I sat down and tried to figure out why I kept biting my nails. I finally realized it was because I couldn't stand the feel of a rough nail catching on the fabric of my clothing.

"Now I keep emery boards, from coarse to fine, beside my favorite chair, in my purse, in my glove compartment and by my bed. If I feel a snag, I immediately smooth the offending nail. It has eliminated my need to bite."

(2) "My high school teacher included some interesting lessons in personal hygiene in his biology class. One day, he asked us to scrape under our fingernails and look at what we removed under a microscope. Seeing face to face what had collected under there

was enough to stop me from biting my nails. I haven't chewed them in nearly 30 years."

(3) "What stopped me was a job I landed as a teenager. I became an usher at a movie theater. My job required wearing a uniform, including white gloves. Not long after I landed the job, I noticed I had nice nails. The gloves were what did it."

(4) "Finally, when I was in my 30s, I asked my doctor to suggest a cure. He talked to me about obsessive-compulsive disorder and prescribed a low dose of a very safe drug used by people with O.C.D. In three weeks my nail-biting stopped for good."

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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 Aquarius and a Moon in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 11, 2013:

This year you have a lot to say, and you'll say just that ... provided you have a receptive audience. Your way of thinking changes in the course of the year, and something that irked you in the past no longer will be an issue by 2014. Curb any sarcasm if you want your message to be heard. If you are single, you could meet someone unexpectedly. Check out this person carefully, as he or she might be emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, avoid struggling over money by keeping separate checking accounts. Understand the role that jealousy plays in your relationship. PISCES knows how to evoke a response.

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)

Know that much is brewing behind the scenes. You might not know any or all of the details, but you sense that something has changed. Trying to get to the bottom of the situation might not work. Step back and observe; allow the information to come to you. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Many ideas come from you, but keep in mind that just as many ideas come to you. This ebb and flow could interfere with your normal schedule. Decide what your priorities are as others seek you out. Consider postponing a discussion till late afternoon. Tonight: Chat with a friend.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Issues seem to be contagious today. Don't fight the inevitable — just choose to work through it. By late afternoon, you'll see the dust start to settle, and you'll feel a greater sense of self-worth. You feel accomplished and satisfied. Tonight: Get a head start on tomorrow.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Keep reaching out for new ideas, where you are forced to break the ice. Accept what is happening, and try taking a new path. Experiment with different directions before making a final decision. Information keeps coming in. Tonight: Let your imagination run wild.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Take news with a grain of salt, especially if it

comes from an associate. You usually take this person at his or her word, but if you ask more questions, you'll build a more solid relationship. Don't challenge him or her — just demonstrate more interest. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Others will find you, even if you close your door and pretend you're not there. You are needed for feedback. Be flattered and understand your worth to others. Events taking place now will reveal others' opinions. Tonight: Visit with a loved one, and catch up on news.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Recognize your physical limits. You are a wise sign, and you'll work on organization and priorities right now. Accept your limitations, and others will, too. You can't expect people to respect your boundaries if you don't. Tonight: Finish up work, but get much-needed sleep.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You have the creativity and knowledge to come up with the right solution and make it work. You might hesitate to take an active role, as others want to brainstorm. Welcome this exchange of ideas. It will help you to think outside the box. Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 21-DEC. 21)

Stay centered, and know what you need to accomplish. You have many ideas brewing right now. See if they are workable before deciding to put them into action; you will be a lot happier as a result. Understanding evolves. Tonight: A roommate and/or family member needs your time.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You will say what you need or want to say, but be sure to choose your words carefully in order to prevent triggering someone. This person could have a strong reaction anyway, but the effort is good practice. Keep communication open. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Your hand is forced. You have a lot to do that you would prefer to postpone. No such luck! You need to deal with these matters here and now. Understand that you will feel better as a result. Loosen up, and get to the bottom of your resistance. Tonight: Take care of your bills.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You might be capable of nearly anything right now. Settle in by organizing your priorities and by understanding what is happening with others. Emphasize the group, but do not lose sight of the fact that this is your life. You need to take charge. Tonight: Where the action is.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

