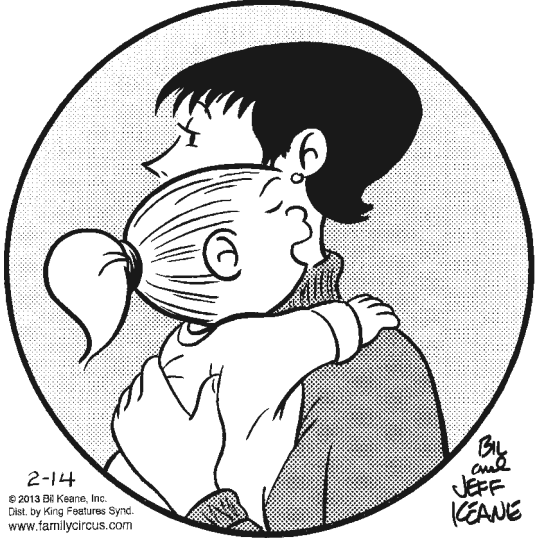


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



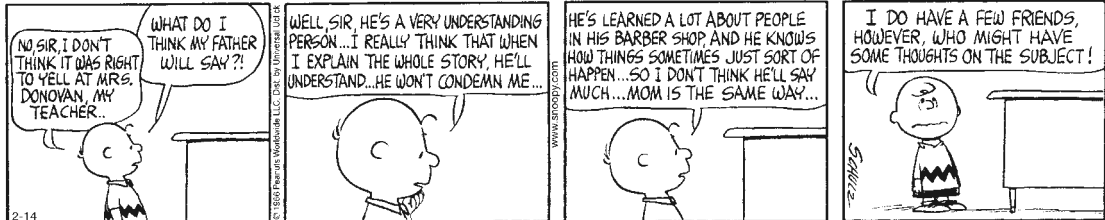
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



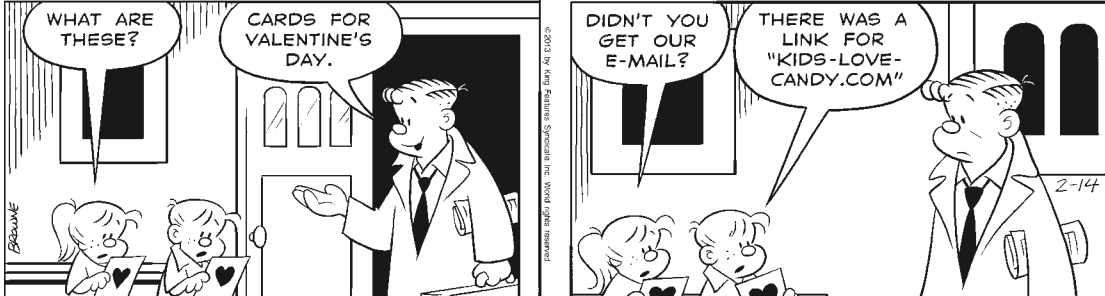
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Grandma Pays Good Money To Keep Children From Smoking

DEAR ABBY: It bothers me greatly to know that so many children continue to start smoking at an early age. My husband and I did that, and now we're paying an awful price. We have had emphysema for years. Four of our children also took up the habit. I finally started paying them to quit (\$100 every two weeks they didn't smoke — up to five payments).

I decided to head off the temptation our grandchildren would face. We told them if they didn't start smoking by the age of 18, we'd pay them \$2,000. So far, seven of the 10 have collected a nice check on their 18th birthday, and we expect the remaining three to collect in turn. They have grown up understanding that cigarettes are "gross" and, if they start smoking, it will cost them a lot of money!

Abby, you're the best way to spread ideas. I hope you will think it worthwhile to pass this one along. — DO AS I SAY, GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR DO AS I SAY: I'm passing it along, but frankly, I'm not crazy about bribery. One would think that, having witnessed firsthand the serious health issues you and your husband are experiencing, your grandchildren would have understood what awaited them if they took up the habit.

The tobacco industry has done a huge disservice to young people by marketing their products to them — and not just in the form of cigarettes, but also with flavored chewing tobacco, which is equally addictive. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, nearly 90 percent of smokers start by age 18.

In 2006, U.S. District Judge Gladys E. Kessler of Washington, D.C., ruled the major cigarette manufacturers were guilty of fraud and racketeering under the federal RICO Act. (When the tobacco companies appealed, the Supreme Court rejected it without comment.)

She wrote that for more than 50 years the tobacco

industry "lied, misrepresented and deceived the American public, including smokers and the young people they avidly sought as 'replacement smokers,' about the devastating effects of smoking...."

"They suppressed research, they destroyed documents, they manipulated the use of nicotine so as to increase and perpetuate addiction, they distorted the truth ... so as to discourage smokers from quitting."

It is extremely important that young people be educated about — and prevented from — using tobacco. Smokers who start as teenagers increase their chances of becoming addicted. Think about it: reduced lung function, early heart disease, cancer, asthma, disfigurement. Yes — it could happen to YOU.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful husband and adorable grandchildren, but I have developed deep feelings for a man I met at the gym where I go with a friend.

I find myself thinking of this man during the day and night. I don't want to have an affair nor do I want him to know what I feel. When the thoughts of him come, they overwhelm me so I try to pray. I have no plans to cheat on my husband. What else can I do? — CONFIDENTIAL IN GREENVILLE, N.C.

DEAR CONFIDENTIAL: Because you have a wonderful husband and a life you do not want to be disrupted, I recommend that when you finish exercising at the gym you take a COLD shower. And if that doesn't work, go to an all-female gym.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO MY READERS: Thanks to you, writing this column is a love-in every day of the year.

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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 Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 14, 2013:

This year your words carry a lot of weight. You don't need to fight for an audience; others make it their pleasure to listen to your ideas. Your resourcefulness impresses them. Give 150 percent to whatever you choose to focus on. The results might not be any different, but you will feel better. If you are single, you don't need to go far — your magnetic personality attracts many potential suitors. If you are attached, your interactions are full of intensity and understanding. You will enjoy your time together more, especially as you learn new ways of expressing yourself. You are never shy with ARIES.

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)

★★★★ What you want done can be accomplished easily right now. Your perspective transforms as well. Focus on your long-term objectives. A meeting provides direction quickly and effectively. Touch base with a close friend or family member. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might be moping around, overthinking a certain situation. You certainly are not in a gregarious mood right now. Take off and do something just for you. Often, you give too much of yourself. It's OK to be a little me-oriented sometimes. Tonight: Suddenly on center stage.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ A meeting points you in a certain direction. Follow through on what seems like the obvious choice. You can't sit back and do nothing. Friends and loved ones surround you. Valentine's Day seems to put a smile on many faces. Tonight: Have fun.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You have a lot of responsibility that's been tossed on you. Take your time, and check out the details when executing plans. Focus on your long-term goals. Others might take advantage of the moment and your caring spirit. Tonight: Finish what others have left undone.

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

★★★★ A little mystery goes a long way, and it has

the potential to increase the level of excitement between you and someone else. Unexpected news comes in from a distance. Read between the lines when dealing with this person. Tonight: Somewhere very different.

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

★★★★ Dealing with one special person occupies your day. Fortunately, he or she is in a good mood, which makes it easier to relate on a one-on-one level. A friendly gesture in the morning could warm up the office atmosphere. Tonight: Make plans to be with a special person.

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

★★★★ A key person is controlling. Your creativity gives you an idea that breaks through his or her power play. You need to be careful, as this individual could feel very vulnerable as a result. You are likely to see a new side of an old friend. Tonight: Say "yes" to an imaginative idea.

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

★★★ Listen to a friend's creative idea for Valentine's Day plans. Make the most of the moment. Someone who wants to be your Valentine lets you know his or her feelings. Be sensitive yet open. Your fiery side will emerge if you feel cornered. Tonight: Make it relaxing.

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

★★★★ Reach out to others in a discussion; they will be pleased to share their ideas and collaborate with you. Return calls. Much might be happening that you'd prefer not to talk about. Your words have impact, so remain sensitive to others' thoughts. Tonight: Talk is cheap.

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

★★★ Let ideas circulate about a personal choice you've made. Honor a suggestion from your inner circle. You know what works for you; don't assume that it works for others. Listen carefully and juggle the pros and cons of what is being offered. Tonight: Work close to home.

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

★★★★ Your unique style often seems irresistible to others. Your smile and attitude tell them that you believe you are on the winning team. Speak your mind, and share more of what you think. Situations emerge that allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

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

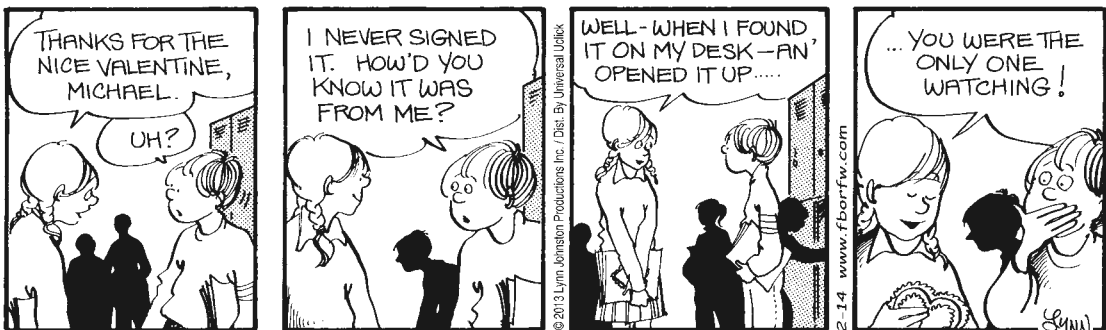
★★★ You clearly have gone through a change, and you might be digesting the ramifications of this transformation. Your instincts are working overtime. Focus on what feels right and what offers the most opportunities. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner and a movie.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

