

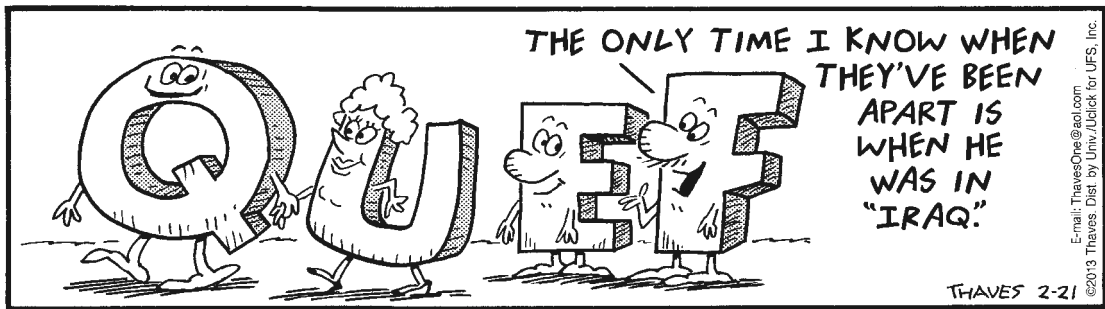
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



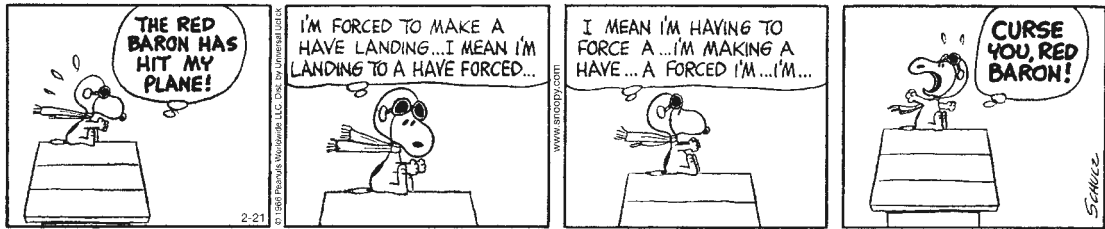
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



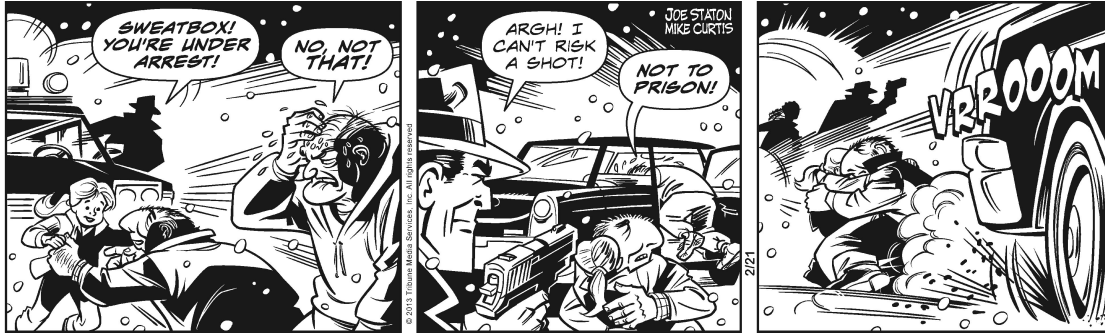
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



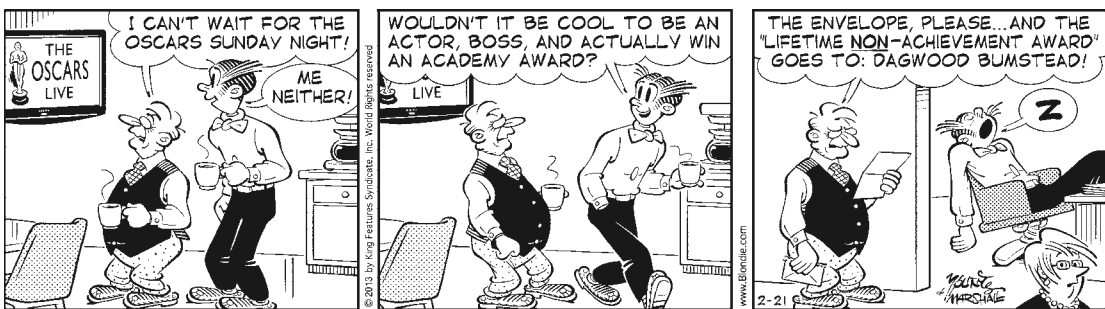
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



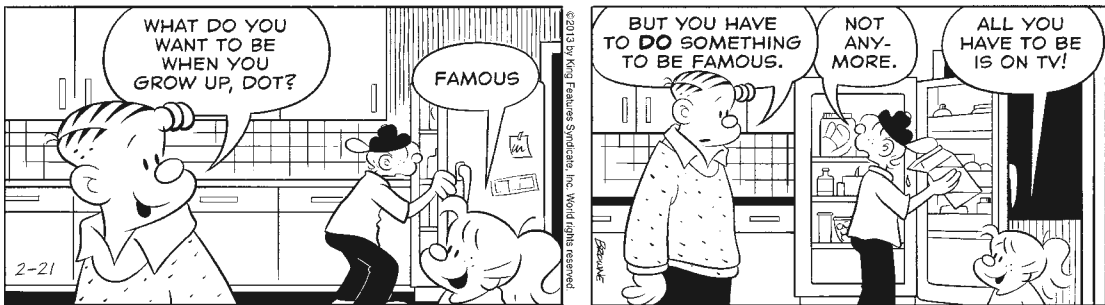
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



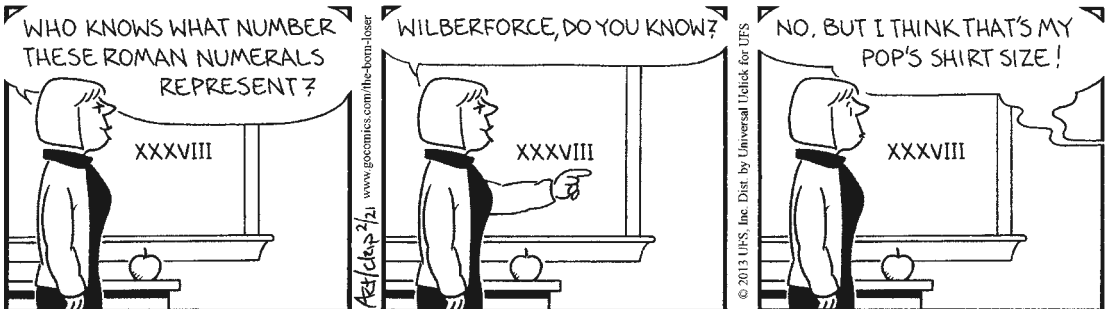
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Gentleman Is Slow To Seal Couple's Dates With A Kiss

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 43-year-old single mom with three young boys. I am also a veteran and getting ready to go back to school. I have been dating a gentleman for two months now, and we get along great. He's three years older than I am and good with my kids and family.

I like him a lot and we seem to have a LOT in common — more than most. I really want him to kiss me, but I don't want to seem pushy. He's a real gentleman. We have gone from hugs to holding hands while sitting on the couch watching television. I don't mind taking things slow, but ...

How do I find out if he wants to kiss me or not? Sometimes it seems like it, but then he seems afraid to. How do I let him know it's OK? Sorry I seem like a teenager. — CONFUSED IN IDAHO

DEAR CONFUSED: This man isn't taking things slow. Glaciers have been known to move faster. Two months is a very long time to wait for a first kiss.

The next time you find yourself sitting on the couch and holding hands with him, you have my permission to turn to him and say, "I'd love it if you kissed me." If that doesn't do the trick, then face it — his feelings for you are only brotherly.

DEAR ABBY: You have written about children in grocery stores before. Would you please address the risk to children by allowing them to stand in grocery shopping carts? I see it all too often, and I don't think the parents/grandparents realize that if the child falls out and lands on his or her head, neck or back, the child could end up paralyzed or dead. The adult must be the rule setter and protect the child. But too often it's the child setting the limits, and the results can be tragic. — CONCERNED SHOPPER IN NEW YORK

DEAR CONCERNED SHOPPER: I'm glad to oblige. Many markets equip their shopping carts with seat belts to secure tiny passengers and avoid this prob-

lem. That way, any liability that might stem from a child falling would lie directly where it belongs, with the adult who should have been using common sense.

DEAR ABBY: My oldest friend owes me a lot of money. I loaned it to her when she was being evicted. She has now come into some money and is going on a cruise.

I asked her to repay me before the trip. She said she "needs the cruise for her mental health." I am shocked and very angry. When I lost my temper and told her off, she accused me of being "greedy and money-obsessed."

Abby, I helped her when she needed it! What should I do? — FURIOUS IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FURIOUS: When your "friend" returns from her sea cruise, see if you can get her to agree to a repayment plan for the sake of YOUR mental — and financial — health. However, if she refuses, you may have to write off the loan as tuition in the school of experience. Your mistake was not getting the terms of the loan in writing.

DEAR ABBY: I have two sons who will graduate from college on the same day. My wife and I would like to attend both ceremonies, but for obvious reasons, we cannot. How do I resolve this dilemma? — FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Divide and conquer. You attend one graduation and your wife the other. To decide which one, you and the Mrs. should draw straws.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Pisces and a Moon in Cancer.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 2013:

This year, dare to dream. That step will be important in turning a fantasy into a reality. Speak up about these desires. Your immediate circle of friends might be changing because you are transforming. A new person in your life could be quite controlling, which could become problematic. Don't bring this person in close until you know him or her better. If you are single, summer 2013 could bring a very special suitor. Enjoy this connection. If you are attached, you will be unusually content with each other. Schedule a wonderful retreat together. CANCER is as intuitive as you are. Listen to him or her.

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 have plans, and you are goal-oriented. Events easily could change your schedule around in the morning, which leaves the remainder of the day to play catch-up. Your intuition guides you through complicated situations. Tonight: Remain sensitive to a difficult person.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Understand someone's opposition. Ask yourself whether this is a knee-jerk reaction or a well thought-out response. You have a choice to make, but approach a power play with care. If you don't, it could be a waste of time. Tonight: Hang out with friends and family.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Put the reins on spending if you see some smoke signals floating around you. Your response could be more significant than you are aware of. Root out the issue with care, and you probably will be happier as a result. Tonight: Make weekend plans with close friends.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Listen to others who seek you out. They might perceive you as being more powerful than you think you are. Give yourself space to do what you feel is necessary, and appreciate that others could be putting you on a pedestal. Tonight: Follow your own ideas.

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

★★★ Respond to situations after listening to your inner voice. You might need -- and want -- to back off, at

least for a little while. Your gregarious nature could demand a different outlet. Handle what needs to be done in solitude. Tonight: You don't have to tell everyone everything.

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

★★★★ Zero in on what needs to happen. Your creativity might be challenged by someone, and you'll have to come up with quite a few ideas. Brainstorm with a friend who often doesn't agree with you; you will have several solutions to choose from. Tonight: Take a stand.

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

★★★★ Reach out for more information, as you might not have all the facts. Someone in your domestic life could let you know how little he or she thinks you know. Detach from the situation, and you just might find this matter to be humorous. Tonight: Good times happen.

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

★★★★ Others who are involved in a project you're working on will join you in a brainstorming session. Whatever the objective of this meeting is, you'll find that a certain individual can be unusually challenging. Don't lose sight of your objective. Tonight: Read between the lines.

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

★★★★ Understand what is happening with someone. This person might need you to make more of an effort to get together. A money issue could be the root of the problem. Recognize a liability, and establish a boundary, if need be. Tonight: Listen rather than speak.

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

★★★★ You can be a hard person to resist. You are more than willing to play devil's advocate. You take this role rather seriously. A person you play this role with might not be as secure as you would like. Try to straighten out this issue. Tonight: Your treat.

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

★★★★ If you are able to avoid a difficult person, you could have a nearly perfect day. Accomplish what you must, but take some time for yourself. Schedule an appointment or a checkup. Include some exercise, or take a walk if you can. Tonight: Run an important errand.

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

★★★★ Your creativity comes forth, which brings you many opportunities. Honor what is happening around you, and find the space to incorporate more of a specific experience into your life. You will feel better as a result. Tonight: Act like this is the beginning of your weekend.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

