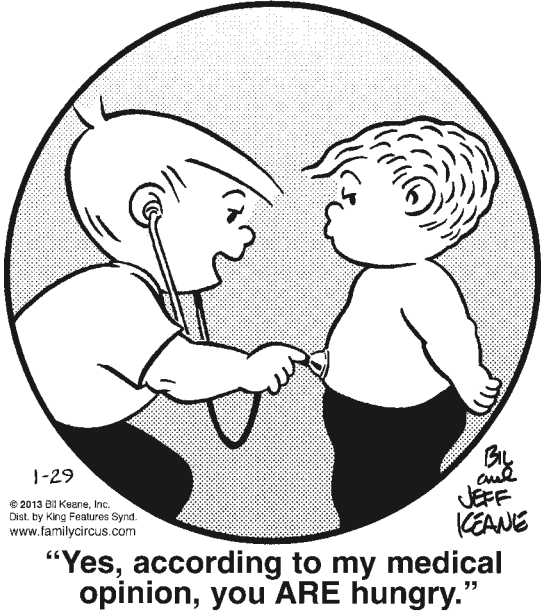
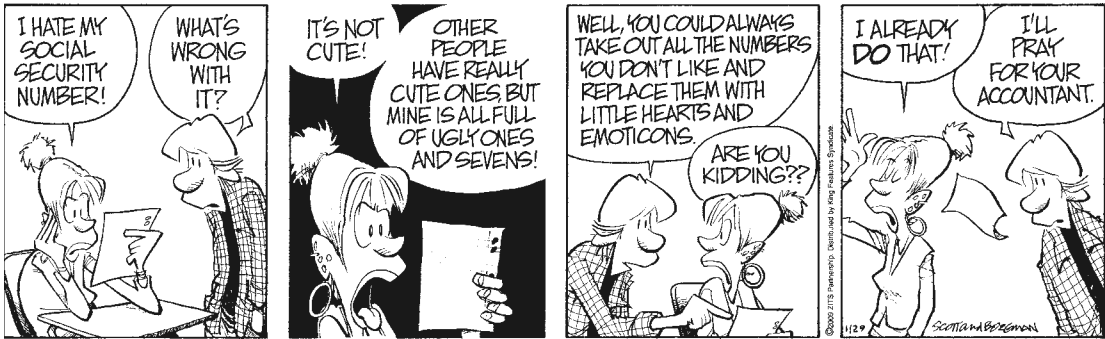


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



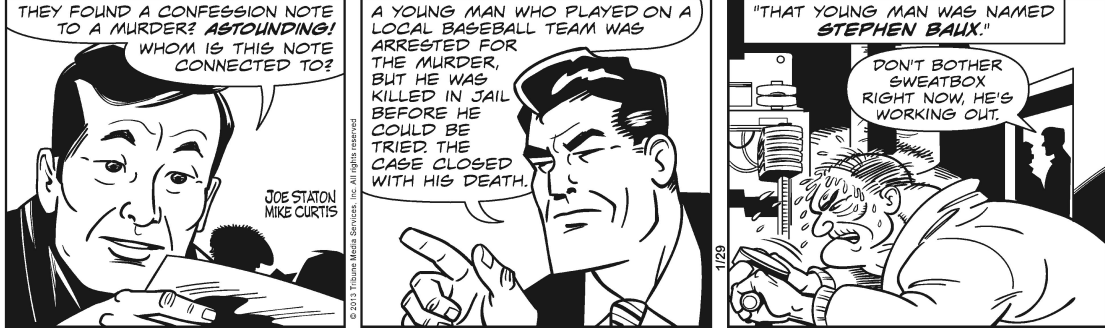
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



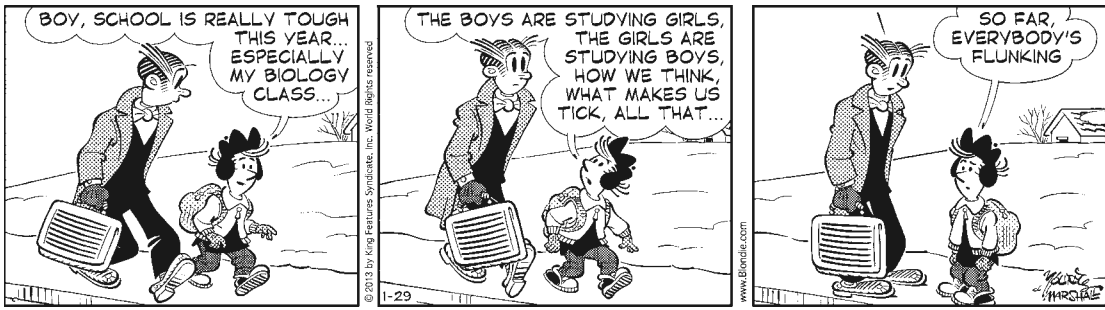
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



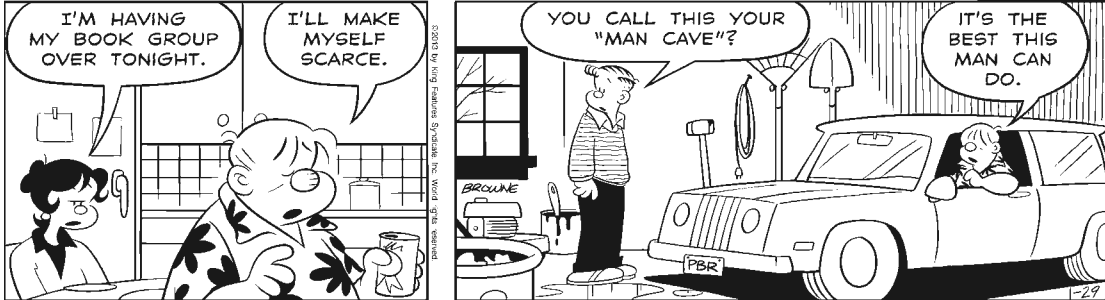
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Man With A Past Hesitates To Reveal It In The Present

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old man with a criminal record. I got involved in some fraud and embezzlement rings when I was in my early 20s, and served nine months before being released on parole.

Since then I have moved in with my mother, found a job, and I'm trying to be the man I know I'm capable of being. I have reached the point where I'd like to begin dating again.

The problem is, I don't know when the time is right to bring up my past. If I wait too long, my name is mud for not saying anything sooner. I want to do the right thing so I can stay on the right path. Can you help me? — A BETTER MAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR BETTER MAN: I agree that the chapter of your life in which you were in prison is not something you should reveal on a first date. But do raise the subject around the fourth date, because by then the woman will have had a chance to get to know you.

When you bring it up, make it clear that you didn't go to jail for a violent crime and you're not on any offenders' list. If she likes you, she'll hear you out and understand that you don't plan to repeat your past mistakes. Men who have served their time can go on to lead successful lives, and tell her that you plan to be one of them.

DEAR ABBY: I am blessed with two beautiful daughters. One is 13; the other is 4 months old. For 11 years my 13-year-old, "Lily," was my life. I had dated, but they were all Mr. Wrongs.

Two years ago I finally met a wonderful man, "Kevin." He is good to me, and he and Lily get along to a point, but he's shy and doesn't talk much. Kevin moved in with us a few months after I found out I was pregnant.

I try to include Lily in our new family, but she

feels left out. She stays in her room and doesn't have much to do with Kevin. She wouldn't go with me to the baby's doctor appointments and pretty much ignores her new baby sister. I have told myself she'll come around, but it hasn't happened.

What can I do to assure Lily that I love her as much as I always have? I want our family to be happy. I hope to eventually marry Kevin. Lily's dad isn't very involved in her life. Every time I try to include Lily, she gets mad and says she doesn't want to do the family functions. Help, please. — WEST VIRGINIA MOM

DEAR MOM: Thirteen can be a difficult age and your work is cut out for you. You will have to be more proactive in order to make this arrangement function more like a family. Kevin may be shy, but he should be encouraged to make more of an effort to get to know Lily. As the adult, it is his job to break the ice and find something in common with her.

Also, Lily should not be allowed to hide out in her room and not participate in any activities. If you permit the status quo to continue, at some point she will start looking for a place where

she feels she "belongs" in a situation beyond your control or supervision. If you are out of ideas on how to get your daughter to cooperate, then involve a family therapist to help you through the roadblocks.

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 Aquarius and a Moon in Virgo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 29, 2013:

This year your focus remains on your self-image and how others see you in the community and/or professional circle. You could find that you have to work very hard, as additional responsibility has been tossed into your daily routine. If you do not like your work, be smart and find another job. If you are single, others will think that you are far more serious than you are. Be as authentic as possible when relating. If you are attached, you might not enjoy going out so much; cozy times at home will have far more appeal. Share more with your significant other. VIRGO can be a real pusher.

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)

★★★★ Extremes dominate your thoughts, as you keep switching from one perspective to the next. A discussion evolves into a brainstorming session. As a result, you come up with solutions quickly and efficiently. A partner makes an effort to help. Tonight: Do something just for you.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Your creativity energizes others. You could gain in some form from a conversation that could cause you to see the big picture. Detach in order to see what is really going on. Listen to your inner voice dealing with an associate or partner. Tonight: Switch into fun mode.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be dealing with a difficult situation, like it or not. The good news is that you will make it successfully past any encumbrances. A partner or loved one could point to the right path. Follow this person's lead. Tonight: Be joyous. Look at the glass as half-full.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Your instincts lead you, and the wise will follow. You recognize your own limitations better than many people. How you handle a personal matter could change as the result of a conversation. A creative effort falls flat with a loved one or child. Tonight: Fun and games.

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

★★★ Curb spending if possible. You might be re-

vamping a project or other undertaking, which could create an endless pit in your finances. Think this over again. Your efforts to get others to agree with you might not work. Schedule a check-up with the dentist. Tonight: Having fun.

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

★★★★ You are full of get-up-and-go, and you know what works. Start visualizing your goals and desires. Be sure to look for support from others, but be aware that they could be afraid of your independence and willingness to head in a chosen direction. Tonight: All smiles.

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

★★ Know that it serves you well to slow down and approach a situation differently. You might not be happy with what you are seeing, but you also haven't chosen a new course yet. Talk to a trusted adviser before you make a decision or take any action. Tonight: Do your thing.

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

★★★★★ Know what it is that you want from a situation. With this goal in mind, you can create just that. You might not be as receptive as before. As a result, some people distance themselves. Open up conversations — you will like what occurs. Tonight: Where crowds can be found.

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

★★★★ Others come forward with a lot of information to share. You might wonder where it all begins. Your sixth sense doesn't seem to be working for you in a financial sense. Play it conservatively for now. Your instincts will guide you well. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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

★★★★ You are wise for how you are looking at a difficult situation. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with those you care about. You might want to seek out a respected friend or adviser. Others wonder as they watch you handle this issue. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

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

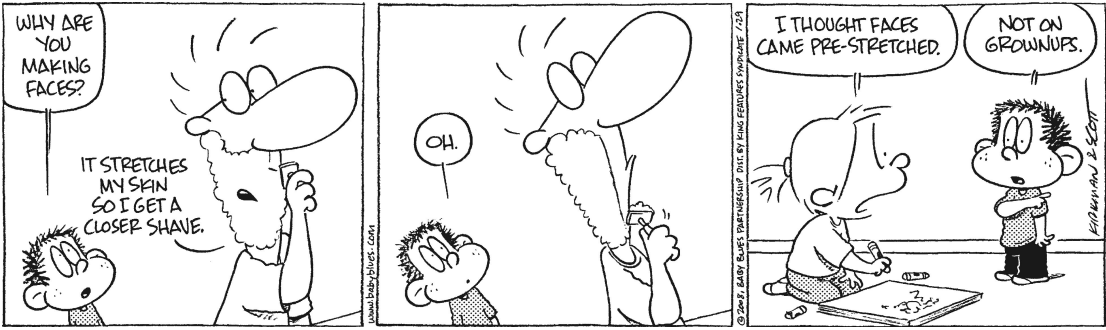
★★★★ Deal with each person in your life without being distracted. You desire to follow through on a certain path, yet there are other options that need to be explored. A boss or an authority figure is difficult; do not kid yourself about that fact. Tonight: Let a friend take the lead.

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

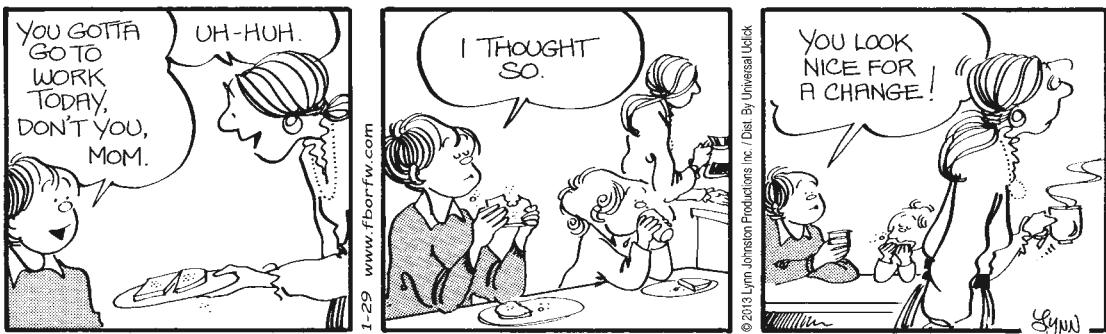
★★★★ Defer to others, and make sure you know what needs to happen. A fine-tuned sense of humor separates you from others in a trying situation. A meeting points to many alternatives. You might be tempted to walk the other way. Tonight: Pay more attention to a loved one.

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DEAR ABBY | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

