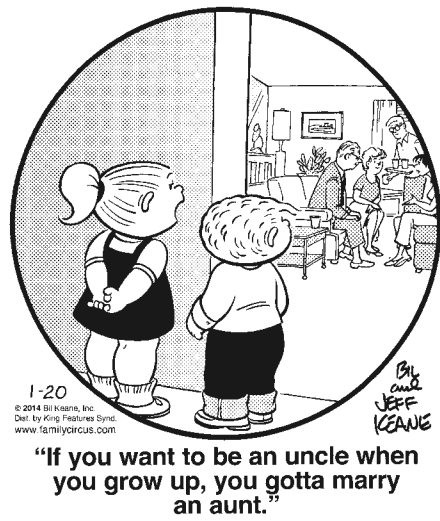


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



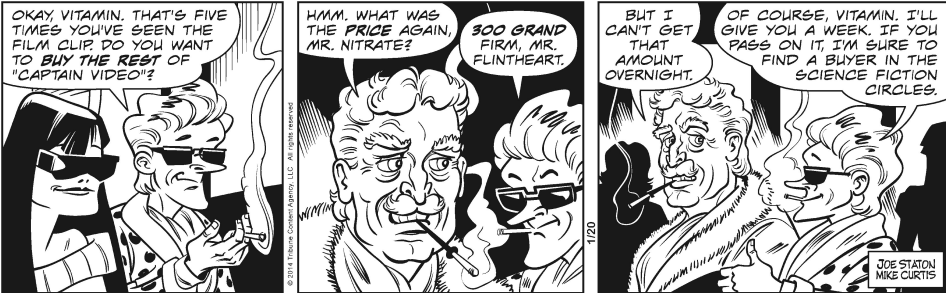
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



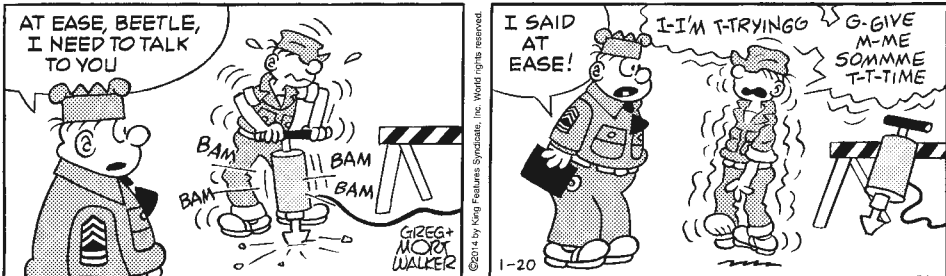
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



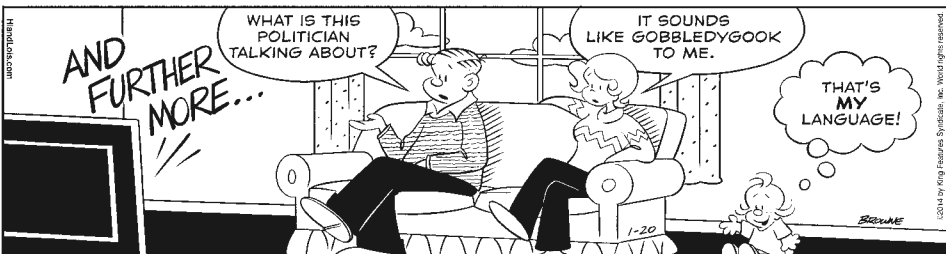
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



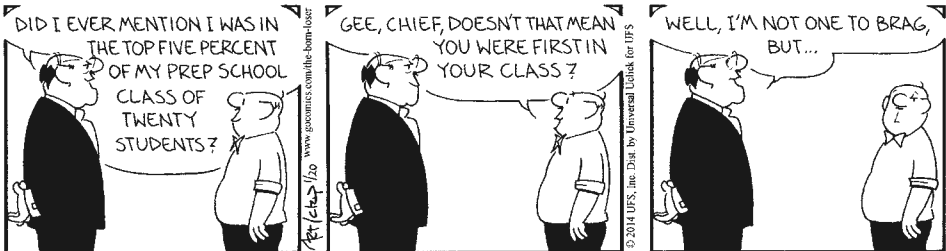
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# A Teenager's Taxi Service Has A Disgruntled Rider

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school senior. At the beginning of the school year, I agreed to drive my best friend to school in the mornings, and for a while it was nice.

Last month she started to refuse to talk while I was driving. If I tried talking to her, she wouldn't respond. She recently told her boyfriend (who she texts constantly while riding with me) that she didn't like my driving. I found out because of a post he made on Facebook. When I asked her about it, she said that morning I had slammed on the brakes and it scared her.

This has made me tense and stressed out in the mornings, and I want to stop driving her. My grandmother says I should stick it out instead of causing friction. My mom thinks I should stop driving her, but only if she can find another ride.

I tried to explain this to her, but she won't listen and I'm still stuck with her. This has ruined our relationship. I feel like she hates me, but I don't know what to do about any of it. Help! — DRIVEN CRAZY IN FLORIDA

DEAR DRIVEN CRAZY: Your former best friend may have stopped talking to you on the way to school because she was too busy texting her boyfriend. She is ignoring the fact that you have been doing her the favor of transporting her and is using you as a private taxi service.

If she was frightened because you braked suddenly, the person she should have said it to was YOU. So stop "explaining" to her and TELL her that if she wants to continue getting a free ride, she had better adjust her attitude or make other arrangements for transportation.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, the mother of a toddler, just had twins. We live four hours away, so I stayed with them for a few weeks to help her and her husband adjust to their

larger family. It taught me a lot about how to help new mothers who are feeling overwhelmed.

It's not about holding the babies; everyone wants to do that. Instead, if you really want to help tired parents, do one of the following:

Take the older children to the park, the library, the zoo, to a diner for breakfast. Keep them happy and safe, and bring them home worn out.

Bring dinner or takeout when visiting. Wash, dry and fold the laundry. Get the kids ready for bed, give them their baths, read books to them and wait until they are asleep to leave.

Clean the house, run the vacuum, empty the garbage and change the beds. Buy groceries (the basics), including paper goods, and grab a box of gallon plastic bags, masking tape and Sharpies (to date frozen foods).

The gift of your time is ever so much more helpful than cute baby outfits that are quickly outgrown. Thanks, Abby! — PROUD GRANDMA IN NEW YORK

DEAR PROUD GRANDMA: My warm congratulations on the new additions to your family. Your daughter is a lucky woman. Your letter should be clipped and saved by anyone who is looking forward to grandparenthood because it is a classic.

DEAR READERS: Today we celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the visionary civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968. Many of his words ring as true today as when they were first spoken.

The quote I have in mind as I write this, "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face-to-face with another problem." It applies to many aspects of life.

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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 MONDAY, JAN. 20, 2014:

This year you emphasize the importance of seeing the big picture. Sometimes, if you are not careful or overthink, you will lose your strong will to act. Watch out for this trait. If you are single, you are unusually attractive. You will have many dating possibilities, but you might attract emotionally unavailable individuals. Be careful. If you are attached, the two of you can work through nearly anything because of your commitment to each other. Be aware of your differences, and respect them. VIRGO sometimes annoys you with his or her penchant for detail.

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)

★★★ Listen to what is being shared while you go through your day. You will note that seriousness seems to mark your interactions. A discussion is a must in order for you to understand where others are coming from. Tonight: Be where you can relax.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your creativity will help provide a solution; it might not be considered perfect by all parties, but it will work. A partner could try to resist your attempts to bring him or her out of his or her shell. Your caring will be evident, but it still might not work. Tonight: Ask questions.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Work from home, or handle a domestic matter before you go to work. A partner will come through for you in a big way. Let this person know how much you appreciate his or her efforts. You can balance different concerns with ease. Tonight: Do something special, but be at home.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Ask more questions, and expect to receive clear responses. Everyone needs to be on the same page in order to be most effective. Your depth and interest in handling a personal matter efficiently and with sensitivity will impress a loved one. Tonight: Just be yourself.

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

★★★★ Be aware of the cost of handling a matter as you are. Play it easy and relaxed in the company of a loved one who can give you feed-

back that you will accept. A personal or domestic matter lingers in your mind. Tonight: Straighten out the problem if possible.

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

★★★★ Keep conversations moving, especially if they turn the focus to others. You might notice that someone seems closed down. Trust that this person has a good reason, and refuse to personalize the matter. That attitude will mean the world to him or her. Tonight: As you like it.

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

★★★ Listen to news and consider what is really being said. Much is going on behind the scenes that you might not understand. Be aware of your options before you launch into action. Someone might not care how a certain idea will affect you. Tonight: Do some hard thinking.

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

★★★★ You could be making an error if you choose not to absorb what is said in a meeting with others. Approach a situation with care, yet also be aware of your limits. Be more open, and express your gentle side. Someone can't help but respond. Tonight: Find your friends.

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

★★★ You like to perform and achieve the highest level of excellence possible. At the moment, you might feel challenged, but you have the assets to make an impression and to excel. Holding back a certain feeling will take a toll on you. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

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

★★★★ Make a point of seeing the whole picture, and refuse to sell yourself short. Your way of dealing with a problem could change once you do. With that alteration will come a different outcome that might be more beneficial to everyone involved. Tonight: Hop on the Internet.

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

★★★★ Don't allow someone else to do your dirty work. Reach out and communicate with others directly. Follow this suggestion, and keep all interpersonal matters on a one-on-one level. The results will please you, and others will be more open as well. Tonight: Togetherness works.

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

★★★★ You have a strong mind, but a partner will need to think a situation through and come up with his or her own conclusion. Develop the ability to let go, and give others the space to get to where you are. Be patient. Tonight: Out and about.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

