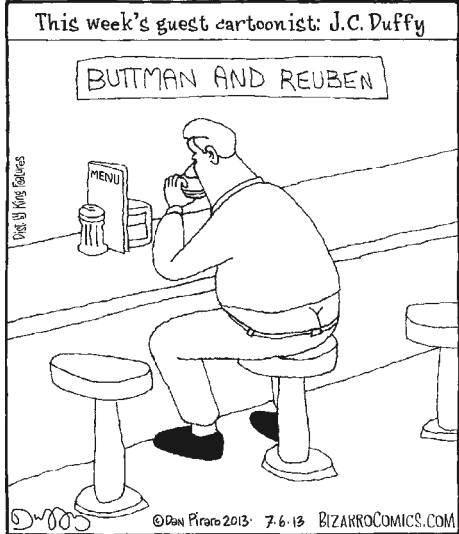


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



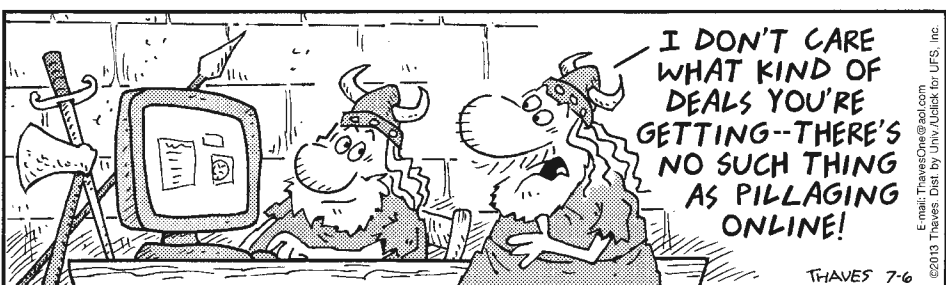
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



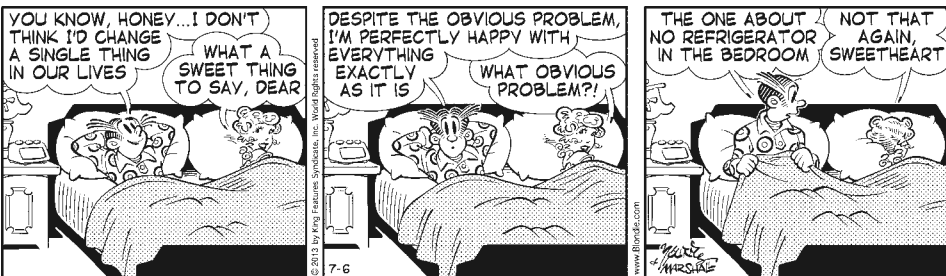
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



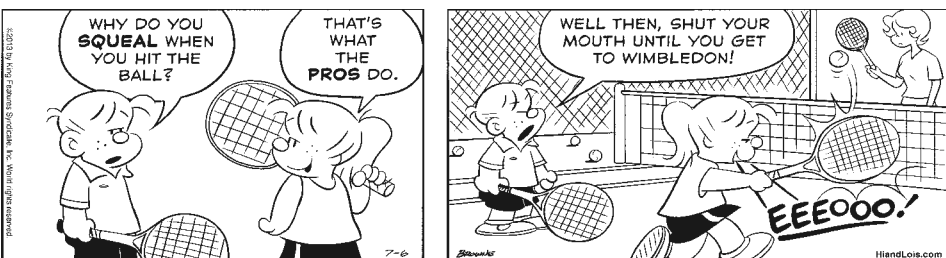
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Teen Gets A Distant Feeling From Closest Family Members

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and for as long as I can remember, my family has never really been "together." We exist with each other physically, but have never connected in a loving way. I can't remember my father ever smiling at my mom or being happy. There seems to be an undercurrent of hostility or resentment in our relationships with each other. The lack of love in our house is palpable.

I wonder sometimes what it's like to eat dinner together at night, and what it's like to see parents kiss because they love each other — not a stressed, distant, obligated contact.

I finally asked my mother, "Why don't you ever hug me?" Her answer was, "Because I can't remember the last time you tried to hug ME."

I'm crying as I write this. Why doesn't my mother understand that kindness is necessary and should not be conditional? — TROUBLED GIRL IN FLORIDA

DEAR TROUBLED GIRL: Your mother may have been raised in a loveless home and not know how to easily demonstrate affection. Or her marriage to your father could be so unhappy that she has shut down.

You are a perceptive girl, and it is understandable that you are "troubled." But the only person who can answer the question you have asked me is your mother, who appears to need to receive kindness and affection before she will be able to give it. Make an effort to hug her more and the situation may improve. How very sad.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 33-year-old man who has screwed up his marriage. I stupidly had a fling with my wife's 16-year-old cousin and got in trouble for it. I never lied about it because I knew it was wrong, and I am deeply sorry for it. It happened more than a year ago. I ended up serving time in jail.

I love my wife. She is my best friend. We have no kids, just some great dogs and horses. We were very close until I went to jail, and the last day I was in there I got served with divorce papers.

I can't blame her for how she feels. She says she loves me but she's too hurt to continue. I love her and I'm devastated that I can't fix this.

I have known her for 20 years and she means so much to me. I want to save our marriage, and for the last year I have expressed repeatedly how sorry I am. Any advice? — SORRY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR SORRY: Tell your wife (if the divorce isn't final) that you are willing to do anything to save your marriage, and ask her if she would be willing to go to couple's counseling with you.

Under the circumstances, her feelings are entirely understandable. If there is any love for you left in her heart, counseling may help to get your relationship back on track. However, if she refuses, you will have to accept her decision and go on with your life, having learned a very expensive lesson.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old gay male who is interested in doing drag. Due to being unable to find work, I am hoping I can turn performing in drag into a source of income. I am not afraid to perform in front of crowds of people, so this could be a good idea. Do you think it is? — POTENTIAL SUPERSTAR IN PHILADELPHIA

DEAR POTENTIAL SUPERSTAR: It's not a bad idea. Your next step is to audition to see if you have the ability and the looks to succeed.

While drag is a narrow niche of show business, some performers have had successful careers in that area — and you might, too. You'll never know if you don't give it a try. I wish you luck.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Cancer and a Moon in Gemini if born before 3:14 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2013:

This year you deal with your anger rather than suppress it. Whether this transformation happens by choice or because of a ramification of bottling up your feelings, it makes no difference. The end result will be excellent. If you are single, you could attract quite a few suitors. The person who makes your heart flutter will be important to your life history. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy each other's company more, once you are willing to be more vulnerable. A fellow CANCER might be as moody as you are.

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 an abundance of energy. If you can get involved in some kind of sport, you will feel great. Try to schedule more physical activities in your daily life. A partner would like you to invest some of your energy into your shared ventures. Tonight: Happy to be close to home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ In the morning, you might greet a major expense or wish to make a purchase. By the afternoon, you could be totally distracted. You even might be heard saying: "What purchase?" Catch up on a neighbor's news. Tonight: A spontaneous happening is occurring where you are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Tap into your high energy. You could wonder what is enough, as someone keeps asking you to do this or that. You might want to say "no" before you explode. There is no reason to take on all of the requests and responsibilities that are being dumped on you. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Nothing happens unless you start acting on a decision. If you want to pave a new path, know that others will follow. You also will discover that this choice seems to bring more luck into your life. You can dream all you want, but remember to follow through! Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Plans with friends evolve into a spontaneous, fun activity. One person in particular still might be out of sorts. Opt to pull back a bit and become an

observer once again. How you deal with various situations more often than not is through detachment. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could feel overwhelmed by a pushy adult or some older family members. Words will be exchanged, and the rest will be history. Be kind when dealing with a friend whom you really care about. Make sure that you handle one interaction at a time. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Acknowledge someone at a distance. What is happening with this person could be more of a problem than you would like to handle right now. The consequences of ignoring the situation might be harsh. Check in with a parent or an older relative. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ A loved one puts you in your place. Listen carefully to this person, as his or her comments probably have some validity. You can launch a disagreement or detach. If you detach, you might understand where this person is coming from. Tonight: Join a friend for a jam session.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You can do whatever you want, as long as you make it a point to appease someone who is on the warpath. Let this person go through his or her tirade. Keep in mind that he or she is likely to make the first gesture anyway. Stay levelheaded and calm. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might understand where someone is coming from, but you could feel too irritable to deal with the situation right now. Make plans with loved ones or a friend for later in the afternoon. Camaraderie and laughter will abound. Tonight: Let the party go on and on.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Observe how someone handles what is happening. A lot might go down with a child or new friend. Understand that if this person did not care, he or she would not be so upset. Once the dust settles, make a caring gesture. Think before you speak. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be more irritable than you realize. You might wonder what is happening with a family member who also might be grumpy. Go off and participate in an activity you love. As a result, you will feel prepared to deal with your issues. Tonight: Do something spontaneous.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

