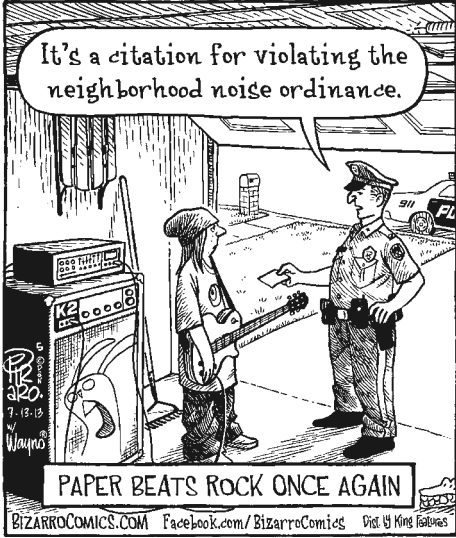


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



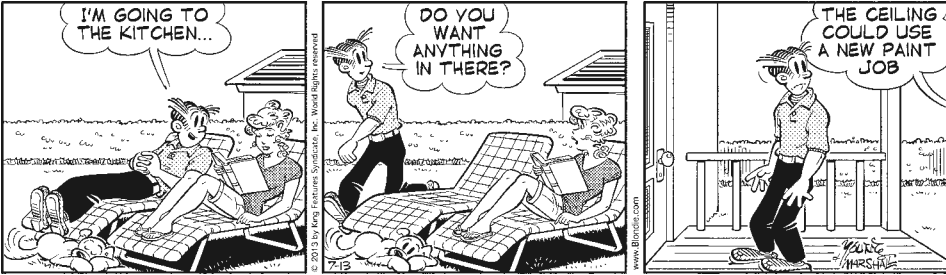
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



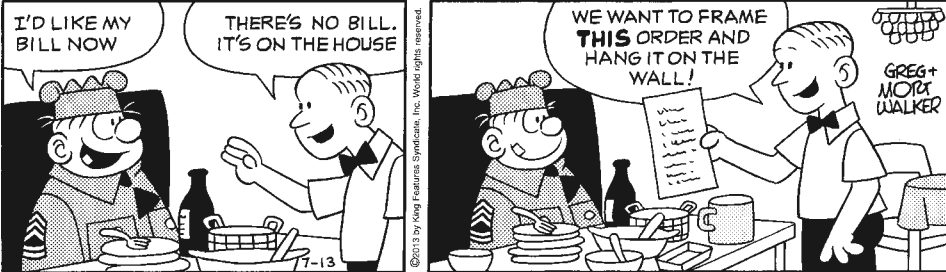
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



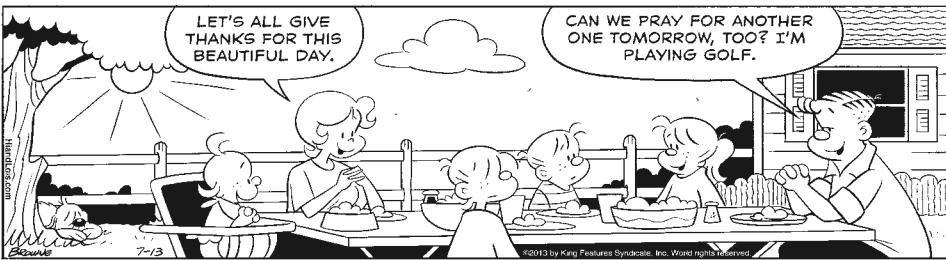
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



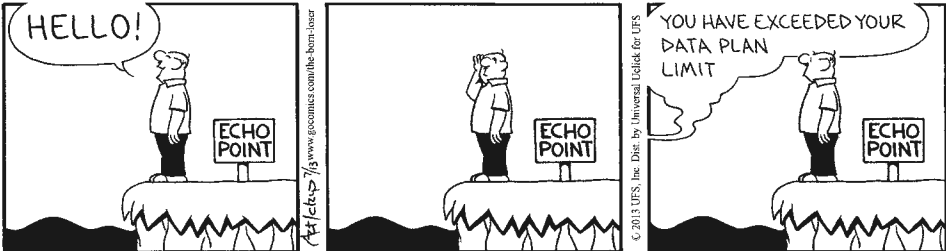
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Oldest Of Six Tries To Fill Gap Left By Mother Who Drinks

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 13-year-old girl and I had a big argument with my mom. It's about her drinking. I have tried to get her to stop because most of the money she makes goes straight to her alcohol, but instead of talking it out, she starts yelling. She says it's her life and we can't tell her what to do with her money.

I have five younger sisters and brothers, and I try to come up with the money myself from baby-sitting. I feel as if my younger siblings are my children. I am so fed up with my mother's behavior. Should I keep talking to her about it or leave it be? — CAN'T DO IT ALL ON GUAM

DEAR CAN'T DO IT ALL: As long as your mother continues to deny that she has a drinking problem, there is nothing you can do to help her without further putting her on the defensive. But you may be able to find support from Alateen.

Alateen is a group for teens that was established specially for young people who are affected by the drinking problem of someone close to them. You would also be welcome at a weekly Al-Anon meeting in Chalan Pago. For more information on Al-Anon and Alateen, visit www.al-anon.alateen.org, email wso@al-anon.org or call 888-4AL-ANON.

At your tender age, you should not have to assume financial responsibility for your younger siblings. You should discuss this with your clergyperson, a teacher at school or another trusted adult because they may be able to get you some help from a social services organization.

DEAR ABBY: A relative of mine has a 5-year-old son who is at least 20 or 30 pounds overweight. Everyone in the family is concerned about it, but no one knows how to bring it up to the parents without offending them. We don't understand how the parents or grandparents don't see his weight as an issue.

Bullying is a huge deal among children, and we fear he might have trouble with other kids his age teasing him. However, we are more worried about his health than anything. Being that overweight is a lot for anyone, but especially a young child. What should we do? — SOMEONE WHO CARES IN CHICAGO

DEAR SOMEONE WHO CARES: How do you know the child's parents and grandparents don't see his weight as an issue? A way to raise the subject would be to mention your concern and ask what the boy's pediatrician has had to say about it. While years ago doctors may have been reluctant to raise the issue, today they are much less so because the American Medical Association has declared obesity to be a disease.

Also, as a relative, try to include the boy in physical activity you engage in.

DEAR ABBY: My 2-year-old granddaughter, Brayleigh, is friendly and outgoing. If you see us in the grocery store, she will probably smile at you and say, "Hi." She would love it if you smiled back and said it too, but

PLEASE, resist the urge to touch her. Your kids or grandkids may giggle when you play "got your nose" or "tickle your belly" with them, but that's because they know and trust you. You are a total stranger to Brayleigh, even if you know me. While you may mean well, imagine a total stranger rushing up and putting their hands all over you! Abby, how about passing along the message? — BRAYLEIGH'S GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: I'm glad to help. No one should touch a child without first asking permission from the adult who is accompanying the little boy or girl. Not only could the child be frightened by it, but the parent could misunderstand and it could lead to an altercation.

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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 Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2013:

This year you have inordinately high energy, which will point you toward a new beginning. You will enter the first year of a 12-year life cycle; the first year is especially lucky. You might be overly assertive at times, yet you might not be sure of your direction and desires. You will see life from a more animated point of view, and others will be livelier as a result. If you are single, you could be overwhelmed by all of your choices. If you are attached, you'll become more dominant than in the past. Be sensitive to your sweetie. VIRGO can be counted on to follow instructions.

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)

★★★★ Take care of any major chores and/or errands before noon. Listen carefully to a loved one about a personal matter. You might discover that your opinions about this issue also are strong. A discussion will be important, as it signifies taking the first step. Tonight: Time to relax.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your ideas seem to be coming from out of nowhere. Listen to news more openly. When you work with the facts, your chances of success are much higher. Someone might be a little harsh in his or her tone. Do not allow it to get to you. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ How you deal with an important matter could change. Stay open in a discussion. You are likely to make a major purchase. Be careful, because once you start buying this or that, self-discipline goes out the window. Nevertheless, you will have a great time. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You suddenly feel more energetic, and you might wonder what prompted this change. You'll become more assertive, which could be problematic, as others seem to be taking this transformation personally. If you can, try to sit on your feelings for now. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You enter a period where you find your emotions keep emerging, even if you thought you had suppressed them. You will get an opportunity

to work through some difficult feelings in a way that someone else can respond to. Balance your budget. Tonight: Out and about.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A provocative friend might get you going. Recognize what is happening with this person. A conversation could prove interesting, but know that it is necessary. Trust your judgment, and allow this individual to work through what is bothering him or her. Tonight: Add some romance.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might want to understand more of what is going on around a particular opportunity. Listen to news in a more open manner, and try to understand what is expected from you. A family member or close loved one could be difficult. Tonight: Expect to be on center stage.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance, even if you don't feel as comfortable as you would like. You could enter a phase of rapid changes, where you barely can keep up with others. You might opt to take a trip or move in a new direction. Tonight: Follow the music.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might be more visible than you would like. A family member seems to push the limit, which forces your hand. You won't want to say anything publicly, but it very well could happen anyway. Listen to your inner voice more often. Tonight: A force to behold.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Someone who is close to you is being quite assertive. You might not realize how important a situation is, but the way you respond could help point the way to a new path. Make a point to appreciate this person's boldness. Tonight: Go along with someone else's idea.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might feel as if someone is pushing you very hard to achieve more of what you want. Understand what you want for yourself. If you can funnel this person's energy in a constructive way, you will like the results. Tonight: Honor your energy level and feelings.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your imagination will come out more, and you'll start sharing your ideas with a new friend or a loved one. What happens could change how you feel about this person in general, and vice versa. You are like two kids frolicking around together. Tonight: Let the fun continue.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

