

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



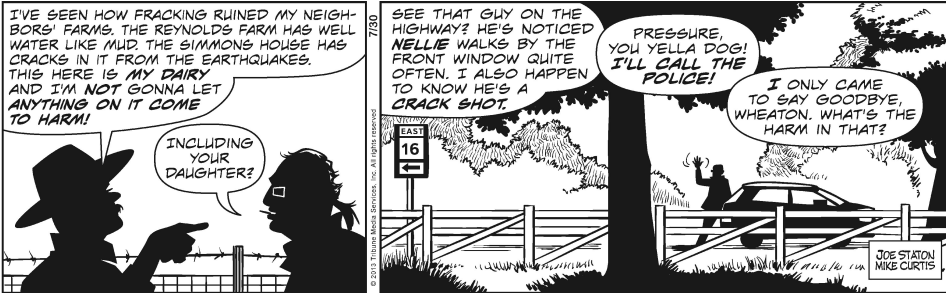
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



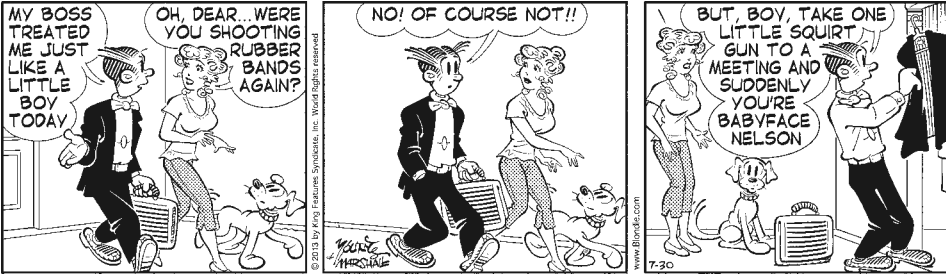
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



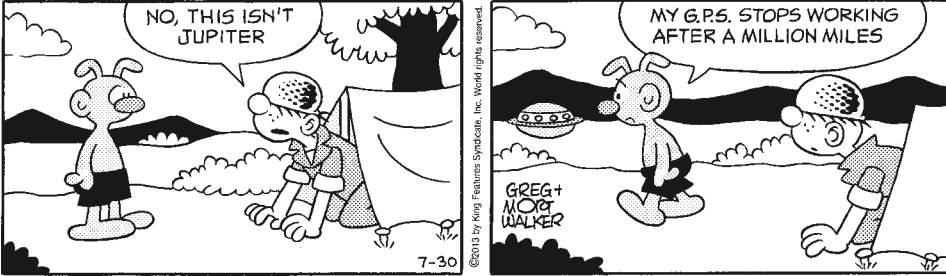
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



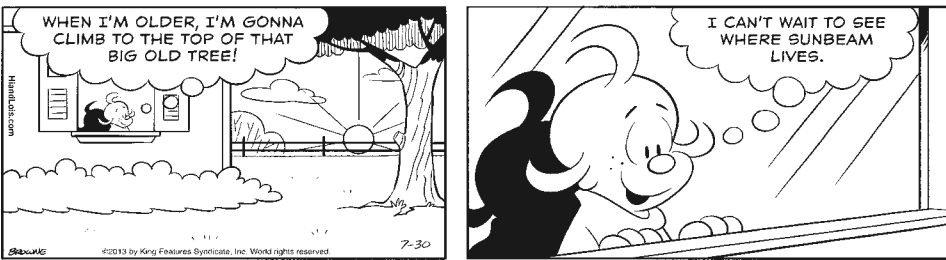
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



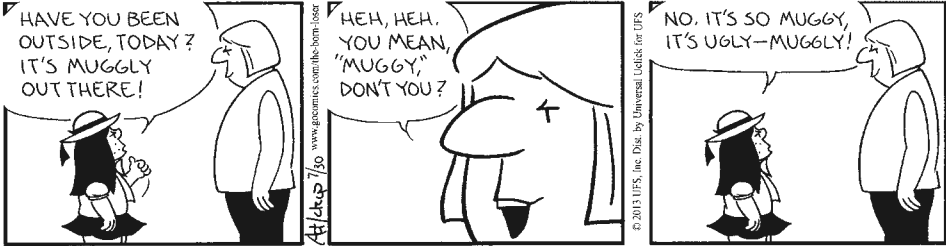
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Store Countertops Are No Place For Dirty Toddlers

DEAR ABBY: I work in the print center of an office supply store. Often when parents of small children come in to get copies made, they'll sit their babies/toddlers on the counter while we discuss their needs. Sometimes these children have dirty diapers.

While I am not a parent, I do understand that small children have a tendency to run off or otherwise misbehave if they are left standing. But sitting children on the counter strikes me as unsanitary and unsafe.

Would it be appropriate to ask these parents to remove their children from the counter? Because my workplace is geared toward satisfying the customer, I worry about offending a customer and displeasing management. I haven't said anything so far, but this is really getting to me. — DISGUSTED IN OHIO

DEAR DISGUSTED: After reading your letter, I confess that my first impulse was to gag. The idea of a child in a soiled diaper sitting on a counter in a place of business is, indeed, disgusting. You would be doing your employer a favor to suggest that if a child should fall off the counter, there could be liability involved.

Tell the customer that for the child's safety to please remove him/her from the counter. And if the child has a dirty diaper, make sure you have a large supply of sanitary wipes on hand so staff and customers will be protected from the bacteria.

DEAR ABBY: After years of enduring overdraft charges and dodging bill collectors, I have finally gotten my financial house in order. I pay all of my bills, and I pay them on time. However, I have very little money left over at the end of the week.

Many of my friends have two-income households or use credit cards when they go out to eat or to the movies, which is often. I want them to know that because I decline their invitations does not mean I'm anti-so-

cial — I just can't afford it. I have said so at times, but I hate to be a broken record.

Friends: PLEASE know that I appreciate being invited, but don't be offended when I am unable to join you. — ON TRACK BUT STILL BROKE IN MAINE

DEAR ON TRACK: I congratulate you for straightening out your finances. It's not always easy to do, and breaking ingrained habits can be a challenge.

The next step in your "recovery" is to KEEP reminding your free-spending friends that while you'd like to join them, you are not always able to do so. If you repeat it often enough, eventually they will get the message. It would be better if they hear it directly from you rather than read it in my column.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbors borrow my lawnmower every summer to mow their lawns. It broke down, and I had to purchase a new one.

The dealer told me not to loan it to anyone because they pushed the old one over sticks and stones and destroyed the blades. How do I tell them to buy their

own mowers? My new one is expensive. — AGAINST MOWER-MOOCHERS

DEAR A.M.-M.: Here's how: Keep uppermost in your mind that it is perfectly all right to advocate for yourself. Then tell your mower-mooching neighbors that after what happened to the last one, you are no longer loaning your mower to anyone.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Leo and a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2013:

This year you have a very positive outlook that promotes success in your endeavors. Not only will you see your immediate circle expand, but you also will see a long-term wish come to fulfillment. If you are single, you'll meet many new people. Somewhere among them lies the person who will introduce you to your next sweetie. If you are attached, the two of you experience a greater sense of connection. There could be some very intense and intimate moments. TAURUS is equally as stubborn as you.

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)

★★★ Be aware of what is happening with your finances and with any agreements you make that concern you and your skills. Initially, someone might seem very generous, but as time goes on, you'll see that this person's offer is not what you thought it was. Tonight: Catch up on news.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You have a strong sense of what works. Do not hesitate to use your charm and skills. Listen to news with an open ear, and be aware of your limits regarding what you should communicate to others. At times, the less said the better. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Know when to back away from a volatile situation. You could be taken aback by the strong words you want to say, which is a good reason to distance yourself. You can verbalize the same phrase in a calmer manner later, if you feel it is appropriate. Tonight: Do your own thing.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You'll opt for a new idea or try a new suggestion that seems like a sure-bet winner. Stay in touch with someone you consider a dear friend, but be smart -- don't make a close loved one jealous of this friendship. A meeting proves important. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You clearly need to take the lead in an important matter. Others naturally will follow you, even if you veer off the chosen course. You know what you are doing, and you'll clearly communi-

cate that fact in your words and body language. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll want to focus on the long term. You are someone who specializes in details, and you have a tendency to get caught up in the here and now. Make an effort to detach and see a situation from other perspectives. Tonight: Get into the good times and put on a favorite CD.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You'll discover the need for more one-on-one conversations, especially with someone who can impact your life profoundly. You will feel better when you know that you are on the same page. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation, but do not share this information with anyone.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You like to have control, but others continue to dominate. Let it be. You will have your turn when the time is right. You can't push someone -- you need to wait for him or her to focus. However, this just might be the last day you need to wait. Tonight: Your turn to choose.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might not look forward to carrying out all the tasks that lie ahead of you, but know that you will do an excellent job. A conversation with a partner or an associate will allow both of you to find some middle ground, as you might not agree on a key matter. Tonight: Put up your feet.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Your ingenuity once more will save the day and leave everyone smiling and wanting more. You could feel as if you need to make a change of sorts and head in a new direction. You will turn on the charm and coax others to agree with you. Tonight: How about some good times?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ There is a chance that you will be in the midst of a different type of energy. You could find someone unusually demanding and their desires stressful. You have choices to make, but you will put them on hold until you are more clear-headed. Tonight: Settle in at home and relax.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ How you say what you think and the answers you give could be more important than you realize. You might decide that a project involving several people needs to be revised at its core. You need to be gentle when giving your assessment. Tonight: Get together with friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

