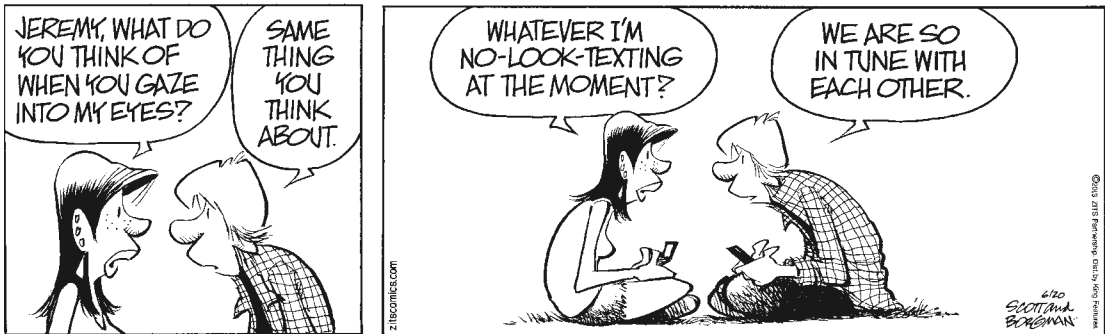


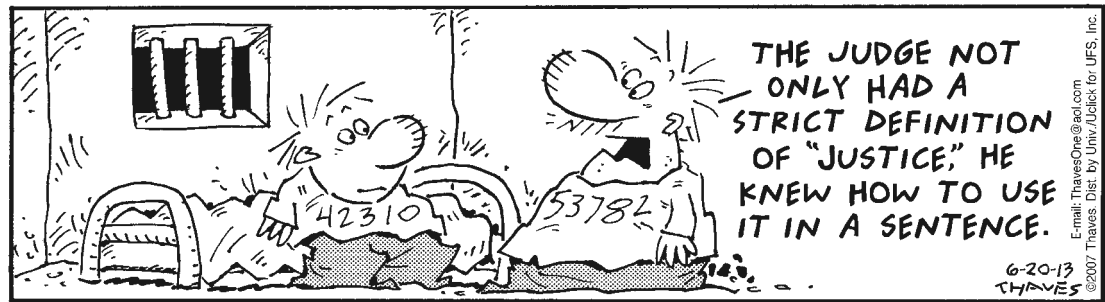
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



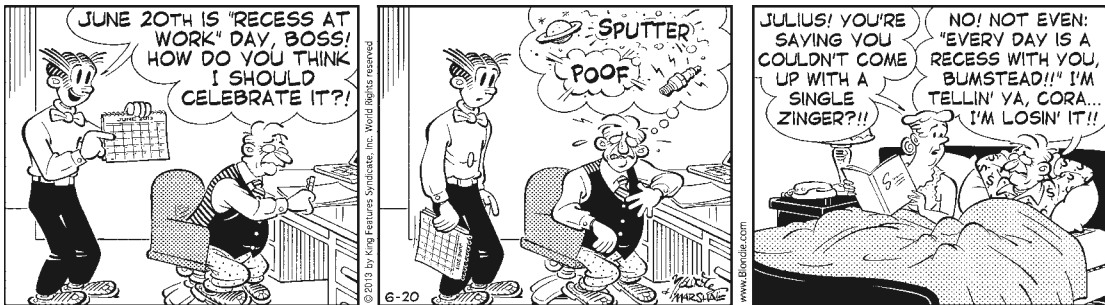
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



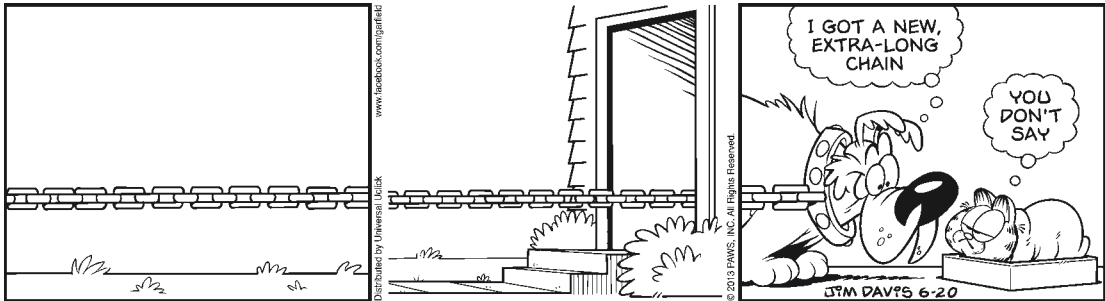
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



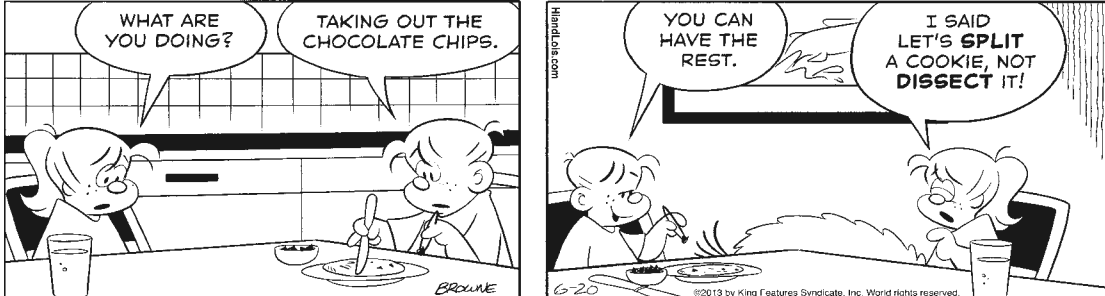
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Moom Should Keep Kids Away from Their Gun-Toting Grandpa

DEAR ABBY: The letter you printed from “Gun-Shy in South Carolina” (March 5), about the antics of her gun-toting, alcoholic father-in-law, caught my attention. I’m a former mental health clinician and program inspector. I discussed that letter with a friend who is a psychiatrist.

“Grandpa” has probably already violated a municipal ordinance regarding discharging a firearm in corporate limits. I agree with you that he has endangered his grandchildren. My friend advised that, according to the local interpretation of mental health statutes, Grandpa might be eligible for involuntary commitment and evaluation in a psychiatric facility. He could be disarmed by the police, if necessary.

“Gun-Shy” should heed her motherly instincts, stay home and refuse to visit Grandpa until he enters treatment. Otherwise there’s a high probability that she will mourn the loss of one or more dead children.

Grandpa seems to think that booze and guns make him brave. A brave person is a military medic, a member of the U.S. Coast Guard and the thousands of first responders who demonstrate their bravery by saving human lives, not threatening them. In fact, many Medal of Honor recipients earn the award not by the number of enemies killed, but lives saved. — RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR RESPONSIBLE: I agree. Some readers felt I should have been tougher in my response, and that Gun-Shy and her children should not visit Grandpa at all. Failure to act on her fears is called child endangerment and could result in the children being taken away. Readers let me have it with both barrels:

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to “Gun-Shy” was off the mark! As a vet and former law enforcement offi-

cer, I think the whole family is in “wimp” mode. For adults to watch a drunk adult fire a gun in the air around his family and not call 911 was ignorant and dangerous. ALL states have laws about firing guns

in the air (illegal), firing guns while drunk (illegal), unsecured loaded weapons (illegal), and firing guns around children in a home environment (illegal). That jerk should have been arrested! — SMOKEY IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for reminding your readers that when someone shoots a gun into the air, the bullet comes down somewhere. A child near my hometown died last New Year’s Eve when she stepped outside with her grandmother to watch the fireworks and a bullet fell to earth and lodged in her brain. The police believe the gun may have been fired from a few miles away. — CHRISTINA IN MARYLAND

DEAR ABBY: Why didn’t you suggest a family intervention for the grandfather’s alcoholism? The family could be helped by going to Al-Anon to learn how to detach with love from his disease. Alcoholics need to understand how their drinking affects them and others. Possible estrangement

from his grandchildren might be a way to break through his denial. — STEVE C. IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: My friend Michelle died last July Fourth. She was killed because someone fired a gun into the air. She was beautiful, talented and left behind a fiancé, a mother, a sister and many friends. She was receiving her Ph.D., was a brilliant researcher for the CDC and had just picked up her wedding gown. She was the victim of a senseless act caused by someone’s carelessness. — MARSHA IN MICHIGAN



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

■ Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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 Gemini and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013:

This year you have a glib quality that creates a great deal of flow for you. Your verbal command of language defines your success. You will be unusually fortunate this year. In the next month, you will christen a new 12-year luck cycle. The first year often is considered the best. If you are single, you could meet someone significant in the next few months who becomes important to your life history. If you are attached, this year could mark a new beginning for you as a couple. **SCORPIO** finds you intriguing but odd.

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)

***** Others will get your message loud and clear. For the most part, you should expect to hear an open, unfiltered response. Your kindness and willingness to let another eccentric person express him- or herself will be greatly appreciated. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 29)

***** Others will be testing their limits. You might not be sure which way to head. Understanding evolves quickly if you deflect others' energy and force those around you to take responsibility. Your clarity in a discussion helps. Tonight: Start making weekend plans.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** Your playful nature attracts many people, yet others might really misunderstand where you are coming from. Know your limits with people, and recognize what is needed to proceed. Open up to new possibilities that are presented by a loved one. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

***** Your creativity seems endless to many people. You'll hear news in a more open manner than usual; however, sometimes you can't help but close down. Honor your unusual ingenuity, and toss it into the mix. You could be surprised by what you hear. Tonight: Ever full of fun.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

*** You might encounter more obstacles than usual. Perhaps you are more sensitive right now. Initiate a conversation with a close family member. Understand

what this person expects, then make a decision about whether you want to fulfill his or her desires. Tonight: Mosey on home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

**** Keep a conversation moving. Be willing to let your guard down and put all your cards on the table. The conversation that ensues will allow greater give-and-take. Know what you expect from someone else. Are there any boundaries being crossed? Tonight: Chat up a storm.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

*** Honor your limits, as you might not want to get mixed up in a financial situation. You know how to say "no." It is important to let others know where you stand and how you feel. Listen to your instincts regarding an emotional situation. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner and a movie.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

***** Do not hesitate to express your feelings. Others naturally will focus on what you have to say. Evaluate what is happening beyond the obvious. Address any issues you encounter. Share a special event with a dear friend. Tonight: Demonstrate that the world really is your oyster.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

*** Know when to call it a day. You could get easily exhausted or perhaps even aggravated by someone who is fundamental to your life history. Let this person take the lead. You will be able to work through a problem at a later date. Indulge yourself. Tonight: Whatever works.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

***** A friend might reach out to you. Could this person have strong feelings about you? You will want to detach in order to see what is going on with him or her. Be careful, especially if you do not feel the same. You do not want to lead this individual on. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

*** Don't let someone ruin your day by giving too much power to his or her statement. Avoid playing his or her words over and over again in your mind. You will gain a new perspective in a conversation with a friend. Be sure not to take this for granted. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

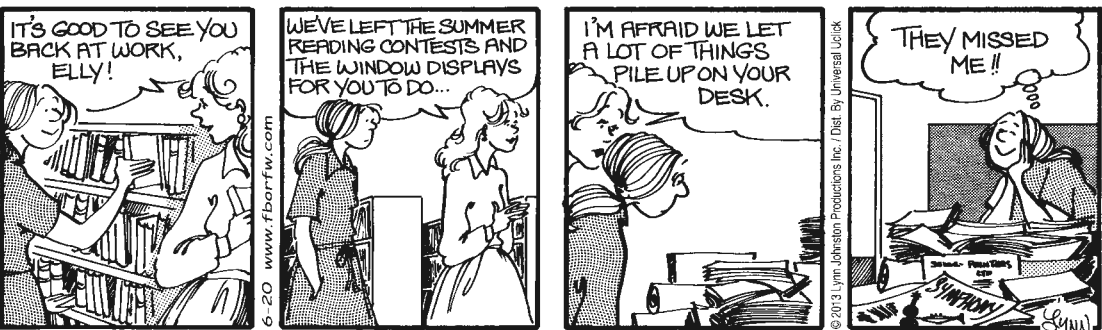
**** Listen to a friend's perspective. Someone at a distance often serves as a trusted adviser. Seek this person out in order to get feedback on what appears to be a touchy issue. A child or loved one expresses his or her feelings in an unthreatening way. Tonight: Let romance in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

