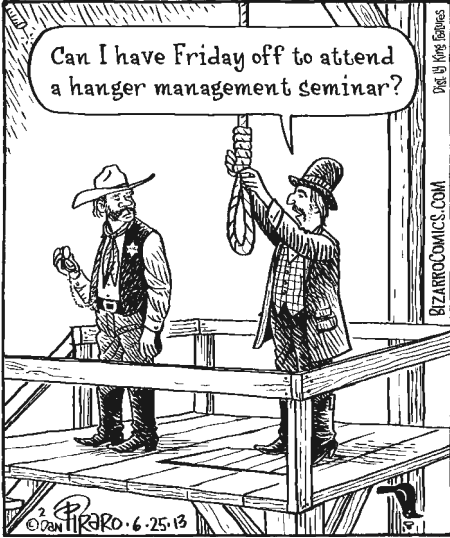


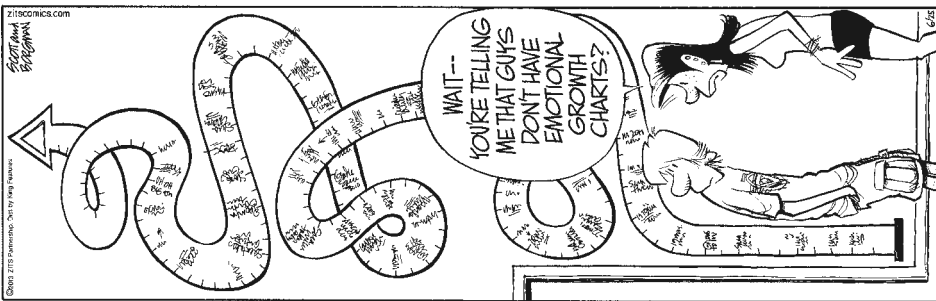
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



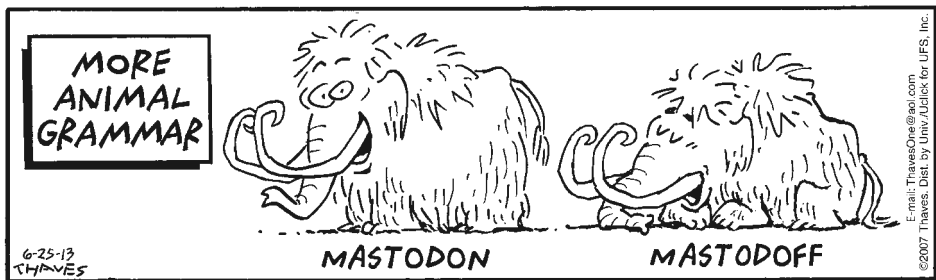
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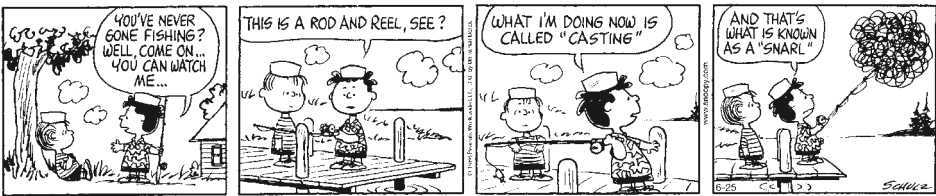
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



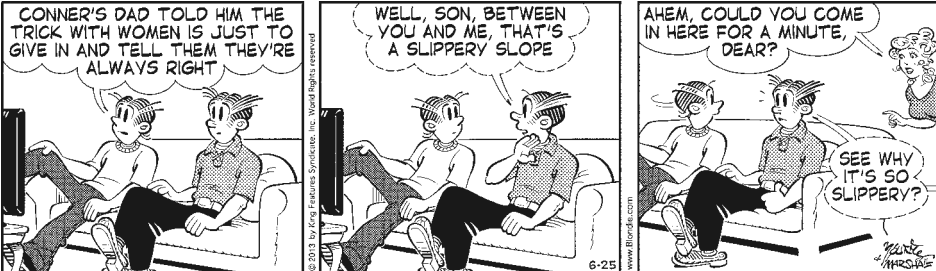
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



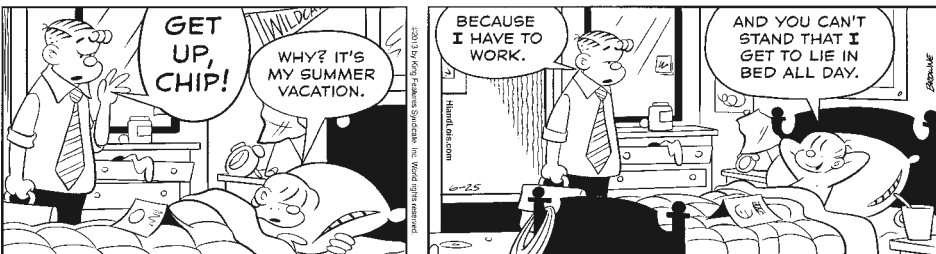
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Fear Of Losing His Beloved Pet Keeps Man Up At Night

DEAR ABBY: I have written to you before, and your advice served me well. I have another problem now, and I don't know what to do about it.

I am a childless man, but I have owned my dog for 12 years. I work from home and we are together constantly. Honestly, Abby, he is the joy of my life.

My problem is I live in constant fear of losing him. I know it will break my heart, and I'm not sure I can deal with it. At night, when I rub his belly at bedtime and see the love in his eyes, I can't sleep for thinking about the day when he will no longer be with me.

I know he's "just a dog," but he has been my kid for all this time. Do you have any advice for me? — AFRAID OF THE LOSS

DEAR AFRAID: I understand your feelings. I doubt there is any pet owner who hasn't had one special departed pet who lives on forever in his or her heart.

My advice to you is to not spoil one more precious second you have with your dog by worrying about what will eventually happen. You knew going in that your dog would have a certain life span. That's the "deal" we make when we become animal guardians.

When the time comes, talk to your veterinarian about support groups in which you can share your feelings. And don't be surprised when you find out you are one of many.

DEAR ABBY: I have this co-worker, "Sam," who is no longer performing 100 percent at work. It started shortly after he moved out of town and he was forced to start commuting. Sam complains a lot about the commute because he doesn't allow enough time for it and he ends up being late to work.

Lately I have noticed that he has also started to slack off on his daily tasks. He'll sit down, prepare to do something, then get up and disappear for 20 to 25 minutes. He'll come back for a few minutes, then disappear again. I don't know where he's going. All I

know is we generally have to pick up the slack when he gets to the end of his shift and realizes he hasn't accomplished everything.

Is this something I should report to my managers? I feel it's unfair that Sam gets paid for the same amount of time that I do, while I'm doing my work at full capacity and he's putting in less than half. — FRUSTRATED CO-WORKER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FRUSTRATED: If it won't have a negative impact on your job ratings, you and the others on your shift should stop picking up the slack for Sam. It will then become apparent to your managers that he's not doing his share, and he will cook his own goose.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 11, I lived with my dad and stepmom. My 14-year-old brother lived with our grandparents in another town, but they would visit every couple of months.

After one visit, as they were leaving, my grandmother said, "Come here and give your brother a kiss and tell him you love him." My brother and I looked at each other and, in typical kid fashion,

said, "YUCK!!" Abby, I never saw my brother again. He died the next week from a congenital brain aneurism.

It taught me a lesson. The words we say to our loved ones should be sweet, because they may be the last words from us they will ever hear. My brother died 55 years ago and I miss him still. — STILL MISSING HIM

DEAR STILL MISSING HIM: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. The life lesson you learned from your brother's untimely death was an important one. I am sorry it is one you had to learn at such a tender age.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Cancer and a Moon in Capricorn if born before 12:26 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013:

This year you have many exciting options appear, yet a sense of negativity might come forward. You will need to pinch yourself in order to believe your good fortune with some of the events that occur. You start a new 12-year life cycle, and you will feel and see the difference. If you are single and want to change your status, you will meet someone appropriate. If you are attached, what would make your bond more perfect? Know that whatever it is could happen. AQUARIUS is challenging, but he or she is a good friend.

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)

★★★★ Someone whom you deal with regularly could be out of sorts. Steer clear of this person for now. In the meantime, focus your attention on what counts for you. Check out a real-estate investment in the next few weeks. Tonight: Hang out with friends at a favorite place.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Defer to a boss who has a strong vision of what he or she wants. In fact, the more responsibility this person has, the happier he or she will be. Weigh the pros and cons of a new purchase, whether it is a car or something involving communication. Tonight: Speak your mind.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You will be more willing to venture out than you have been in years. Consider your options carefully regarding a financial matter. You might want to talk to someone who knows more than you do about this. You could be overly optimistic! Tonight: Follow the music.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Jupiter enters your sign today. This transition brings you good luck, and it also marks the beginning of a new life cycle. Use it well. Right now, a discussion with a partner or close friend has a unique intensity. Listen carefully and revise your plans if need be. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are the center of attention, until you have to bend to keep the

peace. In any case, the cards are not stacked in your favor. Avoid taking any risks. News from someone at a distance could leave you wide-eyed. Tonight: Enjoy the moment with friends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on priorities in your day-to-day life. You might have a lot of energy that's being focused on organizing and making your life easier. Do not cancel an appointment. Some good fortune will stem from it -- maybe not immediately, but soon. Tonight: Hang with friends.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Taming your imagination will help you funnel your creativity appropriately. You know the virtues of finding solutions and showing compassion to others. Losing your temper won't help. A misunderstanding does not need to go any further. Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You'll want to rethink a tension-driven reaction. You might not want to think through the issue, but it would benefit you to do so. If nothing else, try to look at the situation from other people's point of view. A change in perspective will help you. Tonight: Entertain from home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You will be more open with someone -- a partner or loved one -- than you have been in the past. This person will become more transparent as a result. With gentleness and care, this relationship could open up. Tonight: Visit with friends, but first check in with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You'll feel more comfortable relating to others. What had been a problem in the past will be resolved easily. You might have more choices than you realize. Be sensitive to others in a discussion. Know what you want -- do not play around. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You need to understand what is happening around you. Observation helps. In the next few weeks, you might notice that you'll have more energy than you have had for a while. This news will make you smile, as you could have more to do every day. Tonight: Do your own thing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Allow your imagination to lead the way. A loved one might delight in your humor and light-heartedness. You will see a situation from a different perspective as you learn what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. Tonight: You might want to vanish with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

