

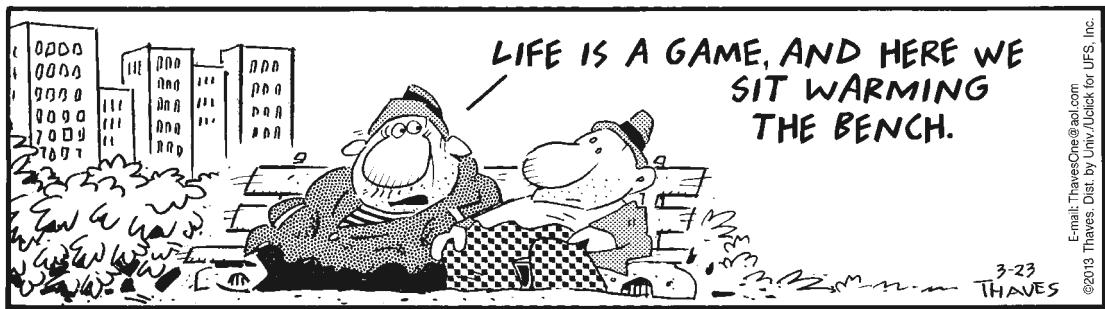
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



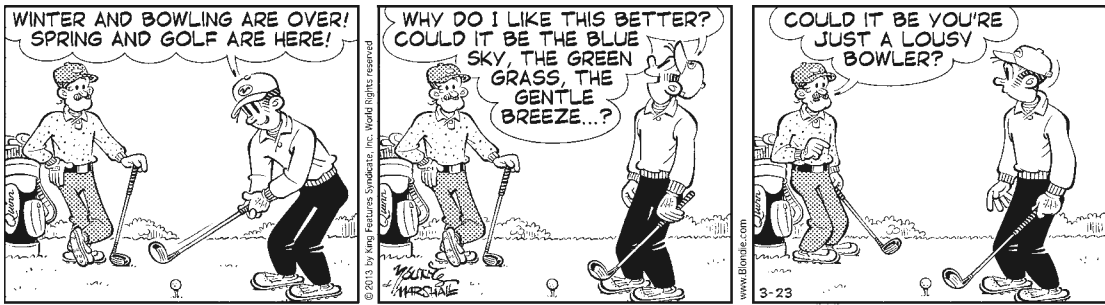
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



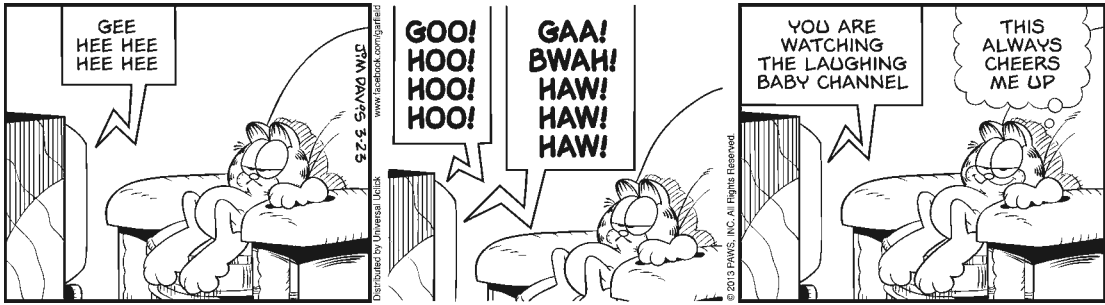
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



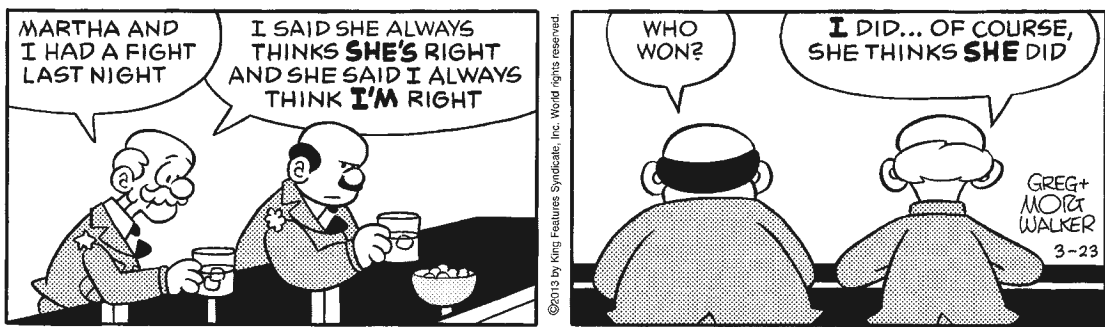
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



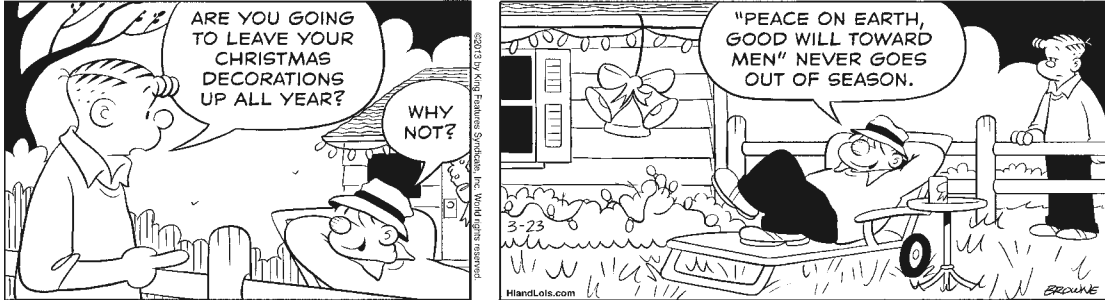
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Minister's Daughter Cloisters Herself In Boyfriend's Room

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son, "Mark," lives at home, has a full-time job and dates a girl, "Julia," who is a minister's daughter. He keeps bringing her to our home on occasions when she's "sick" or needs to catch an early flight and he needs to drive her to the airport. They are seeing only each other.

Julia is in pre-med and Mark thinks she's wonderful and smart. Abby, when she's here, she holes up in his room and never comes out. She's as quiet as a mouse. I am boisterous, and I get the feeling I turn her off.

The last time she stayed over was before an out-of-state interview Mark was driving her to. Abby, she never even said hello or goodbye. He made her breakfast in bed, and they sat there laughing and eating with the door shut.

When she visits she stays down in our den and ignores the rest of us the entire time, as does Mark. After the holidays, she left without wishing us "Happy Holidays" or even giving us a card. I had a present for her, but didn't give it to her because I decided I wouldn't go out of my way for a person who ignores me.

I want my son to move out. I do not want this girl sleeping over or staying under my roof anymore. I don't like her. What should I do? My mother says I should put my foot down and send my grown son out the door. She says I need to grow a spine, but I'm afraid! — MAMA IN OHIO

DEAR MAMA: You are dealing with two separate issues. Your son is seriously involved with a girl who either never learned basic good manners or who may be pathologically shy. You and your husband should talk privately with Mark and find out exactly what her problem is. You also need to establish some ground rules for when she visits, so you don't feel shut out under your own roof.

Adult "children" live with their parents for various

reasons. Some can't afford to live independently; others are trying to save money to buy a home of their own. I don't know Mark's reason and neither will you if you don't address this with him.

Your mother may be right. It may be time for him to move. But what concerns me about what has been going on is the lack of communication and a certain lack of respect. And nothing will change unless you and your husband insist upon it.

DEAR ABBY: This year my school started an international program, so we have students from around the world who attend school with us. I'd like to learn about their countries and invite them to the youth group I attend, but I'm nervous about talking to them and don't think I could work up the nerve. I'm also worried about what they will think of me. What should I say and do? — APPREHENSIVE IN INDIANA

DEAR APPREHENSIVE: Please don't be afraid to reach out. Put yourself in those students' shoes. If you were in a strange school in a foreign country, wouldn't you be glad if someone approached you and introduced himself or herself and invited you to an activity, or to their home for dinner? All you need to do is smile and say, "Hi, I'm —." If you

do, you could start a lifelong friendship and expand your horizons further than you could ever dream.

DEAR ABBY: Is it acceptable for one adult to correct another's English unless asked to do so?

My sister does it frequently, and I want to know if it's rude so I don't make the same blunder. — GRAMMATICALLY YOURS IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR GRAMMATICALLY YOURS: It isn't rude if it is done tactfully, in private and in the spirit of being helpful. If it's done as a form of one-upmanship, it is obnoxious.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

## 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 Aries and a Moon in Leo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013:

This year you are energized and full of fun. You also have a strong sense of what your destiny is. You know what you want, and you will meet your goals by tapping into your assertiveness. No one can get in your way. If you are single, many potential suitors will come forward. Understand that you don't need to choose any of them -- just enjoy the process. If you are attached, you will have fun together when out and about. Be sure to maintain a sense of humor. LEO loves to challenge 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)

★★★★ Others count on you to make a difference. You'll come up with plans that will allow people to express themselves. Your sense of humor comes across, which helps others clear up their issues. You know your priorities and goals. Tonight: Expect to be in demand.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You love to relax at home. Your sense of how things should be done comes through when throwing a party or other type of social event. You smile, and others do as well. A loved one could be testy, but you'll help him or her get past a problem. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Partake in the old art of swapping jokes. Start sharing more, and others will respond in kind. Keep asking a shy person questions about his or her life. Conversations will flow more easily with this type of communication. Your efforts count. Tonight: Factor in some flirtation.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You indulge others with your generous nature, but you don't have to buy others' affection. You have a lot to offer. Vary your expressions of caring. Don't forget to indulge yourself a little and buy a spring outfit or two for your wardrobe. Tonight: Let go, and paint the town red.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You draw many people toward you. Listen to news more openly. Someone you care about knows how

to get your attention. Let this person infuse more excitement into your plans. Squeeze in some thinking time, and know full well which way you want to go. Tonight: Frolic.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll relate to a partner directly in order to understand his or her bottom line. In this conversation, a mutual understanding will develop that will allow you to grow. A questionable option comes forward; trust that you will make the correct decision. Tonight: Togetherness.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, and you could gain a better sense of your immediate circle. Where you believed there was a mutual understanding, you might discover the opposite is true. You will experience the excitement of a new beginning. Tonight: Go to a spontaneous gathering.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Toss yourself into a fun project, but understand when you have had enough. Someone quite close to you might express intense compassion through his or her actions. You could be tempted to let go of prior plans. Know when to follow through. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your file cabinet of possibilities needs some updating. The status quo is subject to change, and you would rather have it occur randomly than be the one who has to decide what area of your life needs modernizing. Gain control by accepting responsibility. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You will enjoy spending the day with a special person in your life. The more you do this, the stronger your bond will be. Together, you will feed off each other's energy and share ideas in order to help each other in any way possible. Tonight: Add some spice to the night.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You will enjoy the cast of characters in your life. Feel free to ask for a break, or try to do something by yourself. You will have a lot to reflect on. One person appeals to you much more than others do. Make your decision accordingly. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You know how to spice up the moment, and you will do just that. Someone comes forward who wants your advice. You might recognize that there could be much more of a relationship than what exists between you. Open up a discussion. Tonight: Dinner for two.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

