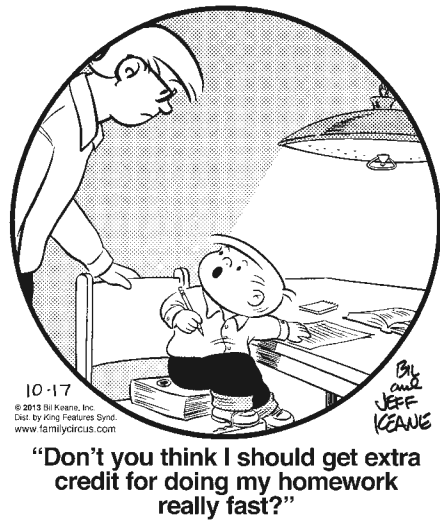
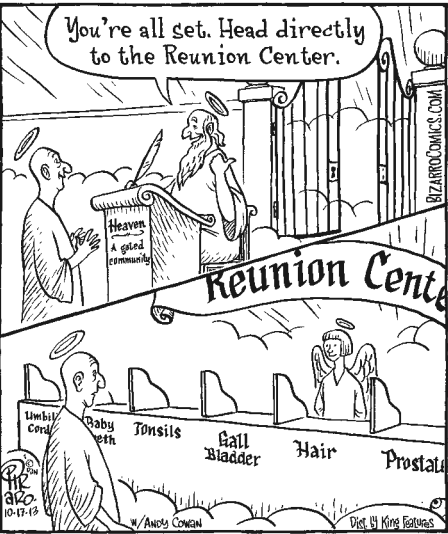


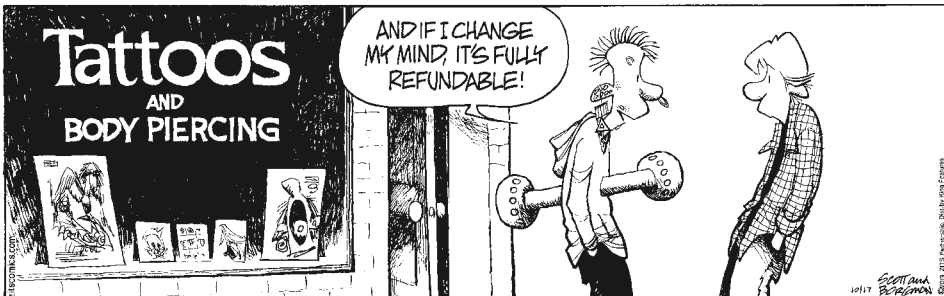
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



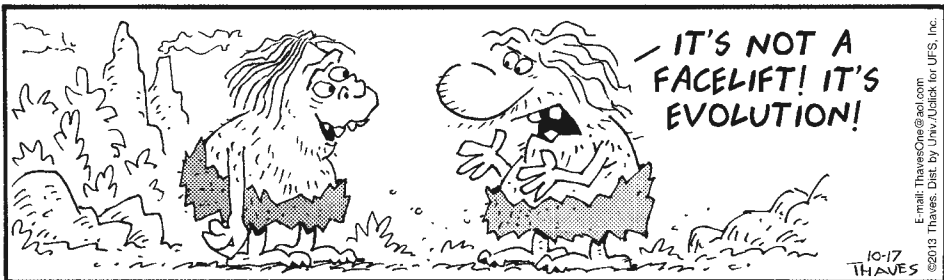
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



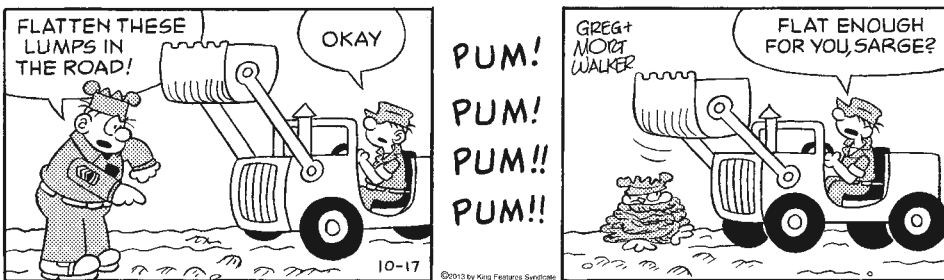
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



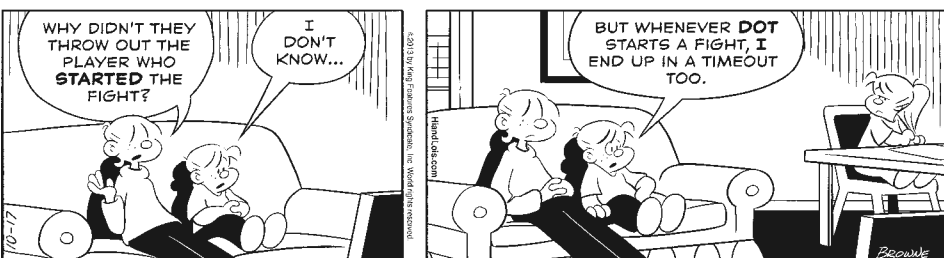
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Only Time Can Truly Heal Pain Of Losing Beloved Pets

DEAR ABBY: You gave some nice advice to "Afraid of the Loss" (June 25), who wrote concerning the impending death of a beloved pet. I think your suggestion of a support group is helpful, but having lost a pet I had for 16 years, I have experienced the deep pain this man will feel.

Adding a second pet to his home while his pet is still alive often energizes an older pet. When the time comes, it will help the human to have another loving pet to help with the grieving.

As I learned, only time was able to take the deep hurt to a place where I could think of him without tears. Keeping the ashes of a pet can be comforting, whether you choose to bury them later or tuck them away in your home.

Most important is having a plan for when that moment comes so you automatically know what needs to be done. It really helped to have all the details of his final moments thought out so I felt in control.

I wouldn't have missed the love of my dog even knowing the pain that has to come in the end. It's something that should be on everyone's bucket list. — CATHY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CATHY: My thanks to you and all the readers who sent heartfelt letters supporting "Afraid." It's easy to see why dogs are called man's best friend because of all the love, affection, entertainment and companionship they give us, and why we only want the best for them in this life and after. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your pet is your child. Anyone who doesn't understand that isn't worth worrying about when the loss occurs. Will it hurt? Of course. But the pain does ease in time.

When my first dog died, I spoke with a grief counselor at the local veterinary college. It didn't make my pain disappear, but it helped me to understand it more. Your pet does not live in the future, but in the moment. Enjoy every moment you have together and accept the unconditional love

your pet has given you. You WILL get through it. — DEB IN BELMONT, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: Having shared the love of many pets over the years, I have found that dealing with the loss of our furry friends never gets easier, no matter how many times you go through it. I just reflect on all the cherished

times I shared with them, and I know I did my best to make their lives grand. I know I'm better off for having shared their company.

Having rescued all of my past and current pets from shelters, I saved them from an uncertain life. I gave them a loving home with affection, stability and a warm bed. While they all leave us at some point, their memory lives on in our hearts.

I think Irving Townsend said it best: "We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we would still live no other way. We cherish memory as the only certain immortality, never fully understanding the necessary plan." — FOUR PAWS FATHER

DEAR ABBY: "Afraid of the Loss" is not alone. Anyone who has known the love of a dog knows the fear of losing that unmatched companionship.

When my dog was reaching the end of his lifespan, a fellow dog-lover advised me to get a puppy. I'm passing her advice along to "Afraid." Get a puppy or go to the shelter and adopt a dog — any dog. You will save the dog, and the dog will save you right back. — MONIQUE IN TEXAS

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 Libra and a Moon in Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 2013:

This year you will be heard, and others will respond to your messages. Come summer 2014, you will start noticing that your life works in a most unprecedented way. If you are single, you could have difficulty separating one admirer from the next. Make no commitments yet. If you are attached, your sweetie is likely to be unusually dominant. Know that this need to be a strong force in the relationship might die down once you give him or her some space. You certainly realize that you can't control anyone but yourself. ARIES is full of surprises!

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)

★★★★ You could push someone into doing what you want, but it would be even better if the choice came from this person him- or herself. Even if the first reaction is not what you want, give it time to be processed. You might be surprised by what happens. Tonight: Expect the unexpected.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You will want to rethink a personal matter and work on visualizing a positive change. Understand that you might not get immediate results, but you will gain an insight that will help fulfill your desires. Let more romance in. Tonight: Not to be found.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Emphasize what is possible, as opposed to what you believe you can do, especially if there is a schism between the two. Be ready to change plans at the very last minute. Always visualize the end result, and you will discover that your path is easier. Tonight: Join friends.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be in a leadership position and not want it. Think carefully before you throw away your crown and free yourself of those responsibilities. A change could occur that you might think you'll like. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

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

★★★★ A call from a friend who is often full of mischief will make you smile. Call this person if he or she does not call you first. Being with this indi-

vidual gives you a new perspective on life. The two of you have a grand old time, no matter what you do. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

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

★★★★ A partner or an associate knows what he or she wants or needs, and won't hesitate to let you know what that is. You could feel pressured and/or cornered. Your reaction might be very different from your normal response, which will shock this person. Tonight: Just be yourself.

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

★★★★ Approach an important person in your life without using manipulation. Even if he or she is difficult, the results could be excellent in the long run. Touch base with your inner feelings. Anger could be closer to the surface than you think. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

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

★★★★ Listen to news openly. You might make some radical changes to your schedule or health program that will have long-term implications. Be sure that you are ready for this transformation. Check in with a doctor before doing anything drastic. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

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

★★★★ No one can stop your creativity from flowing. It's as if it is a part of your body. Your ingenuity peaks, and your imagination goes wild. Keep a notebook beside you to jot down some of your better ideas. Tonight: Go for something naughty.

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

★★★ You could be in a position of giving the OK on a major change. Once you give the go-ahead, it won't be possible to revert back to this point in time. Of course, you need to take risks in order to make your life dynamic. Weigh the pros and cons carefully. Tonight: Order in.

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

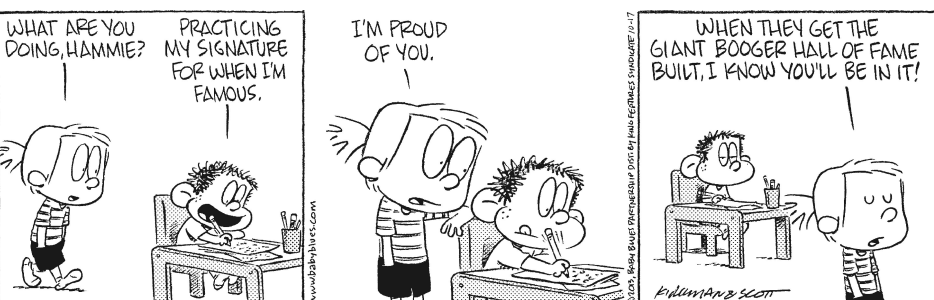
★★★★ You are likely to say what you think, regardless of the outcome. You'll get a surprise when someone decides to react. You could be more set on your preference not to change course than you realize. You might not have a choice right now. Tonight: Hop on the Ferris wheel of life.

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

★★★★ Be aware of the cost of continuing on your present path. You might be very uncomfortable with a decision, but you won't want to change courses. Count on the unexpected wreaking havoc and the situation rectifying itself. Tonight: Treat a loved one to munchies and a drink.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

