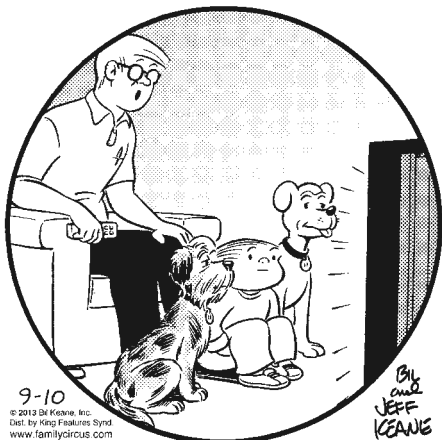
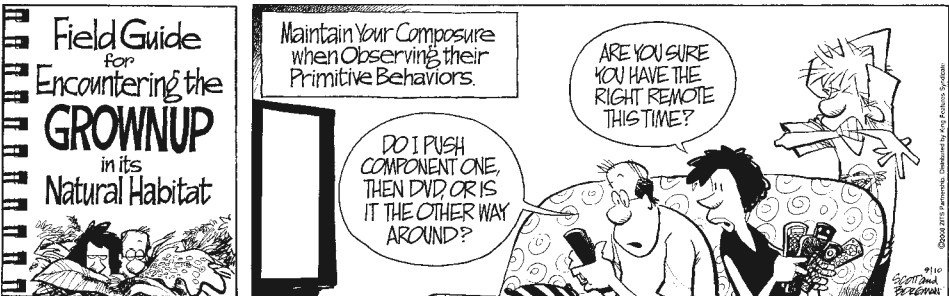


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



9-10
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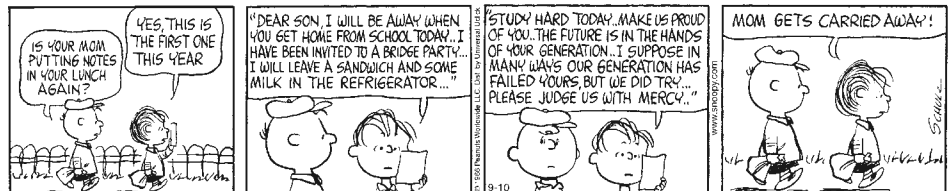
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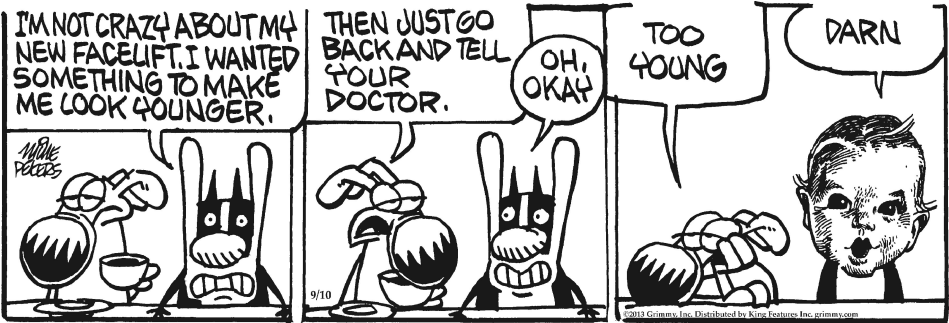
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



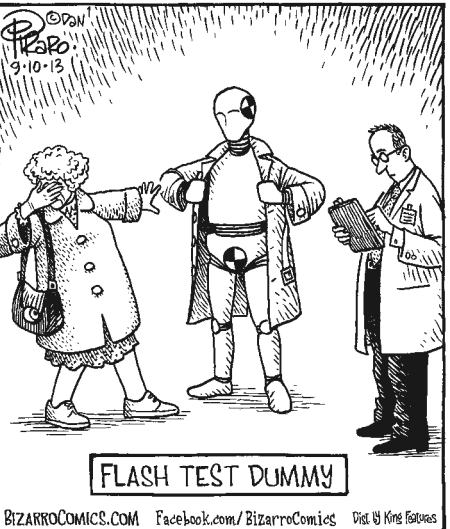
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Couple Wanting Private Time Must Stand Up To Sulking Mom

DEAR ABBY: I am a 75-year-old man who lives in a gated community. For the last eight months I have been seeing a woman who lives nearby. We are starting to fall in love.

Our problem is her 95-year-old mother, who lives with her. Her mom is pretty healthy and has some money, but she's scared to be left alone. Because of this, my lady and I have difficulty finding private time.

We get out for short periods, but we'd like to go away for a weekend together. If we suggest it, Mom makes a stink and gets nasty with her daughter. We have tried talking with her about it, but she refuses, sulks and won't talk for days.

She's suffering from slight dementia, but gets around OK with a walker. Mom claims she doesn't want or need a "grandma sitter." She wants only her daughter to take care of her and be with her. Any help would be appreciated. — COURTING TROUBLE IN ARIZONA

DEAR COURTING: If your lady friend wants to have any life of her own, she will have to stiffen her spine and deal with Mama. This includes not allowing her mother's sulking to prevent the two of you from having an occasional weekend together.

She should contact assisted-living facilities in the area and find out if they will accept guests for short stays of only a few days or a week. If the answer is yes, Mama should be offered a choice: Either someone comes to stay with her while you're gone, a friend perhaps, or she will have to stay elsewhere because being alone is not an option.

DEAR ABBY: My brother died earlier this year due to an overdose. His wife and one of my sisters lived with him. They also gave him the drugs that caused his death.

Abby, they are treating Mom, my husband and me like dirt. Mom had no say in the fu-

neral at all. You would think that since she was the mother, the wife would have included her. They have been having parties ever since the funeral and spending the money left and right, while not paying the mortgage on the house.

They have turned my other sister against us, blocked us on social media and cut us off completely. They also turned another part of the family against us. I know it involves drug abuse on the part of all of them. We didn't do anything to them other than bring forth evidence of what they did and confront them.

I have no idea how to trust or to build a relationship with them again if they ever decide to come back into our lives. It's painful to deal with a death, and then more trials on top of that. Any advice? — BROKENHEARTED IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: I'm sorry for your loss, but please recognize that when relatives are as dysfunctional as yours, it's safer for you, your husband and your mother to MOVE ON. And if they do decide to come back into your lives, for the sake of your sanity, run the other way.

DEAR ABBY: Are there any letters or topics you won't touch with a 10-foot pole? — JUST WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: None come to mind. At one point or another, this column has addressed darn near everything and may have offended almost everyone.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Virgo and a Moon in Scorpio if born before 11:38 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 10, 2013:

This year you are amazingly lucky. You have the self-discipline and the instinct to move quickly when opportunity strikes. You work on a totally intuitive level during these periods. As a result, you succeed. If you are single, the person you choose might have a strong, domineering personality, yet become easygoing when necessary. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy sharing and chatting with each other more than ever. Expect some very intense and meaningful moments. CANCER seems easy and relaxed with his or her feelings.

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 will continue your recent success in dealing with people differently. You have become more open and less judgmental. Sit back and be a good listener. Catch up on someone's news. You and that person will develop a new bond quickly. Tonight: With a favorite person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your ability to get past obstacles will be tested, perhaps by a partner who is controlling. Your best bet is not to get caught up in this person's power plays. You might discover that you are on the receiving end of many calls and invitations. Tonight: Let others do the work.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You will be energized by a bonus or someone's approval of your ability to get through your work as soon as possible. New beginnings will blossom quickly. Tune in to the logical side of your personality and think through a decision. Follow your intuition. Tonight: In work mode.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your imagination goes wild today. Though you might be able to use some of your ideas, several of your other concepts might be harder to implement. Still, write them down. You never know when they could become useful. Tonight: Meet up with a favorite loved one.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your instincts will enable you to follow through on an important matter that could affect your personal life. You might feel insecure, espe-

cially if finances are involved. You are building a security net for yourself and for your intimate circle. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You'll say the right words and move in the right direction. You might wonder why something that seemed appropriate is no longer working. A friend could let you know that even though you are right, your timing seems to be off. Remain patient. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Once more, acting a certain way because you feel less than great will work on some level, as others will want to reach out and lend you a hand. Getting to the bottom of why you feel vulnerable might be worthwhile, even if it's not easy. Tonight: Treat yourself to what you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Your sixth sense will be on target, especially right now. Listen to your instincts, and follow through on what you need to get done. Understanding will evolve to a new level once you see the responses of those involved. Tonight: Let your imagination lead the way.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You'll have a strong sense that you could be barking up the wrong tree, especially when observing an associate's response. Encourage this person to take the lead so that you can take a step back and stay out of trouble. No knee-jerk responses! Tonight: Have an open chat.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Focus on friendship and a long-term commitment. You can have both -- you don't need to stick to black-and-white thinking. You will be presented with an opportunity that you might have thought would never be possible. Go for it! Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

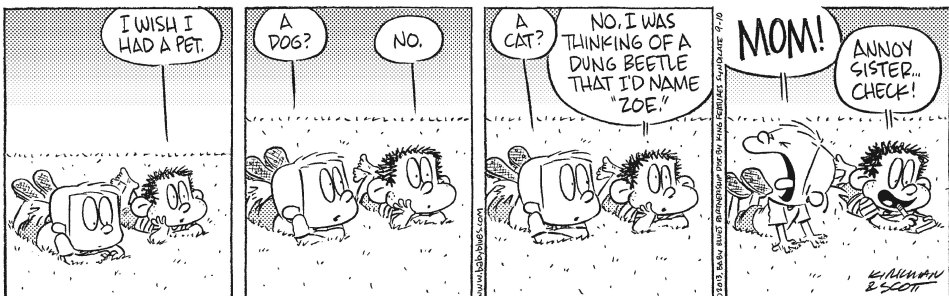
★★★★ Someone will put some of his or her responsibilities on you. You are too good-natured to chase that person down and say no. In a sense, you might welcome the extra work because it will prevent you from overthinking. Tonight: A must appearance. You have little choice.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your dreams can be transformed into reality, especially if you start verbalizing at least one of them. You are very much in touch with your feelings. At this point, if you follow your instincts -- especially today -- you can't go wrong. Tonight: Make calls first, then relax.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

