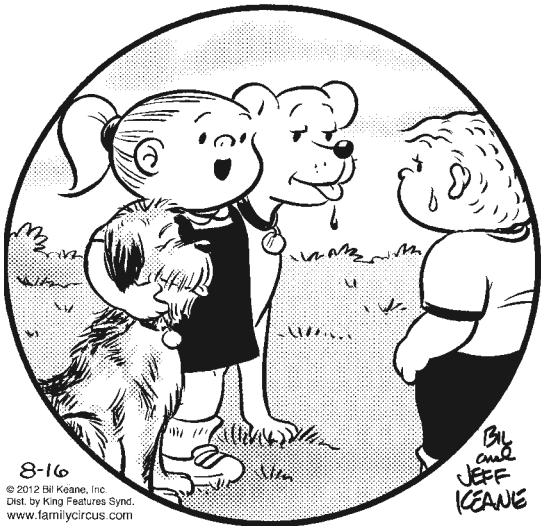
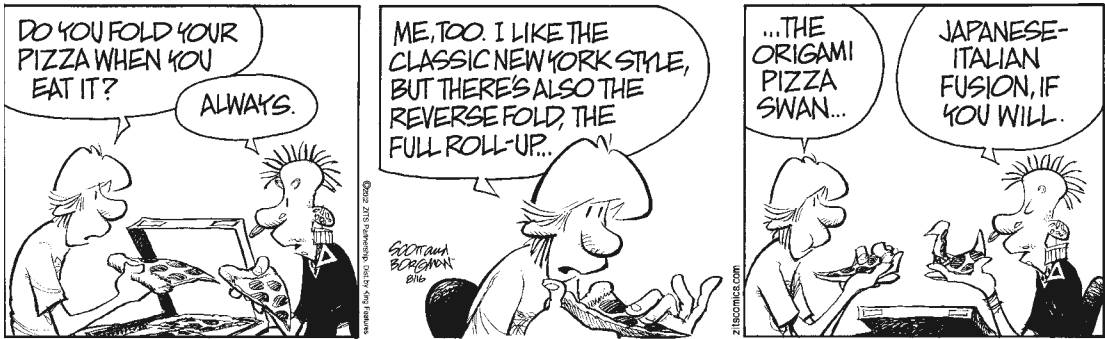


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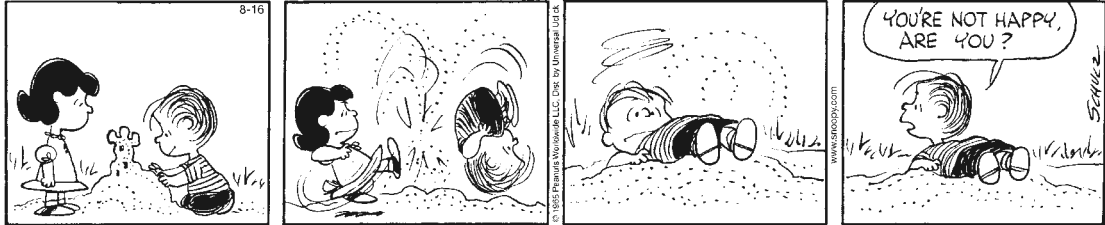
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



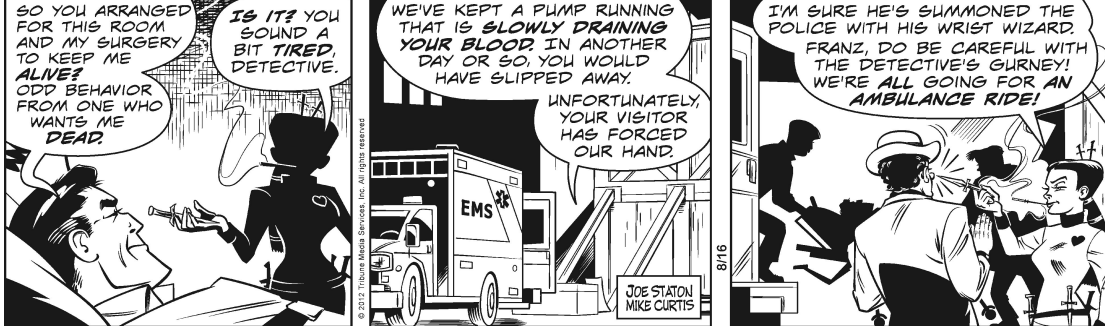
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



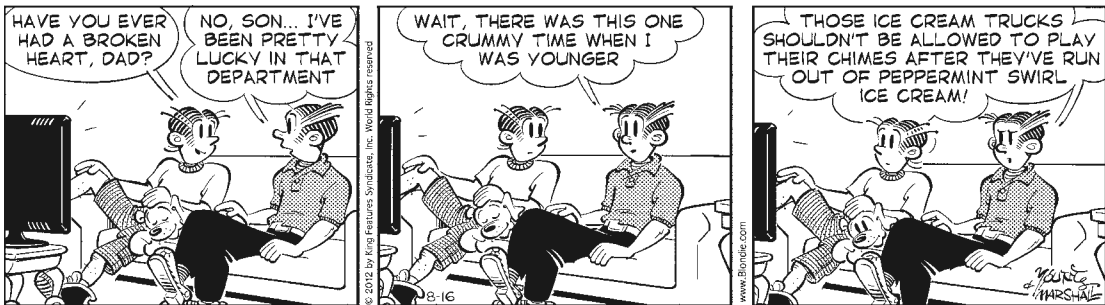
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



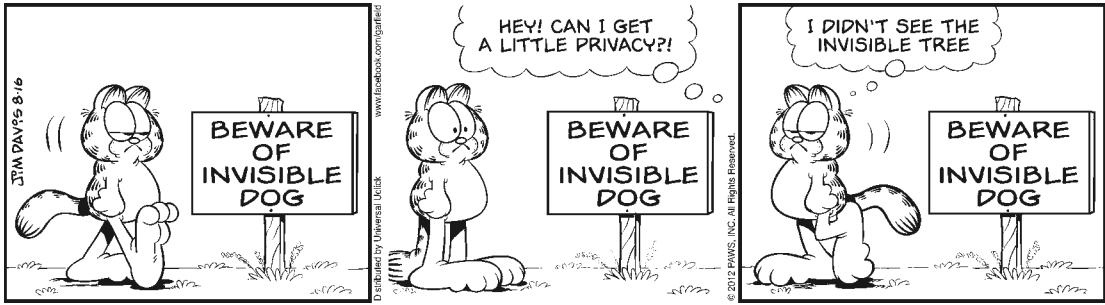
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



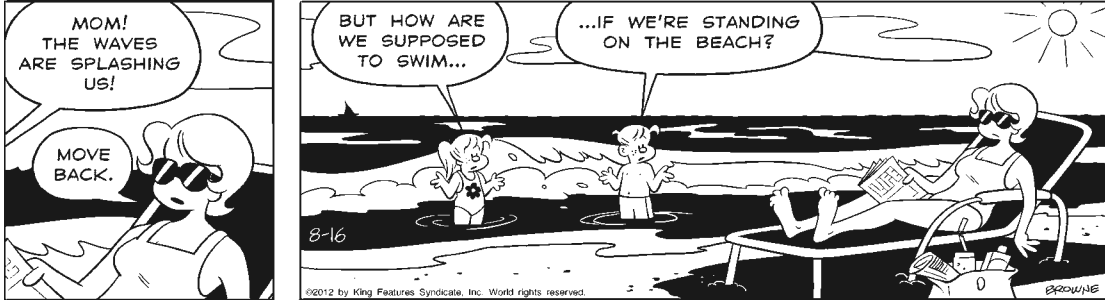
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Children's Education Can't Stop At The Classroom Door

DEAR ABBY: Wouldn't it make sense if grade school teachers set aside time, weekly or monthly, to go over some very generic information that kids need to learn? I'm talking about things like how important it is to have pets neutered and why, how to manage money, and show them what the average dad earns and what it costs to run a household and support a family. It might help kids to grow up understanding that money isn't free and get them past the "gimmies."

There are so many topics that ought to be introduced to youngsters at an early age — how to groom themselves properly, be exposed to a variety of music genres, teach them how grandparents can use help even from small children. They could be taught to be aware of their surroundings, to realize that foul language isn't an attribute and why it's important to be pleasant.

There are so many topics. Ten minutes a week on different topics would suffice. Why not? — CHAPLIN, CONN., READER

DEAR READER: Why not? Because teachers are so overwhelmed trying to get their students to learn enough basic curriculum to pass the state mandated tests that they don't have time!

Reading your letter I couldn't help but wonder whose children you are describing. All of the topics you mentioned are things children should learn from their parents. Where are those parents? ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have just started back into the dating scene after my divorce and being single for five years. I had a vasectomy when I was married, and I'm wondering at what point I should tell prospective dates this information. — SNIPPED IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR SNIPPED: Raise the subject as soon as a woman mentions the idea of wanting children. It should certainly be discussed before you have sex. P.S. Because vasectomies have been known to fail,

and won't prevent someone from picking up an STD, you should always make sure you and your partner are protected by using a condom.



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.

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago we bought a used sofa at a garage sale. It is now falling apart. A friend of mine in the hotel business offered me an almost new sofa bed from a room that was being re-decorated. It matches the colors in our game room perfectly. My wife said, "You can't bring hotel furniture into the house. Yuck!"

My logic is this: Why can't our kids sleep on a hotel bed in our house if our other houseguests are using the kids' rooms? We would use our clean sheets, and they sleep on the sofa beds in the hotels we stay in. My wife will sleep in a hotel bed that 100 percent of the guests sleep in, but she doesn't want a bug-free sofa bed that about 5 percent of hotel guests have used in our home for occasional use. Am I cheap, or am I married to a clean freak? — WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?

DEAR WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING: Not knowing you better, I can't say whether or not you're cheap. But your wife should know that many people buy used hotel furniture, and selling it is big business. The sofa bed could be cleaned and sanitized and the mattress replaced. (Inquire about it at any furniture store that sells sofa beds.) But don't push your wife into taking it or the person who winds up sleeping on it could be you.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 and Moon in Leo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 2012:

This year you grow and evolve to a new level. Events will come forth that allow you to understand more emotionally and learn more intellectually. Your efforts to network and become more socially integrated seem to come through to others. If you are single, you meet people with ease. A friendship could be instrumental in making a romance happen. You could meet Mr. or Ms. Right through a friend. You could be quite excited about this person. If you are attached, be more sensitive to your sweetie. Remember, a relationship is made of two people who both need attention. Another LEO can match you. He or she makes quite a competitor. 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)

★★★★ The unexpected occurs. You discover just how much someone cares, as this person spontaneously decides to express his or her affection. The end result will be that you are beaming from ear to ear. Your attitude is contagious. Tonight: Be authentic.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Much goes on at home. Please note the many thoughts that race through your head. Be sure to do some comparison shopping before purchasing a big item. You have the tendency, and are in just the right mood, to go way overboard. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You tend to say the right words at the right time. A meeting with a group of friends proves to be a very exciting experience, as someone seems to be bouncing off the walls. Know that regardless of what happens, you will land on your feet if you stay open. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might decide to go off and buy this and that. You could have a great time, but the results could be problematic. Someone you look up to could be difficult right now, as he or she is so unpredictable. Tonight: Make your favorite meal.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might hear news that results in hurt feelings. The person delivering this news does not intend the

message to have that outcome. In fact, he or she is trying to demonstrate his or her caring and support. A meeting proves to be unusually supportive. Tonight: Friends are full of fun and energy.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to share more of yourself. The element of timing plays a role, and most likely, it is not clear when the best time is. A partner or friend surprises you with his or her actions. Go with the flow, and know that everything could change quickly. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what you want from a friendship. Ask for the support you want in a meeting. Clearly, others have difficulty anticipating what you want. Learn to express yourself more often and assume you have a receptive audience. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Take a stand quickly, and refuse to sell yourself short. You know what you want and in which direction you would like to head. In order to accomplish more of what you want, you will need to take the lead. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Look past the obvious when relating to a loved one or a child. What did he or she not say? This person does not intend to be secretive, but it is just the way he or she is. Try not to define this behavior; instead, be open and authentic. Tonight: Let music be a dominant theme.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Relate to someone directly, be it about business, networking or a personal matter. You will be surprised by what you hear, so much so that you might opt to head in a different direction. Give yourself some time to respond. Tonight: Make it cozy.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

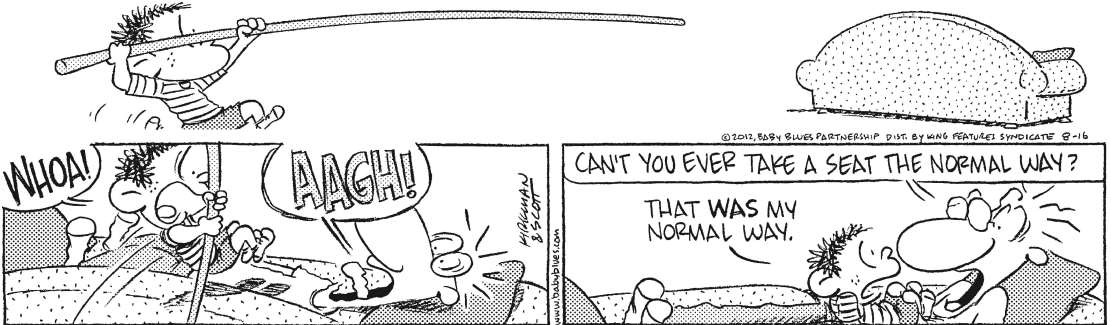
★★★★★ Others might see your knee-jerk action as being off-the-wall. You could be taken aback by their reactions, since you know there is logic behind them. Let your creativity emerge. As a result, solutions will be found. Tonight: Let a love affair come back into your life.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

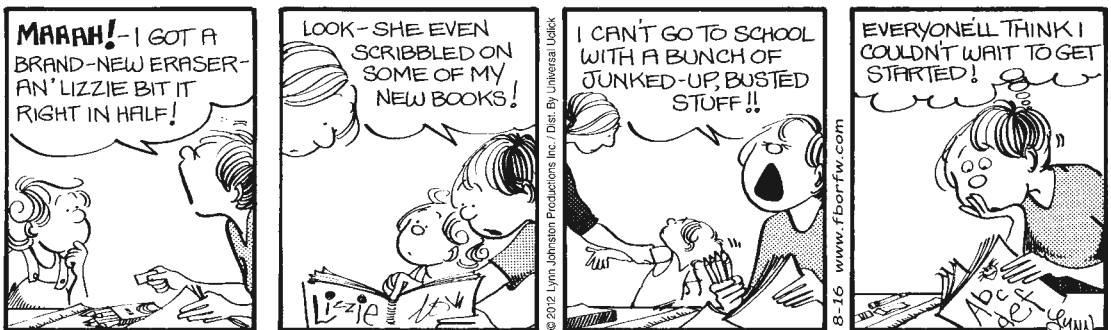
★★★★ You seem set on doing a job a certain way. You will resist approaching it in any other manner. Recognize that others could distance themselves because of your attitude. Stay centered and do your thing. A family member still surprises you! Tonight: Head home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

