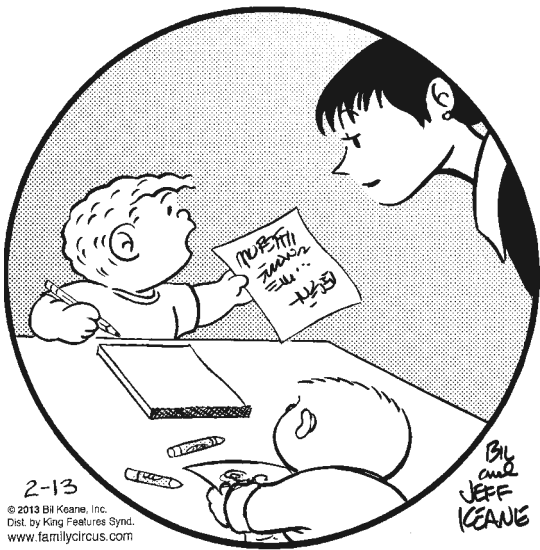


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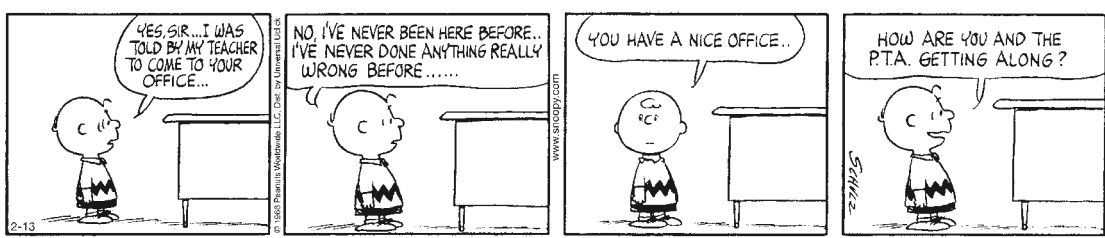
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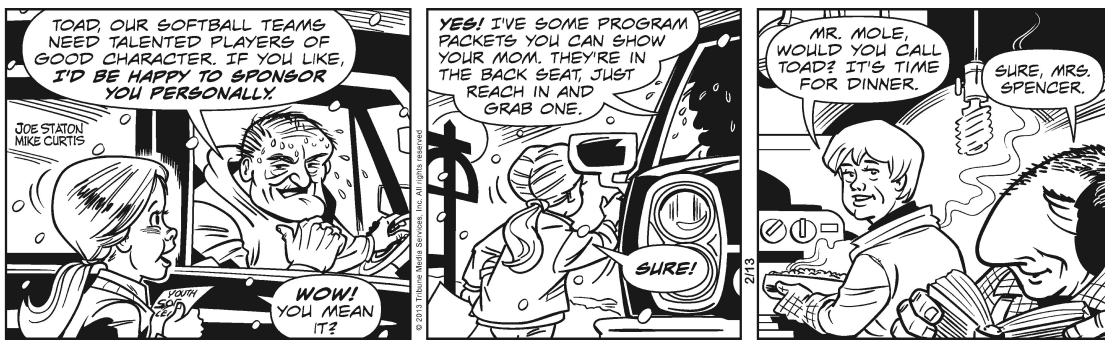
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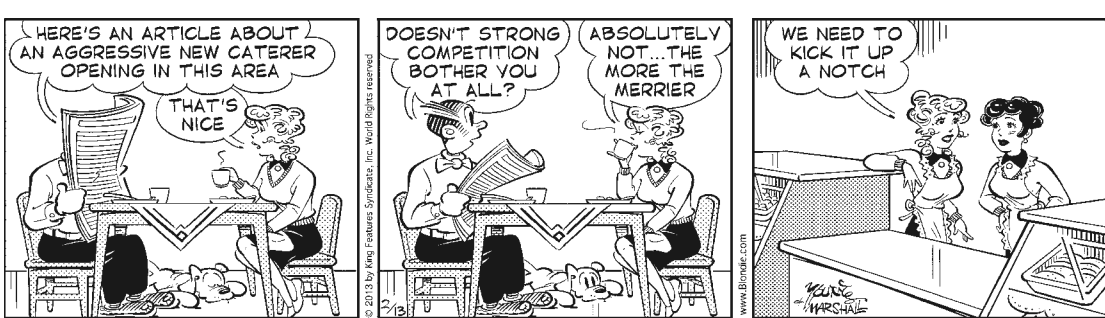
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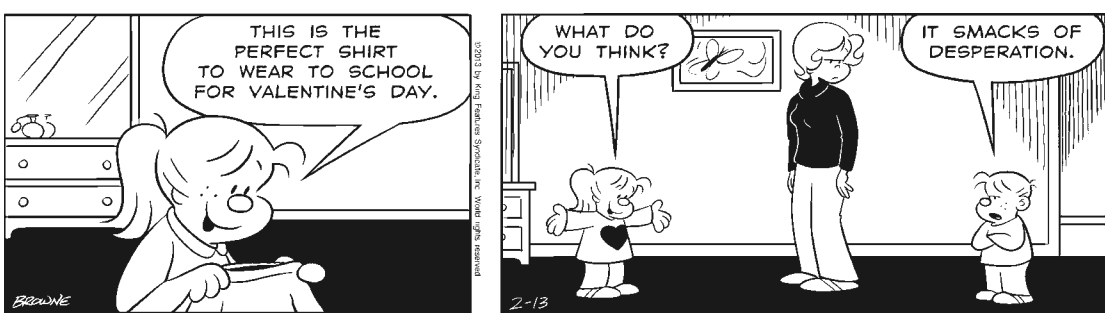
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Sister In Open Marriage Takes The Idea Of Sharing Too Far

DEAR ABBY: My daughters are attractive young women, both doing well in their professional careers. "Melanie," who is 27, is married to "Sam," an extremely attractive and successful man.

My 30-year-old daughter, "Alicia," has been divorced for a year. Her marriage failed two years ago because she and her husband had an appetite for sex outside their marriage. While I was disturbed about that, I was horrified to learn that Melanie allows her sister to occasionally have sex with Sam.

Melanie's argument is that Sam is less likely to cheat given this situation. When I asked her and Sam about it, he said it wasn't his idea. My current husband says any man who would refuse this "set-up" would be nuts. Alicia claims she "doesn't have time" to date right now, and after she finishes her MBA, she'll seek out a more normal relationship.

I am distraught about this mess. Melanie says she wants to start a family soon. She says she loves Sam, who can "handle everything," and she enjoys seeing "everyone happy." She says Alicia won't sleep around now and, maybe, one day she'll marry a handsome man like Sam who will "return the favor!"

I can't believe these girls are my daughters. Should I continue to protest or let it go? Is this relaxed attitude under sex prevalent in young people today? I cannot understand Melanie's lack of desire to defend her turf. — HEARTBROKEN MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: Your daughters appear to be into the concept of open marriage. Clearly, they do not view marriage and relationships the same way you do.

Melanie is naive to think that encouraging Sam to have a sexual relationship with her sister will dis-

courage him from seeking other partners. Far from it. And as for her wanting to start a family, has she considered what will happen if her husband impregnates Alicia at the same time — or first?

But back to your question: Are you right to protest? You certainly are. That's what mothers are for — to inject a dose of sanity when everyone around her is losing theirs.

DEAR ABBY: The other day at work, my girlfriend overheard a group of people in the break room talking about what they'd do first if they won the lottery. Without exception, everyone in that room said the first thing they would do is get a divorce. My girlfriend was stunned.

Have you ever done an informal reader survey on this subject? Is the state of marriage in America really that bad? I'm also curious if answers would differ along gender lines. Let me know what you think, and thanks. — HAPPILY SINGLE BUT STILL A BELIEVER IN MARRIAGE

DEAR HAPPILY SINGLE: No, I have not done a reader survey on this subject. But I'm glad you asked, because I think what your girlfriend heard is a

sad commentary on the state of the marriages of her co-workers. Readers, if you'd care to chime in on this, I'm sure it would be enlightening.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Aquarius and a Moon in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13, 2013:

This year the unexpected runs rampant in your day-to-day life. It prevents boredom, and it helps you identify your priorities. You might have difficulty walking away from drama. Rather than fight the trend, let the exciting dynamics roll right past you. If there's one thing you can be sure of, it is change, and it is right around the corner. If you are single, you could have a sequence of intense potential sweeties. Take your time deciding, and you will benefit. If you are attached, the two of you have a great time together. When you relax, you are like two kids playing together. ARIES makes you laigh.

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)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward, even in an unpredictable situation. You tend to help others feel a lot more relaxed and at ease. Claim your power, and do what you want. Someone who pushes you hard will respect you more as a result. Tonight: Do your own thing.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Read between the lines rather than immediately react. In fact, the less said, the better. You might have difficulty getting past a problem or a bad mood. Just let time do its thing. Someone at a distance could be exceptionally difficult. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Look at what is going on in a meeting. Note the different roles others play. These roles are interesting in that they reflect each person's issues. You might be so detached that others could feel uncomfortable with you. Recognize your limits. Tonight: Only where the crowds are.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Take a stand and know what you want to do. Somehow others easily misunderstand you. You could feel as if someone is bullying you. Walk away. You might take a strong stand in a key matter. Realize that you might be the one creating a problem. Tonight: Take the lead.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Take the lead in a situation before someone

can interfere. The unexpected occurs, and it floors you and many others. A meeting points your attention in the right direction. Pressure comes from your schedule and its demands. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot that has music.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with someone you care about directly. The interaction might surprise you at first, and then could delight you later. You need that type of dynamic in a bond in order to stay interested. Understand your need for change. Tonight: Play "follow the leader."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and avoid an argument. A power play might get the best of you if you get involved in it. The smart move is to steer clear and do what is necessary. Do not respond. If you continue to say nothing, the game might end. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You might try to bypass a problem when the unexpected occurs. Recognize that you can do only so much. Do not attempt a power play or any other type of manipulation. You know what is acceptable. Tonight: Opt for a foot rub or a massage, should someone offer.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 21-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your playfulness emerges when speaking to friends and loved ones. You express your love of the good life by living in the moment. Pressure builds around your finances. Someone might have an expectation you can't seem to meet. Tonight: Celebrate the moment.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Get back to the basics, and understand what is happening with a family member. You really don't need to ask questions. Just trust in this person's ability to work through these issues. You have a little too much energy for your own good. Go for a jog. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You'll speak your mind. Others will either brainstorm with you or decide to counter your thoughts. Perhaps they even might choose to ignore you. Make a call to a relative you no longer can avoid. Have a gossip session if you want to keep the peace. Tonight: Paint the town red.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You could have a different opinion from a friend about a money matter. This situation could blow up in your face or evolve into a major power play. Decide which way to go, or consider a different option. Your mind can be unusually resourceful. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

