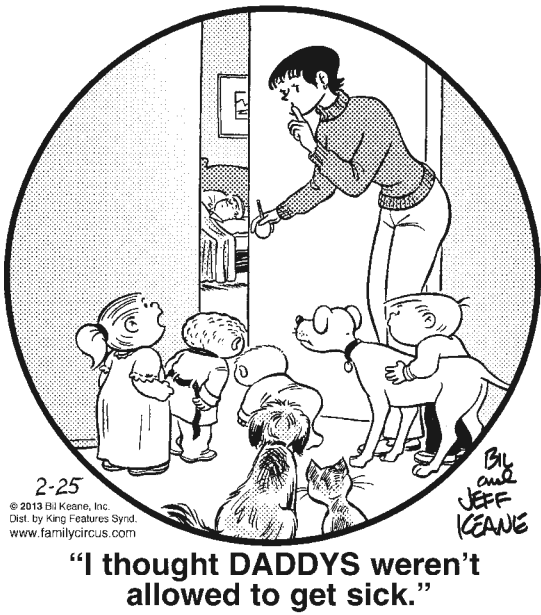
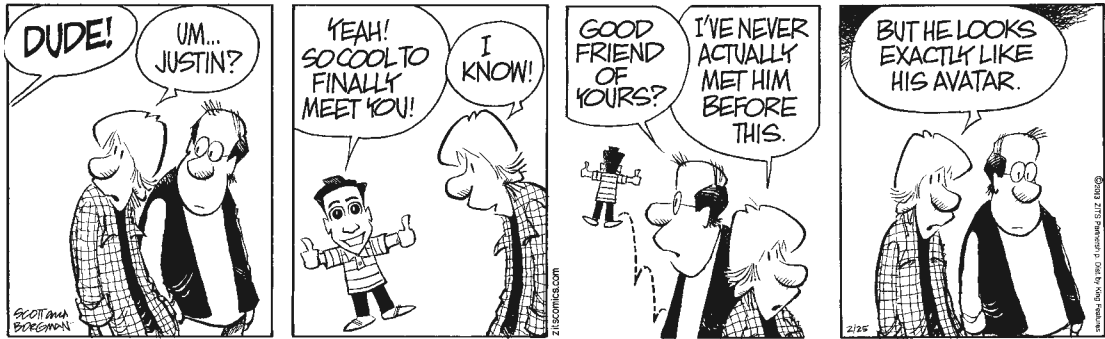


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



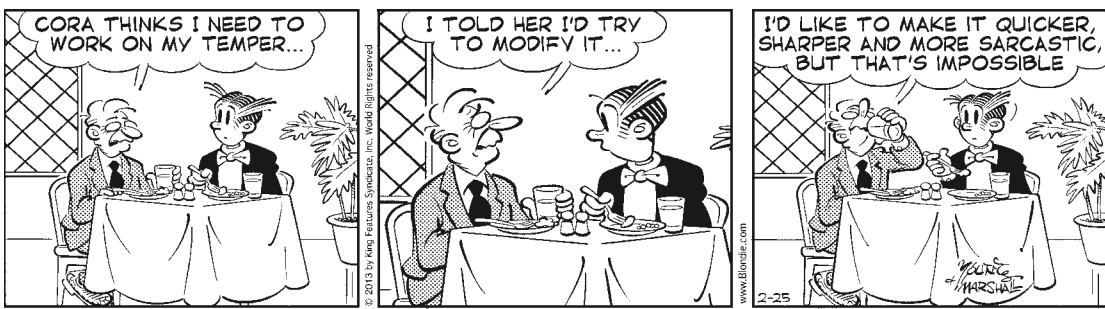
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



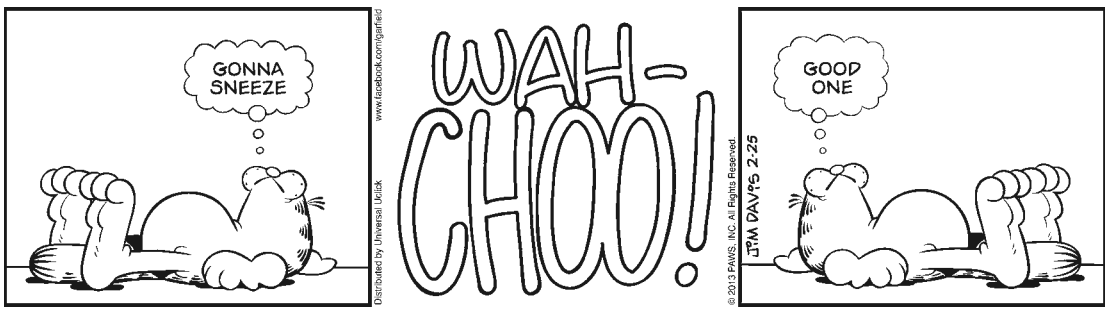
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



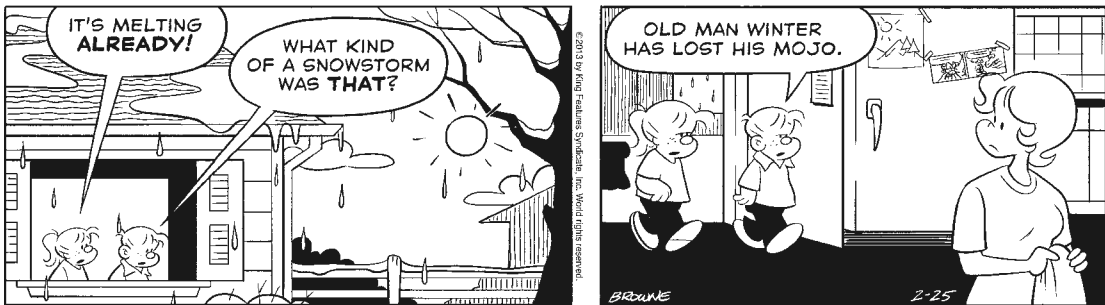
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



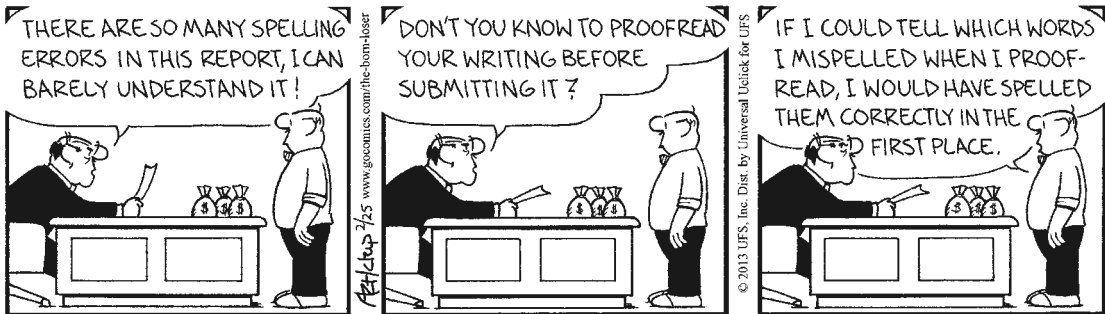
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Loving Grandfather Is Hurt By Sudden Silent Treatment

DEAR ABBY: My two adult granddaughters have rejected me, their doting grandfather. Their father gave me this explanation: "They are uncomfortable with the way you rub their shoulders and necks."

These girls and both parents have misinterpreted my innocent expressions of affection, which haven't changed since the girls were little. The only change is in their perception of my actions.

I am devastated. I asked twice to meet with these family members to discuss their concerns. It has been three months; no meeting time has been offered. There has been no contact, and neither girl has called me for any reason this year.

I can't just stop loving those with whom I have forged a 20-year bond of affection. How can this rupture be repaired? — GRIEVING GRANDDAD

DEAR GRIEVING GRANDDAD: Clearly, there is a need for some professional mediation here, provided your granddaughters and their parents are willing. If your touches have been regarded as inappropriate, you should have been warned about it years ago. Obviously something has made your granddaughters uncomfortable, and the rupture won't heal until it can be discussed openly.

DEAR ABBY: Lately I have noticed that people are bringing their dogs shopping with them. I'm not talking about service dogs, but pets.

The other day, a woman brought her dog into the grocery store. While I'll admit the little thing looked cute sitting in the shopping cart, someone else's food will be in that cart next, and who knows where that dog's feet have been?

Why does management allow this? I'm willing to bet money that if I were to bring my pit bull, "Bruiser," inside the grocery store with me, I'd be stopped immediately. Talk about a double standard. I welcome your

comments. — ASKANCE IN POWAY, CALIF.

DEAR ASKANCE: You should speak to the store manager and ask why it was permitted, because I was under the impression that health laws do not permit canines inside establishments that sell food — unless they are service dogs. "Bruiser" might be unwelcome not because of his size, but because there is concern about the breed's reputation.



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: I am responding to your answer to "Lost, Alone and Worried in Urbana, Ill." (Dec. 26), the young girl who is being made to teach her younger, learning-disabled brother how to read. You were right in advising her to talk to her school counselor. However, you should have emphasized strongly to her that it is a MUST.

The school counselor is part of a guidance team that evaluates students with learning differences and strategizes ways to support the student and family. The parents are part of the team and attend meetings requested by the teacher, counselor or the parents themselves. All conversations are confidential.

This may help the sister understand that she will not be blamed for anything. She is in a difficult position, and you were right to suppose that the parents may be frustrated and looking for help.

It may be exactly what this family needs to get back on track. — LOUISE B., ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR

DEAR LOUISE B.: I appreciate your input, and I hope the girl who wrote sees your letter.

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 Moon in Virgo and a Sun in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 25, 2013:

This year you will look at life's issues through many different lenses. As a result, the decisions you make will tend to be grounded. Many opportunities head your way. Take your time deciding which option is right for you. If you are single, your love life becomes very exciting come summer. In the period that follows, be open to meeting the right person. If you are attached, your sweetie could find you to be exciting, yet he or she might feel challenged by everything that is going on in your life. Take a special dream vacation together. VIRGO seems like your opposite, but you have the same issues.

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 are focused right now, despite some confusion in your mind about a different situation. Ask questions. Return all of your calls and emails. Opportunities appear, and you'll need to make a choice. Use care when dealing with a new person in your life. Tonight: Work late, if need be.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You can't control your thoughts, even when you know they're not relevant to the moment. You can choose not to share them, but is that helpful? Center yourself, and allow your mind to be present. Remember, you have limits. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Stay anchored, and know full well what is happening. At times, doing nothing can prove to be most effective. A boss might try to lure you into a project, but taking the lead won't be worth your while. Smile, but keep your ideas to yourself. Tonight: Mosey on home.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Keep listening, even if you're shocked at what you hear. You might wonder how you can balance all of the different factors in your life. Reach out to someone at a distance whom you admire. This person always has a lot to share. Tonight: Your creativity flows; use it well.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Curb a need to go overboard. You might want to

consider why you are doing this. Only when you have that answer can you decide to hold back some. Your imagination opens up many different doors. Lose the mindset that you are stuck. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Greet compliments and offers positively. A close loved one's kind gesture will motivate you to take a step back and observe what is happening around you. Changes are necessary, and you have more power than you might realize. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ The time has come to assume a low profile. You might want to mellow out and try a different approach. You are surrounded by people who believe that they have better answers than you do. Detach, and you might understand where they're coming from. Tonight: Not to be found.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Confusion surrounds your long-term goals. Know that they might not be possible, considering your present commitments. Discussions provide unusually creative answers and solutions that might allow you to have it all! Tonight: Look at both the pros and the cons.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Take charge, and try not to worry so much about the here and now. Several different opportunities come from others who present you with one idea after another. Be happy rather than overwhelmed. You have so many choices! Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Look beyond the obvious. You could be overwhelmed by everything you need to do right now. Understand that you have one choice: prioritize. Fortunately, you have energy and discretion working for you. Be willing to let go of what doesn't work. Tonight: In the moment.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Relate to someone directly if you want to resolve a problem. The other party could have many ideas. Instead of making him or her out to be in the wrong, choose to find solutions that work for both of you. Your ingenuity will find the path. Tonight: Dinner and chat.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

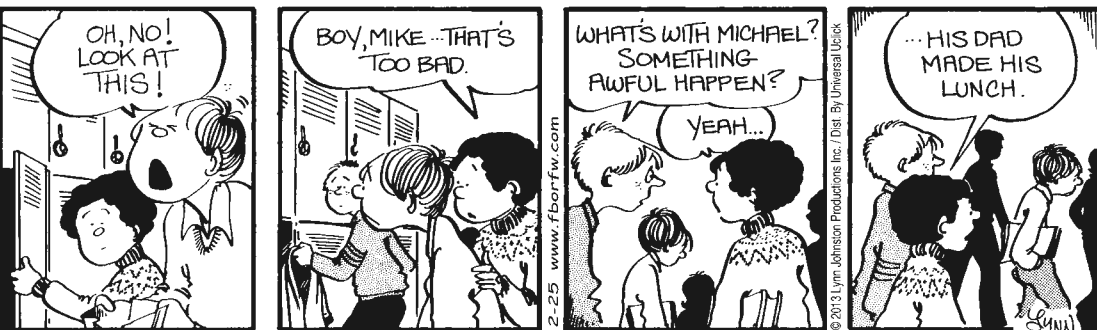
★★★★ Others think they have the answers, and they let you know. Don't get triggered. Look through a long-term lens in order to find alternative solutions. You have many options involving property and investments. Do your research before you decide. Tonight: At home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

