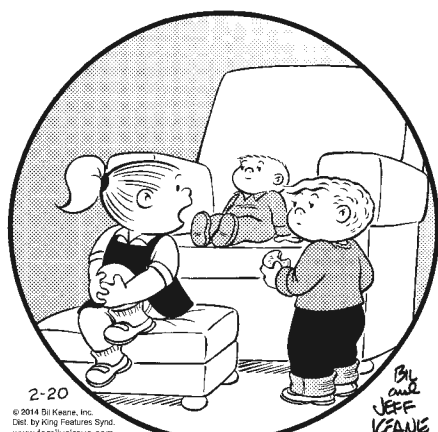


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



2-20
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"Your English isn't very good, Jeffy. You don't say, 'My chair was tooked.' ... You say, 'My chair was taken.'"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

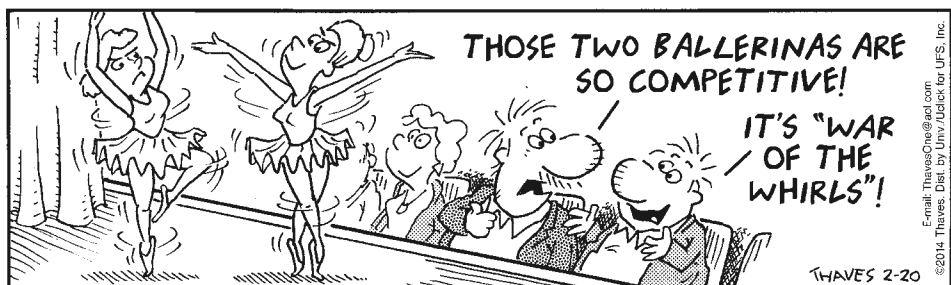


ANOTHER DAY AT BECKETT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

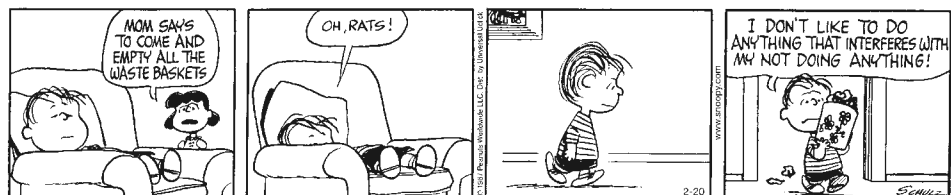
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



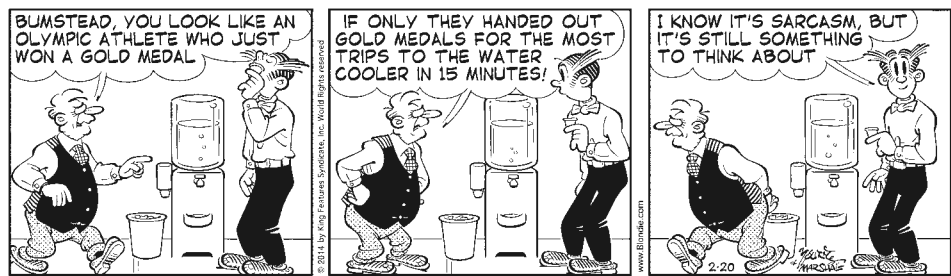
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



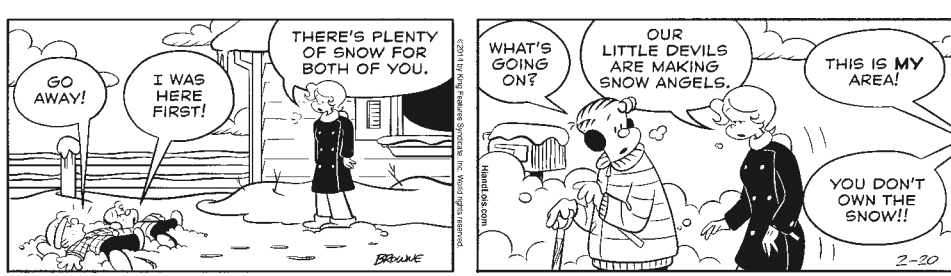
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



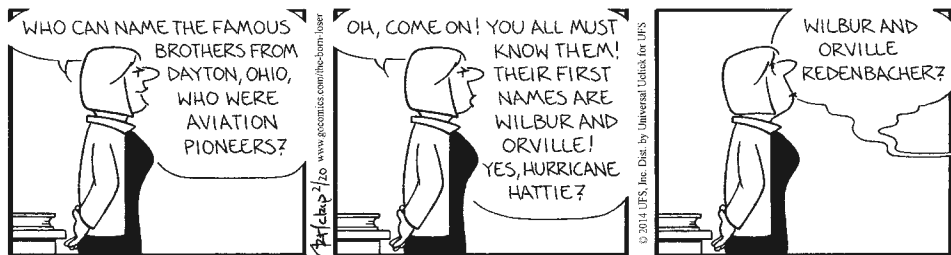
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



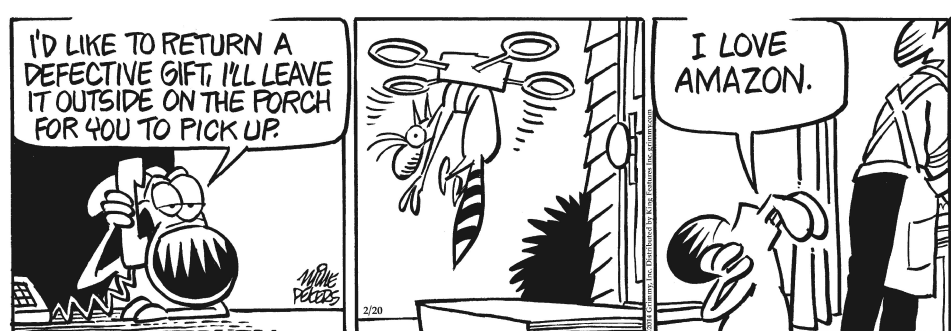
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



TO OUR READERS:

Beginning Monday, Feb. 24, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will begin a two-week test run of four comic strips to replace the "Dick Tracy" strip. The test will run through Saturday, March 8. Check out Saturday's PRESS & DAKOTAN for all the details!

Dear Abby

Veteran Dad Has No Desire To Start A Second Family

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mom in a serious relationship with a divorced man who has children of his own. Between us, we have seven, ranging in age from 7 to 17. I'm in my early 30s; he's in his early 50s.

My dilemma: I'm interested in having another child if we get married. He definitely isn't. Is it unreasonable for me to want to add to this already large potential blended family? I love the idea of experiencing motherhood again with a little more experience and age under my belt, and I'd love to share that intimacy with him. While he likes the abstract possibility of "our" child, he says he feels too old now and he wouldn't be able to be the kind of father he would want to be.

If neither of us had kids of our own, this would be a deal-breaker for me, but how do I know if my maternal longings are just the last, painful tickings of my biological clock, or a real desire that I'll end up resenting him for if I ignore it and we stay together? — IS SEVEN ENOUGH?

DEAR IS SEVEN ENOUGH?: Because your boyfriend is in his 50s and has made it clear that he isn't interested in becoming a father again, I think you should count your many blessings and consider that seven is a lucky number.

DEAR ABBY: My godmother passed away in January 2011. My godfather, "Jim," remarried last year. I am still mourning her loss and have not been able to get myself to call and speak to Jim, even though I did send him a congratulatory wedding card.

I love him. Jim is a wonderful, kind, attractive man. I knew it wouldn't be long before another woman would take an interest in him or he'd find love again. My siblings have tried to get me to make contact with him, but I'm still

not ready to accept that he has moved on with another woman. Please advise me. — CAN'T FACE IT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAN'T FACE IT: I am sorry for your loss, and I'm sure your godmother will always live in your heart. However, if you love your godfather, you should be glad that he has been able to move forward in his life. That he was open to finding love again speaks volumes about the quality of the marriage he shared with your godmother.

Of course seeing Jim with someone else won't be easy for you, but it is sad that you would sacrifice the special relationship you have with him because you are reluctant to face reality. For both of your sakes, I hope you'll reconsider. If you do, you may find that you like the new lady in his life.

DEAR ABBY: Is it ever appropriate for a diner to lick his/her fingers in public, like when eating finger food or barbecue? It drives me nuts! I equate it to a cat cleaning itself.

When I try to get the person in question to use a napkin, I'm looked at as if I've lost my mind! At the very least, our hands are covered with germs, and who wants to stick them in their mouth? Yecch. — GROSSED OUT IN OHIO

DEAR GROSSED OUT: I think it depends upon the circumstances in which the food is being served. If someone is eating canapes at a cocktail party, licking the fingers is a no-no. And most barbecue joints provide moist towelettes to their patrons.

On the other hand, Col. Sanders used to call his fried chicken "finger lickin' good." At a picnic or informal gathering, it's purr-fectly acceptable to lick one's fingers, and I confess this tabby has probably done it, so I'm not going to cast aspersions.

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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 Pisces and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 2014:

This year you are able to detach more and see new ways of handling problems. A foreign person could open your eyes to other cultures and philosophies. Your sixth sense works well for you -- follow it, even if it is not always logical. If you are single, you are going to meet someone quite bohemian. You will enjoy getting to know this person, but the relationship might not last forever. If you are attached, the two of you finally might decide to take that special trip you so often think about. Together, you will open the door to new life experiences through new friends or travel. SCORPIO knows much more than he or she lets on.

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 have much to think about and consider. You might need to mellow out a bit. You will have an important and long-overdue discussion with a loved one or an associate. The less that is said to others, the better off you will be. Tonight: In the whirlwind of the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You seem ready to make a dream a reality. A partner or several other people might want to pitch in, especially if this idea could affect them too. An upbeat attitude will help you feel more connected to others than you have in the past. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Take news with a grain of salt. A boss might have a lot to say, and will talk openly if you seem interested in what he or she has to share. Use caution with your finances. A risk might not pay off in the way you'd hoped it would. Tonight: Get a head start on tomorrow's work.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Events could put you more in touch with your dynamic energy. Look at the long-term implications when looking at the big picture. A situation might not evolve as you might wish it would. Do more listening and sharing. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might want to spend more time at home. Use your instincts to achieve a better sense

of harmony with a loved one. Indulge in more time together. A change in your schedule could force changes to happen elsewhere in your life. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to examine what is happening in your immediate environment. Make calls, catch up on news and clear your desk. You will come up with a more efficient way of handling key matters. Others will come through for you. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Listen to what is being shared, but hold back for now on sharing what you know. A partner might do the unexpected. You could be upset, but you also do enjoy the excitement that this person brings to your life. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might be in the middle of all the action. Take the lead, prioritize and delegate; otherwise, too many key details could be missed. You understand the implications of what is going on better than most people do. Tonight: Think "week-end." Make plans.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You move through details quickly, yet one could slip past you and ultimately sabotage your plans. Slow down or recheck your work. You also might need to consider getting a second person to work with you on this project. Maintain your sense of humor. Tonight: Ever playful.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Call on your self-discipline. Use your sixth sense to tune in to the obvious dynamics of a particular matter. Someone could appear to be almost too generous. Pull back while you can, and see what is happening with this person. Tonight: Get together with friends.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might feel as if you have an additional responsibility weighing you down. Stop and look at what is happening instead of continuing as you have been. Look at the big picture to see your options more clearly. Choose a more easygoing pace. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You see life very differently from how many of the people around you see it. As a result, others often are inspired and/or confused by you. At the moment, use your instincts to proceed with an important matter. You will land on your feet. Tonight: Read between the lines.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

