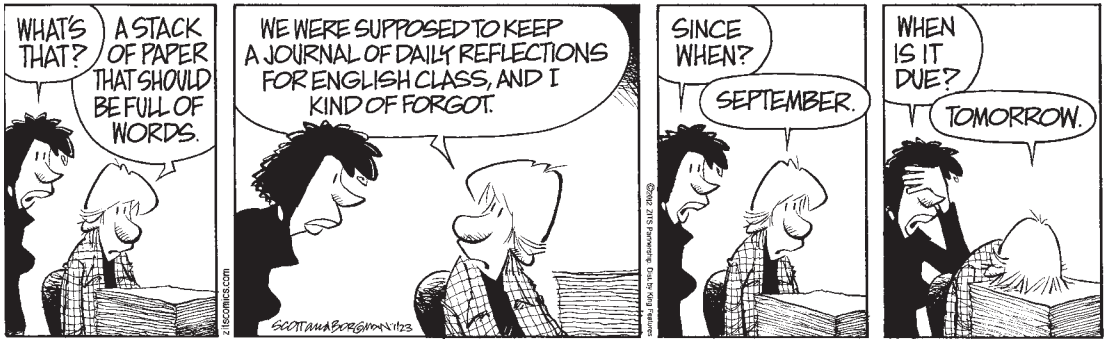


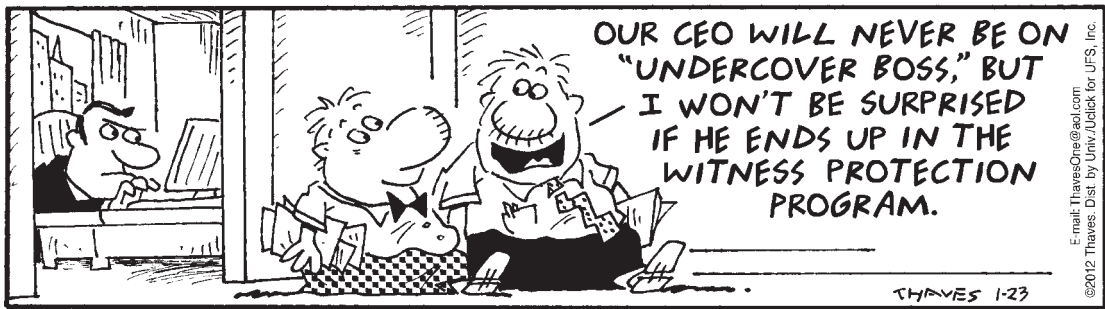
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



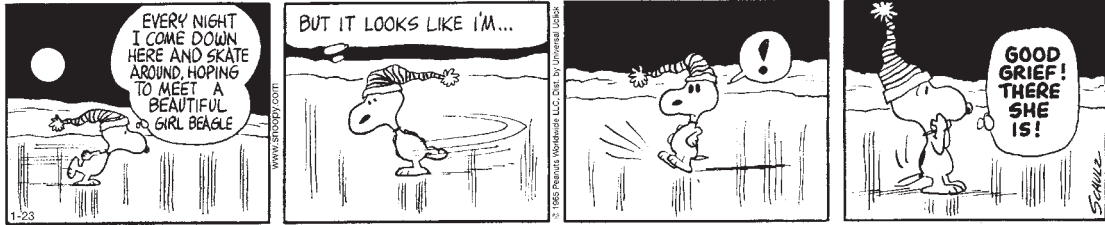
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



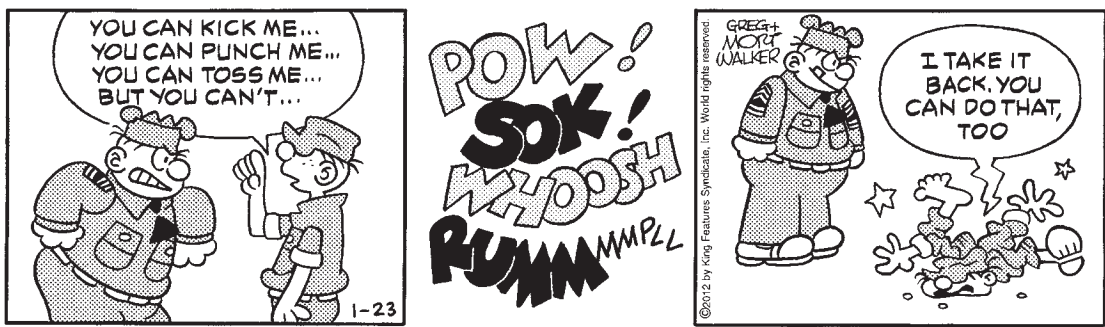
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Recognizing Signs Of Stroke Can Help Save Valuable Time

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing this because I hope you will tell your readers to learn the signs of a stroke. I wish I had known.

I was visiting my grandma seven years ago. During dinner she had a stroke. I knew something was wrong, but wasn't sure what it was. My sister and I asked her if she wanted to go to the hospital, but she said no. We respected her wishes and didn't insist. We finally took her two days later.

Abby, my grandmother never spoke again. She spent her last seven years aware of what she wanted to say, but unable to say it. The guilt I carry is hard to live with.

Please tell your readers to make sure they know the signs of a stroke and to remember that while most people don't want to go to the hospital, the first three hours after a stroke are CRITICAL. If you suspect that your loved one is having a stroke, get that person to a hospital FAST, even if they don't want to go! You can't take back the damage a stroke causes.

My grandmother is gone now and I miss her terribly. She was a loving grandparent, and I hope she'll forgive me. — MISSING HER IN UTAH

DEAR MISSING HER: What happened to your grandmother was tragic, but you were no more at fault than the millions of others who are also unaware of the signs of stroke. In your grandmother's memory, I'll describe them.

The most common stroke symptoms are: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg — especially on one side of the body. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding. Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes. Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination. Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Other important but common symptoms include: sudden nausea, fever and vomiting — distinguished

from a viral illness by the speed of onset (minutes or hours versus several days). And brief loss of consciousness such as fainting or convulsions.

If you see or have any of these symptoms, call 911! Every minute counts, and treatment can be more effective if it's given quickly.

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old god-daughter is pregnant. She is beautiful, smart and talented. Her boyfriend is wonderful to her and they are very happy together. My problem is people who frown on her happiness. I am regularly asked if I'm disappointed in her. My response is usually: "It's unexpected, but we will make the best of it. She and her boyfriend both work and have a great support network and a huge family."

I think it's rude of people to assume that this is bad news. How do I respond to those who are so oblivious? — OFFENDED AUNT IN SCRANTON, PA.

DEAR OFFENDED: The way you are answering them is appropriate, positive and polite. You need no help from me.

TO MY ASIAN READERS: This is the Year of the Dragon, a symbol of power and good fortune. Those born in the Year of the Dragon are confident, brave and fearless. A symbol of strength in Asian culture, the dragon once symbolized the emperor of China. I wish a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to all of you.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order, "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby — Popularity 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 and Moon in Aquarius. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JAN. 23, 2012:**

You demonstrate immense creativity and dynamic thinking this year. Others count on you to have an answer. Confusion earmarks many discussions, resulting in sarcasm. Try to quell situations like this by transforming them into more open and viable conversations. Not everyone has to agree with you, though you do give a convincing argument. If you are single, your magnetism attracts many potential suitors. Use care in your choices. Anger appears to be an issue, whether you suppress it or not. If you are attached, you will need to find a viable way of letting others know how you feel. AQUARIUS cannot be roped in. 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 too much on your plate. Oddly enough, in the process of trying to eliminate some excess, you add more work. A new beginning becomes possible within a special friendship, though you might need to rethink your role. Tonight: Out of sorts.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ All the possibilities that surround a project might overwhelm you. A new beginning becomes possible professionally, if you worry a little less. Keep smiling. Your insights are appreciated. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Your ability to zero in on an issue might not be as sharp as you would like. You could find that a relationship becomes far more touchy in the next few weeks. Understand in which direction you want to head. Tonight: Think through a situation by detaching.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could become increasingly aggravated with someone you relate to on a daily basis. Try not to trigger. Stay on top of what you need to do. You might need to do some work on this relationship in the near future. Tonight: Make a decision honoring your waistline.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Use caution with finances in the next few months. You easily could make an error. Others seek you

out, but they also want to have more control. Let them have their way, and they will better understand the complexity of your responsibilities. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could be unusually irritable and cause yourself some problems in the near future. You will have a tendency to overthink after the fact, replaying the situation in your mind. Learn to think before saying or doing something. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You could be out of sorts and somewhat more direct than usual. You could really stun someone as you reveal your feelings in a less-than-diplomatic manner. Try not to suppress your feelings as much, and reveal them before they turn into anger. Tonight: Go with a spontaneous bent.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be out of sorts, or a friend could stun you with a display of anger. Tread with care. Know that this, too, will pass, but you might need to have a discussion to clear the air. Others respond to your efforts! Tonight: Close to home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Pressure builds involving your work or a community project. A close associate could be quite frustrated, and he or she lets you know in no uncertain manner. Your lively stance and ability to bypass issues will be called upon. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be far more touchy than you realize. News from a distance could upset you. A disagreement or lack of communication today, and for the next few weeks, could endure for a while. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

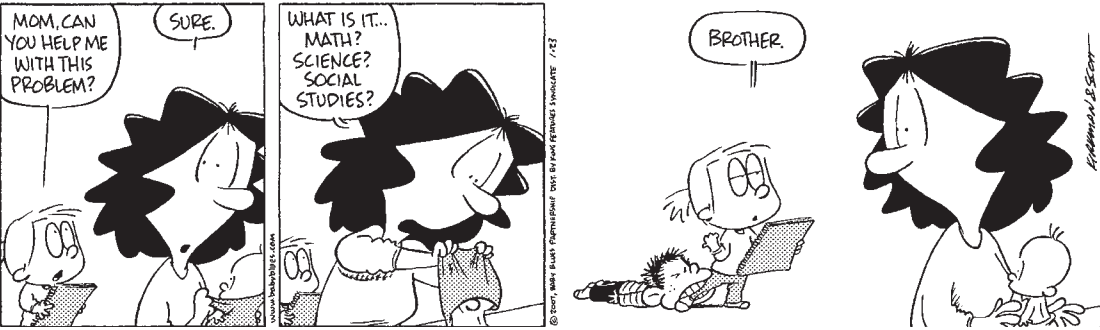
★★★★★ You might be A-OK but unfortunately, a loved one, close associate or dear friend becomes even more feisty. You might wonder: Why me? In the next few weeks, his or her attitude could create a lot of frustration. Clear out feelings. Tonight: A new beginning is possible.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

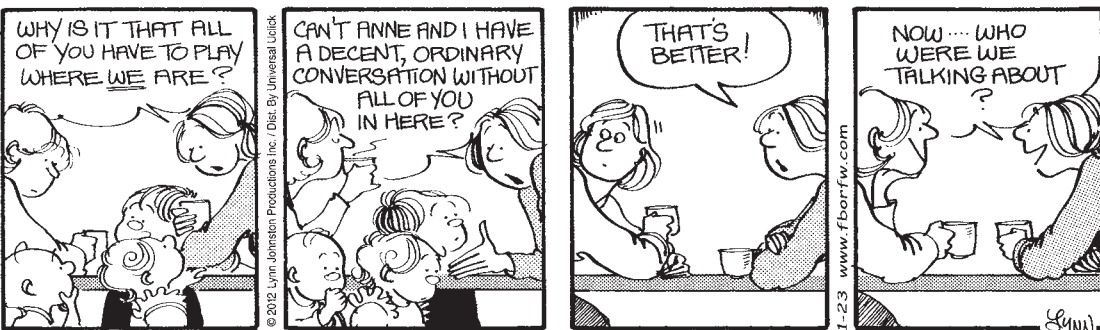
★★★ Zero in on a problem by observing instead of asking questions. You could be surprised by what you find out. Also, note what is not being said. Your sunny manner can help take the edge off for now. Tonight: Going along with another person's ideas.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

