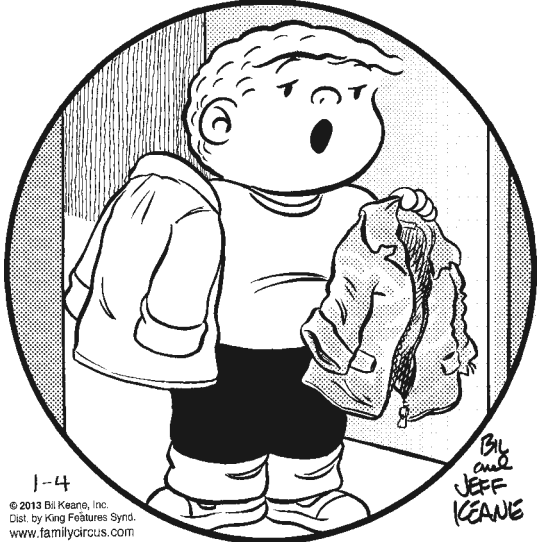
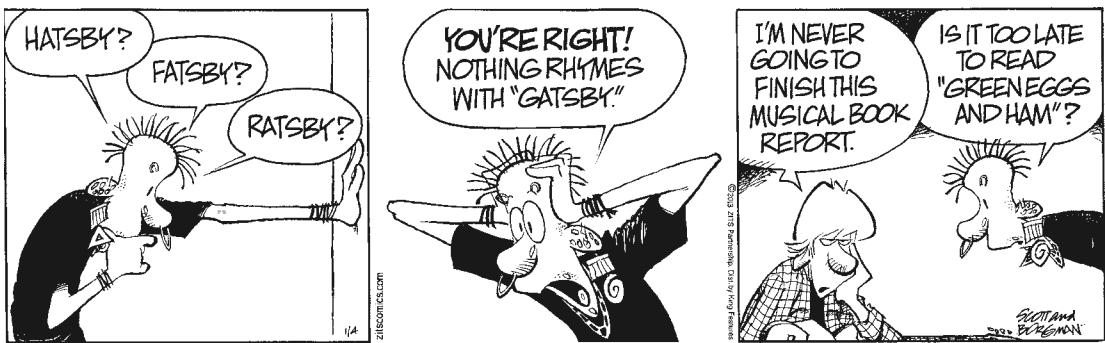


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

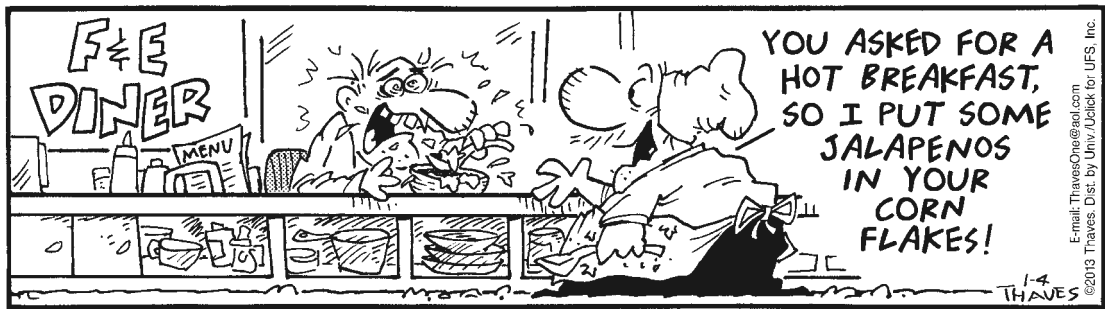


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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



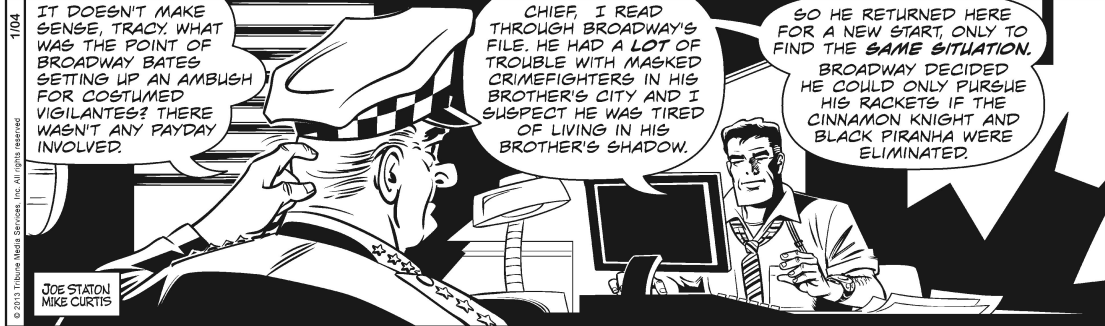
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



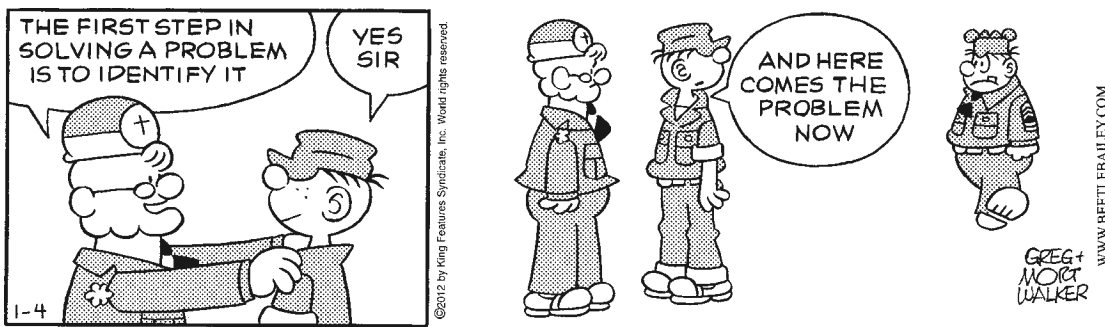
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



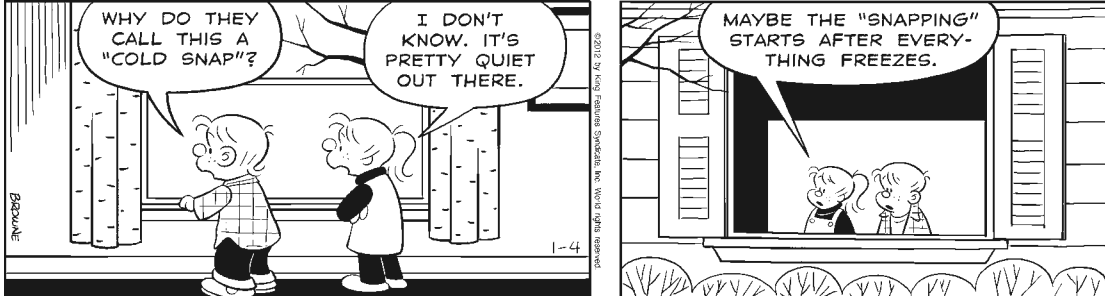
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Mom Using Restaurant Table To Change Baby Takes The Cake

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I run a restaurant in a small town. Recently, my wife came home on my day off and told me that during the lunch hour, one of our servers had come into the kitchen and announced that they'd need extra sanitizer on table 29 because a mother was changing her baby on it!

What has happened in our society that people don't understand that this is unsanitary and rude? Had I been there, I don't know that I could have kept a civil tongue, and I feel like people today regard my disgust as unreasonable. Is there something I'm missing here? — CAFE CRAZY

DEAR "CRAZY": I don't know who you have been talking to, but your disgust is NOT "unreasonable." What that mother was missing was common sense and courtesy for those around her. I agree that changing a baby on a restaurant table was out of the ballpark — particularly if a changing table was available in the women's restroom of your cafe. (I'm assuming there is one, but if there isn't, the situation should be immediately rectified.)

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Gene," and I were married for five years until our divorce six months ago. We still live together and are dating each other. We had so many issues, I felt there needed to be a fresh start, including filing for divorce and living apart.

Now that we have started over, moved away from our hometown and gotten rid of several "friends," our issues are gone and we're financially stable. In fact, our relationship is better than ever.

Since things are now worked out, I'd like us to get remarried. I told him before our divorce that I hoped we could resolve things and marry again. Now he's not sure, because he says if we got divorced again, he couldn't bear the hurt. He says he still doesn't understand why our "fresh start" included a divorce.

Abby, we love each other. We want to be together forever and have children. I don't want to be dating

my ex-husband indefinitely. Do you have advice for us? — GOING NOWHERE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR GOING NOWHERE: I sure do. In the interest of solidifying your fresh start, you and Gene should sign up for some premarital counseling. If you do, you may be able to help him understand why you felt the way you did. With counseling, you can sure that your problems are fully resolved, and it may reassure him that this time there won't be another divorce. If you are thinking about a religious ceremony, the officiant may even require it.



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.

HOLLY IN KOKOMO

DEAR HOLLY: The same thing that made your sister think it was OK to use her cellphone in a darkened theater. She's lucky that all she got was a lecture because these days many people have short fuses.

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 Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2013:

This year others become aware of your plethora of innate skills. You often find that you are being placed on a pedestal. Recognize the fragility of your position. Accept the responsibility of the limelight, but remind others that you are only human. If you are single, you'll have many opportunities to change your status, but it's up to you whether you choose to take advantage of it. You simply might enjoy playing the dating game. If you are attached, a community commitment could keep you busy. Find a way of drawing in your significant other, as it would bring the two of you closer together. LIBRA gets into a power struggle with you. 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 could be jolted awake this morning. You might find yourself walking into a big problem; however, you'll be pleased how easily this issue can be resolved. All you need to do is focus on the outcome, and the right path will appear. Tonight: Do not play devil's advocate.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might not believe how someone's wish could be misinterpreted. Rather than clarifying, decide to let it go. A boss, friend or older relative could be difficult at best. A change in plans is likely. Do not be elusive with funds. Tonight: Relax. You need to unwind more than you realize.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Where others might be jolted by news, you'll go right in and solve the issue. You see possibilities where others don't, and you'll take a different approach. Your energy pushes you to act and think outside of the box. Tonight: Settle in with a favorite person.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Pressure builds around an obligation, a personal matter and someone's expectations. You could be in a situation where you might want to rethink a personal matter. Do one thing at a time; otherwise, your mind could go on overload. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

HHHH Be aware of your options, as the unexpected

does occur. Do not get locked into either/or thinking. To clear up what is happening, you will need to analyze the situation and brainstorm with a pal. Together, you'll come up with a solution. Tonight: Choose a favorite spot.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Remain sensitive to your budget. You might be having trouble switching modes from prior holiday shopping to now. Walk away from a risk, and understand that you are better off nixing it. Tonight: Handle some must-do errands, and pay bills before deciding whether you want to go out.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are capable of experiencing one extreme after another. An element of confusion will straighten out, especially if you detach from the situation. Some of the insight you gain might not be comfortable, but it will be very practical. Tonight: Honor what you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could feel pushed by a personal matter that you might choose not to share. Listen to your inner voice. It is likely that you need some downtime for yourself or space away from others. Take a walk or choose some other relaxing hobby. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could find a partner highly supportive and upbeat. You might want to reorganize your finances as you look at recent developments. Know that you can be positive and assertive when you need to be. Tonight: Where people are.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ If you want to take a stand, the right time will appear very soon. Remember, others model their behavior off of how you conduct yourself. Stay away from a control game, even if you could win. Your efforts count more than you know. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

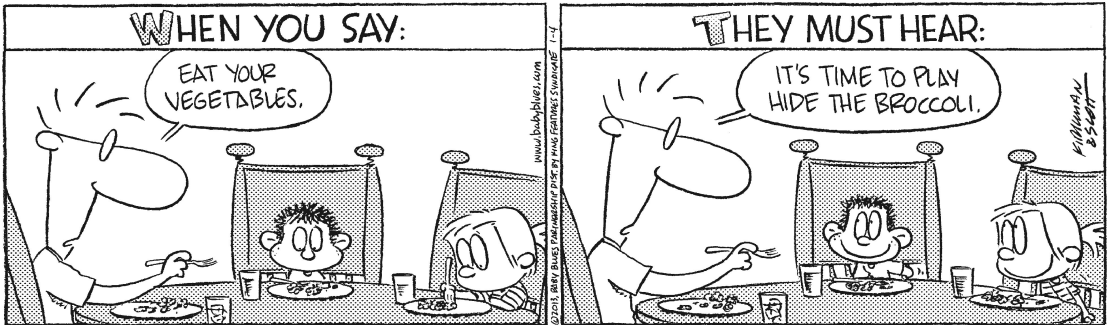
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. Your feelings need to be honored more often. When you decide that the jig is up, you will not change your mind. Your creativity flourishes, especially when dealing with a loved one. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ How you deal with a child or loved one could change radically as a result of handling a different situation that is causing you some stress. If you can, separate the two matters. Try to direct your frustration where it belongs, for everyone's sake. Tonight: Make nice.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

