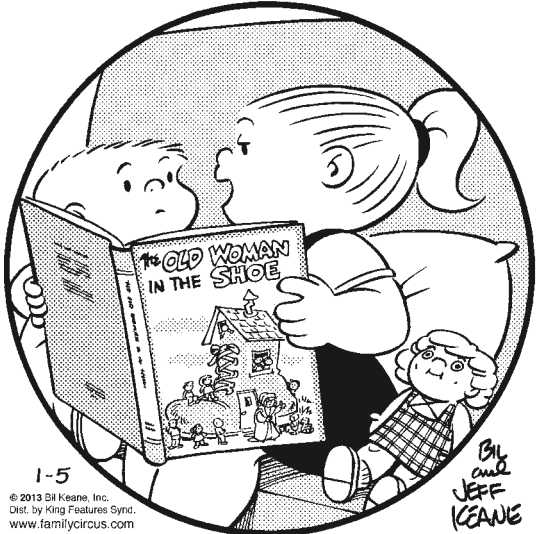
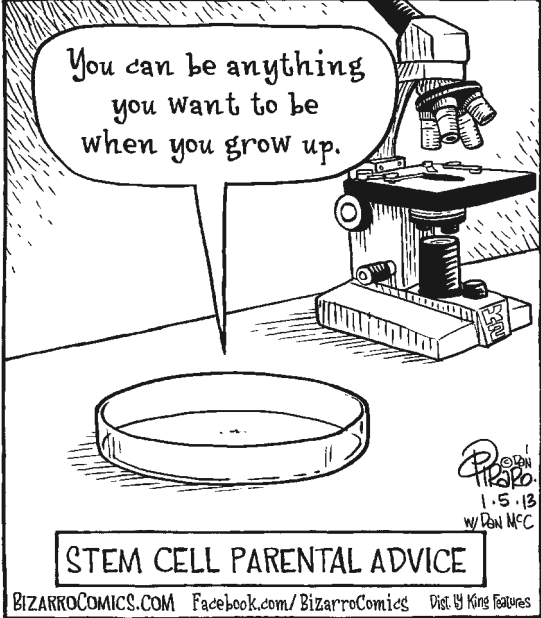


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



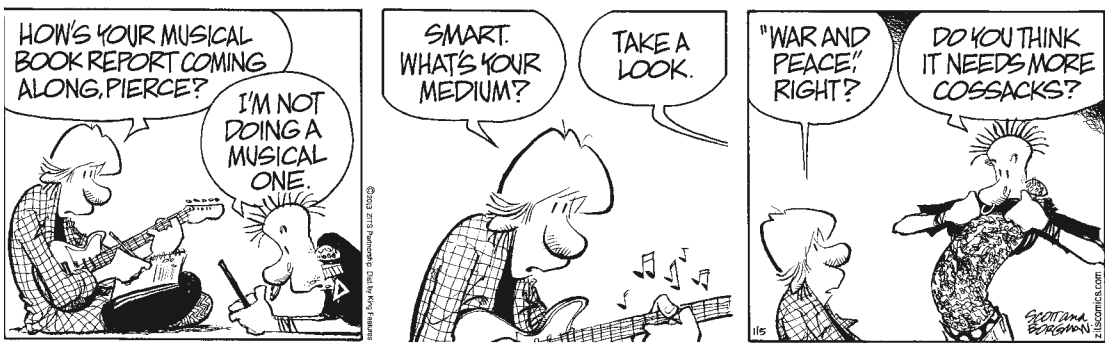
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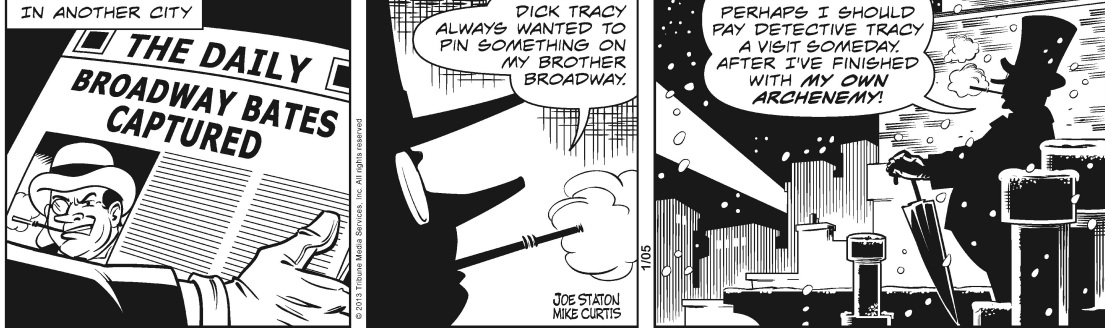
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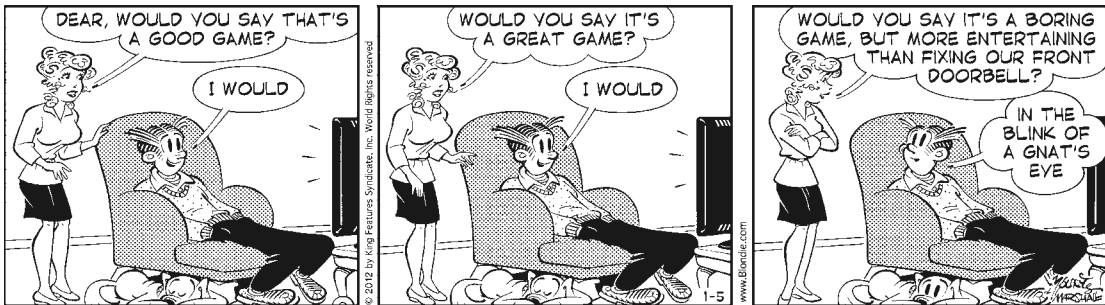
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



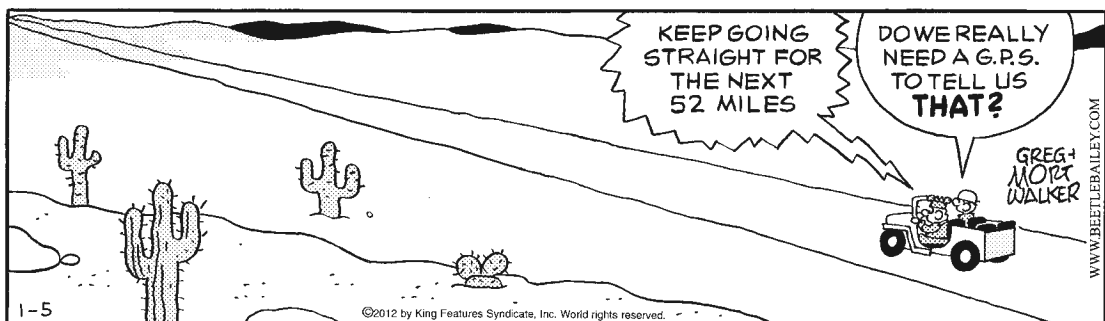
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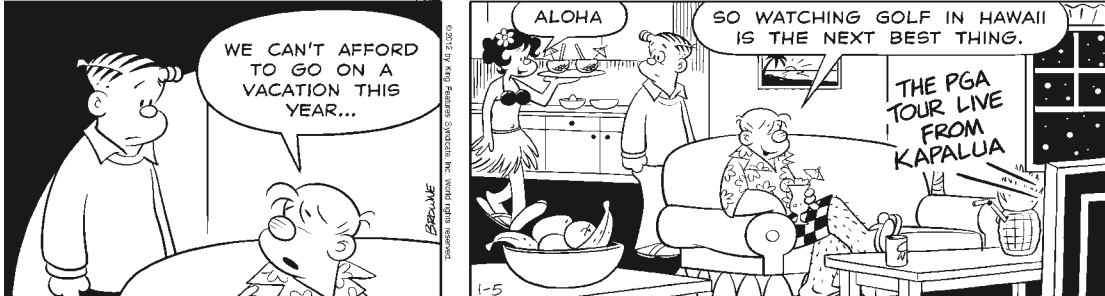
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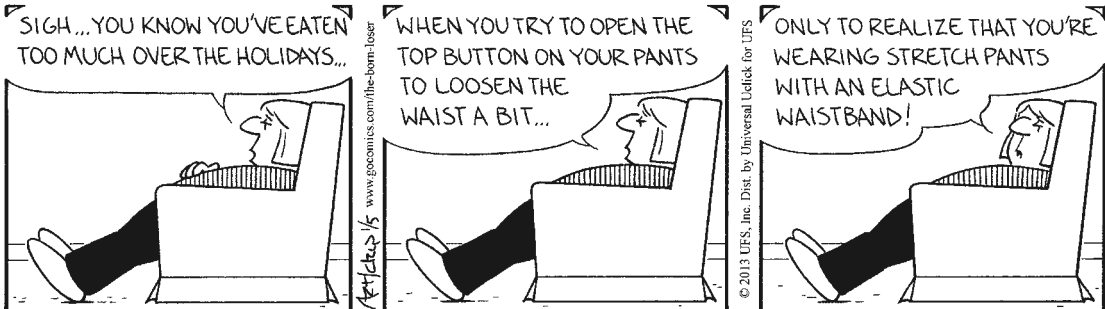
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Son Discovers Secret 'Friend' In His Father's Text Messages

DEAR ABBY: I'm the youngest of three children and I'll be graduating from high school in the spring. My parents always seemed happy with each other. They were obviously in love, and they told my brothers and me they would never get divorced. Although they had arguments, they always made up, and it never seemed to be serious.

For the last few months, my dad has been acting weird. He spends a lot of time talking to and texting "a friend" on the phone. The problem is, although the friend has a male name ("George") in his contacts, the person has a female voice. I didn't think anything about it until recently, when I turned on Dad's phone to play a game and it was open to a series of text messages between him and this "friend." What I saw made it clear that something is up. Mom knows nothing about it.

I love my father, but I don't think I can handle this. I can't believe he'd do this to our family, especially since all of us are going through a really hard time lately.

I don't know what to do. I don't want to tell anyone because I don't want our family to fall apart. But I can't stay quiet. What should I do? — BLINDSIDED IN JERSEY

DEAR BLINDSIDED: I agree that you can't keep quiet about this. What you saw was, of course, shocking — and the person you should talk to about it is your father. Sometimes when people are going through a really tough time, they do things they wouldn't ordinarily do. Your mother may — or may not — have an inkling that something is going on.

Ask your father if the text means he plans to leave the family. Then give him a deadline to come clean with your mother, and let him know that if he doesn't, you will. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: My husband was sober for 14 years. He started drinking again two years ago. He's on pro-

bation and drinking is a clear violation of his probation. His liver enzymes are elevated, and I can't seem to find the right words to get his attention. I have thought about contacting his probation officer, but then he will be incarcerated.

Abby, I am watching the man I love drink himself to death and I'm afraid for him. Should I tell his probation officer or just watch him self-destruct? — SCARED AND CONFUSED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SCARED: The reason you can't get your husband's attention is because of the alcohol. He isn't thinking straight. As I am sure you realize, one of the hallmarks of addiction is denial. No one helps an alcoholic by enabling the person to continue drinking, and your husband definitely needs help.

While it may not be easy, talk to the probation officer so your husband can be incarcerated, dry out and become rational again. I know it is a painful choice, but watching him die of liver disease would be worse.

DEAR ABBY: Can you answer something for me? If the abbreviation for "mister" is "Mr.," then why is there an R in "Mrs." when there's no R in the word it's short for? — INQUISITIVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INQUISITIVE: According to my American Heritage Dictionary (4th Edition), "Mrs." is the abbreviation of the word "mistress" — an antiquated term for a married or widowed woman.

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 Capricorn and a Moon in Libra for born before 10:04 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 2013:

This year you focus on your goals. Update them as you do your friendships. Be aware that they might be changing as a result of your recent transformation. You might have to endure some harsh conditions in order to achieve a certain goal, but you will. Your well-known determination emerges. If you are single, a friendship could become even more. If you are attached, make sure to tend to the friendship that exists under the romance. When your bond encounters a hardship, which it will at times, your friendship will make all the difference in the outcome. SCORPIO is rigid but loyal.

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)

★★★ Others insist on having their way. You could prevent that from happening, or you could decide to go with the flow. Know that others are coming from a good place. Decide what you want before you head in a certain direction. Tonight: Togetherness works.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You finally feel as if you have done enough in the afternoon. Do not insist on inviting others over. It might be nice if they would take over the party and get-together hosting for a while. Enjoy the change of pace! Get into a favorite pastime. Tonight: The later it gets, the better it gets.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have a style that attracts many people. Though you might be in demand right now, you also have to make sure that you're happy. If a situation is out of sync for you, let others know or just walk away. You do not need to put up with any problems. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Get some extra R and R. Go to a movie or veg at home, if you so choose. You might need to be a little more assertive and a lot less "at others' service." You will be much happier and get more of what you need as a result. Tonight: Enjoy this newfound freedom.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

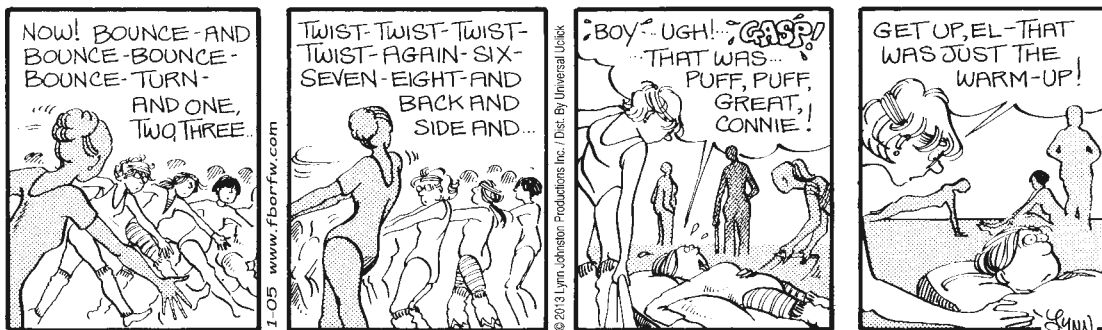
HHHH Take care of last-minute errands, finish sending

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

