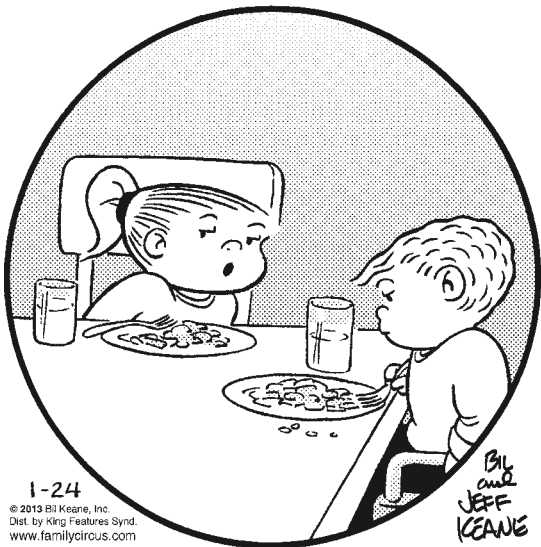
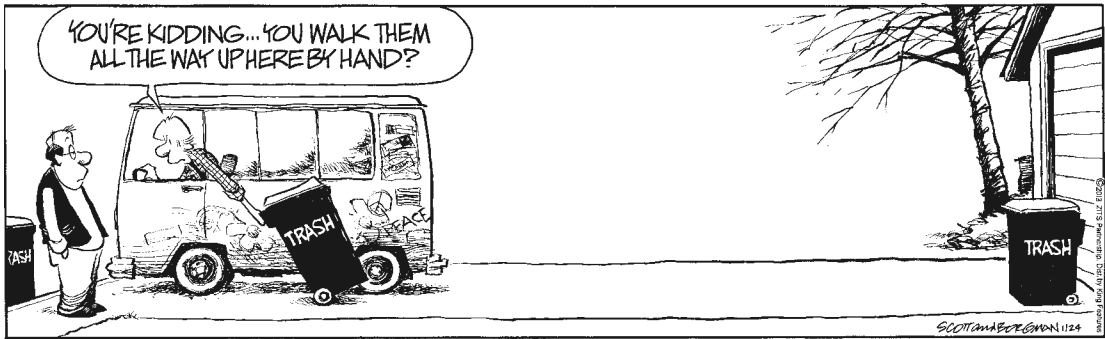


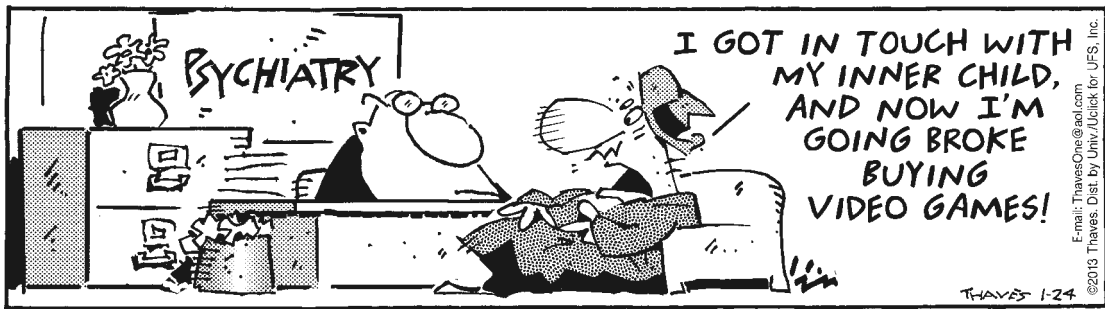
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



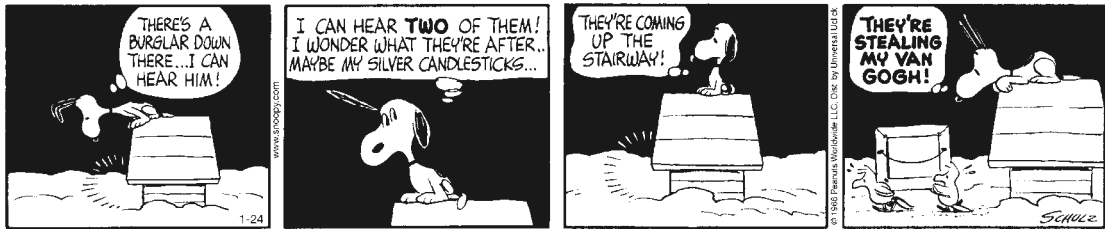
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



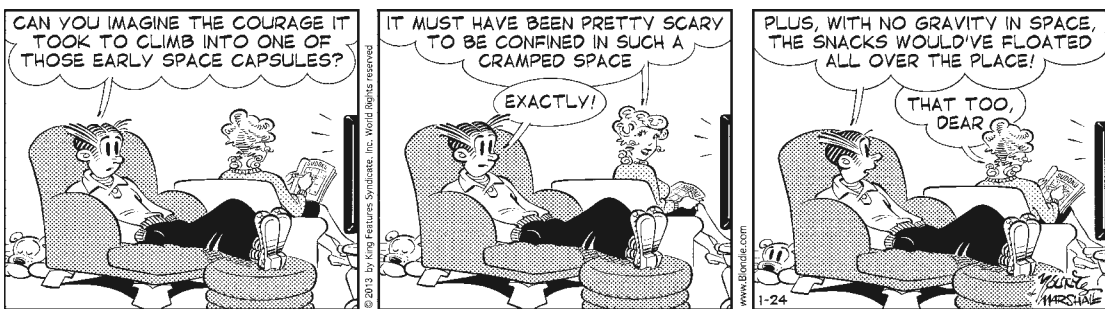
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



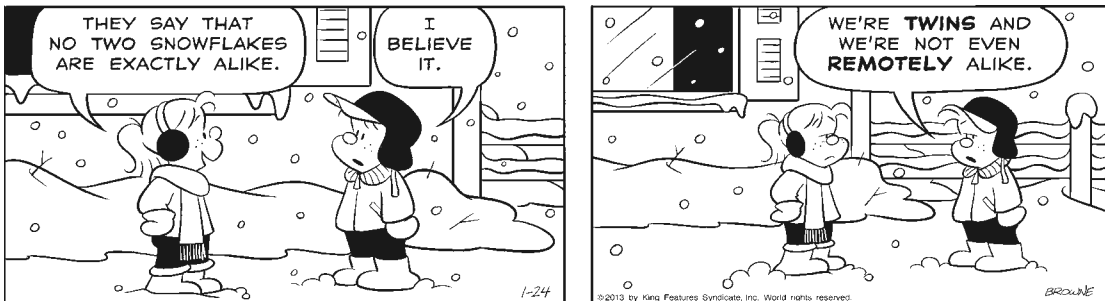
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Unmarried Couple Doesn't See Eye To Eye On Living Together

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my early 20s and in my first serious relationship. I adore "Paul." We have a wonderful, respectful relationship. One day I hope we'll be married.

I feel strongly that we should not live together before we are married. He disagrees. He feels couples need to know each other's habits fully before they make a lifelong commitment.

I understand the financial and emotional convenience of sharing a home with your loved one. However, I believe that marriage changes a living dynamic whether you have lived together or not. Conflicts that arise post-marriage can be faced with a greater sense of resolve, knowing that a formal commitment has been made.

Abby, what's your take on this? Should couples live together before marriage? I don't want to be stubborn and say I'll never live with anyone before getting married, because I know it's a very common thing to do. What can I say to Paul and friends who disagree with me to defend my "old-fashioned" logic? — TRADITIONALIST IN CHICAGO

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: I don't think you should argue with them on the subject at all. Just say that although many couples live together today without marriage, YOU aren't comfortable with it. You are not the only person who feels this way. Many people with strong religious convictions feel the way you do about it. In my opinion, this is something that couples should work out between themselves.

DEAR ABBY: My next-door neighbor "Rod" and I work at the same place, about 10 miles from our homes. He has a medical condition that prevents him from driving. Until recently, he took the bus, but that route was stopped, so he now relies on his wife for transportation every day. She works and also takes care of their three kids.

Last summer, I drove Rod for a while, but he was a terrible carpool companion. He was perpetually late, and I'd have to wait for him in the morning and after work. He would brag nonstop about how good he is at his job, and then want to stand around in our driveway chatting instead of just going inside.

He never offered to pay for gas or compensate me in any way, and seemed unable to find other arrangements when I had to work late or run errands after work, which made me feel trapped in his schedule. I finally got tired of the hassle and made an excuse to stop driving him.

There is no real reason I can't take him now except that he was such a pain in the you-know-what that I don't want to. But I feel guilty when I see his wife loading up all their kids to make the drive.

What's the right thing to do? We may be neighbors for a very long time. — KIND COMMUTER IN MADISON, WIS.

DEAR KIND COMMUTER: I recognize your generosity in extending yourself to your co-worker, who apparently never learned the basics of carpool etiquette. Because you got nothing positive out of driving him, I do not recommend you start again. However, if you would like to do his wife a favor, see if there are transportation services for people with disabilities in your city, and if there are, give that information to her.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, 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 Aquarius and a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 2013:

This year you'll want to avoid power plays at all costs. You might generate a lot of plans only to find that many of them will fall apart. Ask yourself why this happens. It could be something that is totally unrelated to your decisions. If you are single, your nurturing style draws many people to you. Do you always want to be a nurturer? Think about that scenario before you decide to relate to a needy individual. If you are attached, dive into a new hobby with your sweetie. You will discover that it brings the two of you closer together. Make more time for each other. CANCER is very moody.

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 have your fair share of hurdles to jump over at the present time, especially when someone suddenly becomes extremely controlling. Don't play into this person's games. You might get frustrated when dealing with someone else's finances. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Go with someone else's suggestion. You might feel as if you cannot break through an associate's resistance. Why even try? Detach, and suddenly this person could want to pull you back in. You can't avoid this situation. Tonight: Discussions over dinner at a favorite spot.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You seem to be acting as if another holiday is around the corner. Be smart. Rein in your impulsiveness and your desire to indulge. Express your feelings instead of spending money to appease them; you'll be happier in the long run. Tonight: Treat yourself to a favorite dessert.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your impulsiveness might carry you through a problem, but there is a strong likelihood that you could collide with someone. This person might be a partner who often gets into control games. Take a stand if you need to, but know that it could prolong the issue. Tonight: Charm works.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Take your time right now. You might be on overload and thinking through a lot of issues that all might be

connected. Don't worry, because as you process your feelings, you will become more logical. Avoid a difficult person. Screen your calls. Tonight: Do something just for you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Meetings with groups of people and one-on-one interactions will allow greater success and more support. Brainstorming with others encourages greater involvement from all parties. A partner acts in a most unexpected manner. Tonight: Only what makes you happy.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with an authority figure who often causes you a problem. This person can be very controlling, yet you must be responsive. You might decide to tighten your budget in order to create more flexibility when you need it. Check in with an older relative. Tonight: A must appearance.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Know when enough is enough. Be willing to understand what is happening with a child or a loved one at a distance. Sometimes your attitude pushes people away. Open up to some new ideas that could invigorate your daily life. Tonight: Let your imagination make the call.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your emotional nature takes over. Avoid getting pulled into a difficult situation. You will work through your feelings quickly if you can stay calm. A loved one is unpredictable. Nothing you can do will make this person honor the status quo. Tonight: How about a cozy dinner?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You could be surprised at what falls into your lap. The energy from an unexpected source will carry you through the day. Maintain your sense of humor, and worry less. The immediate situation or crisis does not reveal the whole story. Tonight: Go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Pace yourself. Know that some situations cannot be resolved; worrying about them is a waste of your time. Unexpected news points to a new direction or idea. This might be hard to realize at first, but eventually you will know what to do. Tonight: Get some exercise.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

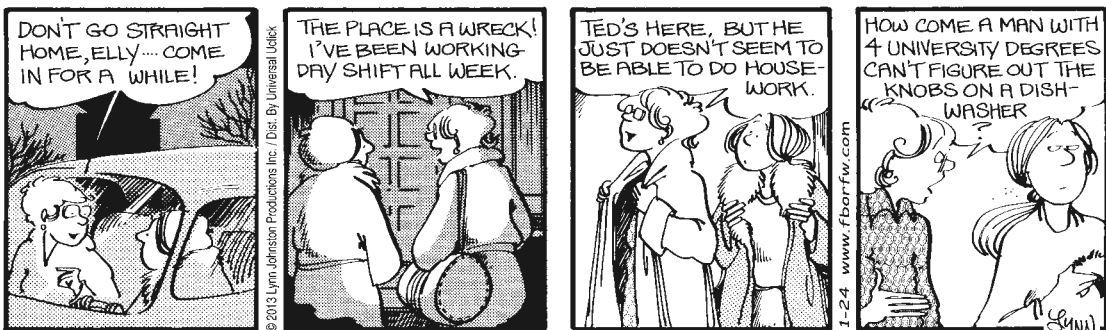
★★★★ Your attention turns to a child or loved one who makes it clear that he or she wants your attention. You might be surprised at the cost of a token of appreciation. A friend you previously counted on might not be reliable or supportive right now. Tonight: Go with your feelings.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

