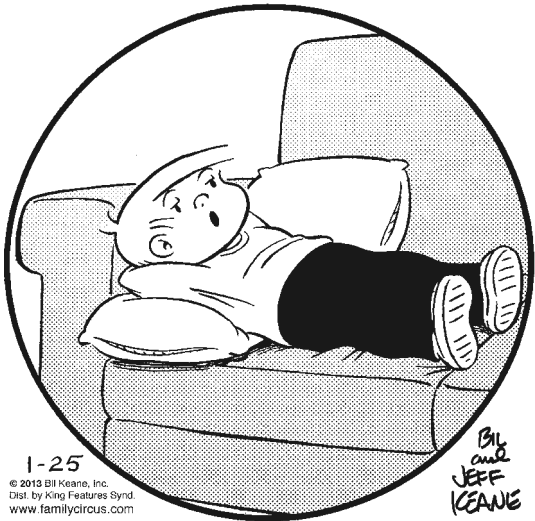
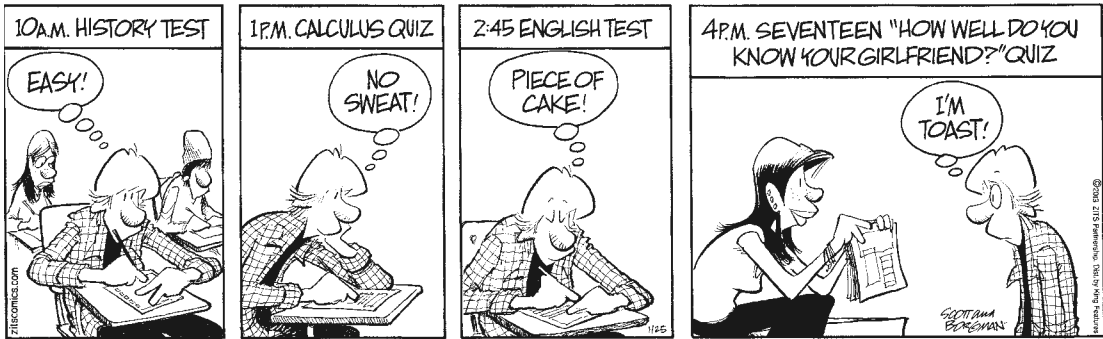


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



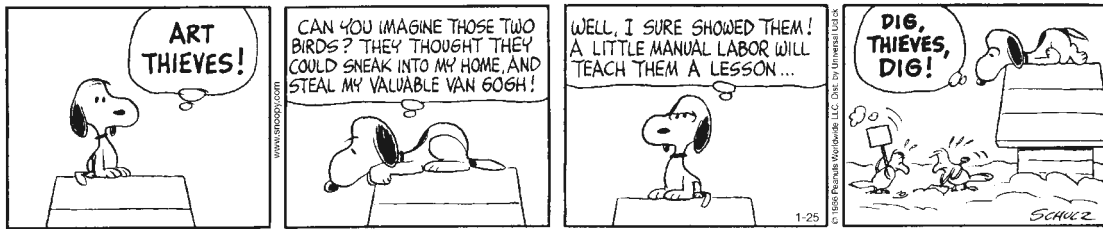
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



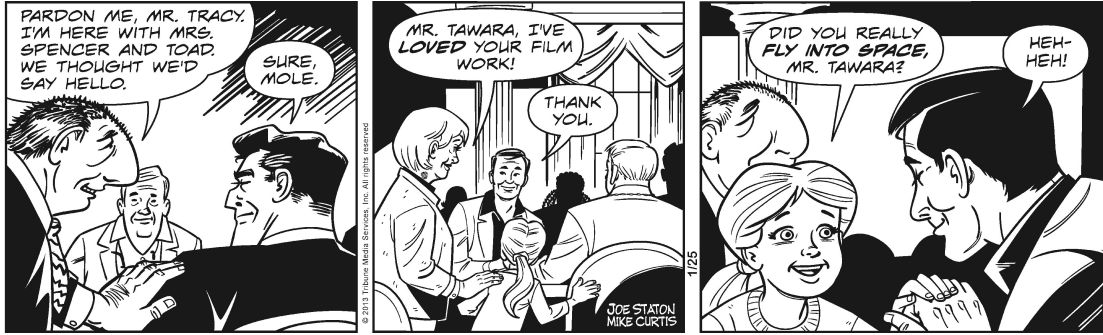
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



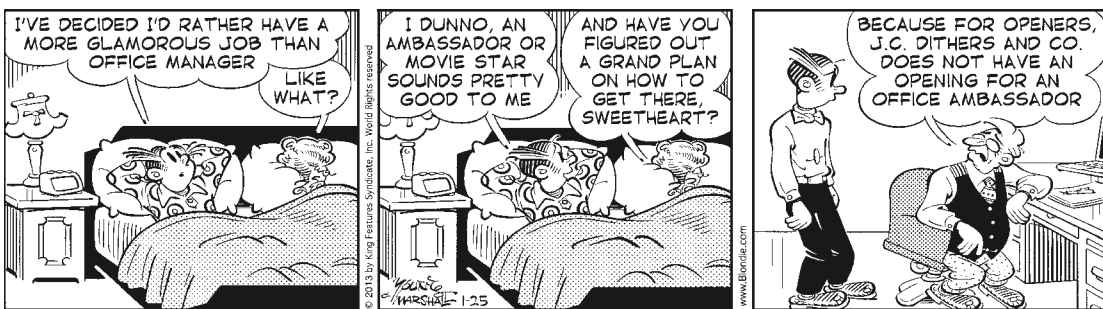
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



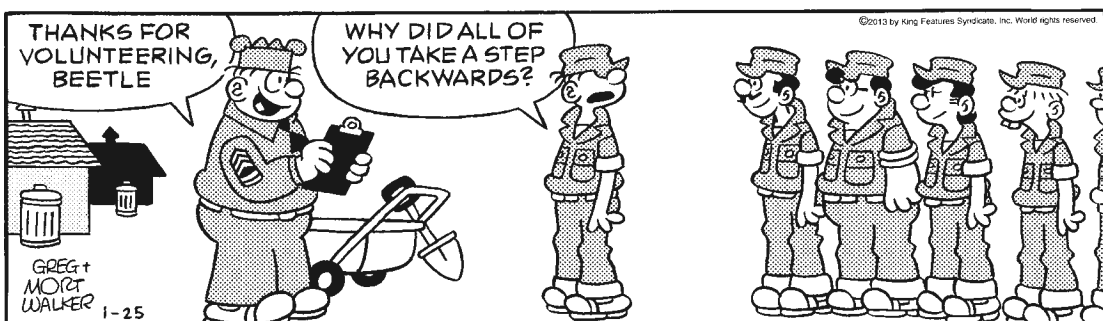
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



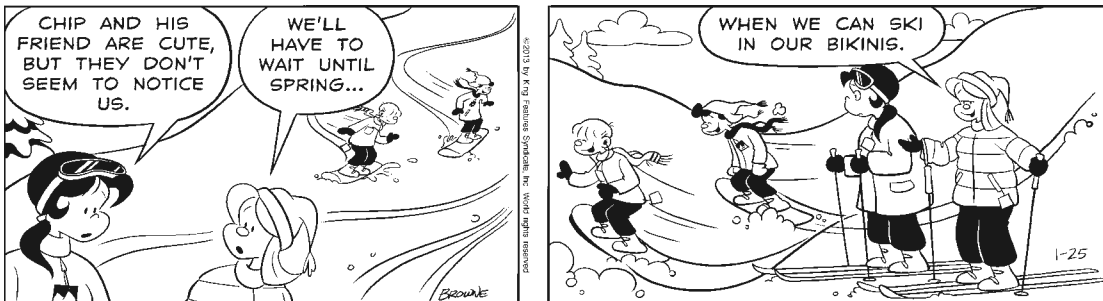
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



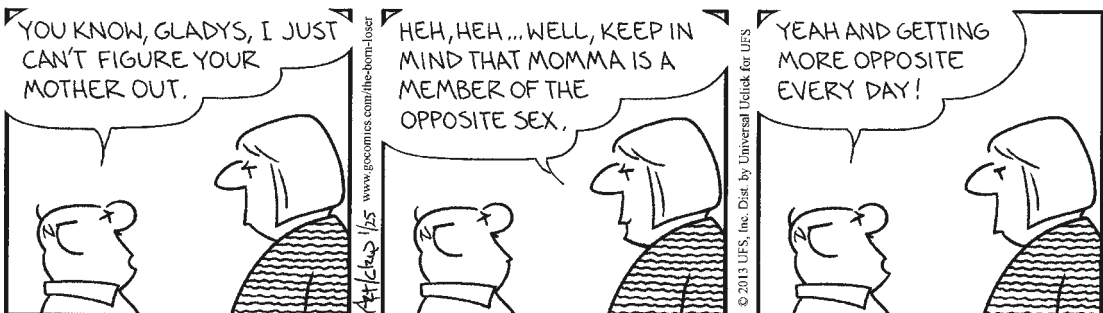
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



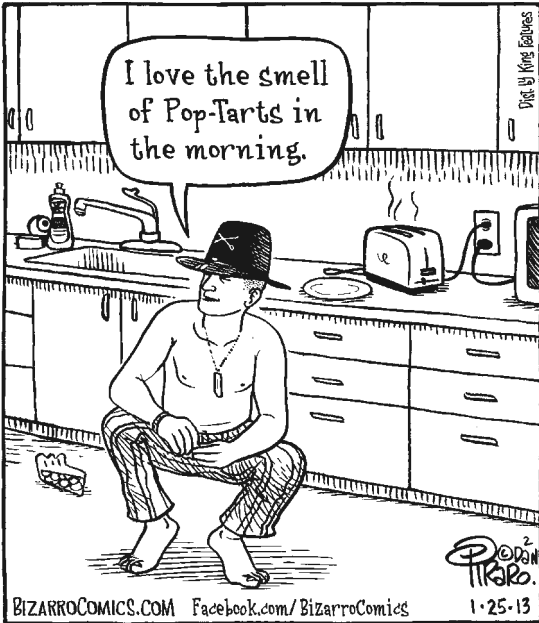
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Mother Of Twin Boys Worries They're Too Close For Comfort

DEAR ABBY: I am the single mother of identical twin boys. They insist on dressing alike and use their own secret language. I have always had trouble telling them apart. When they were young, it was cute, but as they are growing older I'm starting to worry.

They're 12. When they oversleep, they shower together to save time. Their teacher took me aside during a conference and said they seem to be overly affectionate with each other and might benefit from some time with a masculine role model. When I questioned her, she said there is gossip that they were seen touching and possibly even kissing.

My research has brought up the idea of "twincest," and I am worried my boys may be falling into these habits. How would you suggest making them stop? Everyone keeps suggesting separation, but they share a room and I don't have another one or the money to build one. Help! — MOM WITH TWO MUCH TROUBLE

DEAR MOM: You obviously love your boys, but please stop worrying. According to David Baron, M.D. — an internationally respected psychiatrist at the University of Southern California — at this point one of the most harmful things you could do is to blow this out of proportion. Twins have a special bond. They feel safer with each other than with their peers. If this persists, consult a therapist, for your peace of mind if nothing else. But please do not jump the gun because of gossip.

DEAR ABBY: I wear dentures. I have never gone out in public without them. However, I have seen people I know take them out in restaurants, etc. It is not only awful to look at, but don't they realize how they look? Am I shallow for not wanting anyone to see me without my "smile"? Is there some social eti-

quette that's being broken? — TOOTHLESS IN COLORADO

DEAR TOOTHLESS: Of course there is. The active word here is "discretion." If a dental appliance is ill-fitting and uncomfortable, it should not be left on the table or displayed like a goldfish in a glass of water for all to admire. And need I add that a trip to the dentist should be scheduled ASAP to remedy the problem?

DEAR ABBY: I'm a college student and still live with my parents. My two older sisters moved out years ago. I never asked them why, but I'm sure it's because our father is emotionally abusive. He talks down to us and makes us feel inadequate.

He has belittled my mother for years, to the point that she doesn't bother arguing with him anymore. She used to play music all the time, but she's now afraid to "bother anybody." I can honestly say I never loved my father, and I wish Mom had divorced him years ago.

The few times I have tried to talk to him, he overreacted and accused me of being a drama queen who blows things out of proportion. He's almost 60 but has the emotional depth of a spoiled, angry 12-year-old. How can I convince Mom that leaving him will do her more good than harm? — NO LOVE FOR DAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NO LOVE FOR DAD: You can't do that unless you fully understand her reasons for staying with your father. Women stay with abusive men for various reasons. Some of them do it because they are so emotionally beaten down they think they have no other choice. Some stay because they are financially dependent, and others do it because they are afraid of being alone. She may be biding her time until you are out of the house, or she may love your father.

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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 Leo if born after 6:20 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon is in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 2013:

This year, you often juggle different views, feelings and thoughts. You wonder whether to do what you feel or do what you think. Others are attracted to you, as clearly you are a people-person. Your charisma is high this year, too. If you are single, there is a constant flow of potential suitors. Know that there always are more just around the corner! If you are attached, a newfound intensity emerges, especially if you defer to your sweetie. LEO is proud. Be careful — do not offend him or her.

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 encounter a misunderstanding or a problematic situation. If you let yourself get sucked into it, it could ruin a creative moment. Communication accelerates, as your personal life weaves into your professional life. Don't worry — you can handle it. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ What you thought about doing today just might not happen. Others' demands or interests very well could distract you. You might feel a need to turn your attention elsewhere. Friends and loved ones do appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind, but realize that not everyone has a similar opinion. Be open to other ideas or to someone else putting down what you believe to be a nugget of wisdom. You'll still get your way. It is hard to turn you down. Tonight: Out and about, strutting your stuff.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You could discover that a creative idea falls flat. Let go, and let others find a different response or solution. Focus on what you enjoy. Make a point of going out to buy that special present or token of affection. Express your caring and do not hold back. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A little reticence disappears quickly. You could make a big deal out of a problem, or you could decide to

let it go. Others are only too happy to meet with you, both professionally and personally. You don't need to make something a bigger issue than it is. Tonight: Prime time!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Honor your energy level. If you feel discouraged by a conversation or a situation, try not to give it to much attention, especially as there is little you can do until later. Get into a project that involves interacting less with others. Tonight: Make plans, but keep them low-key.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might have the best intentions and want to keep a meeting all business, yet you might discover a problem. Acknowledge what is going on behind the scenes. You might not even have a choice, as it is obvious that someone intrigues you. Tonight: TGIF! You need a break.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ When others flake out, who steps up to the plate? You don't need to look around. You are at your best when you are in the position of handling a problem. You like feeling empowered, and you resent situations that are out of control. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Deal with others directly, and open up to someone about what you feel is a difficult situation. You might hear that you are creating the problem in your head. Try revising your thinking, and you will see the situation from a different perspective. Tonight: Be a duo.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Listen to your inner voice, and you might realize that you're not on the right course for you. Others might disagree. At what point do you decide to go about this matter alone? Don't worry — a partner or business associate will come to the rescue. Tonight: Join a close friend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Defer to others, and listen to their fears. A boss might be very difficult, and your approach might not be appropriate. Others' suggestions don't seem to work, either. You might want to deliberate carefully on an important decision. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

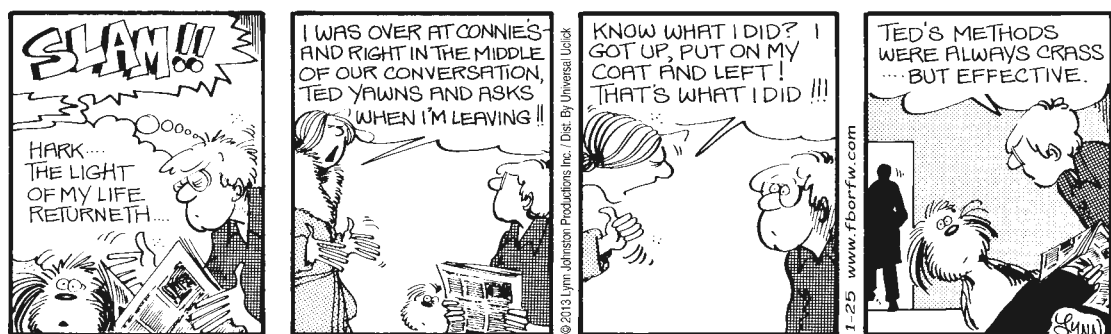
★★★★ You can move through a project quickly once you confront the first obstacles. Good will and support among those who are involved does make a big difference. Be more upbeat, and a family member or loved one won't be able to say no. Tonight: Stay mellow.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

