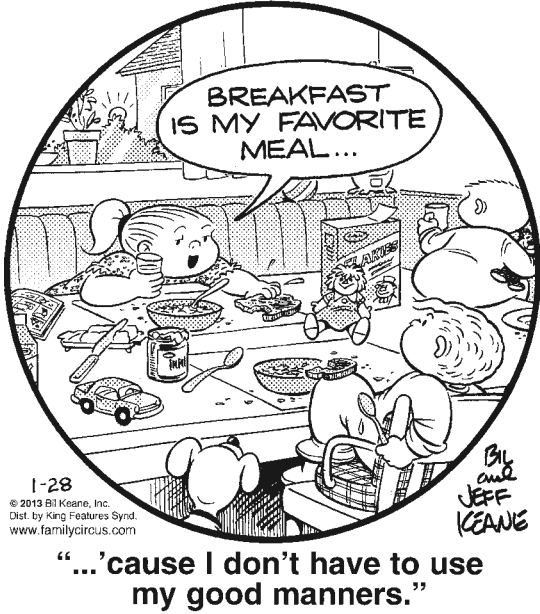
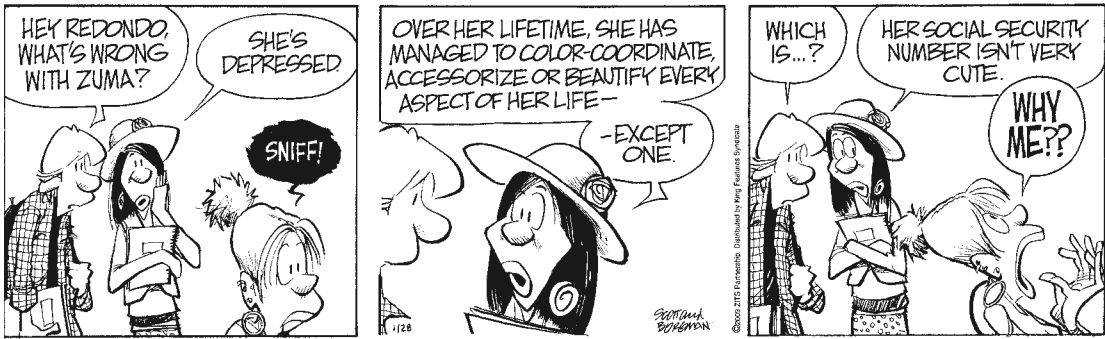


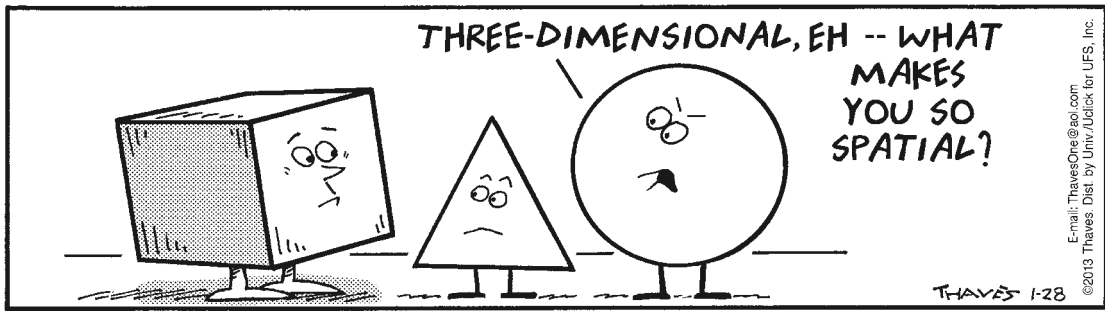
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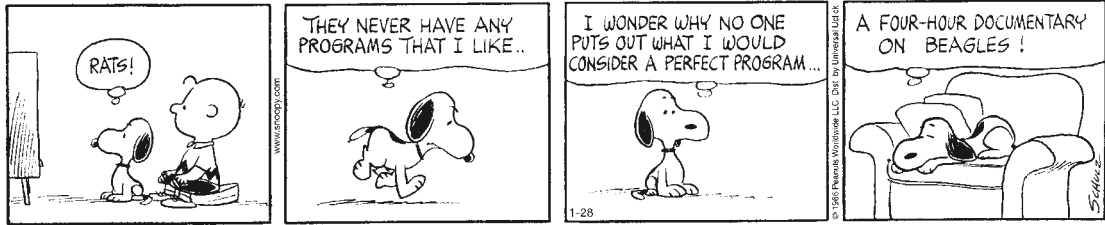
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



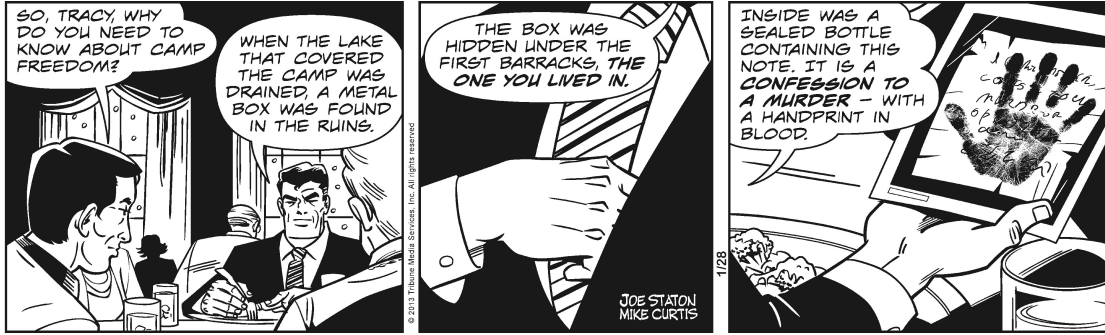
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



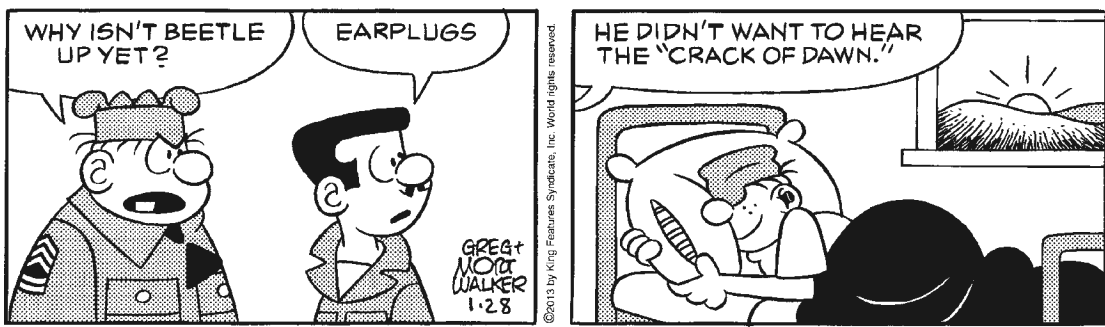
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



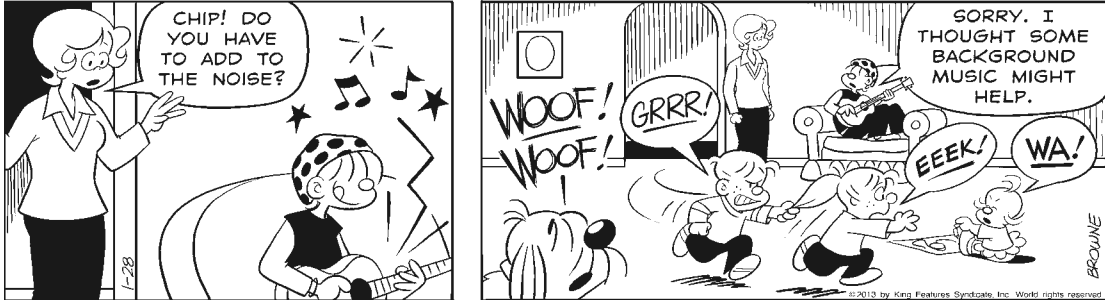
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Mom Must Work To Overcome Hostility Toward Her Daughter

DEAR ABBY: Although I love my 7-year-old daughter, "Emma," I do not "like" her. It's because I dislike my ex-husband. "Scott," so much. He was verbally and emotionally abusive and left me while I was pregnant. The experience left me hurt and humiliated, and I continue to harbor resentment toward him.

I'm happily remarried now, but Emma is a constant reminder of my bad marriage. I feel she's selfish, rude, lazy and disrespectful — characteristics Scott possesses. I have little tolerance for her behavior and I'm hard on her. Sometimes I feel like I'm talking to him instead of to a little girl.

I have seen several therapists, but nobody has been able to help. I have been told, "Your child isn't your ex so you need to get over it!"

Compounding the problem is the daughter I have with my second husband, a little girl I adore beyond words. She's sweet, kind, friendly and essentially the opposite of Emma. I love this child more than I love Emma, and I'm disgusted with myself for feeling this way. It was Scott who hurt me, but I can't get past the hurt. Abby, what can I do? — DISTRESSED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR DISTRESSED: Try harder to rebuild the bond you didn't form with Emma when she was born because of your anger at her father. It can still be done, but it will take work on your part. Emma's behavior may be the result of how you have treated her, and if YOU can change, so may she. I'll share with you a letter I printed several years ago from another mother who shared your problem:

"DEAR ABBY: The best advice I ever received for coping with my contrary daughter was from a neighbor who had a surly girl of her own. She made a conscientious effort to be more demonstrative to her daughter, hug her more and hold on a little

tighter to show her how valued she was.

"I tried it with my daughter, going out of my way several times a day to express my love for her. It was awkward at first, but I persevered. I committed myself to loving that unlovable being, and slowly but surely it paid off. At first, she would lean away, but eventually she would ask me to hold on 'just one more minute."

"My daughter is 24 now and on her own. Her life isn't what I would have hoped for or expected, but that's OK. I'm her touchstone for love and acceptance. I can't imagine my life without her. — ANOTHER MOM IN CALIFORNIA"

Emma may be a difficult child, but she's not stupid. She sees the difference between how you react to her half-sister and the way you treat her. A first step for you would be to apologize to her, put your arms around her and tell her that from now on you will try to do better as a mother. Emma didn't ask to be born, and you owe her that.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years. We didn't have a wedding. Instead, we went to the courthouse — just the two of us with a couple of witnesses — and had a small reception a few months later.

Having been a part of some very nice weddings recently, I mentioned to my husband that I wished we would have done something more special for our wedding. Now he wants to renew our vows with a huge wedding ceremony. Would it be appropriate to have a big ceremony now? — WONDERING IN IOWA

DEAR WONDERING: I think it's a wonderful idea. Ten years of wedded bliss is something to celebrate, and I see no reason why you shouldn't do it with the ceremony of your dreams. Other couples have done it, and so can you.

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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 before 3:27 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JAN. 28, 2013:

This year your focus is on a partnership, especially if you are attached. Sometimes you might feel as if you give too much of yourself, which could cause you to become resentful. If you are single, you could form several different bonds. Take your time getting to know these potential suitors until you find one that feels comfortable. If you are attached, confusion surrounds communication. Try to be clearer. Close relating will remain important, no matter what area of your life it pertains to. VIRGO can be touchy or critical.

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)

★★★★ How you deal with criticism will determine the success of a venture or relationship. Incorporating someone else's idea into your own can only make the concept stronger. Tonight: It is as if you are speaking Chinese, and others are speaking French. Enjoy the chaos!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Taking a stand is natural to you, and you do not back down easily. Someone could challenge your ideas and how you are handling a project. You might decide to disenfranchise this person, or perhaps you'll choose to listen with amusement. Tonight: Brainstorm with a buddy.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ If a response doesn't fit or seems off, push to get a better answer. It exists — you just need to find it. Others will feel your lack of presence as you are distracted by this matter. Find some middle ground between your concerns and others' demands. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You tend to indulge others. As a result, you have a lot of friends. You sometimes wonder if you are buying or enabling friendships. The solution is easy: simply do less. Otherwise, you might feel resentful. News comes in a chaotic fashion. Tonight: Ask a lot of questions.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ A loved one can be flamboyant and unusually

demanding. The issue is not this person, but rather your response to his or her behavior. If you do not give this individual what he or she wants, this behavior might change. Confusion plagues your finances. Tonight: With friends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might be feeling less than great. You have been ignoring an issue that has been making you unusually angry. If you clear up your anger in an effective manner, you will feel better. Express your feelings in a way others can hear. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize the positives in a disagreeable, combustible situation. Tap into your resourcefulness, and you will find a path that most parties will agree on. Confusion surrounds meetings and plans. Confirm your appointments. Tonight: Take much-needed personal time.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Stay on top of your work, yet be sure to take all phone calls. There could be a change in plans, and an impending difficult situation might need to be acknowledged. Schedule meetings and run errands later in the afternoon. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You move through your day with ease, though you might be triggered by a conversation. Put those hot feelings away until there is time to process and discuss them. Avoid a discussion. In the afternoon, you could find pressure building. Tonight: To the wee hours.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ A partner has a lot to share, but the timing could be off. Still, rather than turn away and risk him or her closing down for a sustained period, you might want to make time. Someone in your immediate circle provides many different ideas. Tonight: Use your imagination.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

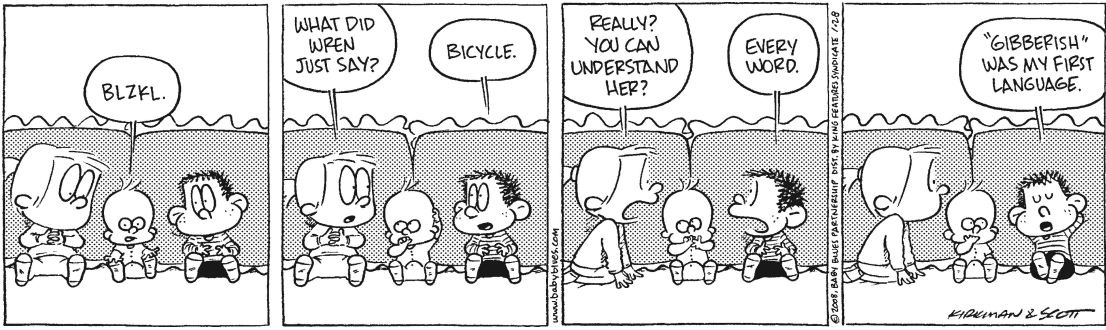
★★★★ You have your hands full, and your temper flares. You tend to juggle various different ideas, people and situations. Be sensitive to a financial involvement with a key person. You could find a thread of confusion in this situation. Tonight: Listen to a friend's news.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

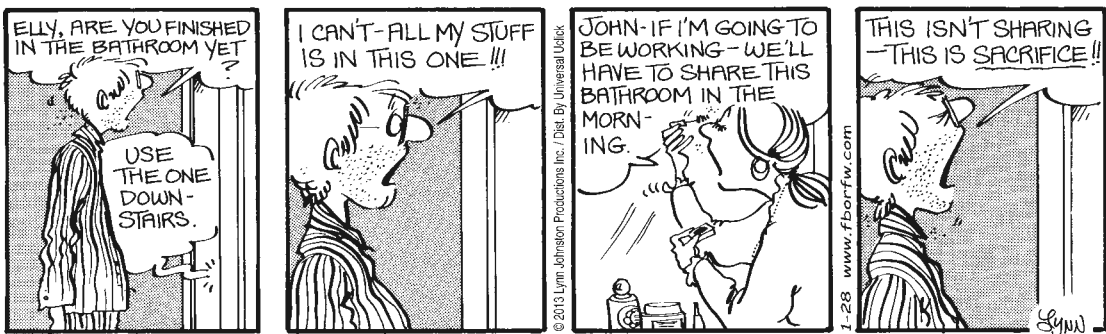
★★★ Work through your irritation rather than bottle it up. You also might need to talk to the other party involved. This person might understand, but it is good to get this weight off your chest. Confusion signals a need to slow down and digest this information. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

