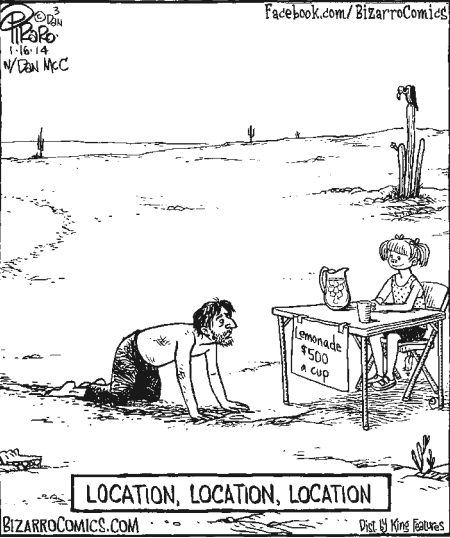


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



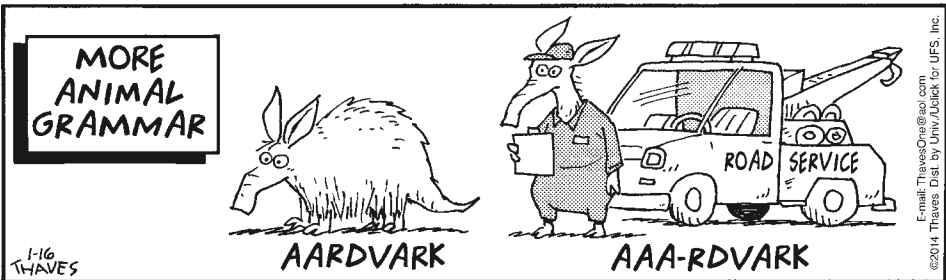
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



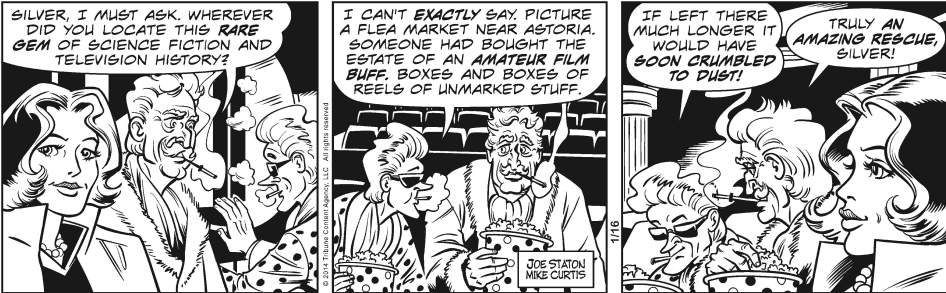
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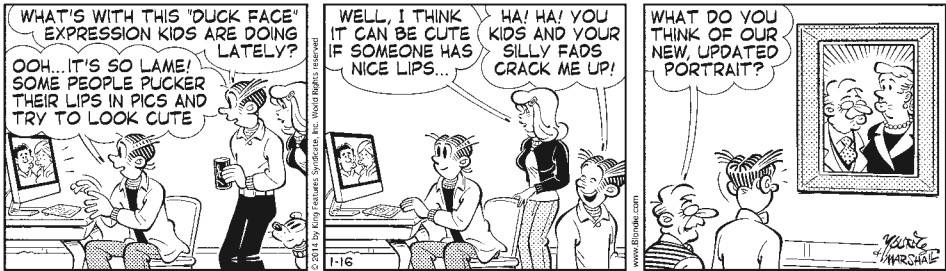
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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



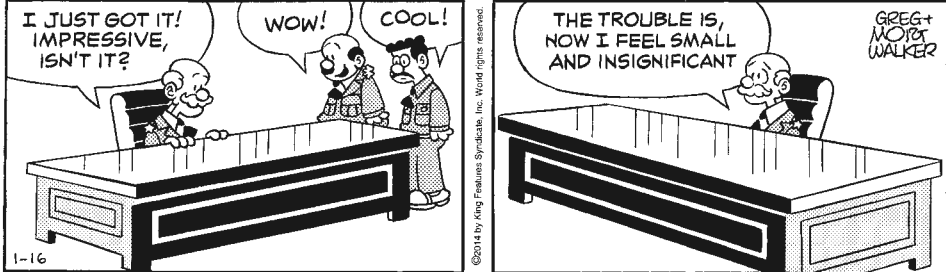
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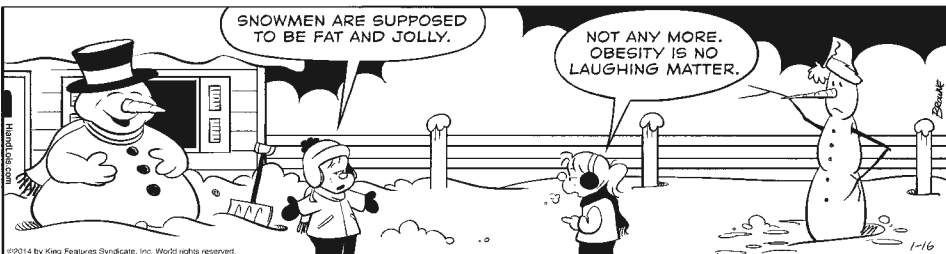
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



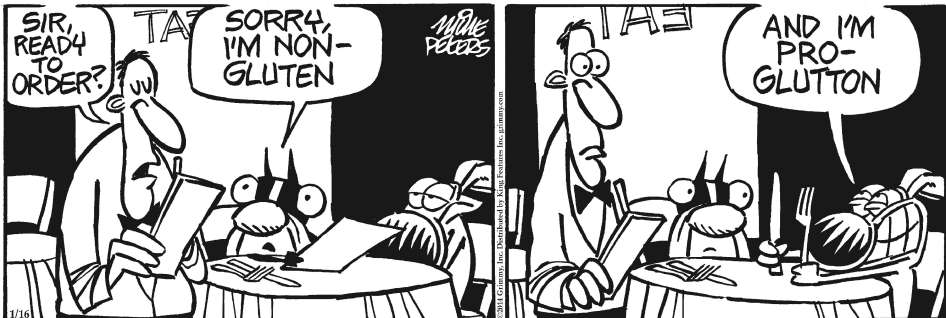
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Man's Reticence About Sex Puts Relationship In Jeopardy

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing a guy, "Karl," for eight months now, and we have never had sex. After two or three months, I brought up the subject. He said he was stressed because he had just lost his job. He also said there is never any privacy at his place because he has roommates/tenants. I offered to go to my place, but he said that with my son there, it's the same issue.

Karl says he's very attracted to me, but doesn't want our "time" together to be ruined by his current money problems. I told him I understood and I have waited. I also explained that it makes me feel insecure and unwanted.

He now has a job, but we still haven't had sex. He has, in the interim, told me he loves me and wants to marry me. I constantly worry that there's someone else and wonder what's wrong with me. I love Karl, too, but I don't know what to do. Please help. — LOVE, BUT NO SEX IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOVE, BUT: Is there any intimacy AT ALL in your relationship with Karl? Is he affectionate? Is there any physical response when he holds and kisses you? If the answer is no, your boyfriend may have a physical or emotional problem, be asexual or gay.

Before agreeing to marry him, I recommend you schedule some time alone together by spending a few romantic weekends at a hotel or motel. It may give you a better idea of what your future would be like if you two decide the tie the knot.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old gay man who works in an office with 20 women. In the five years I have worked here, many of my co-workers have either gotten married or had children.

Our office has a tradition of throwing

showers for the lucky ladies, and I am always asked to contribute money toward food for the party or an extravagant gift.

While I'm happy to donate to a charity or help a friend in need, I wonder if a wedding or a baby shower would be given for ME? Am I selfish for feeling hesitant to donate money or gifts when it's likely the favor will never be returned? — MINORITY MALE IN TEXAS

DEAR MINORITY: I don't think you are selfish for feeling the way you do. In fact, it's understandable. However, in the case of a wedding or baby shower, people give gifts as a way of offering congratulations and good wishes. And I would hope that, even if same-sex marriage isn't recognized by the state of Texas, that your co-workers would do something to honor you if you had a spiritual ceremony, which some religious denominations offer.

DEAR ABBY: I am turning 60 and naturally looking a little "worn." My man friend keeps telling me I need a facelift and to lose 10 pounds, so I'm starting to

save my money. Something tells me he wants a "hot chick" and thinks he'll have one once I get these procedures done. It's expensive. What do you think? — LOOSE-FACED LOUISIANAN

DEAR LOUISIANAN: It's not only expensive; as with any other major surgery, there is some risk involved. If you had said you wanted cosmetic surgery because YOU thought you needed it, I would say to go ahead. However, if it's only because your man friend is pushing you, then he should save HIS money and offer to foot the bill.

P.S. He must be an optimist because there is no guarantee that with 10 pounds off and a new face you wouldn't start looking for a younger man. Some women do.

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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 Cancer if born before 5:06 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 2014:

This year you reveal your true inner light. Others come toward you, which allows for many more choices. You also will feel more secure. A newfound confidence affects nearly all facets of your existence. If you are single, do not be surprised if someone strolls into your life in the next 12 months. You won't be able to resist this person. If you are attached, as a couple you become much closer. You value your time together more and more. Your domestic life will live up, as excitement seems to head your way. LEO has a way of encouraging you to open up.

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)

★★★ Nearly everyone you meet today will be in a great mood. The one exception might be an important partner who seems to get easily aggravated. You'll want to consider helping this person change his or her mood. If that doesn't work, just let it go. Tonight: Add a little romance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You might be inordinately tense right now. It would be wise to go out and get some exercise or choose some other type of stressbuster. You know what works best for you. A misunderstanding could emerge. Don't let this happen. Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You speak your mind, and others seem to get the authenticity of your words. You could feel a bit awkward dealing with someone of importance. Don't worry — your wit will carry you through any problem you might encounter. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your possessive side emerges, which could leave you feeling extremely vulnerable. If possible, detach as quickly as you can. The sooner you do, the better you will feel. A challenge comes from an unexpected interaction. Worry less. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ An effort to communicate on a more cordial basis with a loved one will be well received. An unexpected call could result in a lot of talk and

excitement. The other party is extremely dynamic, and he or she enjoys that same quality in you. Tonight: Go, do and be.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Stop pushing so hard. Be aware of your limits, and consider taking a few days off. Take another look at what might be weighing you down. Plan to visit someone at a distance. When you return, you will be at your best. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You can't help but go for what you want. Someone's path could be confusing, so you will opt to become more independent. Others are bound to react. You might anticipate this, yet you still could be shocked by one person's response. Tonight: Ask a friend for advice.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Use your intuition to see how far you can push someone. The person you are dealing with could be unusually difficult or complex. Be careful to not let anger become a component in this struggle. Encourage conversation and brainstorming. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll have an opportunity to learn a lot more about a situation. Explore your options. Tap into information that seems to have considerable validity. In the process, you will see that a new perspective could point to different paths. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ A partner's responses will remind you to spend more one-on-one time with this person. A financial matter could demand quick thinking. Understand that you have a choice as to how to handle the issue. Reach out for feedback. Tonight: Quality time with a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Others will come forward with surprising requests. A blast from the past might call you out of the blue. Maintain a sense of humor, and be willing to do your part to make a situation work. Tonight: Out and about ... once you decide who, where and when.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Dedicate your time and attention to completing a project and getting past a problem. Your sense of humor will emerge with a partner who might be on the warpath. You have the ability to help this person gain a new perspective. Tonight: Clear your desk, run errands, and then relax.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

