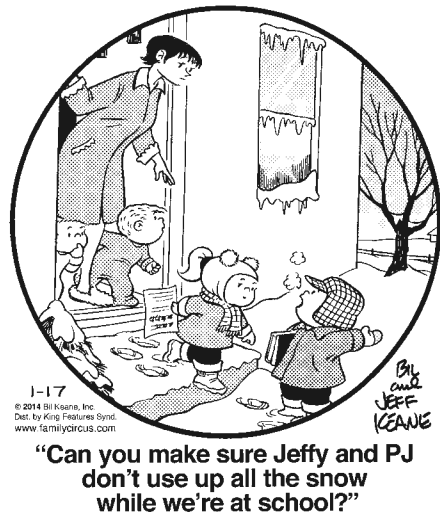
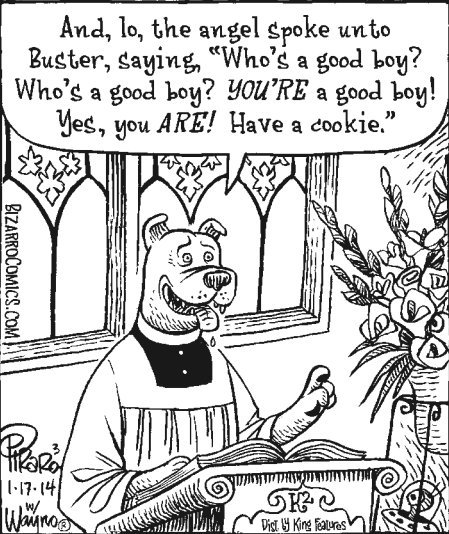


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



1-17
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"Can you make sure Jeffy and PJ don't use up all the snow while we're at school?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

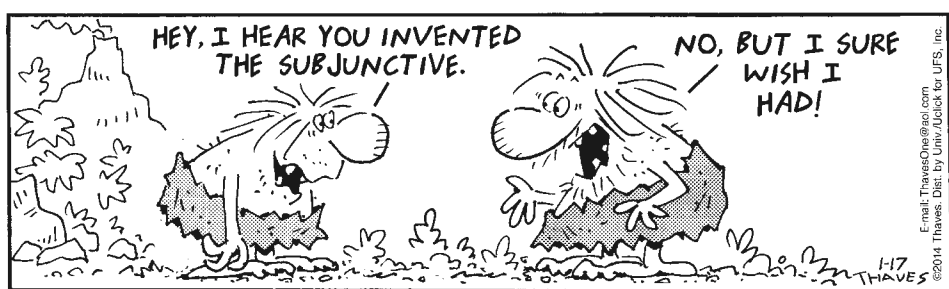


And, lo, the angel spoke unto Buster, saying, "Who's a good boy? Who's a good boy? YOU'RE a good boy! Yes, you ARE! Have a cookie."

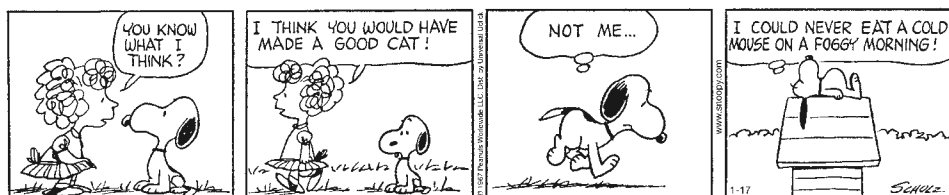
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



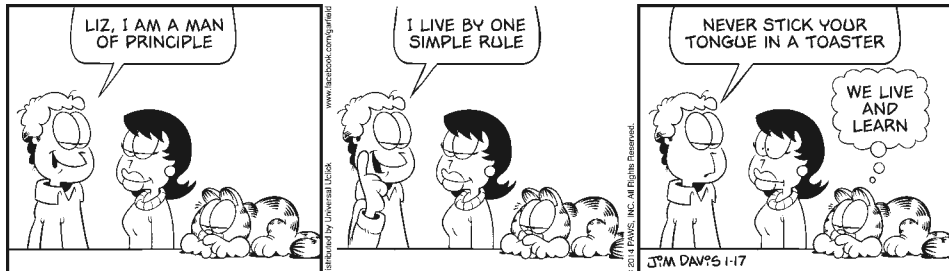
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



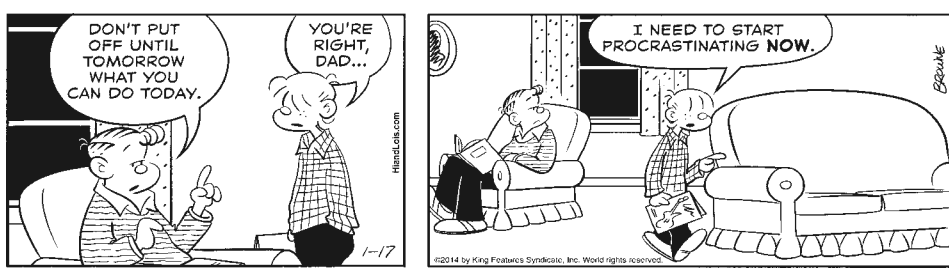
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



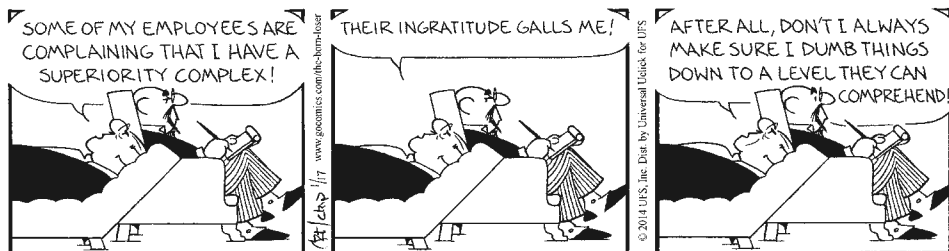
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Kids Who Skip Dad's Funeral Are Happy To Claim His Things

DEAR ABBY: When my husband died, he didn't have a lot of possessions. He died without a will, so what little he had is now with me. My problem is my mother-in-law keeps asking that I return things she gave him.

I wouldn't mind if she has them, but she has been giving them to his children, who hated him and were rude and disrespectful. They neither called nor came to see him during his long illness. They didn't even bother to come to his funeral.

I feel they want his things only because they think they might be of some value, not out of any respect or affection. My kids showed him more respect and love than his own did, and I'd rather they have his things.

Should I be honest and tell my mother-in-law why I won't give her any more of his possessions? I just don't know what to do. — OKLAHOMA WIDOW

DEAR WIDOW: It's sad that your stepchildren ignored their father during his illness and chose to skip his funeral. Be sure to point that out when you tell your former mother-in-law you have other plans for the items. She may not like hearing it, but once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient. And because her son died without a will, the recipient is you, his widow.

DEAR ABBY: I recently started a new job. One of the management individuals has taken a strong interest in me. He keeps doing favors for me that benefit me financially and I appreciate it. (I have never asked him to do this.)

I have always been courteous and took his gestures as a sign of kindness. But now he has started complimenting me and talking about things that go way beyond conversation. It's making me uncomfortable.

We have gone out on two friendly lunches before, and he is a genuine, kind, educated,

wonderful man. He would be a great catch, but the problem is he is extremely overweight. I am emotionally attracted to him, but physically repelled. I can't wait years for him to lose the weight, but he is taking my kindness as a possible show of interest. Have you any advice that could help end his attraction, but continue the business advice he provides for me? — IN A SPOT IN TAMPA

DEAR IN A SPOT: When the man compliments you about anything that isn't work-connected, tell him that when he does it, it makes you uncomfortable. And when he raises topics that aren't business-related, steer the conversation right back where it belongs. He may be a kind, genuine, educated, wonderful person, but if he persists, it could be considered harassment.

DEAR ABBY: I am part of a group of neighbors who often go out to dinner together. However, one woman often talks loudly on her cellphone at the dinner table, and it makes the rest of us feel uncomfortable and insignificant. It has gotten so bad we have stopped inviting her.

I feel sorry for her and wonder if I should explain the reason she's being excluded. What is the best way to handle this dilemma? — FRIEND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DEAR FRIEND: If done discreetly and kindly, it might benefit the woman to know why she's no longer included. Frankly, you'd be doing her a favor because her behavior was rude.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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 Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 17, 2014:

This year many people surround you and demonstrate interest in your work, studies or whatever your focus might be. All this attention could be quite flattering. If you are single, you will meet someone easily. Excitement will surround the developing relationship. Enjoy the moment; worry less about the future. If you are attached, be careful when dealing with joint finances. You easily could become demanding or not see eye to eye with your partner. Find some middle ground, or consider getting separate checking accounts. LEO is lovable and fun.

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 will wake up feeling tired, which could be the result of an active dream life. You might decide to clear up an issue involving a higher-up. Sometimes this person's demands are too much to handle, especially when you have other matters to tend to. Tonight: Time to relax.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Stay secure in that you know what to do and when to act. You have been observing a new friend or associate closely, and you will know when the timing is right to initiate a conversation. Check out a new purchase carefully. Tonight: Make it easy.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Speak your mind. Your ability to move past a restriction will emerge. You have strong feelings about an associate or someone who plays a role in your daily life. Listen to a suggestion about how to relate better to this person. Tonight: TGIF!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Be aware of your spending, but proceed accordingly if you feel that you are lucky. Buy a lottery ticket on your way home. Others might decide to make an important call that they have been putting off. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You might have drifted into weekend mode already, and you could have difficulty settling into your day job. Clear your desk, and get as much done as possible. A discussion could be-

come too animated, even for you. Tonight: Finally, the weekend is here. Join a friend!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You might consider taking the day off and starting the weekend early. Others might notice how drained you are before you do. Listen to the feedback you get more often. Honor a child's request, even if it feels silly to you. Tonight: Screen your calls, and keep your plans to yourself.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Your fiery energy could point to a solution that you might not have considered. Be aware of what you want from a situation. Your requests and demands might seem clear to you, but others will be getting mixed messages. Be clear. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You might not be aware of how much admiration others have for you; people observe your behavior a lot more than you realize. You could be subject to more judgment as a result. Still, you enjoy taking a leadership role. Tonight: Others take their cues from you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might be taken back by someone's far-out ideas. Once you get past how different they are, you will be able to evaluate whether you want to be a part of this undertaking. This endeavor could be a wild escapade. Tonight: Touch base with a friend at a distance.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You could be taken back by a partner's revelation. You also might wonder what would be appropriate, past your knee-jerk reaction. Your intensity marks your interactions and draws others toward you. Why not just jump in? Tonight: Togetherness works.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You have an original way of expressing yourself. Others respond strongly to you. You might not be revealing your true feelings to a very important person in your life. Whatever your reason is, think again. Tonight: A social butterfly.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Be realistic about what you need to get done. If you are ahead of schedule, you might decide to move up your evening plans by an hour or so. Count on the fact that you will feel better if you clear your desk before you start planning your weekend social life. Tonight: Out late.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

