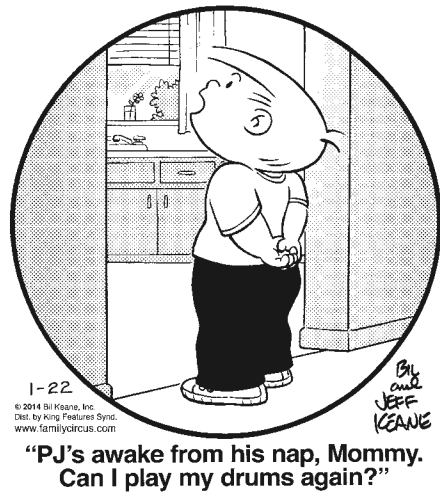


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



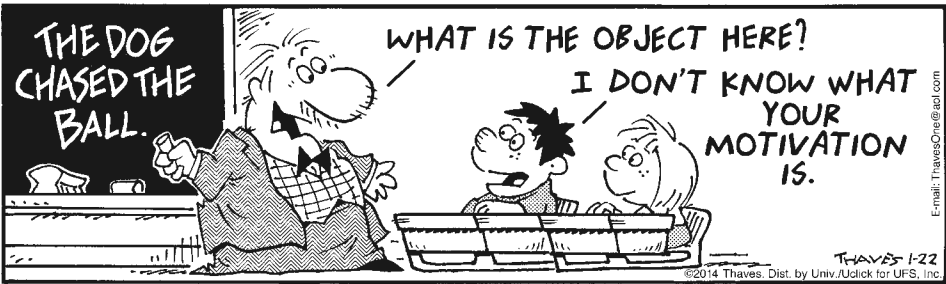
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



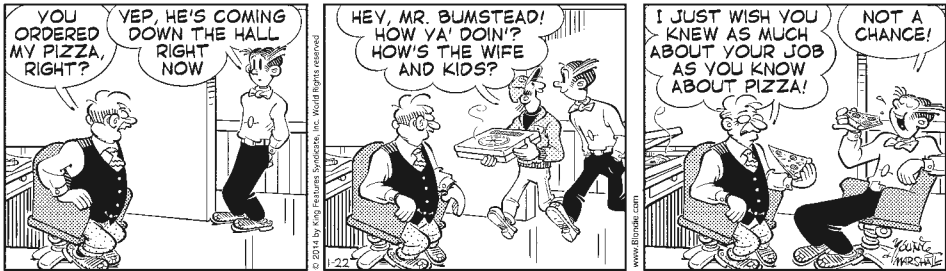
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



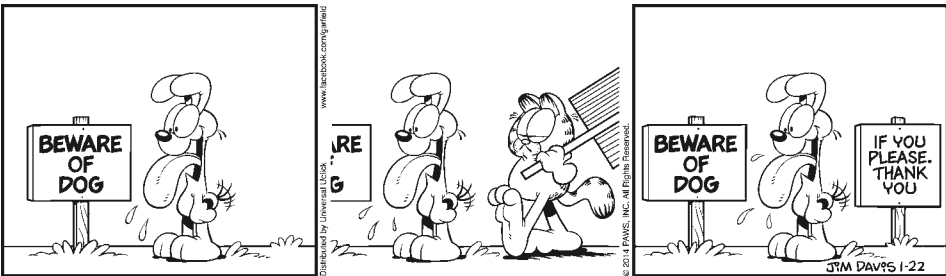
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



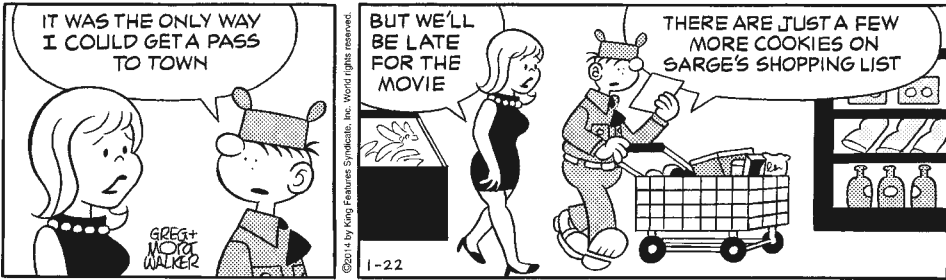
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



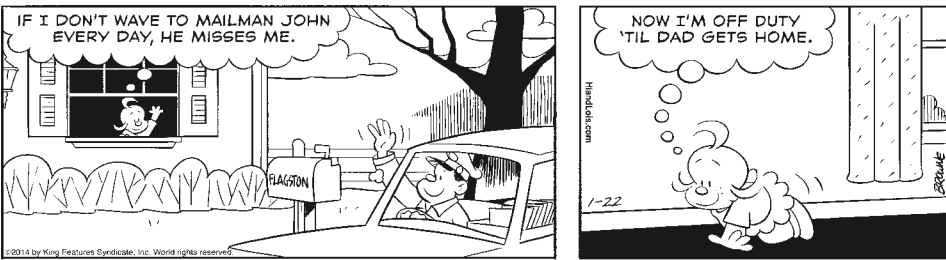
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



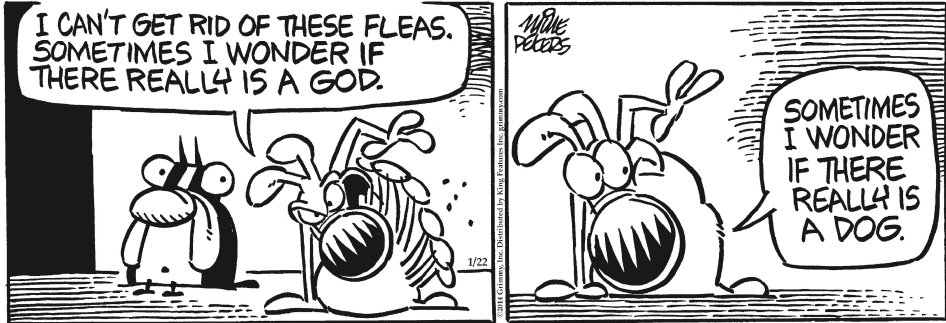
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



TO OUR READERS:

Beginning Monday, Jan. 27, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will conduct a two-week test run of the popular comic strip “Take It From the Tinkersons” by Bill Bet-twy. To accommodate the strip, we will be pre-empting “For Better or For Worse” for those two weeks. During the test run, we’d love to hear your feed-back on the “Tinkersons” strip. We’d also like you to tell us what are your three favorite strips and three least-favorite strips currently offered in the P&D. Feel free to add other comments. Send your feedback to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net. or mail them to: Press & Dakotan, c/o Comics Survey, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078. The survey will end Saturday, Feb. 8.

Dear Abby

Man Who Doesn't Want Marriage Keeps Attracting Women Who Do

DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old male who is fit, healthy and has a good job. I also have two failed marriages behind me, which have cost me dearly, both emotionally and financially. I have no intention of making that mistake again! I have been on my own for five years, and in that time I have had five relationships — always with women my age (give or take a few years).

My problem is that women my age seem to have only one agenda: marriage. One very nice lady finally clarified her feelings by saying that at this time in her life, she didn't have time for “just dating” because in a few years she'd be 60.

I understand her dilemma, but I'm not interested in younger women. I try hard to make it clear at the beginning of any relationship that marriage is out of the question, and I don't proceed with the relationship unless the lady wholeheartedly agrees. But somehow I have broken five good hearts, whose only transgression was falling in love with me. — NOBODY'S RETIREMENT HUSBAND

DEAR N.R.H.: I admire your self-image. You must be doing something right to have the ladies lining up the way they are. However, you may not be as effective a communicator as you think you are if five different women failed to get the message you said you convey. I have several thoughts about your predicament:

If your only fear of marriage is that you would again be cleaned out financially, a strong prenuptial agreement could help you avoid any problem if a third marriage didn't work. However, if variety is what you prefer, then you should restate your message every few months as these relationships blossom. (Or you could move to a monastery and stop dangling yourself in the dating pool.)

DEAR ABBY: Once a year I type my ZIP code into a website to see who the registered sex of-

fenders are in my area so I can be better informed and protect myself and my family. A photo, address and the charges attributed to the offender are posted on the site. My jaw dropped to the floor when I saw a man listed that I work with and see quite often. The picture looked recent.

I haven't said anything to him. I have known this person for five years and thought he was a good guy who respected women. I'd like to think it was a one-time mistake and that he would never do it again. But would he?

Should I tell my teenage daughter who sometimes visits me in the office? Should I tell the other women who work here? If a co-worker knew this kind of information and showed it to me, I'd be grateful to know. What do you think I should do? — STUNNED IN THE CITY

DEAR STUNNED: Tell your daughter to keep her distance from this co-worker. But before you drop this bombshell at the office, you should first discuss what you have learned with your employer.

DEAR ABBY: I hope you can help with this etiquette question. My son and his wife believe that when you finish a good meal, you toss your napkin on the now-empty plate. They say this sends a message that the food was great.

I do not agree. Is placing a grubby napkin on the plate inappropriate behavior or is this legit? — NOT A NAPKIN-TOSSING DAD

DEAR DAD: Your son and his wife need to re-read the chapter on table manners in their etiquette book. When a meal is finished and the plate is empty, diners should place their used napkins on the table BESIDE their dessert plate. It should not be placed on top of a dirty plate.

P.S. If they don't own an etiquette book, it appears they could use one.

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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 Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22, 2014:

This year you have many more possibilities available to you than in the past. This change reflects your evolution and ability to see beyond the obvious. You often detach in order to see the big picture. As a result, you are able to make excellent choices. If you are single, a friendship could be instrumental in your meeting someone. Be careful, as one person who might seem to want to be more involved is emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you often benefit from spending time alone together as a couple. Schedule at least one fun weekend away from your daily routine. LIBRA often presents a different view.

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)

★★★★ If you wake up feeling tired, don't be surprised — your dreams probably have been unusually vivid. You might want to back away from a situation, especially if your intuition points that way. A gesture you make could backfire. Be careful. Tonight: Avoid an argument.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Juggling several different interests likely will succeed, but try not to allow details to fall by the wayside. Others admire your ability to put the final touches on a project. Refuse to accept any other responsibilities for now. Tonight: Pace yourself.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance whom you care a lot about. Listen to your inner voice before you cause yourself a problem with a loved one. Communication soars, and perhaps too much will be shared. Use your high energy well. Tonight: Romance blooms.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's efforts to change direction. How you feel in the company of a loved one could be very different from how you might have thought you'd feel. This person understands and indulges you more often than not. Tonight: Run some errands on the way home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You are likely to say what you mean,

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. A child or new friend will let you know what he or she wants in no uncertain terms. You might be able to bypass a power play and need to do nothing. Tonight: Use caution with your funds and a potential expenditure.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Claim your power by knowing what you want. Until you are sure of your direction, you need not do anything. A loved one could act in a most unexpected way. Step back and let the chips fall where they may. Tonight: Make a call, and treat a friend to dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You might want to withdraw, as volatile news heads your way. Until you have a complete grasp of the situation, this disengagement will feel right. Don't push so hard to have your way. Tonight: Don't swallow your anger; instead, express it in a way that can be heard.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Focus on what you want and expect from a situation. You have many options that could work well for you, but you must know your goal in order to make the right choice. A partner or loved one might throw a lot of possibilities at you. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might have no choice except to assume the helm of the ship. The results could be excellent because of your experience and drive. A partner will add to the commotion in your life without even realizing it. Instead of getting irritated, enjoy the moment. Tonight: Work late.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ The key to making a situation work will be gaining a broader perspective. Detach, as difficult as it might be and despite someone's attempt to pull you into the action. Someone at a distance could make a strong statement that shocks you. Tonight: Go where you can relax.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be in a situation that typically would push you and cause a temper tantrum or an argument. The smart move is to detach. An unexpected financial matter might force you to rethink a commitment. Share your feelings with a trusted friend. Tonight: Dinner for two.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

