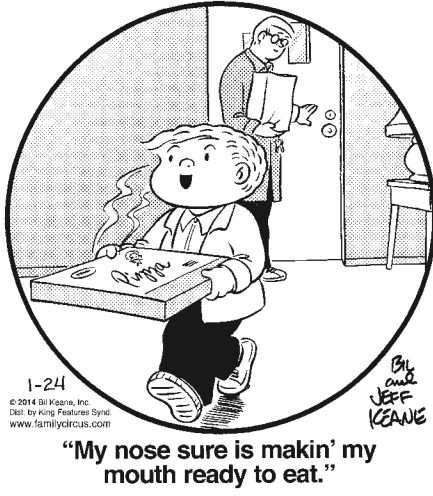
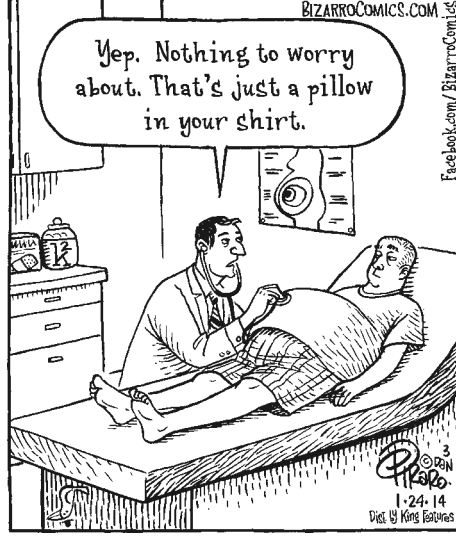


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



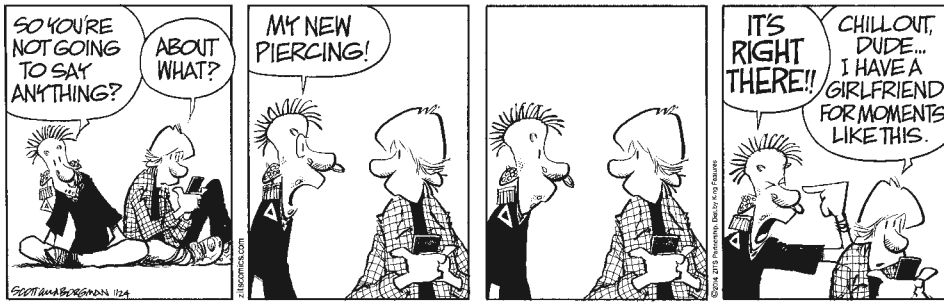
"My nose sure is makin' my mouth ready to eat."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Yep. Nothing to worry about. That's just a pillow in your shirt.

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



WHAT DOES "THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE" MEAN? THE PEOPLE NEXT DOOR DON'T HAVE A DOG.

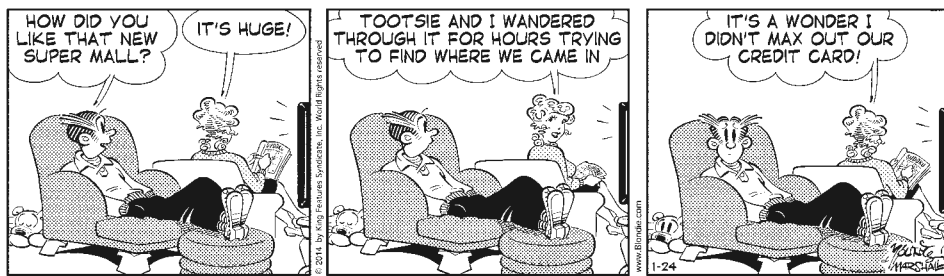
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



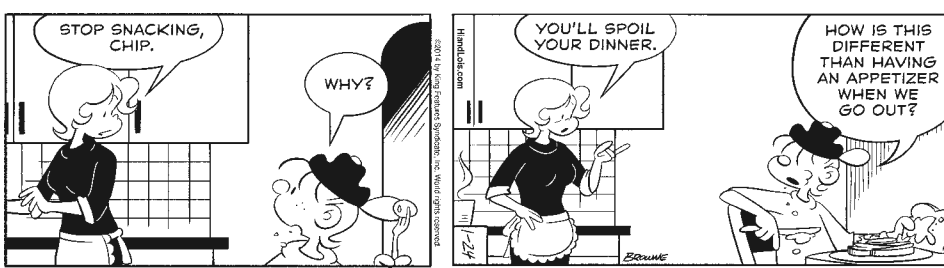
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART 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

Not Asking For Bride's Hand Is Poor First Step For Groom

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Chad," proposed two months ago, but he didn't ask my parents for my hand in marriage. My parents are upset about it.

When I realized that Chad hadn't gone to them, I asked him why. He said he was following what his father had done — proposing first and then speaking to the parents. But Chad still hasn't done it. In fact, he has yet to be around them at all.

How do I get my boyfriend to speak to my parents? They are no longer as angry as they were, but they still would like to talk to him. I spend lots of time with Chad's family, but I can't get him to even go to lunch with mine.

Dad said that if Chad doesn't clear the air with him, he may not bother showing up at our wedding! What do I do, Abby? — FIANCEE IN A FIX

DEAR FIANCEE: You appear to be quite young. If I were you, I would take a step back-ward and see this from your parents' point of view. It appears that Chad wasn't entirely honest with you when he gave his reason for not talking to them. Could he be intimidated?

When a daughter marries, most parents want to know something about the young man — not only where he has been, but also what are his plans for the future, including where the two of you will be living and whether he has a job. That Chad is hiding from them isn't a good sign.

When most couples become engaged, the parents of the bride and groom usually get together and start to form a relationship. If your father hasn't met your fiancé, it makes it harder for your parents to reach out to his. When the in-laws are friendly, it makes for a more harmonious marriage.

As it stands, it appears Chad is not inter-ested in having any relationship with your

family. Frankly, I can't blame your father for being upset about it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree on whether to tell our kids and friends how we met. When my wife and I met, she was under-age. She was 16 and I was 21. We fell in love; it was true love. We have been together for 24 years. We have two beautiful children and have made a wonderful life together. I love her as much today as the first time I met her.

How should we answer people when they ask about how we met and fell in love? I know it was wrong and against the law. — MIKE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MIKE: You do not have to quote chap-ter and verse when someone asks a question. In a case like yours, you could say that you met when you were both quite young without going into the specifics.

For a 21-year-old to SEE a 16-year-old girl is not against the law, as long as her parents ap-prove and they are not having sex. The laws re-garding statutory rape were enacted to prevent predators from preying on minors.

DEAR ABBY: When I buy a sweater I usually get an extra button in a little clear baggie at-tached to the garment. Today, I bought a sweater with a piece of matching thread in the tiny plastic bag.

Why do manufacturers insist on adding something to every article of clothing even if it is just a piece of thread? — INQUISITIVE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR INQUISITIVE: The thread is provided in case the garment needs to be re woven in the event you get a hole in it or a tear. It's a cour-tesy to the customer, so stop looking a gift horse in the mouth.

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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 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 2014:

This year you feel connected to someone in your day-to-day life. You often offer a new perspective, which this person enjoys. A good friendship could de-velop between you. Your image and commitments evolve and become more important than before. If you are single, come summertime, you could meet a heart-throb who you will put in your memory books. Needless to say, a lot of excitement surrounds this bond. If you are attached, you often can be seen with your signifi-cant other on your arm. You like showing off your sweetie. SCORPIO pushes you hard.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dy-namic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ No one questions your drive or energy right now. A friend might be delighted by your company, especially as the two of you head off on an adventure of some sort. You also could choose to get involved in a project with a loved one. Tonight: You're best on a one-on-one basis.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Others keep piling more on your plate, but only because they want to spend more time with you. Make plans to head off to a flea market, movie, game -- you name it! Make yourself more available to someone. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Make a point to tackle your to-do list, which hopefully involves a little exercise. You seem to be a whirlwind of activity as of late, so be sure to accomplish as much as you can. Invite a child or dear friend to join you and to visit with you at the same time. Tonight: Tired yet?

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ How you handle a loved one could bring him or her much closer. If you have a criticism, step back and think about where you are coming from be-fore you say anything. If you are single, you easily could meet someone of significance in the next few days. Tonight: Let the good times in.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You are full of energy, especially in regard

to a family member. You seem to draw many people to you, so be willing to listen to their perspectives. Stay close to home, and enjoy what is happening around you. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to return some calls and initiate some of your own before solidifying your plans. You could change your mind at the last minute. Fi-nances also could play a role in your decision. A friend-ship will prove to be lucky for you once again. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You could become more argumentative than you have been. In fact, if you notice others back-ing away, you will know why. A call from a neighbor or relative could catch you off guard. You might be forced to deal with a difficult situation. Tonight: Treat time.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your personality is on full display. Resist expressing any negativity for now, as it might stem from you and how you are seeing a situation. Keep it light and nonjudgmental, and others will be delighted. News from a distance will please you. Tonight: In the midst of the action.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Remain sensitive to your needs. You are often so busy running around, you let your needs go. Eventually, this lack of attention will catch up with you. Just wait and see. It would be a good idea to take some time just for you. Tonight: Screen calls. Keep it low-key.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You will be pleased that your friends made plans around you; however, it might appear as though you have not been informed of some sort of change. An older relative or friend could become de-manding. Tonight: Among others. Don't be alone.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

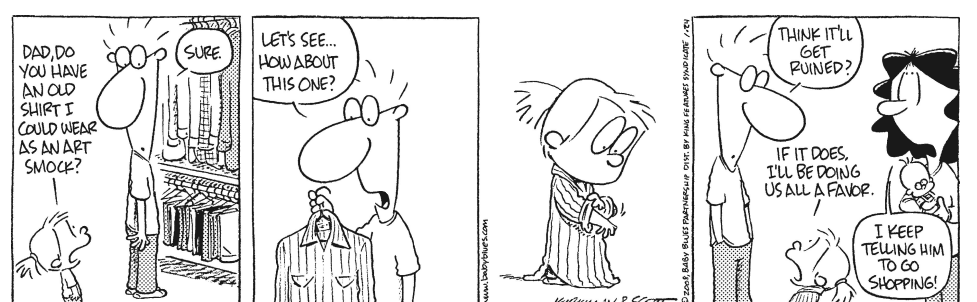
★★★ You won't be able to escape a previously agreed-upon commitment. This activity involves a cer-tain amount of responsibility, which could take away from the fun spirit of the weekend. Just clear up this task, and you will free yourself up. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your mind seems to drift to someone at a distance whom you care about. You could be tired and need a break. Why not meet this person halfway? Your sense of humor emerges with a child or loved one. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

