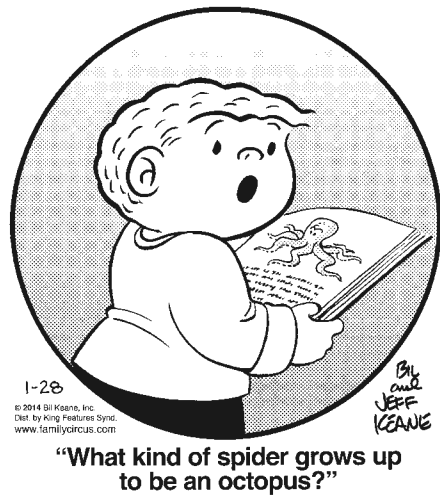


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



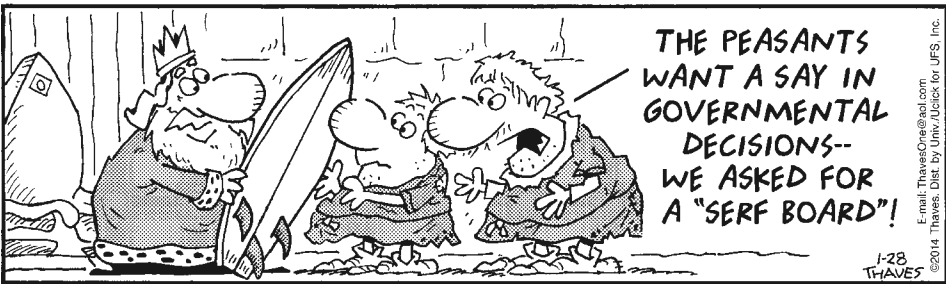
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



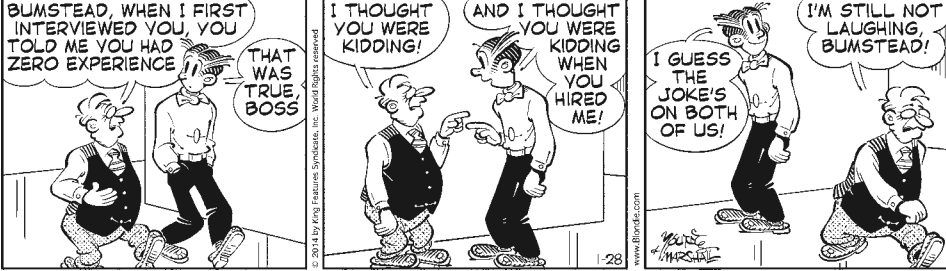
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



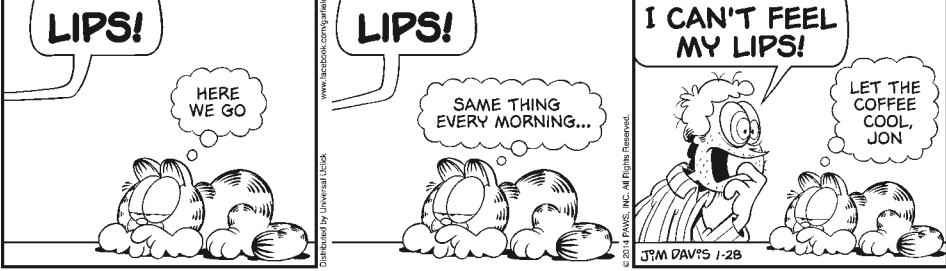
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



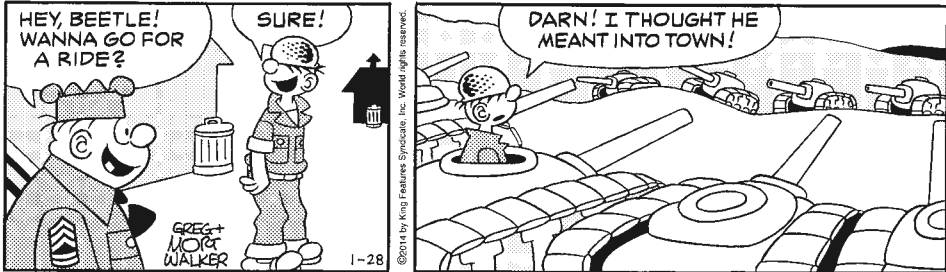
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



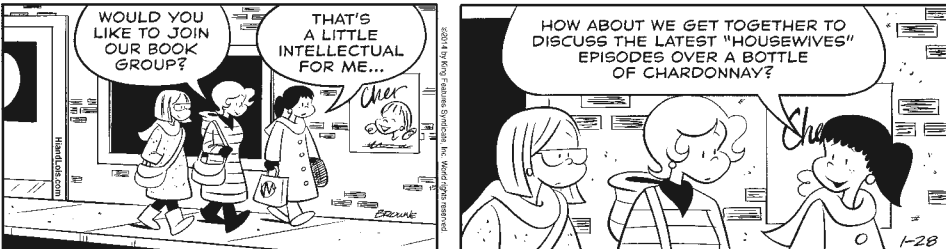
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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:

The PRESS & DAKOTAN is currently conducting a two-week test run of the popular comic strip "Take It From the Tinkersons" by Bill Bettwy. To accommodate the strip, we will be pre-empting "For Better or For Worse" from Jan. 27-Feb. 8. During this test run, we'd love to hear your feedback 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

Dad Looking To Relocate Hates To Leave Needy Parents Behind

DEAR ABBY: My two children and I have lived with my parents for a few years because I had some health problems. Now that I am healthy again, I'm ready to return to work and move to a new home, but I am encountering severe resistance from my parents.

As I have recovered, our situation has gone from my parents helping me to my assuming the majority of the household responsibilities. My parents say they know I want to go back to work and know it will be good for me to be independent, but because of their own health concerns they need me to stay. I have always felt a strong responsibility toward my family, but I know that not having a home to call our own limits the personal growth of my children and me.

I have been offered a great job in another state that would allow me to provide well for my children, but I feel crushing guilt for even considering leaving my parents to fend for themselves. I know this will be a life-changing decision for all of us, so please give me an objective point of view. — DAD TORN IN TWO DIRECTIONS IN TEXAS

DEAR DAD: On an emotional level, of course your leaving will be traumatic for your parents. They will miss you and the children and all the activity in the house they have become used to. Also, someone may have to assume the household chores that you have been taking care of.

If you accept this job — and in my opinion you should if you can't find one that pays as well closer to your parents — perhaps you could subsidize a housekeeper, a cleaning company or someone to help with the yard work a few times a month.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Sean" for five years. I am 27, stand 5 feet 7 inches tall and weigh 120 pounds. Sean is constantly push-

ing me to exercise more, and he comments on my thighs and stomach a lot. He tells me it's not a weight issue, but I need to "work off some fat and gain more muscle." He wasn't like this when we got married.

I love my body, and I know I'm not fat or overweight. I walk 4 miles round trip to work. My entire workday is spent on my feet, walking or running. I get plenty of exercise, and I'm healthy and active.

This is really hurting my confidence. It bothers me to hear that someone I love thinks my normal body is unattractive because of barely there "fat." I don't know what gave Sean this idea. How do I deal with it? — JUST RIGHT IN ARIZONA

DEAR JUST RIGHT: The kind of body your husband would like you to have seems more descriptive of a skinny teenager than a healthy young woman. Is he a body builder or a gym rat? You deal with it by asking your husband WHY he thinks your normal body is unattractive, listen carefully to his response and, if necessary, run it by your doctor.

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering if a woman can be considered engaged to a man if she is still married to another man, but separated?

I have a friend who has been separated from her husband for two years. They live apart, but not "legally." Can she be considered engaged? Wouldn't her ring be a promise ring and not an engagement ring? Please help me clear up this confusion. — CONFOUNDED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: To declare oneself engaged while legally married to another person does appear to be premature. However, your friend can call herself whatever she wants if it pleases her. The same is true for what she calls the rock she's wearing. If you value her friendship, you'll let it slide and don't contradict her.

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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 Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 2014:

This year you spend more time alone than you ever would have anticipated. You might get bored or dislike being by yourself, but these periods will be essential to your growth. Some of you will pursue a more spiritual path and get involved in New Age studies. Others will choose to participate in volunteer work of some kind. If you are single, you will meet more than one person in your daily travels whom you would like to get to know better. Don't commit, unless you are 100 percent sure. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from time away together. You will value these special times. CAPRICORN can be a burden at times.

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)

★★★ When you realize what is going on, you might abruptly head in a different direction. You could be going through a change in your image, perhaps in the community or at your place of employment. Opportunities are likely to come forward. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You will be on top of your game if you can incorporate a broader view with a better understanding of others. You could gain a new insight in the strangest, most unexpected way. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation that sounds too good to be true.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ A partner will play a strong role in today's happenings. You could be startled by what happens in a meeting and/or with this person. Know that he or she is undergoing a tremendous change and might not be as responsive as you would like. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Defer to others. You will have little choice, as you clearly want to do something else. View others' demanding ways as a gift of sorts. Be more upbeat and direct in your dealings, even if an associate or family member is unpredictable. Tonight: Sort through your many offers.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ The unexpected pops in and out of your

life. You could be in the midst of some significant alterations. You might see others' reactions toward you change as a result. You'll want to make an adjustment professionally and/or in your dietary habits. Tonight: Live it up.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your creativity will allow greater give-and-take in a volatile situation. The end results will be satisfying, especially as you seem to have gained understanding. Your perspective could change radically, which might affect your decision making. Tonight: Be more childlike.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Tension could build to an unprecedented level. A personal matter needs to be a higher priority. You might like to pursue an opportunity that offers you more acknowledgment. Your sensitivity will help calm someone down. Tonight: Surprises head your way.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You'll head in the right direction regarding a decision you've made. A loved one might react in an unexpected way that could stop you in your tracks. Be more open about how you see the whole situation when you are not triggered. Tonight: Have a long-overdue conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Understand what is happening financially. Listen to others' feedback, but avoid taking any risks for now. Understand that you already might be taking risks and not even be aware of it. Be a cynic, and you will land well. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ In face of a changing situation, your attitude remains steady. Being steadfast allows others to open up and share where they are coming from. You might have much more information than you know what to do with. Tonight: Beam in whatever you want.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

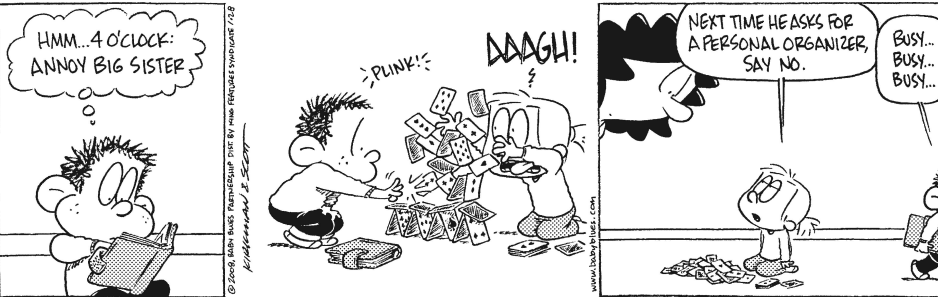
★★ Take news with a grain of salt. You might not be ready for a big shock, but in some way, you could be responsible for that reaction. You will understand more by detaching. Make it a point to say little until you have a more complete picture. Tonight: Early to bed.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want and why you want it. Be more sensitive to someone else's needs as well. A question could provoke an overreaction. Use as much care as possible when dealing with your finances. No risk-taking, please. Tonight: Meet up with friends.

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TO OUR READERS: | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS | BILL BETTWY

