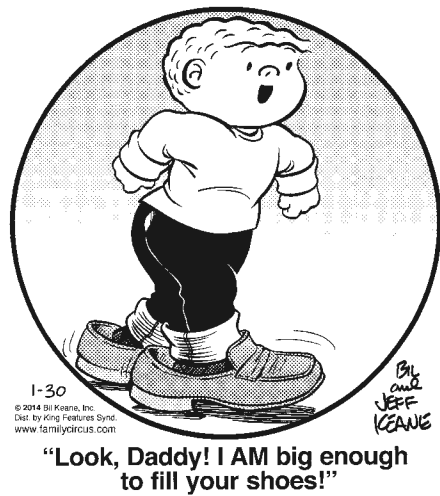


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



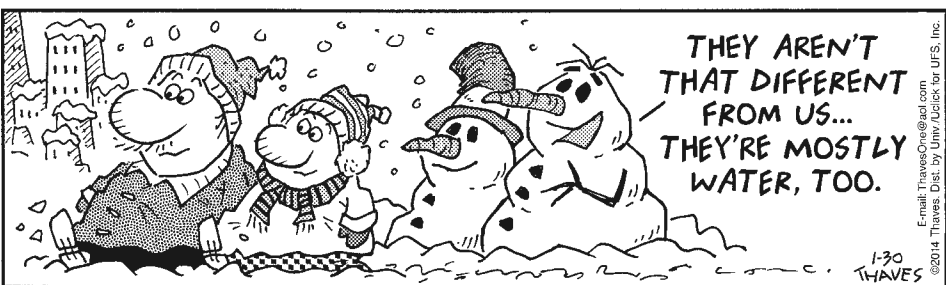
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



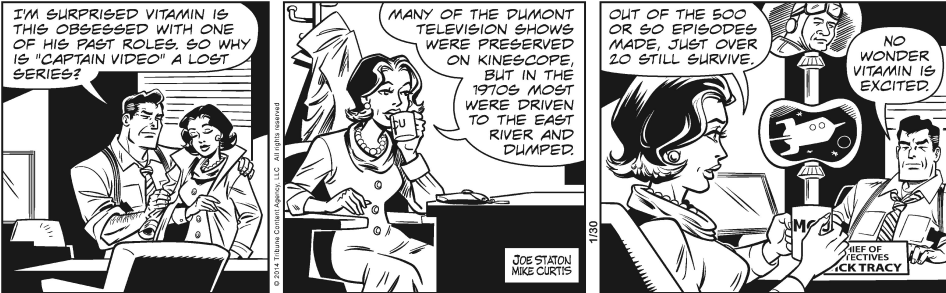
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



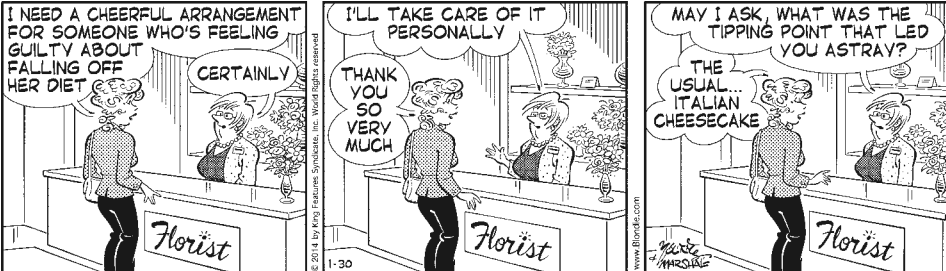
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



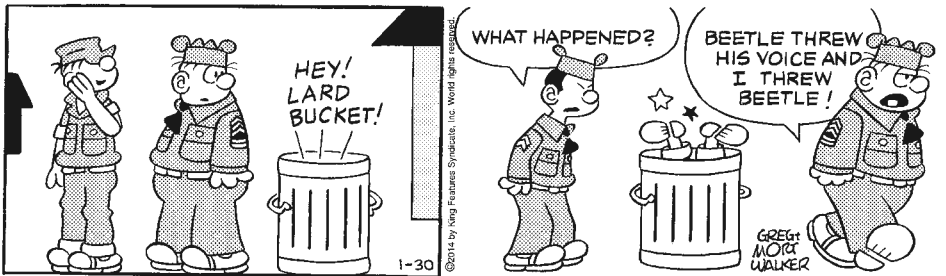
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



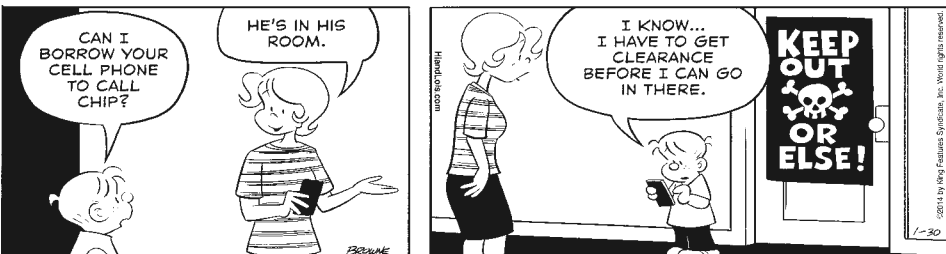
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



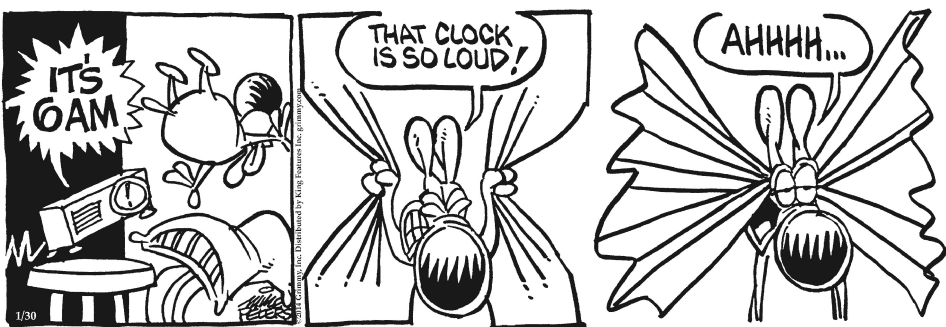
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



TO OUR READERS:

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

Daughter Acts Like A Winner, But Still Feels Like A Loser

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 27-year-old woman who still lives at home. I do it so I can help my mom with my five nieces and nephews. Their mother passed away suddenly in 2009 at the age of 30. My mom and stepdad kept them rather than scatter them to fathers who don’t appear very interested in them.

Since my sister’s death I have earned two degrees, entered the health care field and have lost almost 140 pounds. Despite what I have accomplished, I feel I have nothing to show for myself. When I point my accomplishments out to myself, they don’t seem like a heck of a lot. What can I do so I can stop feeling like a loser? — LOST IN THE NORTHEAST

DEAR LOST: A loser? From where I sit, you appear to be not only a caring daughter, but also an intellectually accomplished young woman who is being very hard on herself. If you feel you haven’t accomplished a lot, I have to question the yardstick you’re using. It’s time you discussed your feelings with a licensed mental health professional who can help you understand what is causing your low self-esteem. If you do, it may help you be kinder to yourself, because what’s currently going on in your head is unfair to you and destructive.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a buffet restaurant. I wish you would alert your readers to how waste increases the costs at restaurants like this one. And then people complain because the cost of the food goes up!

I have seen customers stick their fingers or used utensils into pans of food to taste it before serving themselves. And instead of the tongs we provide, they use their hands to help themselves to chicken, bread, etc.

The fact is that once anyone touches the food with his or her hands or eating utensil, the

restaurant is required by the health code to dispose of the entire pan of food. This causes tremendous waste. Customers also overfill their plates only to throw half the food away. It makes me sad because so many people in this world are hungry.

I have seen children run around, making a mess of the dessert bar, and especially the ice cream and drink stations. Their parents seem to think it’s “cute.”

I wish you would remind your readers to use common sense when dining out and to PLEASE control their children. The parents should serve food to their little ones who don’t know better. — FRUSTRATED BUFFET WORKER, PUEBLO, COLO.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Children can’t practice behavior they haven’t been taught, and parents who don’t take the time to explain proper behavior to their little ones are shirking their responsibility.

As to adults who have so little understanding of hygiene — or consideration for others — that they put their hands or used utensils into food that is meant for others, well — perhaps after being reminded that it raises the prices they have to pay, they’ll think twice about it. But don’t bet on it.

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering what is the appropriate level of give and take in a friendship? I notice that in some relationships I am always giving and never receiving, where in others I am always receiving. How do you know when a balance is reached? — JAKE IN ALBANY, GA.

DEAR JAKE: There is give and take in all healthy relationships. A “balance is reached” when you can give without feeling used, and take without feeling guilty that you’re being given too much.

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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 and Moon in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2014:

This year you find that your daily life is full of excitement and change. You will embrace this trend and really get into it. You also will experience a new beginning. Your magnetism increases and draws many people to you. If you are single, enjoy all of the potential suitors you have. You will know if and when you want to make a commitment. If you are attached, be more aware of your significant other and the role he or she plays in your life. You tend to be me-oriented, so it is important to make time for this person. A fellow AQUARIUS could be challenging to deal with.

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)

★★★★ Emphasize the possibilities, especially if the obvious course is blocked. Do not accept “no” for an answer; instead, look for a different solution. You might feel off-kilter when trying to handle various facets of your life. Adopt a more laid-back attitude. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Accepting your role in a situation might be difficult. The possibility of a new beginning will become a reality by seeing where you might have steered off course. You could be surprised by someone’s attitude when you express your thoughts. Tonight: Out late.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You suddenly might see a situation differently. The unpredictability that surrounds you could result in a new beginning, if you remain positive. Expenses could soar if you don’t keep an eye on what is going on. Stay focused. Tonight: Treat a friend to munchies and drinks.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could think differently about an unexpected development at work that involves a supervisor. You might not have everything under control as much as you might think you do. Consider renegotiating your direction and choices. Tonight: Have a chat with a loved one.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You don’t need to be the first one to act. You would prefer to understand the dynamics of what

is going on before making a move. Observe, and you will see more. Your creativity feeds off a loved one. Others seek you out. Tonight: So many choices, so many invitations.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a child or loved one directly. You might have your hands full, so see if you can delegate some of your projects or errands to someone else. Others seek you out because of your efficiency and attention to detail. Tonight: Choose a favorite stress-buster.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your imagination could be triggered by someone’s unpredictability. You might wonder why different opportunities emerge when your mind wanders. Take a stand, whether it is with a boss or with a loved one. You will communicate your needs. Tonight: Be a little naughty.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Pace yourself, and you might be able to absorb an unexpected change. It is important to know your priorities. How you deal with someone and his or her attitude could change as a result of today’s events. You might want to make that clear to the other party. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Initiate conversations and make calls. You could be surprised by what happens once everyone starts to speak his or her mind. Stop and assess. Your ability to breeze past an issue allows greater give-and-take. Tonight: Hang out with loved ones.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might discover that a partner has very different ideas about how to approach a certain topic. Finding a middle ground could be a difficult issue. Perhaps step one is simply accepting where you both are mentally. Tonight: Pay bills first.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

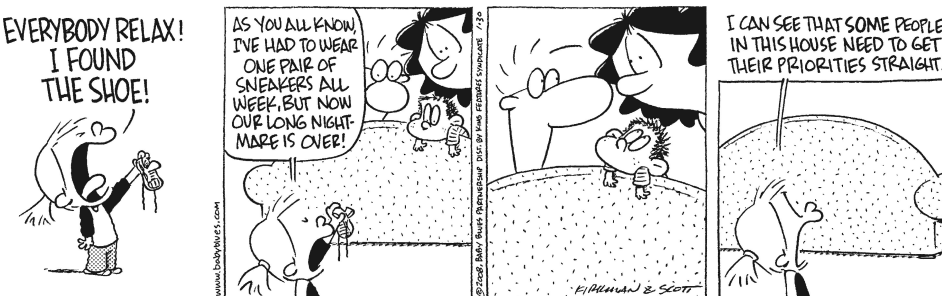
★★★★ Beam in more of what you desire. You are likely to change your direction and/or get a chance at a new beginning. You have a lot of energy for handling what is becoming a very full plate of responsibilities. Don’t shy away from a loved one. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★ Use this period to gain information and to question your direction. Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a child or a difficult person. Reflect rather than act; listen rather than speak. You’ll gain much more insight this way, which will be helpful later. Tonight: Not to be found.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS | BILL BETTWY

