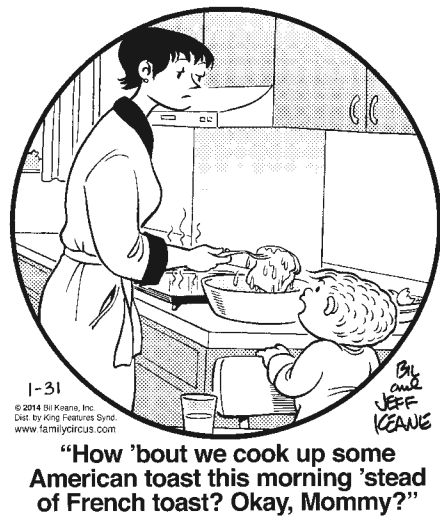
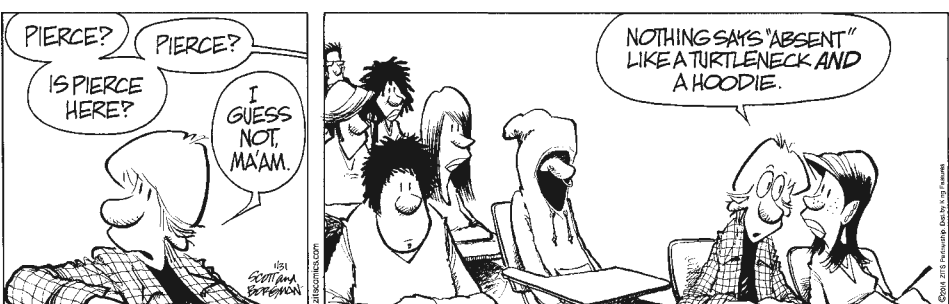


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



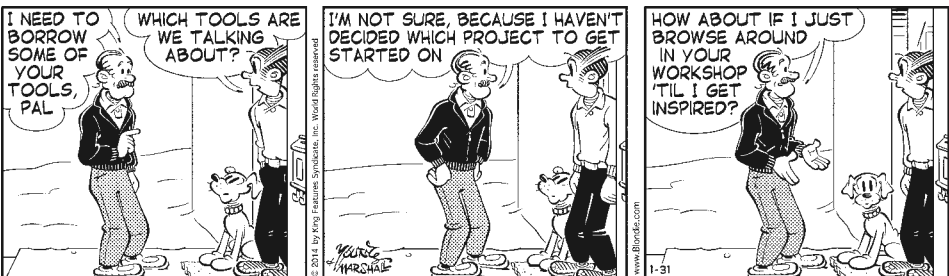
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



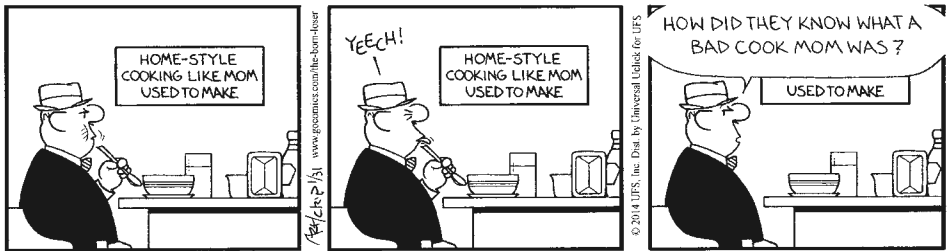
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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.

Abby: Family Ties Begin To Fray Under Man’s Relentless Anger

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a hard worker, a good provider and a good dad. However, he’s angry all the time. It has been this way for as long as I can remember. He is aware of it, and always promises me that when this or that settles down, things will get better, but they never do.

When he sees something on TV or reads something in the paper that upsets him, he can say really vile and violent things. Often when he thinks things the kids and I do are not good enough, he borders on being verbally abusive.

His friends say I’m a “saint” for putting up with him, but lately all I feel is tired out and worn down by it. I have spoken to him about this numerous times, and it improves for a few days, then it starts all over. I’m not sure how much longer I can last.

He reads your column, and I’m hoping he’ll see this and realize how bad things really are. I have asked him to go to counseling, but he hasn’t been willing. Do you think there’s anything I can do besides leaving that will make him see what he is doing to me and the kids? — READY TO LEAVE

DEAR READY TO LEAVE: Your husband may be a good provider and a hard worker, but I seriously question whether he is as good a dad as you would like to think. Children need their parents’ encouragement and approval, as well as their patience and counsel.

When they are given a constant barrage of angry putdowns from a parent, they begin to internalize it. They think such behavior is normal, which means they will repeat it in their relationships when they are older. Or, they may think they deserve to be treated that way and choose mates who treat them like Dad did. Kids with low self-esteem also tend to choose friends who are like themselves, which can cause even more problems.

There is something you can do besides leave right now. Make an appointment for YOURSELF with a licensed psychotherapist and take the children with you. That way, your husband can foot the bill while all of you get your heads straight and you make up your mind if you’re serious about leaving. (Alternatively, he can finally admit he

needs help with his anger issues and schedule an appointment for himself.)

DEAR ABBY: I’m engaged to be married soon, and I’m concerned about a commitment my fiancé, “Jeff,” made to his older sister “Beth.” Beth is planning on having a child through a sperm donor and has asked Jeff to be a “father figure” once the child is born.

He has doubts about the wisdom of her plan to parent a child alone, but he doesn’t want to hurt her feelings and is flattered to have been asked to fulfill such an important task. He agreed to do it without discussing it with me. Beth is very nice, and Jeff’s family has embraced me and I don’t want to cause trouble.

Jeff and I plan on having several children of our own, and we also plan to move out of state in the next few years. I am wondering how this commitment will affect that possibility.

I am uncomfortable with Jeff making a lifelong commitment to serve as a father figure to another person’s child, especially when he hasn’t established what it entails. I’m worried that this will cause conflict in our marriage if he goes through with it.

Am I overreacting? I know I need to discuss this with my fiancé. How do you suggest I proceed? — UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR UNSURE: You’re not overreacting, and I agree that before this goes any further, you and Jeff need to talk. Open the discussion by telling him that you’re not comfortable and why. Suggest he talk to his sister and find out EXACTLY what she meant when she asked him to be a father figure.

He also needs to tell her he may have spoken too soon when he agreed, because he had not first discussed it with you and that the two of you plan to leave the state in the next few years. She needs that important information because it may alter her choice about who should fill that important role.

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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 if born before 7:45 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 31, 2014:

This year you flip-flop from one stance to another, and it causes confusion in others’ perceptions. People have always seen you as steadfast; now that you are changing styles, you can expect some strong reactions. You demand a lot from others, and you also have strong expectations financially. If you are single, the person you choose today might not be your long-term choice. Try not to make any commitments for at least a year; if the person still is of interest to you then, you know you have a winner. If you are attached, your partner could be thrown off by your changing attitude. Explain where you are coming from more often. PISCES helps you make and spend money.

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 could feel uncomfortable about a matter revolving around your household. You might have pushed someone away. You’ll discover that a partner is energized and finally ready to pitch in. You instinctively pick up on others’ nonverbal cues. Tonight: TGIF!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. A loved one’s response might not warm the cockles of your heart. Understand where you are coming from in regard to this person. Consider establishing some limits. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend in style.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You could question a decision more than you need to. Recognize your limits in the present situation, and resist pushing too hard. In fact, the less you push, the more you will receive. You might not be as cautious as you need to be with your finances. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You’ll respond positively to someone’s efforts to draw you in. Relating closely happens naturally when you are with this person. Rethink a decision, and be aware of the consequences. You are instinctive in your reactions. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You are able to see a personal matter dif-

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Others insist on dominating the scene, no matter what is going on. Your feelings could come out in an odd way or through spending. Working with someone else might elicit powerful responses from you. Be aware of this. Tonight: With a favorite person.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might feel as though you are carrying a burden alone, but that is not the case. You will get a better grasp of a situation later in the day. In fact, in the next few days, you will be gaining an enhanced perspective of several important matters. Tonight: Beam in more of what you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You have been very sure of yourself lately and perhaps too hard on someone you care about. At a certain point, you will need to give up your grievances and move forward in a positive manner. Tonight: Act as if there will never be another Friday night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Use your instincts in an important conversation. Understand that much more is going on than meets the eye. You have a strong will, and you’ll sense what is needed to end a personal issue. Stress on your finances will ease up soon enough. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You will experience an unusual urge to spend. Much of that desire is being fueled by a personal situation. You tend to pick up much more of what is going on than what is being verbalized. Tonight: You deserve to have some fun.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

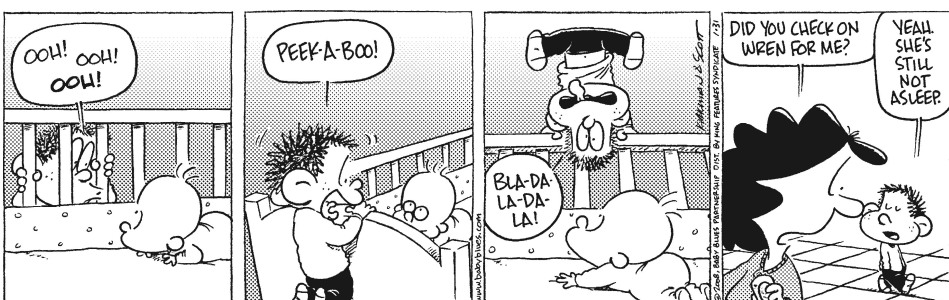
★★★★ Be aware of your effect on others. Sometimes you are pushed way beyond what you can handle. Think through a problem by getting more feedback. A domestic issue will resolve, given some time and perspective. Tonight: Make it OK to be a little overindulgent.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You might sense a change in the air, but you are uncomfortable with change. Relax, and understand that others might not be on the same level as you. Do some deep thinking before you act. You will rejuvenate as the day goes on. Tonight: All smiles -- it’s Friday!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS | BILL BETTWY

