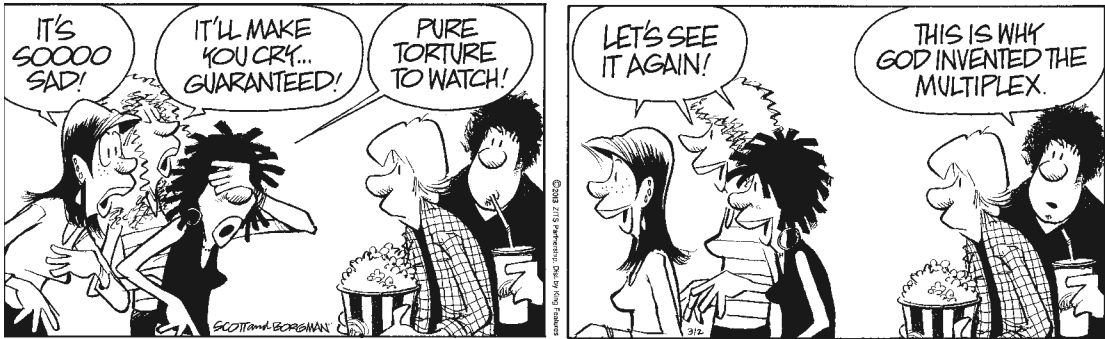


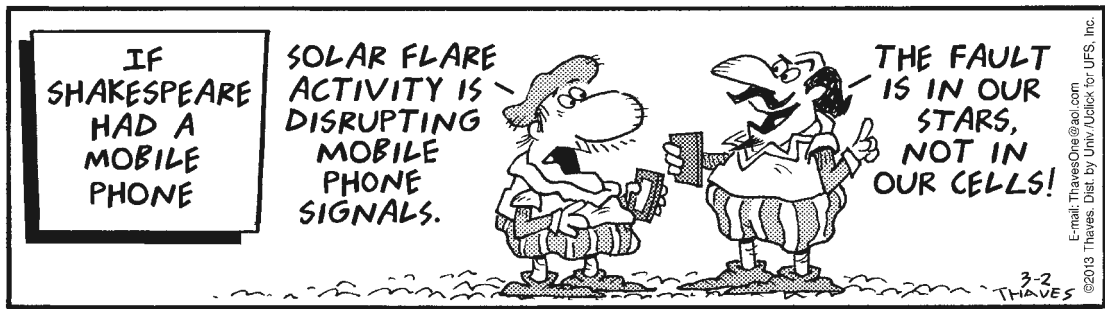
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



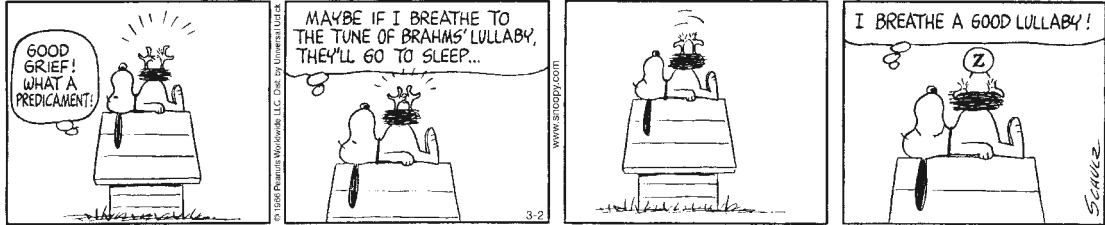
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



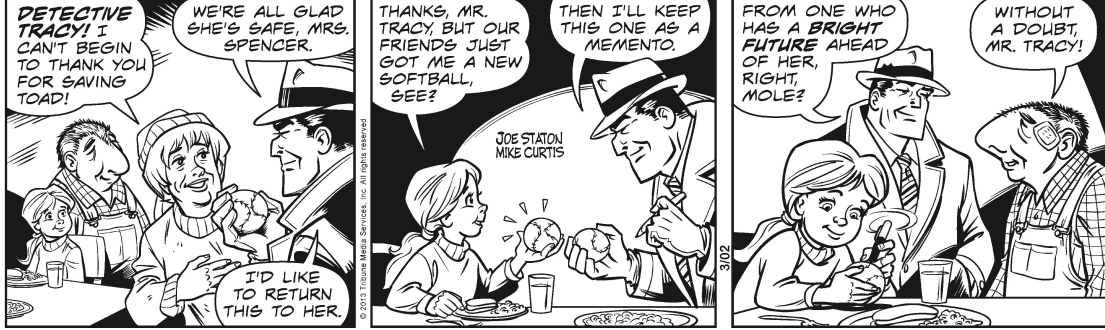
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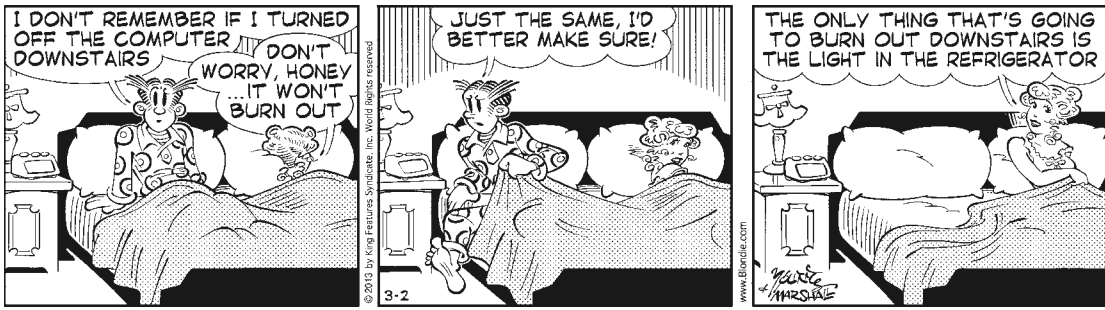
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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



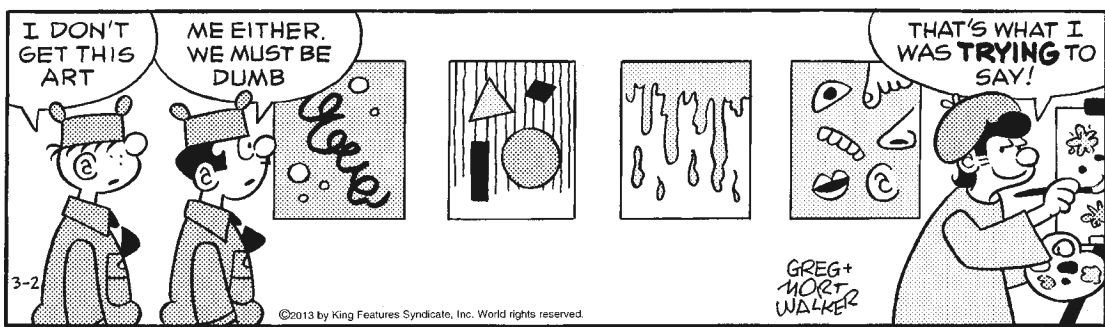
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



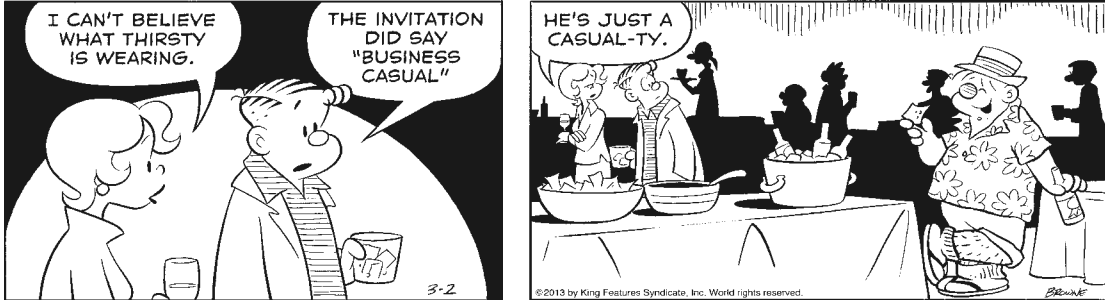
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



High-Achieving Home-Schooler Suffers Bullying By Other Kids

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old female from the West Coast. I am home-schooled and don't have many friends because I score high in tests, meaning I retain more information than the average person.

On the rare occasion that I mingle with children my own age, they call me unpleasant names, play pranks on me and otherwise torture me. I had to change my emergency cellphone number and start using my sister's because there have been so many immature and insulting prank calls.

I hate it. I can't help that I am smart, and I refuse to degrade myself by dumbing down my actions and speech because they can't handle their insecurities. — HIGH IQ

DEAR HIGH IQ: Being "different" isn't easy, and clearly you are very intelligent. But you and your parents should understand that crank calls are not "pranks" — they are a form of bullying and should have been reported when they happened.

Most parents who home-school also network with other home-schooling parents so their children can socialize with peers. If your parents haven't done this, I recommend you discuss it with them. You might also meet more intellectually advanced young people if you joined special-interest groups for older students.

Your high IQ might be less threatening to the students who have given you trouble if you volunteer to tutor some of them who need help with their schoolwork. (Just don't fall into the trap of doing it FOR them.)

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Dan," for almost five years. He's wonderful and we have a great relationship. We have talked about spending our lives together, but had mutually agreed in the beginning that marriage wasn't a priority for either of us. He has said for years that he never

wanted to marry — which is fine with me.

I now suspect that he's planning to propose to me on our fifth anniversary. (He has never been great at hiding surprises.)

I'm thrilled that he wants to make that kind of commitment, and I want nothing more than to spend the rest of my life with him, but the thought of marriage scares me. I don't know if it's nerves about the pending proposal or that I have never planned on marriage and now I have to think about all the stress and strife that comes with planning a wedding.

I want to say yes, but I love the way things are right now, and I know that marriage will change things. What, if anything, do I say to him? — COLD FEET? IN SALT LAKE CITY

DEAR COLD FEET?: I wish you had mentioned why you think being married to Dan would "change things." If you've been happy together for five years, it's unlikely that making a formal commitment would damage the special relationship you have together.

Perhaps this is "old school," but I feel that if couples plan to bring children into the world, they should be married. Because you want nothing more than to spend the rest of your life

with Dan, and are concerned about the stress of planning a wedding, when he pops the question, I suggest you say, "Yes — why don't we elope?"

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Pisces and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013:

This year you listen more carefully to your instincts, as you will be unusually perceptive and intuitive. If your sixth sense points you toward a different path, follow it. You sometimes get so serious and locked into a certain idea that you can't see the big picture. Let go, and you will be pleased with the result. If you are single, you are very attractive to others. Summer holds many romantic possibilities for you. If you are attached, the two of you start acting like new lovers. SCORPIO sees through many of your defenses.

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)

★★★ Conversations with a loved one will be animated and informative. You might want to be serious, but you can't with everything that is going on around you. Resist overthinking, and refrain from putting words in someone else's mouth. Tonight: Be a duo.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might want to have more say in what is happening, but it is obvious that others are going to take the lead. Get together with friends and loved ones, and frolic along with them. Tonight: Do not even consider some quiet alone time -- be where the action is.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You will get more done than you realize is possible if you simply focus and make a list of your priorities. Do not let a project get more complicated right now; do only what you must. You will benefit from a few days away from the grind. Tonight: Choose a favorite form of relaxation.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Attempting to show someone the error of his or her ways might not prove successful. This person's response is mainly a reaction to your words and/or actions. Go out for a walk or watch a movie in order to remove yourself from the situation. Tonight: Forget the here and now.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Family matters could be overwhelming you right now. You can create a better situation only if others will-

ingly go along with your plan. Unfortunately, a rigid individual remains firm in his or her beliefs. Recognize that you have hit a concrete wall. Tonight: Make plans that amuse you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Others remain responsive to your ideas and feelings. If you decide to cut off some negativity or a person who embodies this type of thought, you will be more effective. You also will feel free to toss yourself into life as you would like to. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Take a hard look at your budget. Pay bills first, then make a decision about a long-desired purchase. Even if you nix the idea now, you will have another chance later on. Try not to worry so much about the different facets of your life. Tonight: Visit with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You have many different sides to your personality. Some of the people around you know that. Be aware that your sharp words could startle someone who has not seen that aspect of your personality. You will get your point across regardless. Tonight: What makes you smile.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Take your time, and refuse to be cornered into someone's off-the-wall idea. Be good to yourself, as you might not feel 100 percent. Take action in order to feel better. This might involve a nap, calling a friend or some other stressbuster. Tonight: Play it low-key.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Someone's terms could be nearly impossible to agree to. As a result, you might want to verbalize a re-sounding "no." What happens next could amaze you. Know that you can't predict others' reactions, but you can establish your boundaries. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

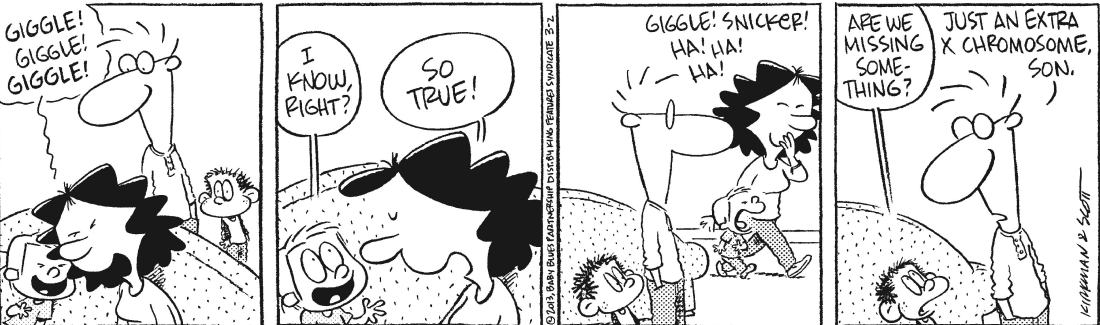
★★★★ Take charge, and know full well what is happening with a friend or loved one. Seek feedback from others, as you might not be sure what to do or which way to go. Laughter surrounds plans as you decide to bring certain friends together. Tonight: Let it all happen.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Make an important call to someone at a distance. Before you know it, you could be planning a special trip to see this person. Allow your feelings to flow naturally, and hold back any judgments. A loved one will do the same. Tonight: Add some music into the mix.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

