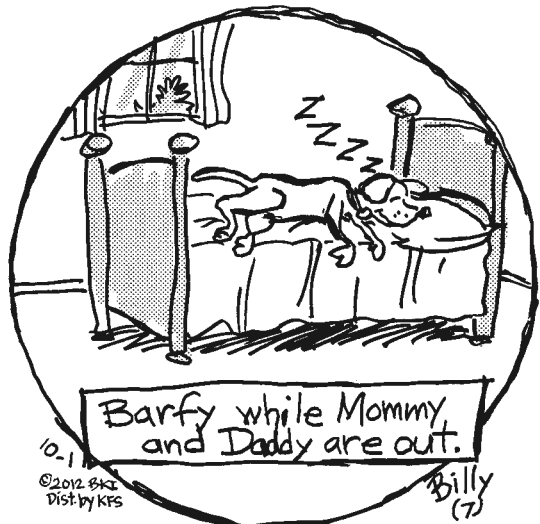


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

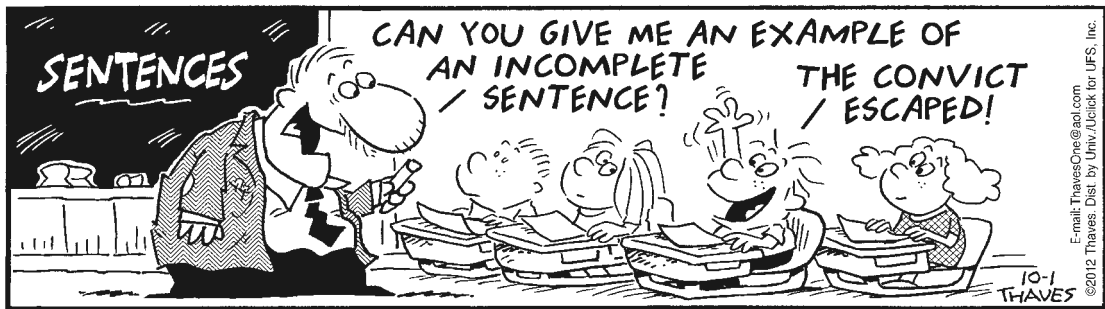


Little Billy (age 7) takes over this week with his own family observations.

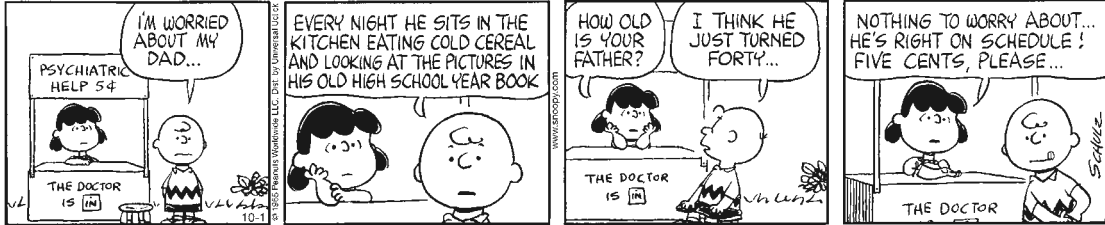
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



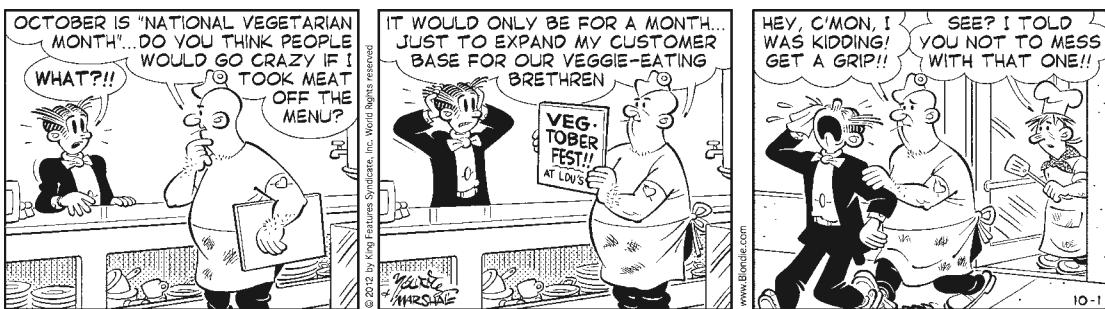
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



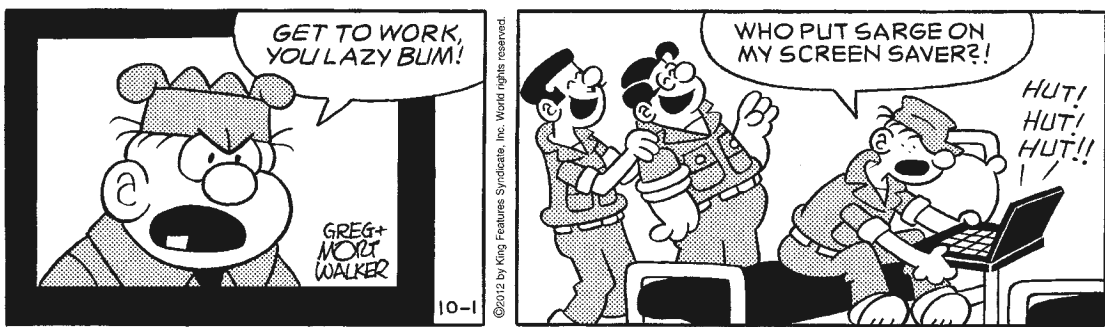
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



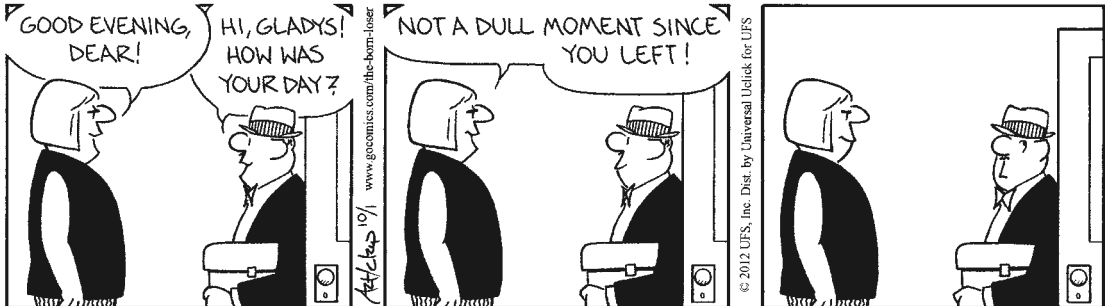
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Cemetery Wreath Thief Does Grave Disservice To Family

DEAR ABBY: I need to let off some steam, because the more I think about an incident that happened last summer, the madder I get.

My sister and I take turns (a few days at a time) caring for our 91-year-old mother, who has Alzheimer's and can't be left alone.

My family lives 60 miles from my mother, so before returning to my home for the Fourth of July, I took flowers to the family cemetery, which is close to Mom's house. It's something I do every year, and the tradition holds great meaning for me.

It was late afternoon on Saturday when I took wreaths I had made for each of my grandparents, an uncle, my precious son (who was 5 years old when he died), and my dear late sister who was recently laid to rest.

Each wreath was unique — I had carefully chosen favorite flowers and colors. Even though the wreaths were artificial, they were pretty, and I felt proud to display them on the graves of my loved ones.

The following evening, my sister called me after she had delivered her flowers to the cemetery. I was shocked to hear the news that my offerings were no longer on the graves — someone had taken them! (I am positive that the wind hadn't blown them away because I was careful to secure them in the ground.)

I have heard stories about people stealing floral displays from graves to put on other graves — even selling them at yard sales. However, I have come up with a solution: The next time I take a wreath to the cemetery, I'll put on my rubber gloves and add poison ivy to the greenery. — ITCHING TO GET EVEN IN CINCINNATI

DEAR ITCHING: I don't blame you for being angry, and your solution is both clever and diabolical. However, as much as you would like to get even with the

wreath thief, please don't do anything rash. An innocent person — like a groundskeeper — might pick up the wreath and suffer the consequences.

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a beautiful, fairy-tale wedding. When it came time for the bride and groom to cut the cake, the groom fed his bride a bite and then smashed the rest all over her face. It went all over her dress and destroyed her makeup. I'm sure she was angry and humiliated.

I have been to lots of weddings over the years and have seen this happen over and over. I'm not old, Abby, I'm only 35 — so no one can say I'm a crotchety old woman.

My point is, this man had just promised to love, cherish, honor and endow his bride with all his worldly goods. Then he negated his vow with a blatant disregard for her self-respect in front of family and friends. I'm all for food and fun, in its place. However, I don't feel a day that has been planned and prepared for months — and sometimes years, wads of money spent for a dress, veil, makeup, etc. — deserves to be defiled.

I have also seen grooms treated this way by brides. It is just wrong! — OF-

FENSED IN GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS

DEAR OFFENDED: I agree. Not only is it wrong, but it is also an indication of the perpetrator's level of immaturity.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Libra and a Moon in Aries if born before 4:06 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, OCT. 1, 2012:

This year you often will consider your relationships and continually evaluate how much to give. In disagreements, consider that both of you might be right. Sometimes you are very hard on yourself. Release that quality. If you are single, dating will be your favorite game. Do not feel pressure to commit. If you are attached, you will find that you can bring both of you closer together or create more distance between you — the call is yours. TAURUS is a peaceful soul, like you.

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 alternate between optimism and a trance-like state. Some of you might feel beaten down or confused. This ambivalence will even out, given time. Honor your feelings, and understand that they are real when they occur. Tonight: Consider a budget revision.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could have many ideas, yet isolating the correct path might be more important than you realize. Know that you need to listen to your instincts. You will find the answer quickly and will act accordingly. Unless a project is practical, nix it. Tonight: Your beaming smile draws in many people.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Where you are is where you want to be, for now. Surround yourself with friends and/or associates who offer different perspectives. A meeting could be more important than you realize. You might be worrying a little too much about the outcome of a situation. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Accept your role as nurturer and leader. You might feel undermined in a creative venture or by a loved one. Mixed messages could be at the core of the problem. Wait until later today or even tomorrow before exploring the issue at hand. Tonight: Find your friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Your broad perspective is needed. First, make sure you are not reacting to a personal attack. You could be concerned that miscommunication could throw plans up in the air. Do what you need in order to detach

from the situation. Your actions will change the game. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You tend to interact rather intensely with others. Discussions revolve around a partnership as well as a separate issue involving travel and possibly education. This period favors brainstorming over taking action. Trust your judgment. Tonight: Go for some lightness and good music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might decide to start counting how many complicated people are in your life. Dealing with these individuals is a handful, and you will encounter some of them today. These interactions might have you feeling off-kilter. Honor your feelings, and use your intellect in order to respond effectively. Tonight: A close conversation.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Recognize your own bias when dealing with someone you generally look up to. You might have mixed feelings, presently. Separate your energy from the immediate issue at hand. Fundamentally, you are not speaking the same language, and this creates a misunderstanding. Tonight: Try dinner and a talk.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Tap into your creativity rather than absorb someone's negativity and/or fear. You know what the possibilities are, and you'll start to see even more. Dare to make a dream a reality, especially if it involves a domestic issue. Your imagination flows through nearly everything you touch. Tonight: Add in a little friendly warmth.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to understand what a family member expects from you. Real estate and domestic matters could weave together. You might be under more pressure than you realize to maintain a strong presence and deal with a situation at home. Tap into your vision of what you want to happen. Tonight: Let your hair down.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

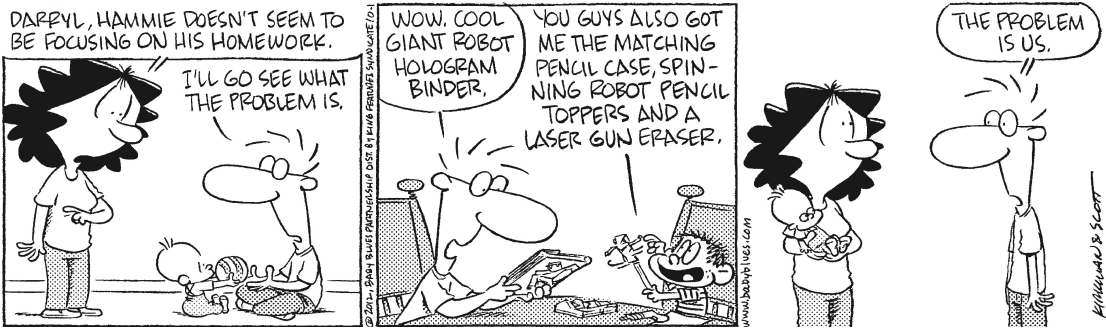
★★★★ You express yourself with clarity when addressing a misunderstanding or a difference in viewpoints with an important person in your daily life. Good feelings will prevail between you and a loved one. You consider this person to be part of your family, even if he or she is not. Tonight: Hunker down at your pad.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

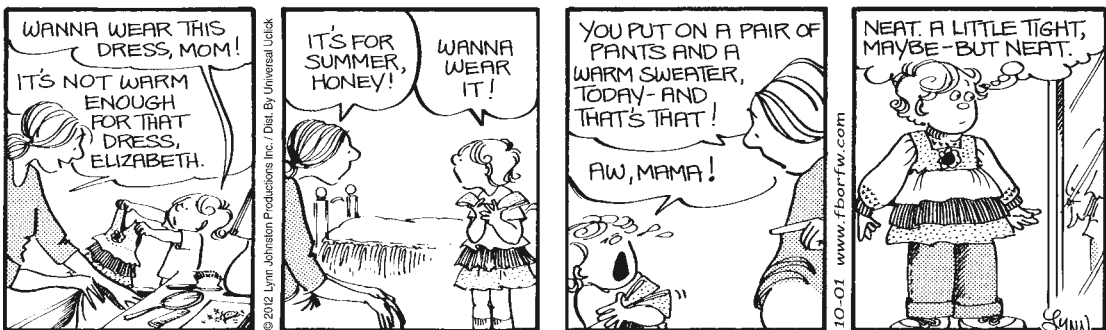
★★★★ You might be concerned about whether you are pitching in enough or perhaps too much. Look within yourself. If you have resentment, you are doing too much. If you experience guilt, you need to do more. Refuse to take on someone else's opinions. You know who you are. Tonight: A leisurely chat over a meal.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

