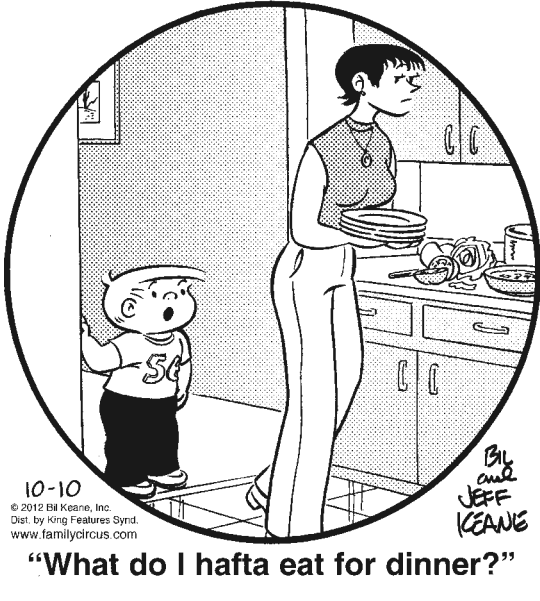
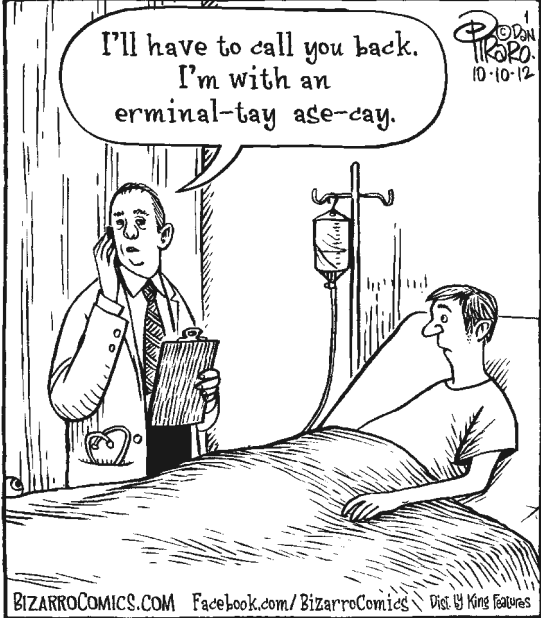


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



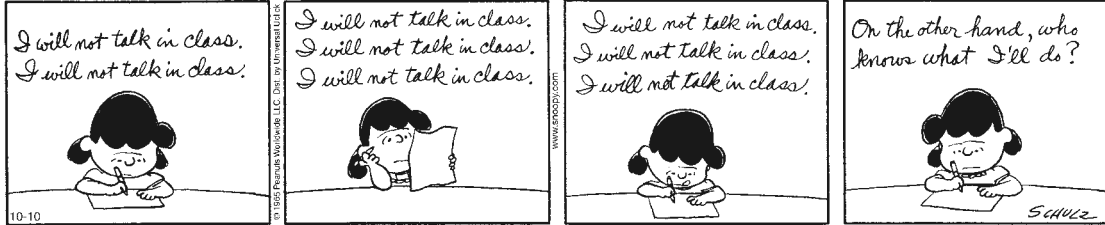
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FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



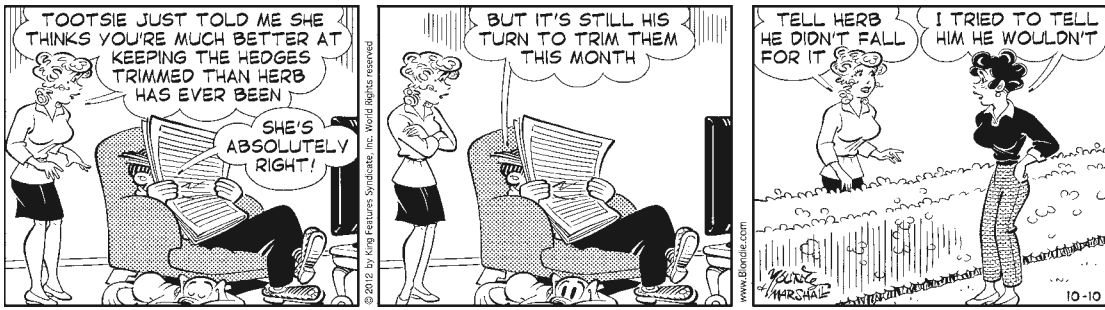
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



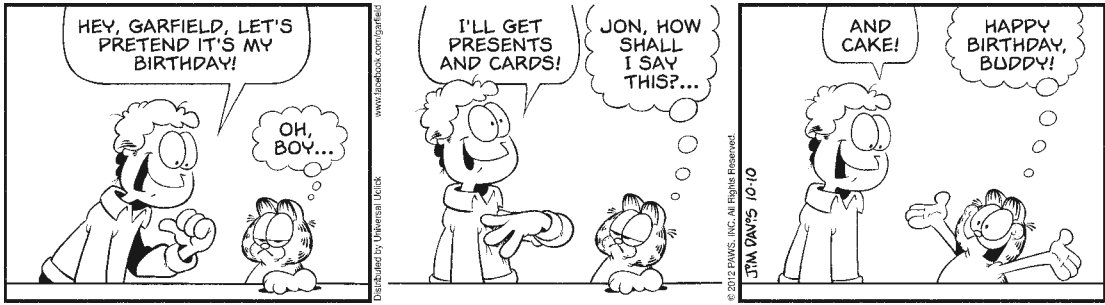
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



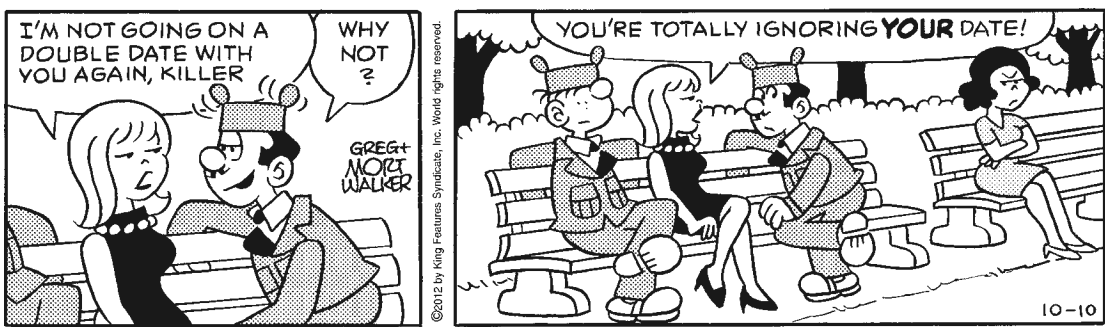
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



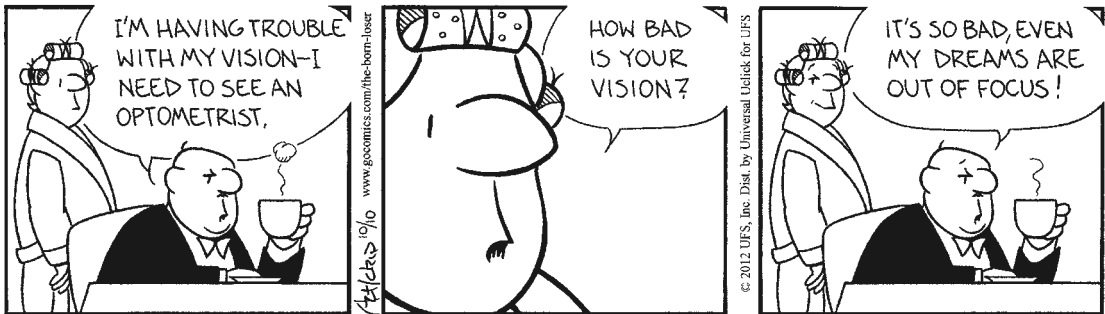
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Teenage Sons' Group Showers Are Puzzling To Their Dad

DEAR ABBY: I am the single dad of two teenage boys (17 and 18) who are both in high school. I am wondering about something they do with their friends. The boys take showers in large groups. When they come in from running or sports, or if a group is spending the night, they shower in groups of two, three or four. It's not like we have a huge shower — it's normal size. I know there's nothing sexual going on because I can hear them talking and joking around. When I asked the boys about this, they looked at me like I had two heads. They said it was just a social thing and the same as showering together after football in the school gym.

They also "air dry" after showers by walking around in towels, sometimes watching TV or goofing off for hours while in their towels. When going out, they get naked in the bathroom, fixing their hair, shaving, brushing their teeth, etc. It's like a big "nude fest" with them and their friends.

While I'm glad they are comfortable with their bodies and who they are, it still bothers me somewhat. Am I being a prude in thinking this is unusual or inappropriate? — STUMPED IN KEN-TUCKY

DEAR STUMPED: I see nothing inappropriate about what your sons and their friends are doing. Nor do I want to label you a prude. You are just not as comfortable in your skin as your sons and their "jock" friends are. Is it possible that they take after their mother?

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I do everything together and I love her, so when she showed up at the gym in "booty shorts," I didn't say a word, even though they don't flatter her one bit. Heck, there's a mirror on every wall, so she must have liked what she saw, and it's none of my business.

When she wore them to a school sporting event, my husband accused me of being a "bad friend" for not telling her that her rear view was getting the wrong kind of attention. Some of the other parents in the bleachers were snickering.

I guess if the situation were reversed, I'd want my best friend to give me a hint, but I'm not exactly sure how to do it. Am I wrong to just keep my mouth shut and mind my own business? — ANONYMOUS IN A SMALL TOWN

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Allow me to provide a couple of hints. First, tell your friend when you are alone and can't be overheard, which will spare her unnecessary embarrassment. Second, ask, "When you bought those shorts, did you get a look at yourself from the back?" If she says no, provide her with a mirror so she can look over her shoulder at herself. Then explain that at the school event, some of the other parents were staring, and not too kindly.

You will be doing her a favor to speak up. That is what friendship is all about. And if she's smart, she'll thank you.

DEAR ABBY: I met this beautiful and awesome lady last Saturday and slept with her that night. Sunday, we spent most of the day texting back and forth. I asked her to dinner on Monday and she accepted. We did more texting on Tuesday night, which I initiated.

So, my question is, how much texting and pursuing is too much in trying to hang out with this woman? I'm really interested in her. — PRETTY COOL DUDE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR PRETTY COOL DUDE: How about giving her 24 hours to catch her breath? Because she keeps saying yes, the signs are good so far. Just be careful that in your enthusiasm your ardor doesn't come across as overwhelming. If you do all the chasing, you'll deprive her of the pleasure of chasing you back.

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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 Leo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012: If ever you were to have a proclivity for intensity and drama, it would be this year. You easily could be mistaken for a drama queen or king. Communication, especially with those close to you, forces your mind's eye to see beyond its current vista. Good luck comes through openness and detachment. Travel and/or education also will play a significant role in your life this year. Be careful not to overspend in your grandiose mood, or else you could end up being unhappy when you return to your normal self. If you are single, a friendship could be vital to a special relationship. Once you meet this person, you could have difficulty landing on the ground for a while. If you are attached, do more as a couple. Work on your friendship, too. A party is always better with a LEO!

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)

HHHH You might want to let a difficult situation alone and instead watch how others work through it. Listen to your inner voice. Do not avoid incoming calls, especially as it is likely that you will hear good news. Tonight: Paint the town red.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

HHH Your home life always is important, and you go out of your way to maintain a steady domestic life. Having priorities is important, but handling the other areas of your life is equally imperative. A friend or loved one has an unusually creative suggestion. Tonight: Mosey on home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

HHHH You make that extra effort, and others respond accordingly. Use positive thinking in order to manifest a wish. Your thoughts and words have an effect. An older relative or boss could be evasive, yet you know that he or she demands a lot. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

HHH Curb a need to go overboard. You might feel quite touched by someone's thoughtfulness. You also feel unusually secure when dealing with this person. Don't worry so much about tension between you and a child or new friend. You cannot change his or her personality. Tonight: Use some self-discipline.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

HHHHH Thoughts that come to you in your sleep might be unusually significant right now. A close friend might be the

perfect person to share this information with, as he or she could give you feedback. You very well might be able to manifest this idea, but on your schedule. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

HHH You might not want to be an active participant in what goes on today, as you could be thinking about a proposal. A boss or higher-up has a lot to share. This person has been observing you, and feels as if you are giving 100 percent of yourself. Your presence encourages others to break past boundaries. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

HHHH Zero in on priorities. You cannot get past a problem without first having a discussion with a key resource. You might be making judgments that could prevent you from accomplishing an important goal. News comes in through a call or an email that delights you to no end. Tonight: First, find your friends. The rest will happen naturally.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

HHHH You understand your role in a project, and you don't hesitate to do what is needed to accomplish the end results. A partner teams up with you and helps you accomplish more. A brainstorming session will open up a door, though you might feel hesitant to walk through it. Tonight: Up late!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

HHHHH Let your mind expand as you play around with a certain situation. You might start to see a situation far differently, or in many different ways, as a result. Someone you like and who is lucky for you suddenly appears. Make plans to get together as soon as possible. Tonight: Reach out for someone at a distance.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

HHHH Deal with individuals directly. The conversations that ensue will demonstrate their caring. Team up with someone who has the same goals as you, but offers something different. Your instincts are excellent, so follow through on a hunch. Tonight: Brainstorm over dinner.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

HHHHH You'll discover much more of what is happening with others. You could get feedback from loved ones when trying to make plans. You suddenly might realize how much fun you could have with a certain person. Schedule a meeting for as late as possible. Tonight: Spontaneity works well.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

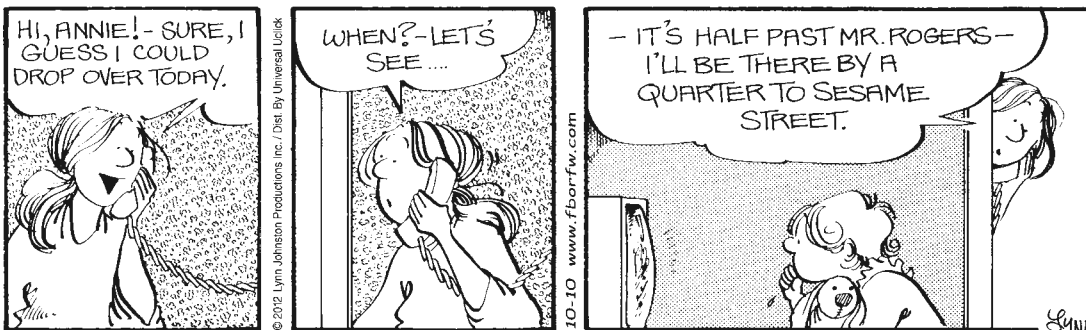
HHHH You have a lot to do, and you will get it done -- as long as you do not allow someone to distract you. Your imagination could lead you down some interesting paths today, even literal ones. Understand why a partner might be negative about one of your suggestions. Tonight: Get to the gym.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

