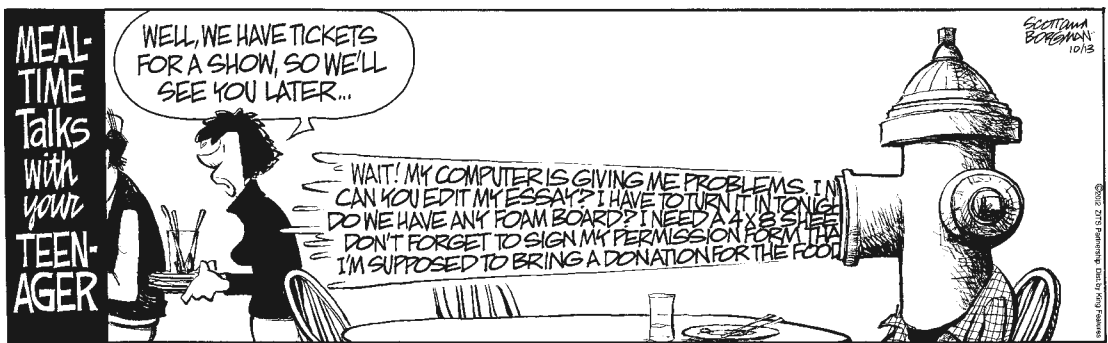


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



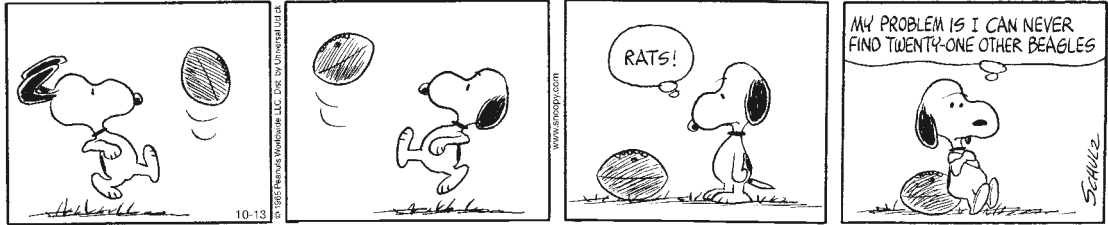
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



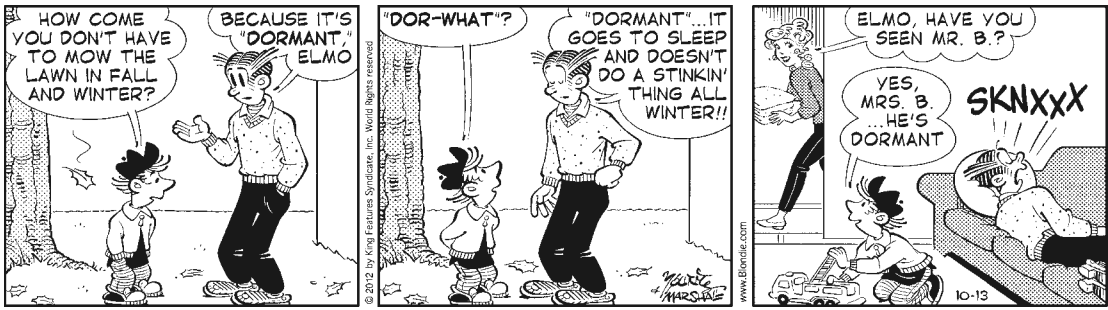
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



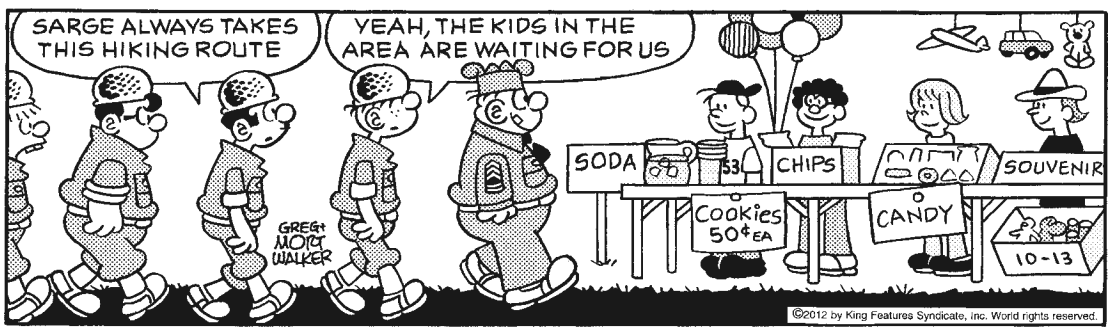
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



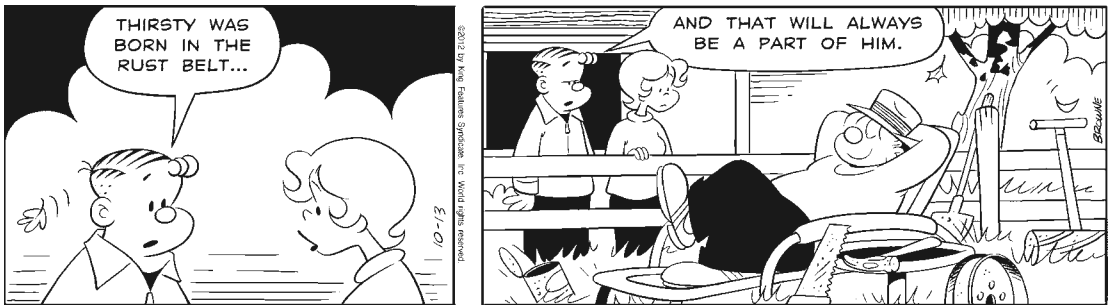
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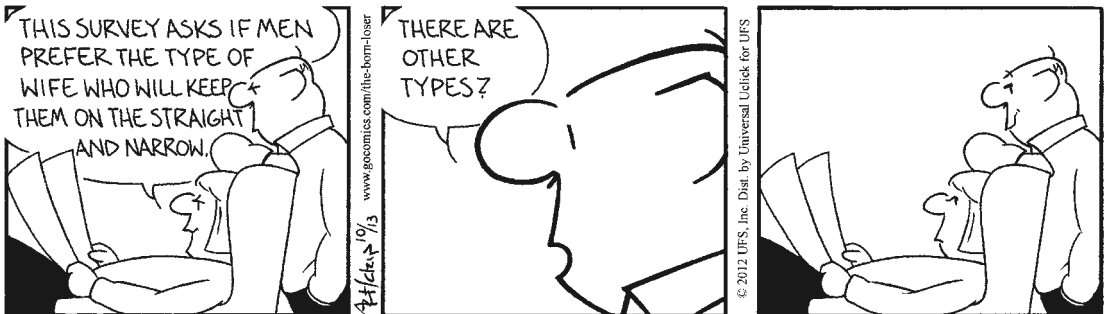
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



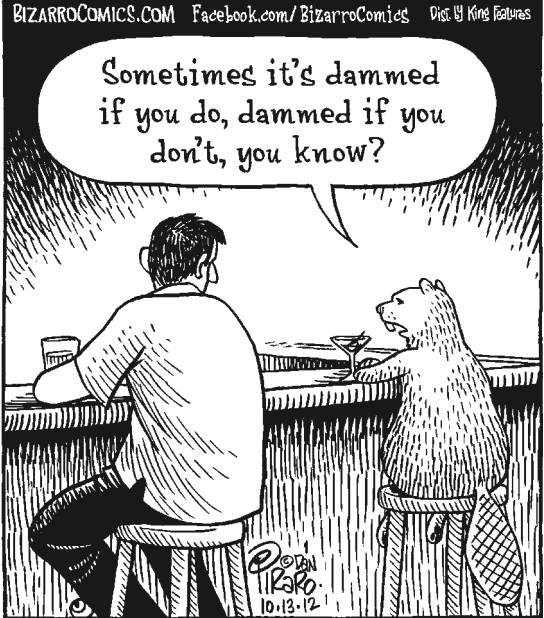
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Teen On A Short Leash Wants More Freedom From Parents

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and go to a high school with drug addicts and girls who are lucky they aren't pregnant. (Some are.) My father thinks I'm like them even though I have proven time and again that I'm not. I have a 4.0 GPA and have never done drugs or had sex.

I'm not allowed to drive anywhere without my mother accompanying me. If I want to go on a date with my boyfriend, my parents must be present. I have lost friends who are tired of having to hang with my parents and me. I have tried telling my dad this, but he claims I'm being ridiculous and then picks a fight with me. I suggested family counseling, but Dad refused. He says we don't have the money.

What do I do? I just want to be a normal teenager who can hang out without my parents following me everywhere. — **TIRED TEEN IN WYOMING**

DEAR TIRED TEEN: You have my sympathy. You have caring and conscientious parents, who appear to have gone overboard in trying to shelter you. By age 17 — and with a 4.0 GPA — you should have been allowed to socialize without a constant chaperone. That's how teens learn to develop relationships and make mature decisions.

In another year you will be 18 and an adult. If there is an adult relative in whom you can confide, ask that person to please speak to your parents on your behalf. You should be experiencing more freedom than you have been allowed.

DEAR ABBY: I have known my boyfriend, "Kyle," for eight years. We have been dating more than two years and living together for seven months. We have an amazing relationship. We love to laugh and make each other laugh. That's a "quirk" we share.

This morning, Kyle woke up, went straight to his dad's house without saying why and returned with his hair cut, beard trimmed and looking well-groomed. He

seemed kind of "off," though — almost nervous. He then went to his mom's to help with some yard work and when he came home, he snuck up behind me and slipped a ring on my finger. I got a little teary-eyed and

asked where it came from. He said from his mom. He acted shy, wouldn't say much or look right at me. Then, after a moment, he shouted, "Just kidding! I wanted to make you laugh and freak you out a little."

I don't think there was malicious intent on his part. He's a sweetheart, but I don't know how to tell him how badly he hurt me emotionally. I thought he was proposing. What should I do? — **UNENGAGED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

DEAR UNENGAGED: Sit Kyle down and tell him the effect his "joke" had on you. After a couple has started living together, a proposal of marriage is no laughing matter unless both partners are in on the joke.

P.S. If you talk to him in all seriousness, you may find that he DID propose, but then got cold feet.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my early 60s and have no plans to retire. I raised a child on my own and wasn't able to save much for retirement, and my office retirement plan disappeared during the recession in 2008.

Because of my age, people young and old often ask when I plan to retire. I don't feel I owe anyone an explanation as to why I continue to work, and I plan on working as long as I can. I usually say I can't afford to retire, but then I get a response like, "I sure hope I'm not working at your age," or "You can get Social Security," etc. Any idea how I should respond to let these people know it's none of their business? — **MIFFED IN MENLO PARK**

DEAR MIFFED: All you have to do is smile and say, "Retire? I'm just getting started!"

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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 Libra all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 2012:

This year you are unusually free and relaxed. You feel rather centered, and your positive characteristics evolve. Others often gravitate toward you. If you are single, you really could get into the dating game, at least until you find someone who takes your breath away. If you are attached, your sweetie makes it clear how he or she feels about you. Bathe in the warmth of this bond. A fellow LIBRA understands you maybe too well.

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)

★★★★ Others dominate your day, your plans and much of your personal time. Though at first you might be upset or irritated by this, you will be grateful later for all the friends and loved ones who surround you. Do not try to squeeze too much into your schedule. Tonight: Follow the drumbeats.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Whatever you planned, make sure to squeeze in some R and R. You might decide to be a couch potato, unless you really do want to be busy. Read a great book or rent a few movies. Whatever you choose, consider doing it alone. You can change that scenario if someone wants to join you. Tonight: Play it steady.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your playfulness intrigues a child, partner or potential new friend. You very rarely let your hair down in this manner. Others can't help but want to join in. Plans will be enhanced by your innate mischievous side. Many people have not met this side of the Twin. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Whereas many signs might not be happy staying at home, you are thrilled to do so. Invite friends over for a meal or throw a spontaneous get-together. You'll add that touch of originality, yet that homey quality still comes through. Tonight: You do not need to go far.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a neighbor's gossip. You might wonder why this person is sharing this information with you. Most likely, it is an attempt to confirm

his or her own reaction. Make calls to several friends you rarely have time to catch up with. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ If there is a restriction other than time, it easily could be financial. You might be feeling overwhelmed. Understand your limits. You also could see a different path, or perhaps someone will make a suggestion that could work. Tonight: Fun does not need to cost money.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you have the world in your hands. Be careful, as you could develop a big ego or a sense of entitlement. Others might pull back if they get a sense of these character traits, yet those are the qualities that will help you manifest your desires. Respond to a key person. Tonight: Ever popular.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Know when to pull back and not get involved. You also have a project you need to work on. Unfortunately, only you can handle this matter. Take some time today to put a dent in or even finish up this venture. Tonight: Remember, mystery is appealing to some people.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Wherever you go, plan on being around friends and people in general. Your spirit is lifted when you relate. A conversation helps you zero in on what you most want. Remember, sometimes when you head down a new path, you close off an option. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★ You might want to vanish, but responsibilities call. Check in with an older friend or relative before heading in a new direction. Think of how much this person cares about you and all the time he or she spends alone. A little effort goes a long way. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

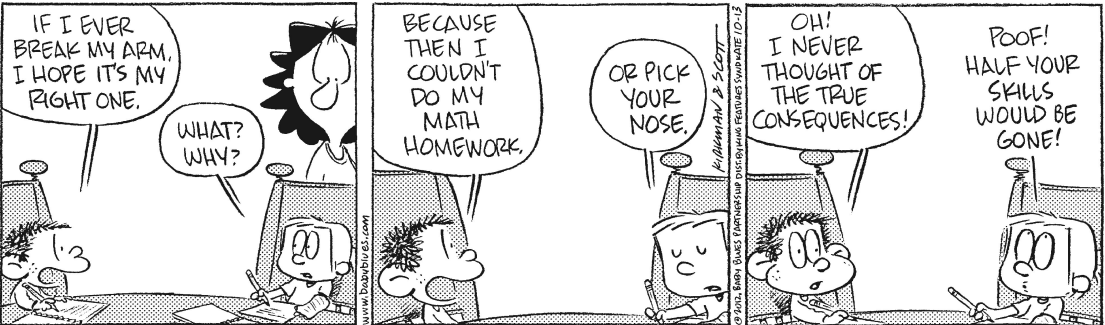
★★★★ News finally comes in from someone at a distance. You demonstrate enormous caring and flexibility. You also gain a new perspective on what originally seemed hard. Your humor lightens you up, and it helps others as well. You see the path ahead in living color. Tonight: Only where there is music.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Resist getting angry, and accept a situation for what it is. You could feel pushed beyond your normal limits. Understand what the other party (or parties) might be experiencing. Once you can empathize and get off your position, the situation will dissolve. Tonight: How about a cozy dinner?

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

