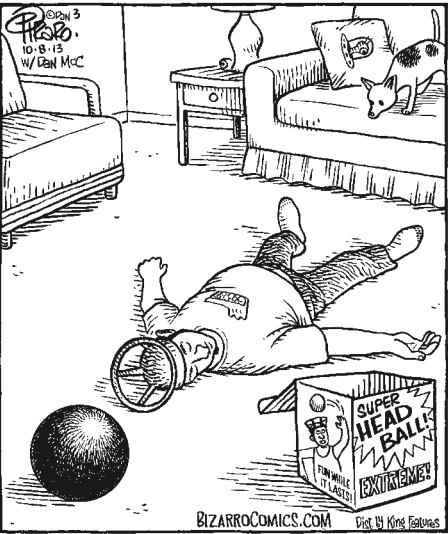


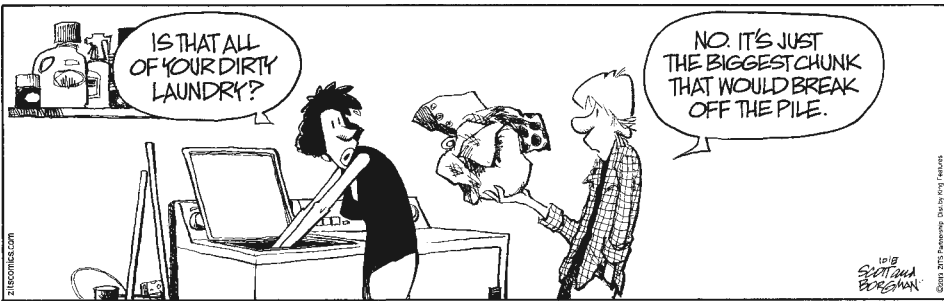
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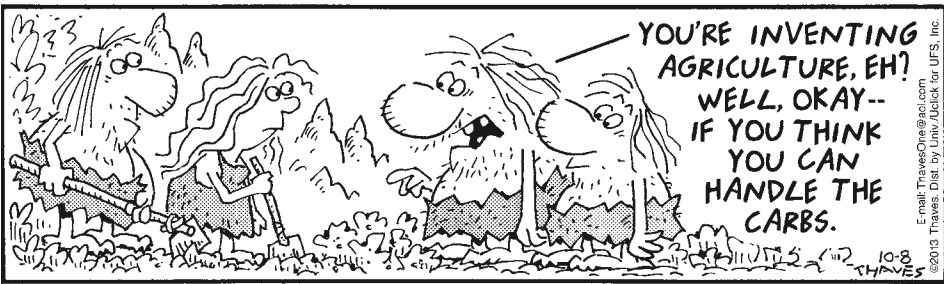
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



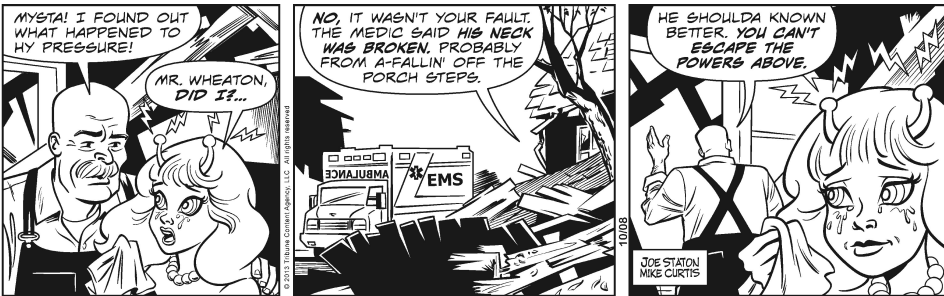
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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



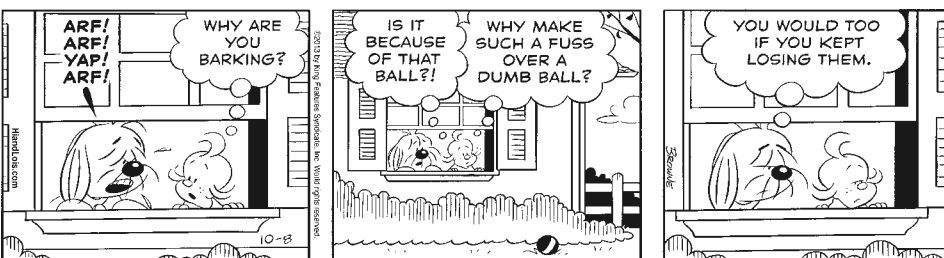
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BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



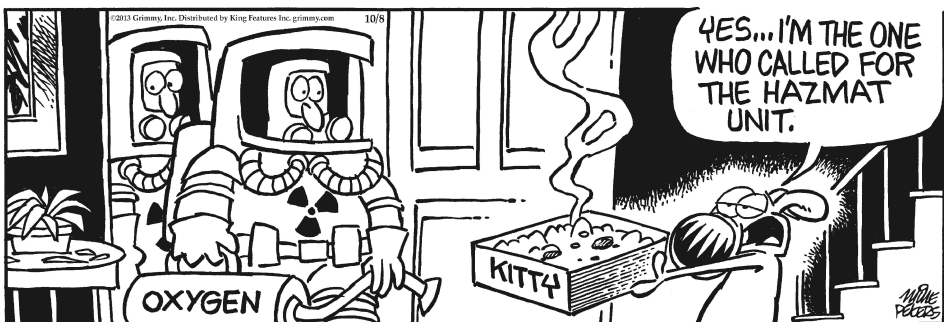
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Couple's Dinner Companion Is Attentive To A Fault

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I go out to dinner once a month with a couple we have known for years. "Joe" is an active conversationalist, while my husband is fairly quiet.

The problem is Joe addresses only me and stares at me throughout the meal. I think it's just a bad habit he has acquired. To no avail I have tried various seating arrangements to avoid the constant stare. It makes me very uncomfortable. I feel bad for my husband, who is totally ignored, but doesn't seem to care as long as the food is good!

How do I get Joe to include my husband in the conversation and rest his gaze elsewhere? I would never say anything to "Mrs. Joe" about it because I don't want to make her uncomfortable, too. I really want to continue the friendship and the socializing, but I'd like to feel more relaxed at the dinner table. Any suggestions? — DISTRESSED DINER

DEAR DISTRESSED: You are not helpless. The next time Joe directs his comments and questions only to you, toss the verbal ball to your husband and say, "Honey, what do YOU think about that?" It will give him an opening to enter the conversation.

As for the staring, Joe may not be aware of what he's doing. You could bring it to his attention by simply saying: "You keep looking at me, Joe. Do I have food in my teeth? Is my lipstick smeared?" Then haul out a compact and make a show of checking for yourself. It may help to curb his discomfiting habit.

DEAR ABBY: I'm single and have grown children. I know I am not going to live forever, and I want to make sure I am not a burden to them even after death. I have a will and no bills beyond my house and normal living expenses. What else do I need to do to make sure everything is taken care of when I'm gone? — PREPARING IN ADVANCE

DEAR PREPARING: Do you have an ad-

vance directive for health care in case you become so ill before your death that you can't speak for yourself? Do you have at least one health care advocate who will ensure your wishes are carried out? Do you have a cemetery plot selected and paid for, so your children won't have to do it? How about money set aside for your funeral or memorial?

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, all you need to do is make certain your children are aware of it. If not, then get busy!

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and in the eighth grade. Some of my friends have problems with body odor. It makes it hard for me to be around them. They are all nice people, but sometimes I can't breathe when I'm near them.

Some of my other friends say I should tell them, but I'm not sure how without hurting their feelings. The odor ranges from breath to body. Abby, they are known throughout our school for being "the smelly ones." How do I tell them without offending them? — BREATHLESS IN BEACHWOOD, OHIO

DEAR BREATHLESS: I agree that telling people they have bad breath or body odor can be embarrassing. But to do so is not hurtful; in fact, it is doing the person a huge favor. The way to do it is PRIVATELY. This is important because your friends are probably not aware that they have a problem or have been causing one.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Scorpio if born before 6:54 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 8, 2013:

This year you need to use self-discipline in order to achieve what you want professionally and financially. You will start seeing the rewards late summer 2014. You become quite the conversationalist as well. You seem to drop the right phrase at the right moment. If you are single, your appeal is obvious. You might want to date several different people, as you determine who suits you best. If you are attached, the two of you will spend many happy hours together discussing the world, your family or whatever else appeals to you. SAGITTARIUS is fun.

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 know that you must participate and be willing to work with an associate, yet you have so many other thoughts going on in your mind. You would be well advised to follow through on one of your many ideas later in the day. Tonight: Look to the future for pursuing a goal.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Do you feel bullied? That feeling is quite possible with today's chaotic energy. You will choose to be kind and decide to view any issues that arise as a reflection of the present confusion. A partner could want your time. Listen. Tonight: Make time for a favorite person.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Dive into a project quickly. You can accomplish a lot -- and efficiently at that. You suddenly could be distracted by a fun event later in the day. Feel free to join in! You'll be able to get past a hassle, as long as you do not brood on it. Tonight: Dream, then make it happen.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Listen to news carefully and reconsider your choices. What feels correct at this juncture might change again. Your creativity might be stifled right now. Be willing to go for what you want, as long as you're 100 percent sure you want it. Tonight: Take a brisk walk after dinner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could make an important decision involving real-estate. You will gain confidence as a

result, and you'll also be willing to be less uptight about a domestic matter. Allow more creativity and fun into your life on a regular basis. Tonight: Time for some fun with friends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Use the daytime hours to pursue an interest, but know that it could involve starting a difficult conversation. The other party might seem closed down, but the recent distance is a reflection of your attitude. A partner will change his or her tune. Tonight: Quiet time at home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Work with someone directly, and know that you might have to say "no" to him or her. You could find this person to be difficult to co-exist with. Communication will excel by late afternoon. A partner could surprise you with a reversal. Tonight: Have an important discussion.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You have the ability to open up a conversation, but it is crucial that you drop your defenses. If you want to discuss a change, you too must be willing to make more of an effort. Your nerves could be fried by an unexpected development. Just handle it. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You have the ability to move past a problem. You also see someone more clearly than he or she sees him- or herself. Do not put yourself in the position of having to make a decision. Unexpected developments could force you back to square one. Tonight: Let your hair down.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Use the morning to the max, when you feel as if you could conquer your immediate domain, if not the world. True to form, you will hit an obstacle or two that will force your hand. By the afternoon, you will need a break. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ The pressure is on, and you'll deal remarkably well with a sudden change. In fact, you might enjoy it more than others realize. You can be very tenacious when you need to be, especially as others seem to head in a different direction. Tonight: Go with the flow.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Use your vision and knowledge when the unexpected occurs. If you keep your wits about you when others get a bit crazy, you not only will make the right choices, but you also will gain favor with a higher-up. Observers will be impressed as well. Tonight: Work late, if need be.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

