

I didn't invent the OFD disease, but this morning (Easter+1,1983) I invented its name (after having empathized with Snoopy Easter Day).

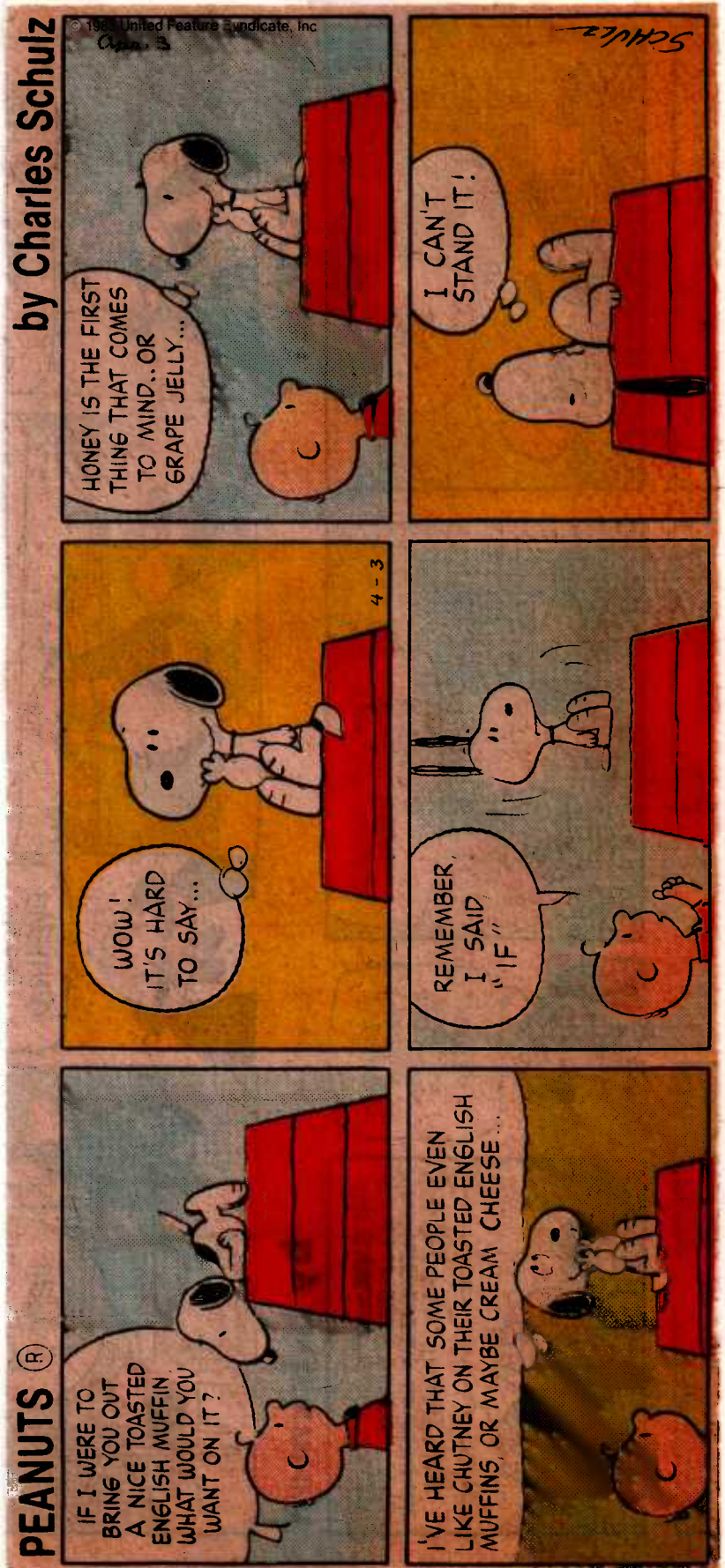
1. My "OFD" is a trope on Viktor Frankl's "IFD" (Idealism to Frustration to Depression/Despair/Disintegration/Destruction/Death). "O" is Over-expectation, excessive hope (of which idealism is a particular form, viz., excessive hope based on a life-view leaning too far toward the warm end of the spectrum (thus, jejune, ruddy)). We never get it all worked out of us; e.g., I begin a thinksheet with the puerile idea that after about ten inches I'll have had my say without running up one or both margins or certainly without running over onto the back....Which reminds me of two quotes from playwright R.B. Sheridan: (1) "Easy writing's curst hard reading"; (2) The printed page is "a neat rivulet of text meandering through a meadow of margin."

2. Overpromising--the root of over-expectation--ain't all bad. Browning's "A man's reach must exceed his grasp/Or what's a heaven for?"

3. Overpromising is three-dimensional: it's done to us, we do it to ourselves, we do it to others. So 6 categories for self-examination (since each of the three should be considered as to both helpful and hurtful effects existentially as well as theoretically).

4. Religion, out of proper eagerness to get earthbound human beings to "come up higher," perpetually commits the sin and error of overpromising and (the same action, showing my ambivalence!) fulfils a duty by--yes!--promising more than it, or even earth, can fulfil. G. M. Hopkins is my favorite poet for expressing this ambivalence.

5. Besides being conscious action, overpromising is "built in," *natura naturans*, divine design, soul/body. E.g., overpromising glands need social control (and, witness rising teen pregnancy, aren't getting enough of it). The art of living: ecstasies of body/soul without hubris, violating God-set limits.



by Charles Schulz

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