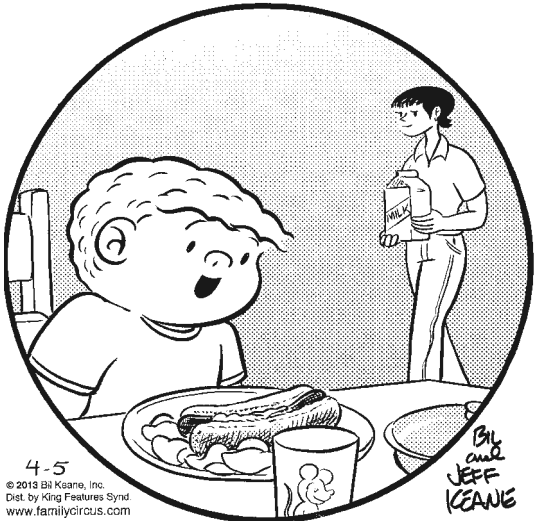
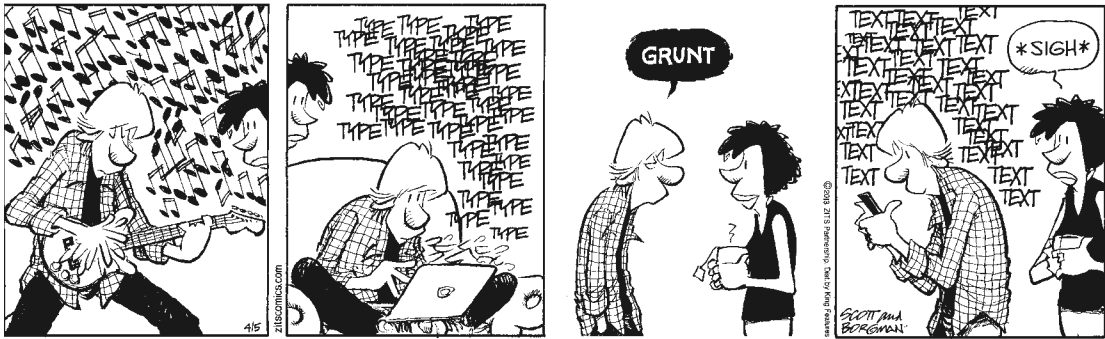


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



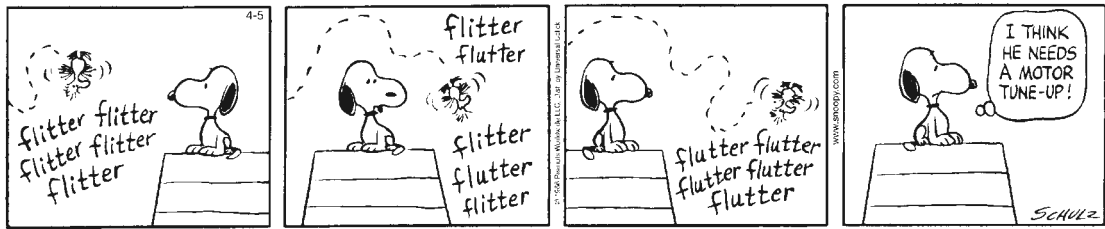
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



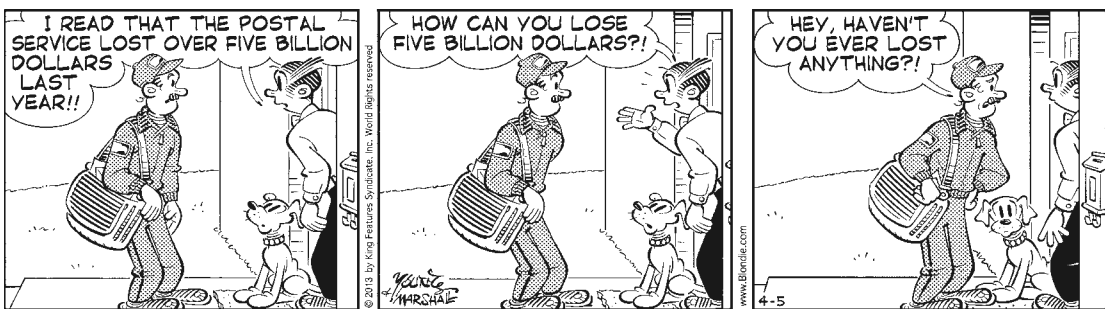
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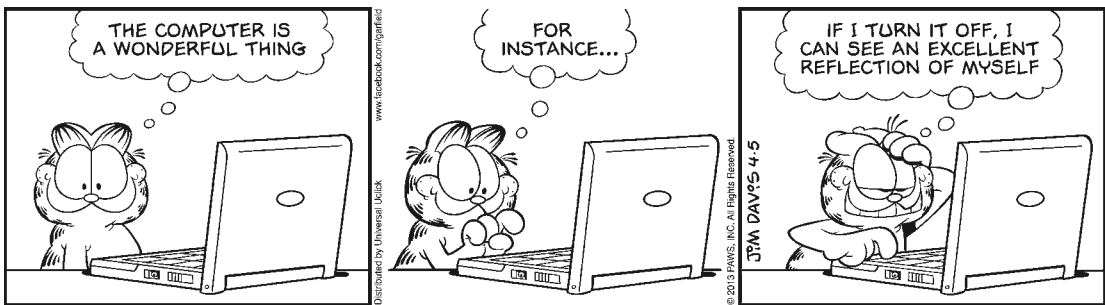
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



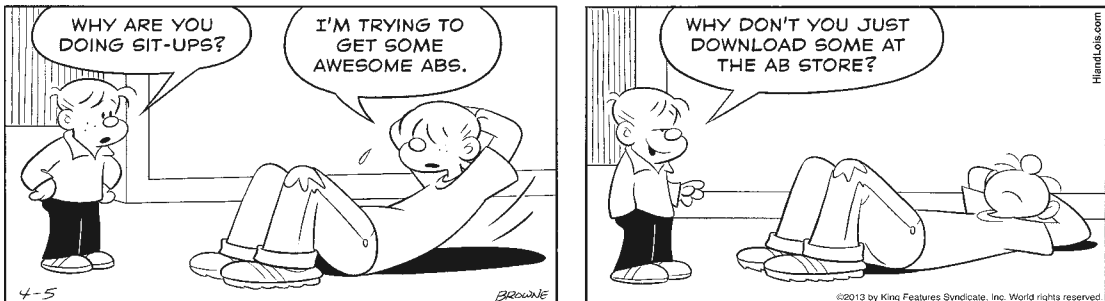
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Man Battling Booze Feels He's Drowning In Clutter

DEAR ABBY: I met the woman of my dreams about a year ago. Her husband had died about two months before our paths crossed. She has two teenage daughters I'm very fond of.

I have a history of alcoholism and she's a hoarder. A week ago, I had an "epiphany": I am desperately trying to quit drinking for my own sake.

Abby, I am a clean freak living with a hoarder. I come home from work and get depressed and stressed from looking at all the clutter. It is driving me insane. I feel like it is triggering me to stay drunk every night.

I don't want to lose this woman and her family, but I can't co-exist in this house. I have left several times, only to miss her and go back. I'm trying to kick the booze, but I know I won't be able to achieve sobriety while living in this house. — TRULY TORN IN TEXAS

DEAR TRULY TORN: If you quit drinking only a week ago, it is important that you find an AA group to help you hang onto your sobriety. That's step one.

Next, realize that you and the lady you're living with may share a similar problem. You say you are a "clean freak." This can be a symptom of an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Hoarding can be a symptom of the same disorder.

The International OCD Foundation is a reliable resource that may be able to help you both. It offers individuals with this disorder the support they need to manage their symptoms, and has many local chapters. You can locate it online at www.ocfoundation.org or reach it by calling 617-973-5801.

DEAR ABBY: Maybe you would like to pass this on to the parents of teenage boys. It worked for me when I had the sex talk with my sons. I knew their brains had not yet fully developed. They thought they were invincible and had an "it could never happen to me" attitude.

Because money seems to be the one thing at that

age they can relate to, I decided to turn it into a mathematical problem: I told them that if they got a girl pregnant, they could figure on a minimum of \$300 a month child support, multiplied by 12 months for 18 years.

(That totals \$65,000 — unless the girl has twins, which would double the amount.)

Then I told them if they were tempted to have unprotected sex, they should look at the girl and ask themselves if they would pay her \$65,000 to have sex with them. If they couldn't answer yes, then they needed to walk away.

Abby, it worked! No grandchildren appeared until after they were married. Feel free to share this with other parents who would appreciate a "non-traditional" approach that is effective. — TONY IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR TONY: Gladly. I'm passing your technique along because money is a great motivator, and your idea makes "cents."

DEAR ABBY: My roommate insists that undershirts should be washed right-side-out. I say as long as you're using detergent and bleach, it doesn't matter. Who is right? — MR. CLEAN IN OCEANSIDE, CALIF.

DEAR MR. CLEAN: I don't claim to be a domestic goddess, but I don't think there is a right or wrong way to wash undershirts. I have heard, however, that washing garments inside out will prevent lint buildup on the outside, and in the case of denim, less fading.

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 Aries and a Moon in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013:

This year you make it a point to express your feelings more often — especially your friendly, more positive ones. Others respond in kind, and they will have an easier time relating to you as a result. If you are single, you'll do well in just about any circumstance. You need to decide what you want from a relationship and choose the right person accordingly. You could meet someone simply by going about your daily activities. If you are attached, your openness will encourage greater closeness. Your sweetie finds you exciting yet unpredictable. AQUARIUS is a loyal friend.

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)

★★★★ Let your weekend plans float around in your mind as much as you'd like. Take off to visit some friends, or plan a get-together in the near future. Your energy might be needed, as others might be dragging. You know where you are heading and why. Tonight: Where the gang is.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might be left trying to tie up the loose ends of a situation. You might not know why this is the case, but you do know what to do. Be willing to say "no" if you can't handle any more. Someone you really care about opens up. Help only if you want to. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to others. You'll want to get the lay of the land before you commit to anything. Friends might push you in a certain direction. Be honest with yourself and evaluate your options. Follow their lead if you think it is the best choice. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Relate on an individual basis, and let others know why they are important to you. Sometimes you assume that others just know. An occasional confirmation or acknowledgment means a lot. Your relationships will improve as a result. Tonight: Thoughtfulness is the theme.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others seem to be in control right now. You can carry on all you want, but either go along with someone

else's plans or make your own. Accept an invitation that involves travel and seeing someone at a distance. Feelings flow in this setting. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Defer to someone else in order to lighten your workload. Confusion surrounds a personal situation. You have some choices to make. Stay centered in your priorities, commitments and whatever else is important to you. Listen to news carefully. Tonight: Visit with a dear friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You can't suppress your playfulness — even if you should change your mind or decide to do something differently. Someone clearly is on your side, but he or she still might give you some flak. Feed off of this person's energy, and finish a long-overdue project. Tonight: TGIF.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Stay centered, and recognize when enough is enough. You know far more than what you are sharing. Realize what is happening between you and someone else. Make sure that you are able to blend two different — and perhaps contradictory — parts of your life. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to complete a conversation, but interruptions could leave you feeling frustrated. Try this conversation on a Monday or Tuesday — not on a Friday. Loosen up by revealing your authentic feelings regarding a loved one. Tonight: Express your liveliness.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Be aware of the cost of proceeding as you are. If you are investing in real estate, the superficial costs have nothing to do with reality. Create a sound budget that allows for a snafu here and there. Your sense of humor could be provocative to someone. Tonight: Time for a treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen to your imagination, and follow through on an idea that seems a little offbeat. You'll get your point across while still being able to express your caring. Avoid a disruptive person in your daily life who thrives on chaos. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Avoid getting into today's confusion; otherwise, your feelings easily could be hurt. Listen to a friend who shares a secret of sorts. You might need to point this person in a new direction. Express your caring in a way that is very different for you. Tonight: Join friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

