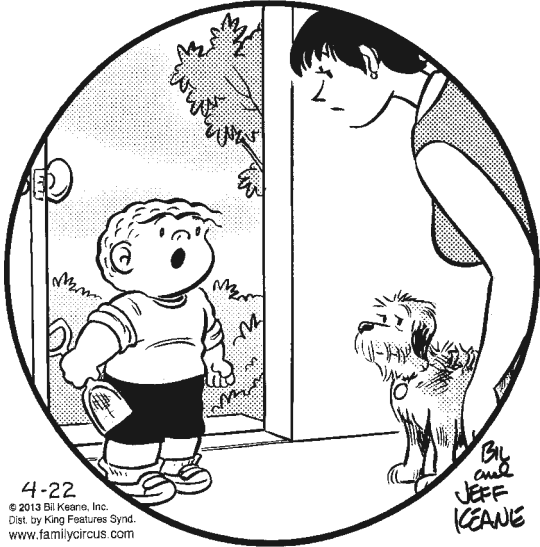


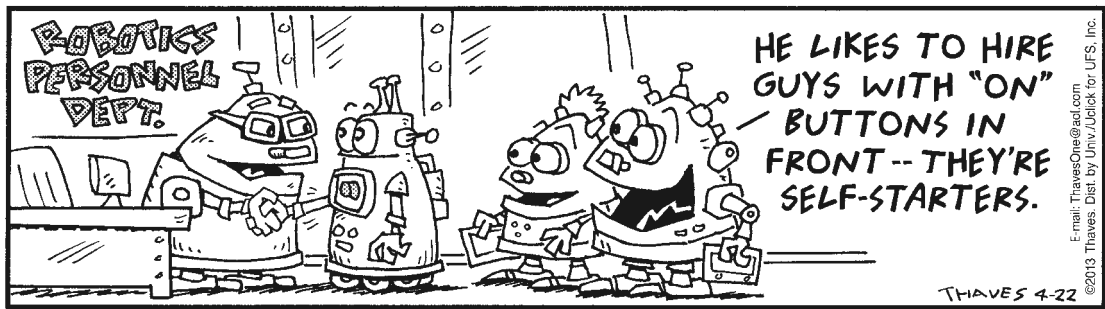
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



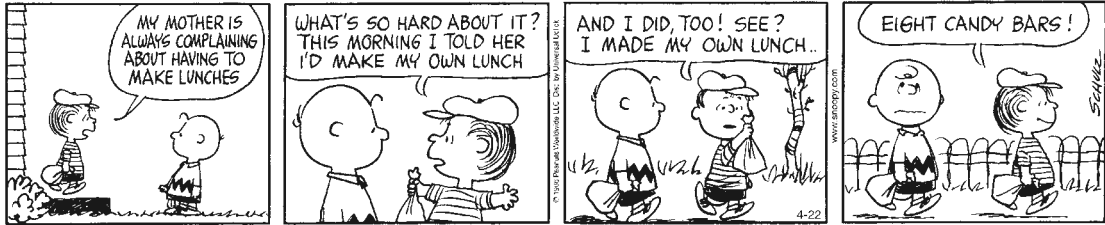
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



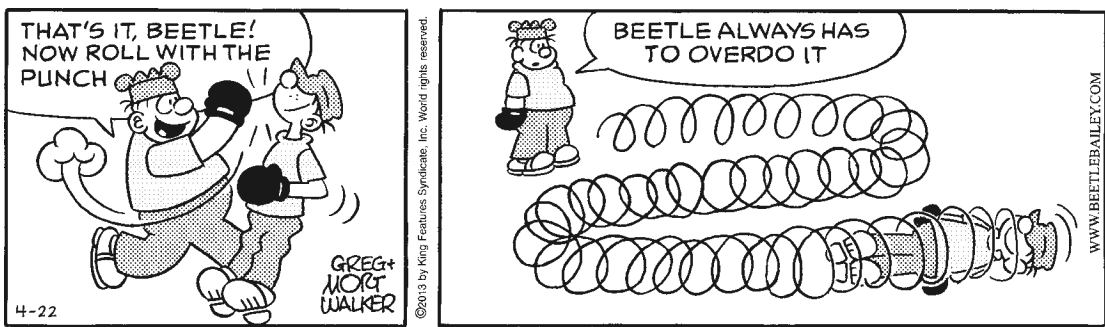
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Mom Wants Ex To Be A Good Sport And Watch His Son Play

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old son, "Nils," recently joined a sport he really enjoys. His stepdad and I are at every practice, helping the coaches and coaching my son along.

Nils recently commented to me that he would like it if his father could come and see him practice. I took it upon myself, as I usually do, to call my ex, "John," and suggest he make an appearance because it would make our son happy.

My husband, who has been a wonderful stepdad to Nils for 13 years now, told me I should leave it alone. He said if John was a "real" father, he would just show up without being asked.

When things like this happen, should I leave it alone, or should I ask John to be involved more than he tries to be? I tell my ex about all of our son's activities and sometimes he just doesn't show. — TRYING TO BE A GOOD MOM

DEAR TRYING: Not knowing your former husband, I can't guess his reason for not coming to your son's practices, particularly if he said he was going to attend. John may be irresponsible, or he may have unforeseen scheduling conflicts. By telling him about your son's activities and letting him know his presence is wanted, you have done your job as a conscientious mother. At 14, Nils is old enough to also call his father and invite him. The rest is up to your ex.

DEAR ABBY: In reference to the letter from the man who was constantly setting off "gaydar" alarms in females (March 10), I would like to share my experience.

I dated and then married a man who incorrectly set off MY "gaydar." It had nothing to do with his mannerisms, his speech or appearance. It was his extreme personal insecurity regarding dating and mak-

ing friends. In addition, "Mr. Not-Gay" could neither read nor write, which caused even more emotional insecurity.

After we had been married 10 years he became physically disabled and we had to move. No one in our new city took him for gay, even without me and without a wedding ring on him. He divorced me at 62 because the 30-something home-care aides looked better, but that's another story. — MARCIA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MARCIA: I hope you will write again and tell us the rest of the story, as I'm sure I'm not the only person who would be interested in reading it. I agree that individuals who are uncomfortable with themselves sometimes emit vibes that make others uncomfortable because I have experienced it. But this subject does highlight the absurdity of gay stereotypes. Because a man is slight, soft-spoken and a meticulous dresser does not mean he is gay, any more than it means a man who is fat, sloppy and loud is straight.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Duane" for two months. He's kind, good-looking, successful, smart and fun. He's also apparently quite proud of his astonishingly hairy chest because he always wears his shirts unbuttoned nearly to his navel. When we're in public, you can see people react. Sometimes they point and whisper. I gently raised the issue, but he didn't seem to think it was a big deal. I like him, but I'm embarrassed sometimes. Any thoughts? — BLUSHING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BLUSHING: Yes. Your friend is suffering from overexposure. When strangers point and whisper, what they're saying is usually no compliment. Because Duane's décolletage embarrasses you, give him a choice: Button up or mow the "lawn."

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

## 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 Taurus and a Moon in Virgo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2013:

This year you express a precision that is quite unique. Your attention to detail makes it possible to manifest a long-term desire. You have endurance and the ability to home in on what is important. If you are single, you could meet someone who gives you an instant case of butterflies. Explore what exists between you. If you are attached, the two of you will add a lot of romance to your bond. VIRGO can be very critical.

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)

★★★★ In your mind's eye, you have a vision of what you want to do today. So many responsibilities and requests head your way that you have little choice but to proceed in a different direction. Be aware of a partner's limitations. Tonight: Go with the moment.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Allow your creativity to flow, and follow the winds of fate. You have the ability to turn a mundane chore into a happy adventure. Others appreciate your positive attitude and ability to transform the most difficult situations. Tonight: So what if it is Monday? Be naughty.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could feel unusually tense about how much is being tossed on your plate. Though you might not want to say the words "stop" or "enough," know that you can convey your preferences through your facial expressions and body language. Tonight: Head on home.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your words have impact, but perhaps they affect someone you would prefer they wouldn't. A loved one could take a comment personally. Listen to your inner voice as to how far you can push this person. Be aware of your limits. Tonight: Meet a friend for a chat.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Recognize a tendency to go overboard. You simply might be having too good of a time and not even realize it. Listen to your sixth sense, and it will point you in the right direction. Trust your judgment. You'll make good

decisions as a result. Tonight: Stay within your budget.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Don't allow someone to take your power away from you. You might decide to head your own way, no matter what happens. You could become emotionally exhausted from a conversation that goes on for way too long. Know when enough is enough. Tonight: All smiles.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Know when a retreat is practical, and decide the correct move to make. You don't want to step into an emotionally charged situation. You could feel insecure. Regroup and center yourself. The unexpected plays a strong role in your decisions. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might be too strong-willed right now without intending to be. A loved one or someone you were attempting to impress could distance him- or herself as a result. Know that your way is not always right for others. Tonight: Indulge a partner.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Tension keeps building, no matter what you do. Stay positive. A partner or loved one will come toward you, as this person is determined to be with you. You could be eyeing something that could break your budget. Be careful. Is it really necessary? Tonight: Anchor in.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Follow your whims right now. If you want to take off, do. You need a change of pace, so being in a different setting will be good for you. A friend could disappoint you at the last minute. On some level, you might be feeling like you have to make a choice. Tonight: Follow the music.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. You know a situation could radically change, no matter what you do. Creative opportunities pop up from out of the blue. Don't try to impress a parent or higher-up. You actually are likely to fall on your face if you do. Tonight: Out and about.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

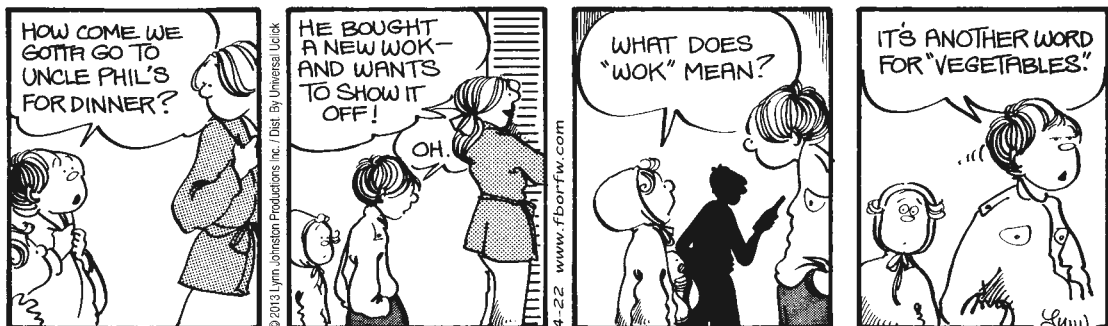
★★★★ Defer to others. You might feel as though you have the best idea, but taking a step back will work out well for you. Focus on what is happening within your immediate group of friends. A response to an inquiry might be too late coming in. Tonight: Follow someone else's lead.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

