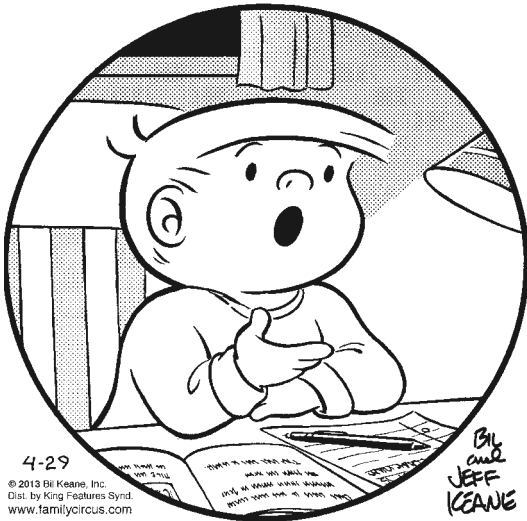
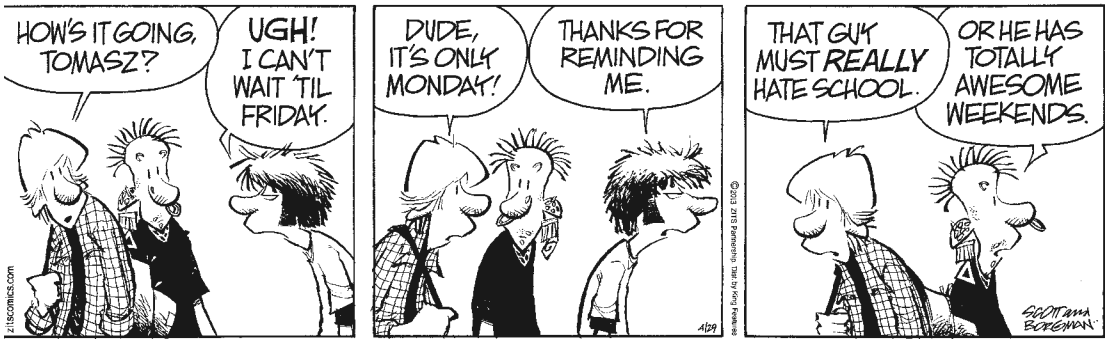


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



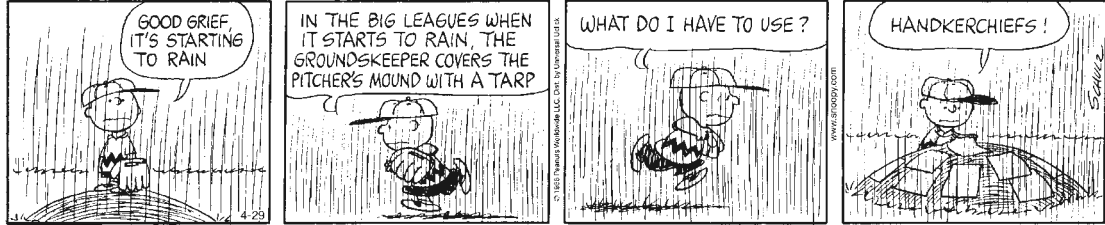
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



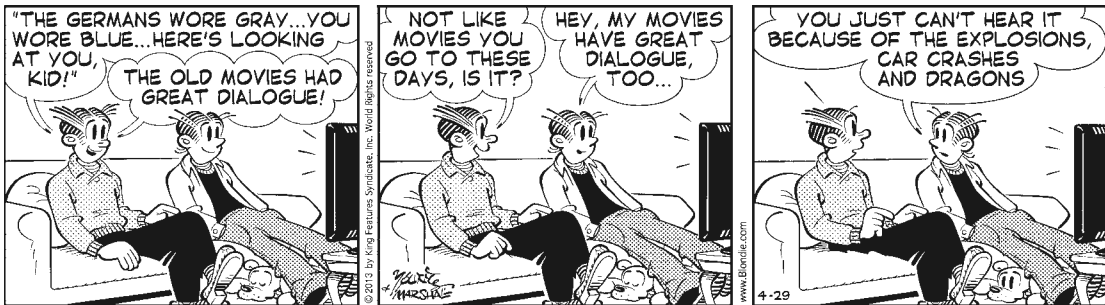
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



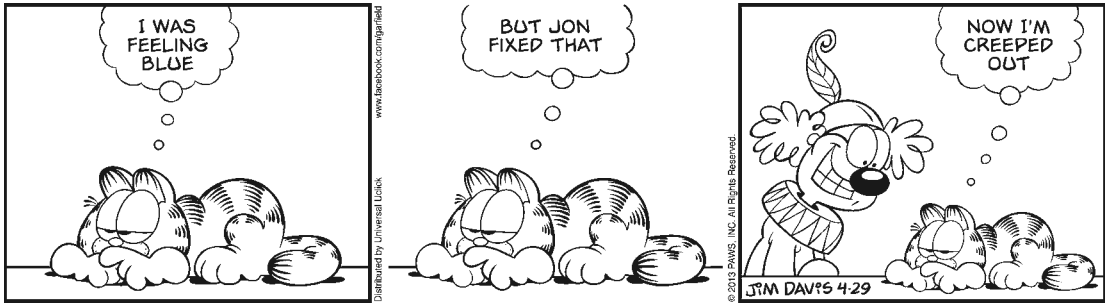
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



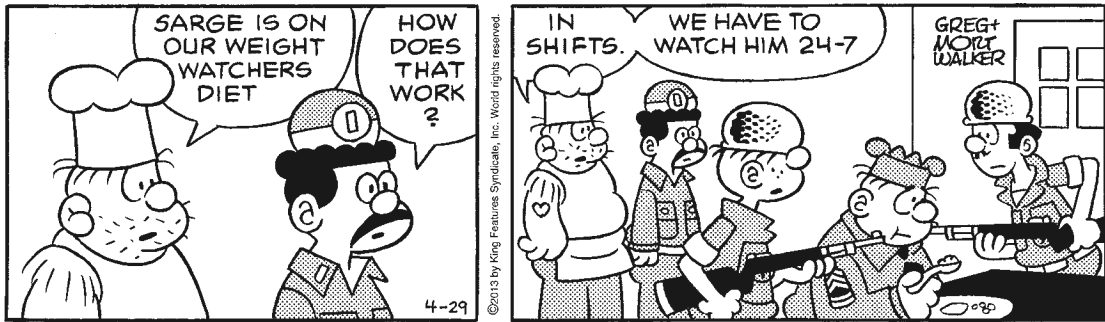
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



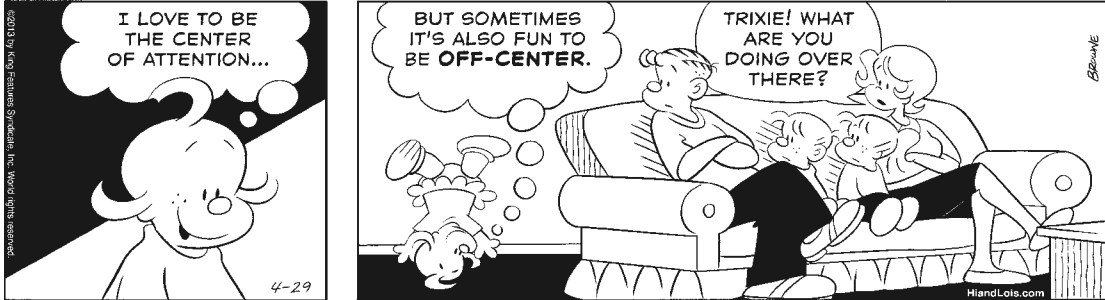
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



E-Cigarettes May Harm Smoker, But Not Secondhand Breather

DEAR ABBY: I work in a small office with two former heavy smokers who have now transitioned to vapor/e-cigarettes. My concern is that they "smoke" their e-cigarettes in the office constantly, and I don't know what chemicals I am now breathing secondhand.

Both of them are senior to me in rank and age, and they pooh-pooh the notion that anything but water vapor is being exhaled. Am I making something out of nothing, or should I be worried about this? — CLEAN AIR

DEAR CLEAN AIR: You don't have anything to worry about, but your co-workers may. In 2009, the FDA announced the findings from a laboratory analysis that indicated that electronic cigarettes expose users to harmful chemical ingredients, including carcinogens. However, those elements were NOT detected in exhaled vapor.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

■ Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: The woman who collaborated with me on this letter is in her 80s and lives at an assisted-living facility. I am a caregiver and a senior myself, and I have worked in this area for six years.

We read your column on the days I care for her. She loves it and responds verbally to all the letters. Many times the situations spark good conversation, even though her short-term memory is failing. Sometimes we end up howling with laughter. She's a delight and has the courage to still seek out relationships.

This is what she asked me to help her to communicate. — KATE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I have been in assisted living for seven years. There are times when it can be lonely and boring. I'd like to meet some men for companionship, conversation and perhaps romance. The men here act so much older than me. They don't start conversations. They stay in their rooms and watch TV and don't seem interested in conversations.

It's hard because my memory isn't what it used to be, but I do remember how nice it was to have male companionship. Do you have any ideas to make my life a little more interesting? — LONELY WOMAN

DEAR LONELY: Start by making sure you participate in all the activities your assisted-living facility offers. Shared mealtimes and holiday celebrations also present opportunities to mingle.

The trick is to find something you have in common with these men — sports, games, music, movies. Because long-term memory outlasts short-term memory, some of them might find it easier to discuss their youth than the present.

Encourage your caregiver, Kate, to take you places where you can meet other seniors. And while you're at it, why not invite some of the men to join you both during your Dear Abby sessions? It's a way to draw people out and get to know them better.

DEAR ABBY: After a six-month separation, my husband and I are reuniting. We were married for 22 years. I know for a fact he has dated and slept with several women. He's adamant that he used protection each time, but the idea of STDs has me preoccupied and worried. I have asked him to use protection with me until I get over my fear.

How long do most of today's STDs incubate, and what is a safe time to wait to remove the "rain gear"? — LONGING FOR CONTACT

DEAR LONGING: Congratulations on your reunion. Rather than worry about this, ask your husband to schedule a doctor's appointment and be tested for any STD he might have contracted. Not all STDs have the same incubation period, but a blood test could resolve the issue and put your mind at ease.

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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 Taurus and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 5:21 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013:

This year, you often are concerned about key people in your life. Once you detach from the worry, you'll be able to see the big picture. This process leads you to success in various fields of interest. If you are single, someone could enter your life come summertime. The type of relationship that emerges could be very different for you. If you are attached, planning a wonderful getaway with your significant other will keep your relationship on the right track. CAPRICORN nearly always is conservative yet successful.

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)

★★★★ Responsibilities could feel heavy on your shoulders. Don't worry so much -- your creativity and energy will allow you to accomplish what is necessary. You might try to cheer up a depressed friend, but know that the decision is up to him or her. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information. Play around with different facts and figures, and study them. You are capable of changing your perspective, thus your attitude. You simply need to claim your power. Others will respond accordingly. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Others have been giving you their opinions. You might want to tell someone off, but don't; instead, start the process of negotiating. Beware of a tendency to hold back feelings. Expect a blow-up to occur if you choose not to change this pattern. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be confused about your long-term direction. Information that is forthcoming needs to be weighed before you make an important decision. Feedback from others could be very pivotal in the decision-making process. Tonight: Go along with someone's suggestion.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You easily could be surprised by a particular situation. You also might want to ask yourself how you are

going to cover all of the ground that you must. You will get great practice juggling different concerns. You understand what needs to happen. Tonight: Take care of yourself first.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to deal with a personal issue that you have been avoiding. Success will follow you if you tap into your imagination. The unexpected draws unusual results. Forthcoming news could be exciting and also open up doors. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might want to slow down. Personal matters take a higher priority than you anticipated. Budget tightly, but leave some funds for excess. You'll want to pull back and think before acting. A partner acts up, which sets off a series of questions in your mind. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You seriousness comes through in conversation after conversation. You might question whether the way you are heading is the best direction for you. Reach out to a close loved one to get some feedback and perhaps a new perspective. Tonight: Head to the gym or go for a walk.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ When you look at a situation, you only see it through one filtering system. Getting feedback from people you respect can help you see the big picture. Some of you might decide to use a different method to cut through some emotional heaviness. Tonight: How about some baseball?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Though you are assured and efficient, your actions could make others feel insecure. Teach others some of your more positive traits by being a good role model. You don't even need to add any comments. You could be surprised at what happens! Tonight: Off doing your thing.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

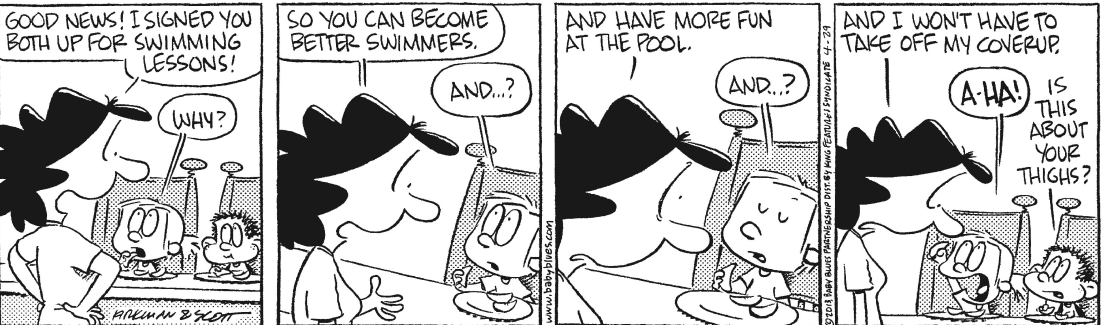
★★ What you believed was a possibility yesterday might need to be abandoned for now. Like it or not, a personal matter steals the limelight. Clear it up efficiently so that it doesn't rear its ugly head again. Reach out to a trusted friend or adviser. Tonight: Avoid the grumpy people.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

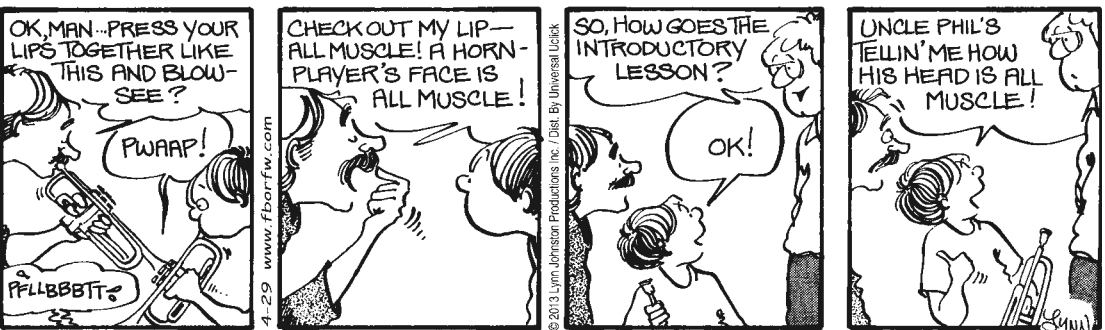
★★★★ Today's meetings, calls and social networking might need to be busy. Even if you receive a negative response at first, you'll negotiate well. Your positive attitude creates ideas and solutions that others will like but have not thought of. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

