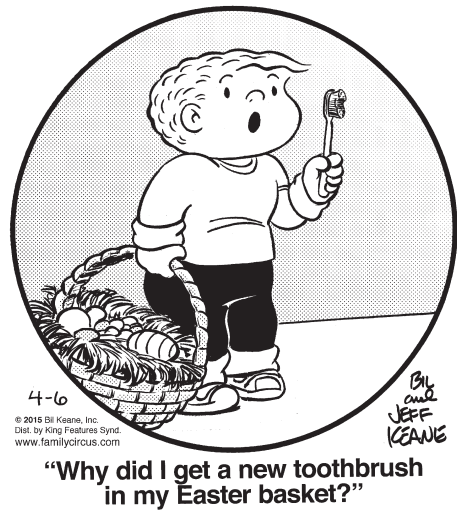
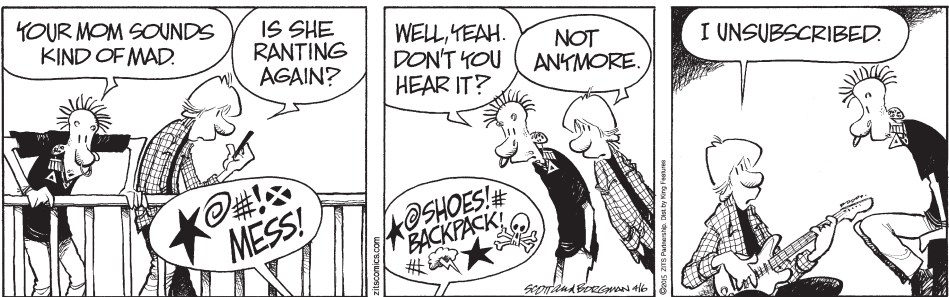


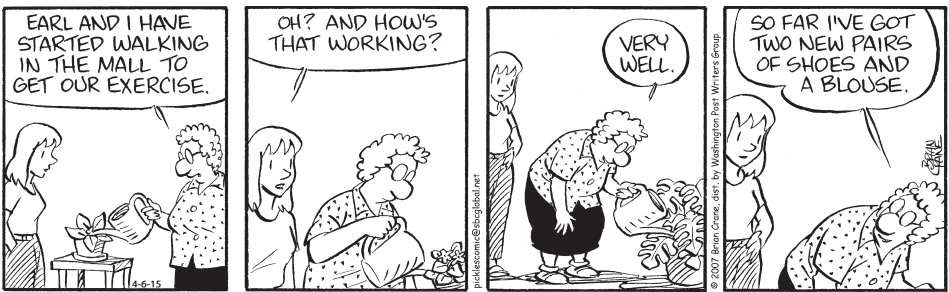
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



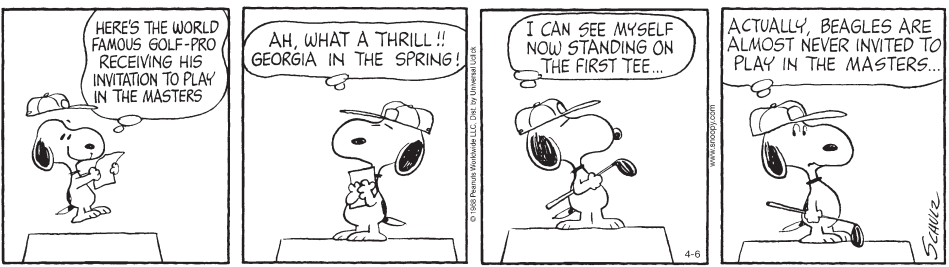
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



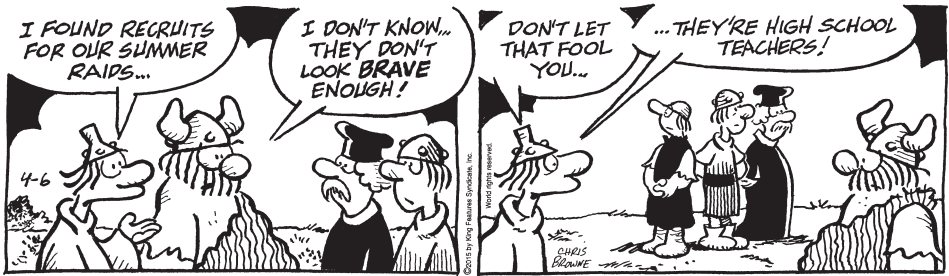
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



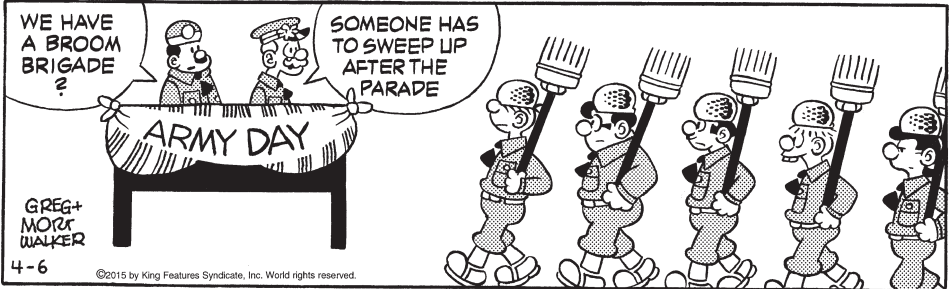
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



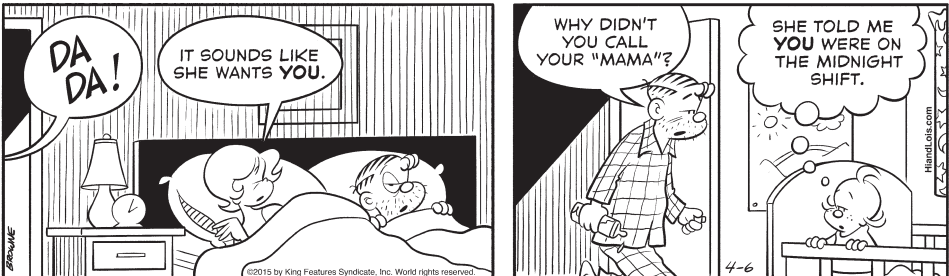
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Wife's Close Friendship Leaves Husband Feeling Odd Man Out

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Connie," and I have been together for 30 years and have a wonderful marriage. She's a schoolteacher, and I travel on business often. I think the time away from each other is good; it gives us a chance to enjoy some "me" time.

Connie is a genuinely nice person and makes friends easily, which I admire. However, over the last five years she has become very close with a divorced woman who teaches at her school. They text each other seemingly nonstop, and when I travel, they always get together for a movie or dinner.

I like Connie's friend, and I used to be included — or at least invited — to anything they did. Now, if I suggest we all go out, Connie says her friend has other plans or she's sick.

I'm not really concerned that there's any kind of physical relationship between them, but I feel their friendship has become like an "emotional affair." When I brought this up with my wife, she said, "You don't want me to have any friends?"

What bothers me is that I used to be Connie's best friend, but I feel I have been replaced. She tries to reassure me I'm still No. 1, then goes off into her bathroom to text with her friend. I think it's obvious she gets something from this relationship that she doesn't get from me. Do you think friendships between women can evolve into emotional affairs? — SHUT OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR SHUT OUT: Women communicate with other women on a different level than they do with men. You and your wife and her woman friend may have felt like the Three Musketeers years ago when the three of you would all get together — but it's possible that after a while her friend began to feel like a third wheel.

Who can say why she doesn't want to socialize with you. Perhaps you don't have enough in common, or perhaps she has sensed that you are jealous of her friendship with your wife. But I wouldn't call close friendships among women "emotional affairs"

because I don't think it's true.

Since this bothers you enough to write to me, and Connie seems to be communicating in secret, please discuss this in depth with her.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Luke," and I go to the gym together four to five times a week. Yesterday, there was a man on a treadmill who was sweating profusely. I kid you not, it was coating the treadmill. Luke tends to speak loudly, and he occasionally forgets to turn on his filter. When he saw what was happening, he exclaimed loudly, "That's disgusting." I nudged him and told him he was being rude, but unfortunately, we think the man heard him.

Luke is actually a kind and sensitive person, so he instantly felt awful. This man is a frequent gym-goer and is often there when we are. Luke wants to apologize, but he's worried that if the man didn't hear him, he will have to explain what he said. What are your thoughts? — FILTERLESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FILTERLESS: Luke was out of line, but at this point, he should let it go or he may further embarrass the man. Sweating during aerobic exercise is normal and healthy, and not something that a person can control. If, when the man was finished with the machine, he wiped it down, he was acting appropriately. (Unfortunately, not all gym members do.)

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

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers 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 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015:

This year you are driven to find a new outlet for self-expression. You will experience great fulfillment as a result. You also discover a new ability to understand and resolve problems quickly. You'll work best with a partner on a one-on-one level, no matter what the project or issue is. If you are single, someone you interact with closely easily could become a more romantic bond. This person will be quite important to your life's history. If you are attached, the two of you experience a period where you are more closely connected. SCORPIO has as much energy as you do, but he or she is more subtle.

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 might be unusually tuned in to a loved one. Your creative energy blooms, which allows you to move through your day more successfully. A partner could be difficult no matter how hard you attempt to appease him or her. Let it go. Tonight: An animated conversation.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Define your objectives and pursue them before someone trips you up or distracts you. You'll gain insight when you can relax and see what has been accomplished. A personal matter could put a smile on your face. Share an insight with a loved one. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might feel overwhelmed by the constant barrage of people who need you, or at least think that they do. You need to reach out to a close associate or loved one, as this person will support you in carrying out what must be done. Tonight: Express your easygoing personality.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might want to reconsider a judgment you have made about a loved one. You also could need to review a matter that requires your ingenuity. A conversation with a trusted pal could cause an enormous backfire. Tonight: Be playful, and your stress levels will go down.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be content, yet there is

someone close to you who is often combative and difficult. You might be wondering whether you need less time with this person. A discussion will help you understand why he or she acts like such a curmudgeon. Tonight: Head home early.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You have a tendency to choose your words with care. This trait easily could help you win over a difficult person. You might feel very optimistic at this moment, but it would be wise to proceed with care; others seem to be on the warpath. Tonight: Make an effort toward a love one.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of the costs of a situation with which you are about to be involved. A partner could have a totally different perspective from you, and will let you know in no uncertain terms. You will discover that you have some strong opinions as well. Tonight: Run errands first.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign tends to give you that extra magnetism and energy you might want or need. You could be challenged by a family member and might be disappointed with what happens. Investigate potential options involving your health. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Step back a bit before making a decision — the more information you get, the wiser your choice will be. Keep reaching out to someone at a distance whom you care about. You'll gain a sense of well-being through a conversation. Tonight: Embrace your impulsive side.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Don't lose your focus with regard to a special issue. Honor a change, and be more open to new possibilities at a later point. You'll need to complete a project as it stands. Do not sell yourself short. Tonight: Do what you want to do.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

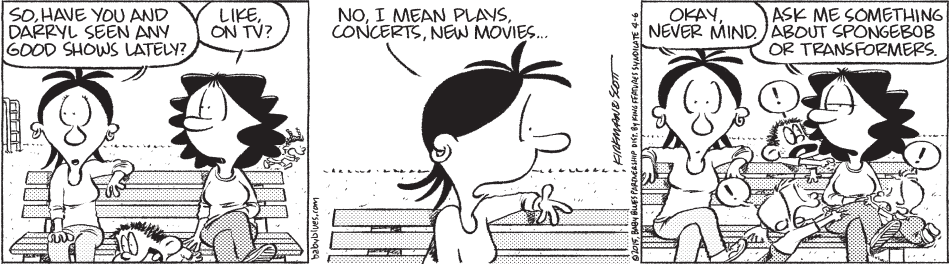
★★★ You'll be coming from a place of confidence despite a difficult authority figure. Communication could be erratic, but you can deal with the unpredictability. A partner will support you in a venture, and he or she will make a difference. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

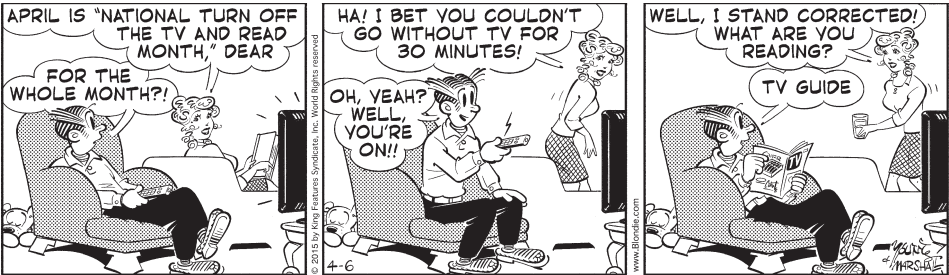
★★★★ You might feel as if you can handle nearly everything, and you can — if you detach. Recognize the importance of taking an overview and understanding why certain people act in the way they do. Tonight: Surf the Web or watch a good movie.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

