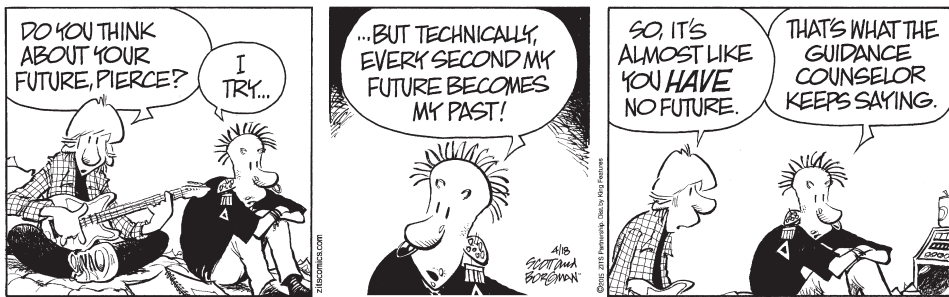


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



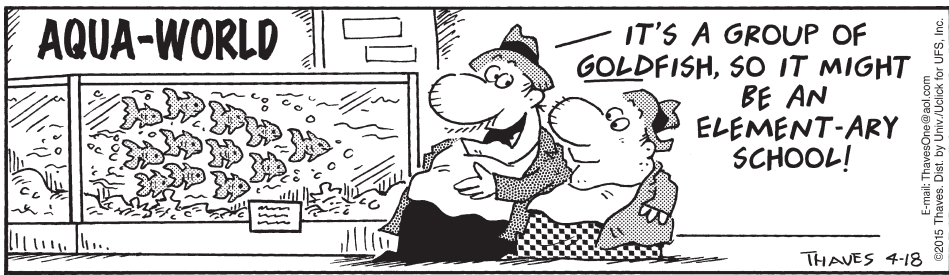
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



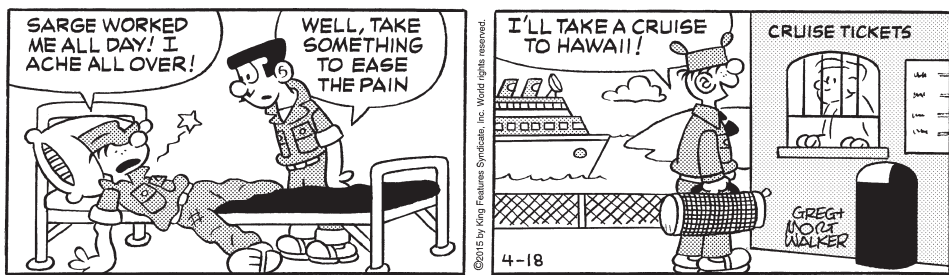
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



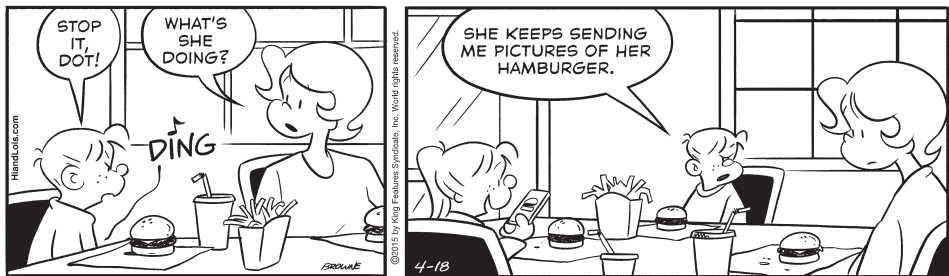
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



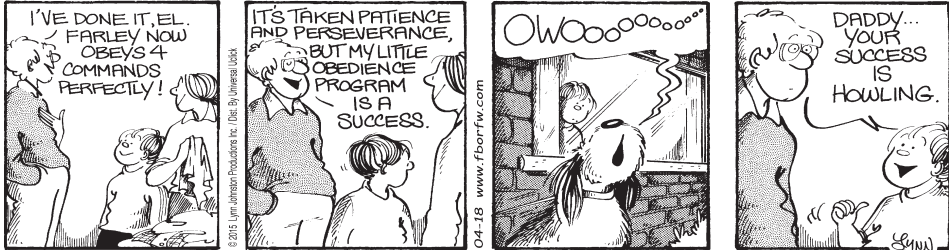
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



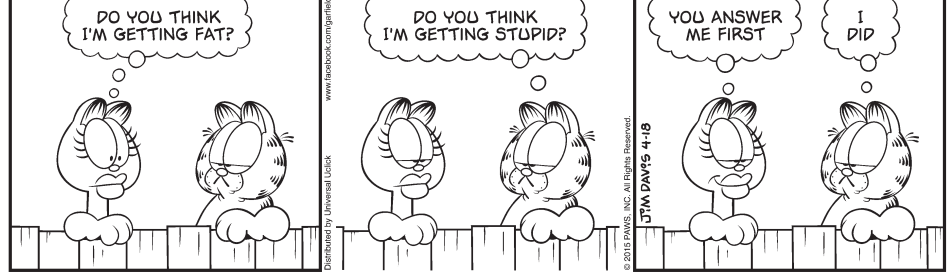
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Excitement Over Pregnancy Is Dulled By Husband's Restraint

DEAR ABBY: I have just found out I'm 10 weeks pregnant. Both sets of parents are overjoyed – it's their first grandchild – and I'm happy because this was the plan all along. My husband wants kids, and this is our first baby.

My husband isn't the kind to wear his heart on his sleeve. I have tried to involve him in appointments and classes, but he seems uninterested. He has expressed no emotions, even when he saw our first sonogram. It makes me feel sad and lonely. When I ask him if he is happy about the pregnancy, he says yes, but it's hard to tell.

What can I do? His reassurance does not feel genuine. This is supposed to be a milestone, the next chapter of our lives. – PREG-O IN ARIZONA

DEAR PREG-O: While your parents and in-laws are overjoyed, and you are excited at the prospect of the baby, it is possible that your husband may be overwhelmed at the reality of becoming a father and the responsibility it entails. Not all men are good at expressing their emotions, particularly emotions that they think might be "unmanly."

Instead of depending upon him to reassure you, try reassuring HIM about what a wonderful father he is going to be. If you do, you may find that as your pregnancy progresses, his level of excitement will increase.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a junior in high school and plan on going to college. When I brought up the college subject with my mom and told her the one I want to go to is out of state, she got upset and said she would never see me. She keeps suggesting colleges that are in-state, but none of them are ones I want to go to. Shouldn't it be my choice about where I want to go? As you can see, I need help. What should I do? – ASHLEY IN NEW YORK

DEAR ASHLEY: Continue discussing this with your mother to see if there might be more to her concerns than separation anxiety. If the reasons include worry about finances, talk to a counselor at your high school about scholarships that can help to pay for the college of your dreams.

DEAR ABBY: My husband curses nonstop. He wakes in the morning with an "f-ing this" or an "f-ing that." He does it as he goes into the kitchen to get his coffee. I can't stand it.

I have asked him repeatedly to stop. He was never like this when we were younger. Over the 20 years of our marriage, he has become worse and worse. Now he's a non-stop "f-ing machine."

My neighbors have complained to me about it. They have children, and when he goes outside, it continues. How do I get him to tame his tongue? – MARRIED TO MR. EFF-ING

DEAR MRS. EFF-ING: Is your husband unwell? Could his problem be related to stress or a form of dementia? If the answer is no, then let me point out that men who are happy in their jobs and their lives do not act this way. Men who are considerate and care about their wives' and neighbors' sensibilities usually try to accommodate them if asked nicely. Your problem may not be your husband's tongue as much as it is his attitude – and until he realizes that only he can change it, there is nothing you or anyone else can do to fix him.

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.

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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 and Moon in Aries if born before 2:31 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015:

This year you express extremely dynamic ideas. Others often seek you out just to pick your brain. You might need to curb your risk-taking when it comes to money matters; you will be a lot happier that way. If you are single, you'll find that you have quite an assortment of people around you. The next few months could introduce an interesting suitor, who will have a lasting effect on your life. If you are attached, it is likely that you will make a long-term investment together. Know that you don't always have to agree, except on major decisions. TAURUS can be unusually touchy.

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)

★★★★ Use the morning for any important matters. Your creativity allows you to create some fun plans, but persuading others to join in could be tough. You would be wise not to react to someone else's disappointment, as it likely has nothing to do with you. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might be slow to get started in the morning, but by midafternoon, you can't be stopped. Your burst of energy could create a lot of fun activity, if you allow yourself to go with the flow. A loved one might be jealous of your charisma. Tonight: Go for what you want.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ If you remain responsive to your friends and their suggestions, you can't go wrong. As the afternoon greets you, make sure you can be found with friends or among crowds. You could become quite bored if you stay at home. Why do that to yourself? Tonight: Where the party is.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might feel weighed down by a certain responsibility. Try to approach the situation in a creative way in order to find a solution. Go where your friends are. Come afternoon, you'll have a great time out. Reach out to a loved one. Tonight: Be where you are happiest.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You have the capability of seeing

the big picture. You'll be coming from a place of understanding, which will be obvious to others. Be aware that, in some sense, you are a role model -- all eyes turn to you, as others seem unsure of what to do. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll see others in a new light. Togetherness is the theme in the morning. Go to a park, take photos or meet someone for brunch. By the afternoon, you'll feel relaxed and detached. A problem no longer will seem like a problem. Tonight: Make sure you have great music around you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Listen to news that is forthcoming. You might not have all the answers just yet. Feel free to ask questions, but don't be surprised if someone becomes hostile as a result. Be aware that you might hit a vulnerable spot. Tonight: Chat with a loved one over dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Get through all your errands, knowing full well that you want to make some free time in the evening to join a friend and/or go out with a loved one. You'll flourish in a social environment right now. Let go of a financial concern. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might feel quite impulsive, and will allow your imagination to take off. Be smart and drop the stern front you've been putting up lately. Allow more fun into your morning and afternoon. Curb a tendency to wear yourself down to the point of exhaustion. Tonight: Take care of you first.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Listen to news, and understand what is happening on the homefront. Check out a matter involving real estate. Your imagination is likely to emerge in the afternoon. A child or new friend will be delighted to join you. Tonight: Let your wild side run the show.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You'll be expressing more of your thoughts than you have in the past. How you deal with someone could change as a conversation opens up. Your impression of this person might change radically. Have a long-overdue conversation. Tonight: Know that you have limits.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

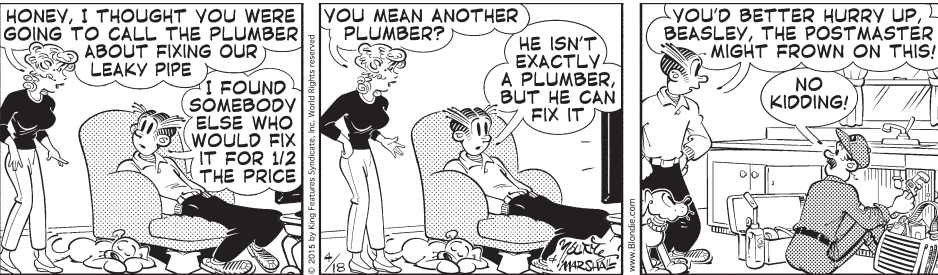
★★★ You could have an opportunity to tap into someone else's imagination. You'll find that the conversation that occurs as a result will be quite fulfilling. Be aware of what is happening to a friend. You might want to make an extra effort with this person. Tonight: Return calls.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

