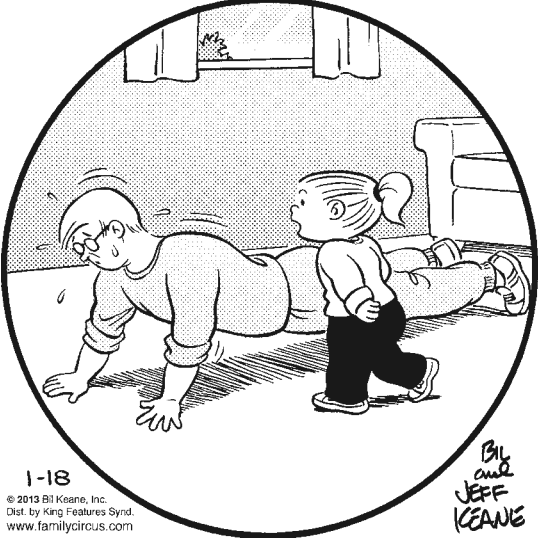


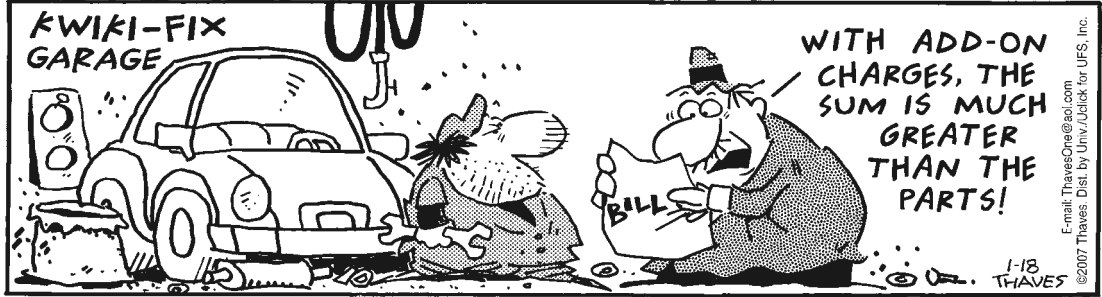
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



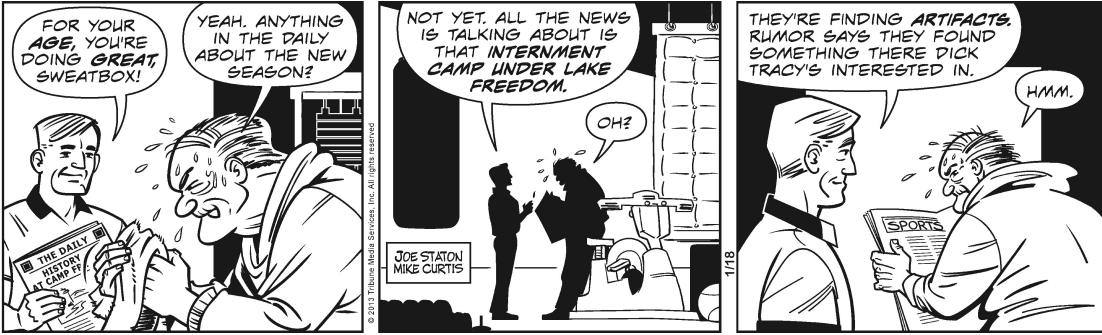
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



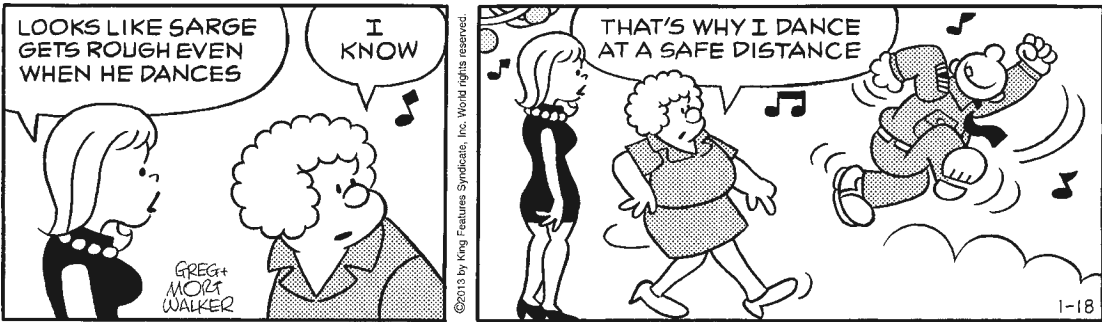
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



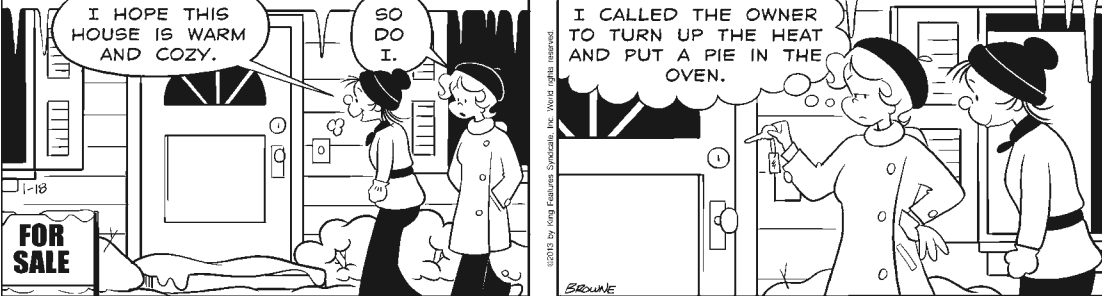
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



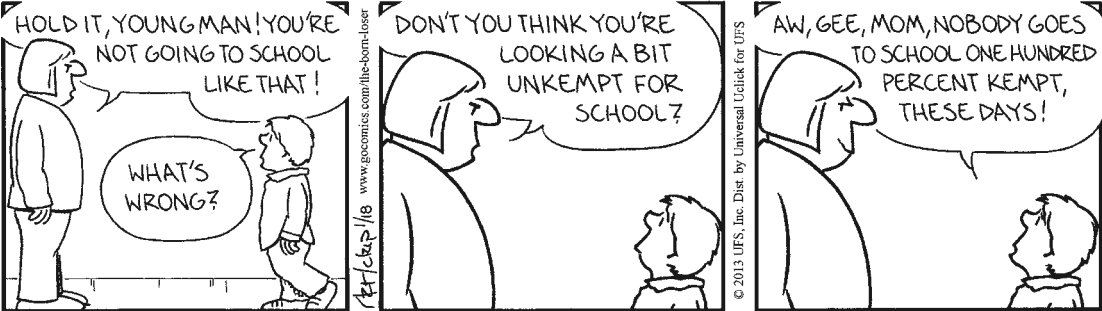
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



King Of The Whoppers Doesn't Fool Wife's Clear-Eye Cousin

DEAR ABBY: My elderly uncle and aunt have a son-in-law who — to put it mildly — spins tall tales. “Tom” has been EVERYwhere, done EVERYthing and insists on telling anyone who will listen all about it. He speaks many languages fluently (until someone addresses him in one of them) and has had countless adventures in various countries, although he can’t locate them on a map.

My uncle and aunt have bought two cars for their financially unstable daughter and this phony. Both times, Tom insisted on maintaining them himself (another of his legendary skills). Afterward, both cars required major repairs and eventually had to be scrapped.

After Tom’s stint as a highly decorated Navy SEAL, he morphed into a genius at creating computer software, when he wasn’t touring with a famous bluegrass band — the name of which he can’t remember.

I am concerned that my uncle and aunt are so awed by this man that they might one day allow him to manage their finances (there is no topic Tom is not an expert on) or let him fix the brakes on their vehicle. I think you know where I’m heading.

I have to bite my tongue to keep from saying, “Tom, Yokohama is a city, not a country. And if you’re really best friends with Johnny Depp, why not invite him over so we can all meet him? Oh, and what you’re passing off as Farsi is Pig Latin.”

Is there a way to tactfully intervene before something awful happens without upsetting anyone? — THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND

DEAR ROYAL HIGHNESS: Yes, if you do it privately, and say you are speaking up only because you are worried about their welfare. Then explain why you think Tom’s stories don’t hold water and point out that if he should volunteer any financial advice to them they should first run it past an unbiased non-family member such as their banker, lawyer, CPA or



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.

pastor before making any investments.

From your description, Tom appears to be a con man or compulsive liar. But whether your uncle and aunt choose to accept your input is up to them.

DEAR ABBY: I work at home and use my computer. Everyone who lives here is over 35.

My step-grandchildren visit regularly, and I have told the children’s mother that I have no parental restrictions on my computer. She assured me not to worry about it because she has reinforced the rules of responsible Internet usage with them and is confident her children won’t break the rules. As far as I know, they haven’t.

Today, one of my brothers-in-law visited and brought along his young teenage daughter. I let her play on the computer, and he caught her in a chat room with an older teenage boy. Instead of blaming her, he attacked ME for being too permissive with children and computers.

Do you think it is my responsibility to “protect” his teenager on my computer? — JUST A GEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR JUST A GEEK: No, I do not. I suspect that you were attacked because of displaced anger. His daughter deserved the scolding; however, because he could not (for whatever reason) scold her, he directed his anger at you instead.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 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 Capricorn and a Moon in Aries if born before 5:36 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 2013:

This year you discover the importance of sharing your decision-making process with others. When you withhold this information, people don’t understand where you are coming from. If you want support, you should open up more. If you are single, you could meet someone quite desirable after June. You might even have a choice of two people. Follow your intuition, and you will choose correctly. If you are attached, your openness creates a new avenue of communication, which your partner appreciates. TAURUS is as grounded as you are.

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 are energized, partially because of the weekend. Sort out a misunderstanding, and you will walk away feeling energized. A higher-up, parent or older friend seems to test your limits. By late afternoon, the situation seems to dissolve, as if by magic. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You could have a lot going on in your life that you are choosing to keep to yourself. Others might have strong reactions and assume that your distancing yourself has to do with them. Make an effort to reach out to others. You will feel better if you do. Tonight: Go for what you want.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Finish up last-minute details today. You might choose to network and reach out to your contemporaries. A statement could be misunderstood. Do not make more of it than need be. Use the daylight hours to the max; deal with a personal matter later. Tonight: Play it low-key.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Others notice your willingness to accept responsibility. Do not deal with any more demands right now, even if it makes for a rough moment when you say “no.” Focus on your immediate circle, a meeting and the desire to expand your horizons. Tonight: Join friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Make an effort to get past a strongly held opinion.

ion that recent evidence has indicated could be off. You might be confused or not as sure of yourself as you’d like to be. Question more and judge less. You’ll take a leadership role later in the afternoon. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone you care about. You might wonder exactly why you can’t seem to communicate effectively with anyone. Try to verbalize more of your thoughts. Avoid commitments until later, when you become much clearer. Tonight: Follow the music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Be responsive, but if something does not make sense to you, let others know. Though you might nod your head, which makes others think you agree, it doesn’t mean that your discerning mind isn’t also listening. A partner becomes very stubborn. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You get a lot done, and quite quickly at that. You see life from a different perspective, which lets you see a friend’s shortcomings. How you help this person out of a jam makes a big difference. He or she might need to hear your thoughts. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Allow more spontaneity in by letting your imagination take the lead. You could find yourself dealing with a misunderstanding. Though people could get huffy — and that includes you — what was said was not meant the way it is being taken. Tonight: Make good choices.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might want to stay close to home, and if you can, do so. You’ll discover that someone might have misunderstood you. Try to clear up this miscommunication sooner rather than later. Visualize more of what you want; you’ll be able to act on it soon. Tonight: Paint the town red.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

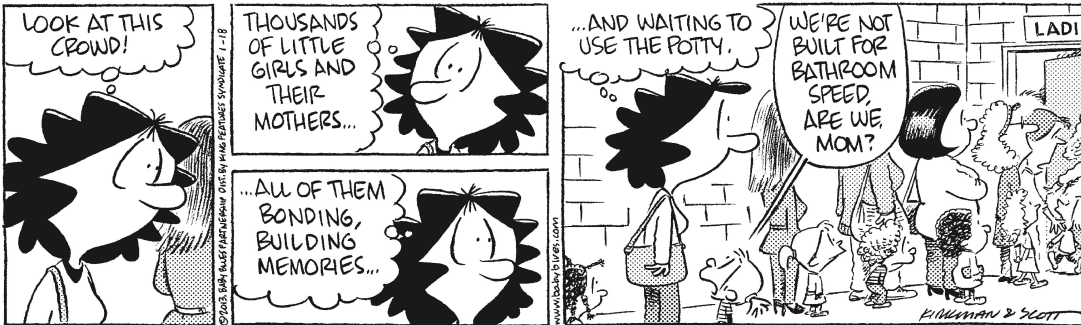
★★★★ You might want to approach a situation differently from how you have in the past. It might be a stretch to push away from habits and act in a more appropriate manner. Your instincts lead you in a money decision. Be wise; follow them. Tonight: Let the action be at your place.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

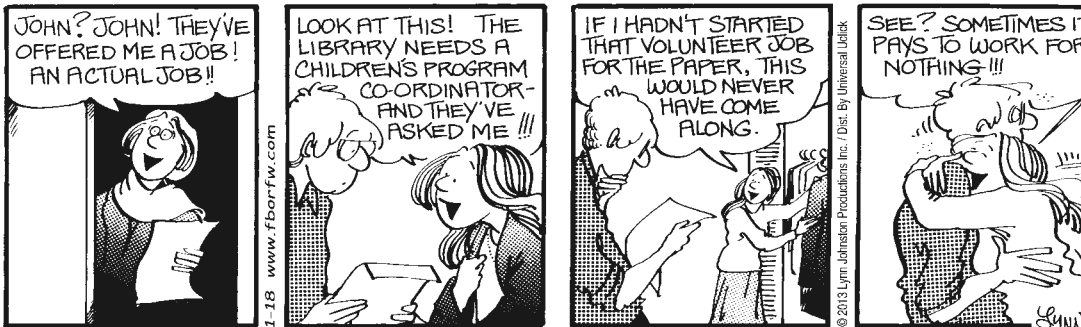
★★★ Examine what is happening with your finances. Are you undercutting yourself? Your self-worth could be an issue. Root out any issue that is preventing you from achieving what you desire. Make a phone call, and reach out to a key friend. Tonight: You do not have to go far.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

