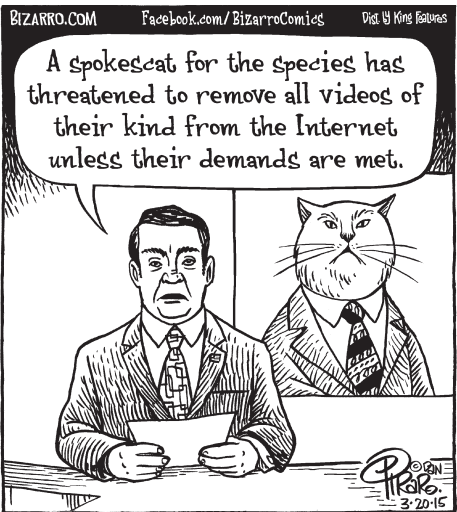


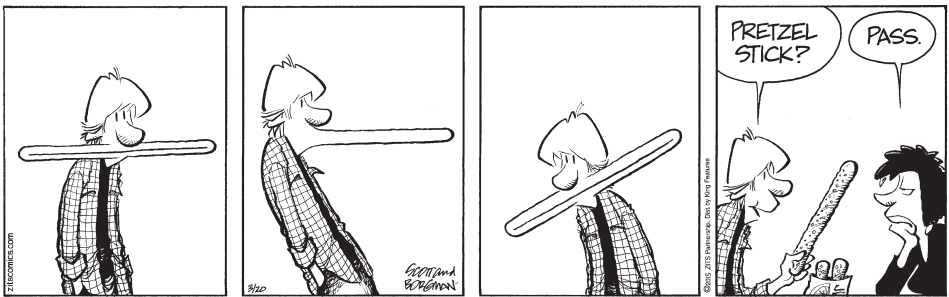
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



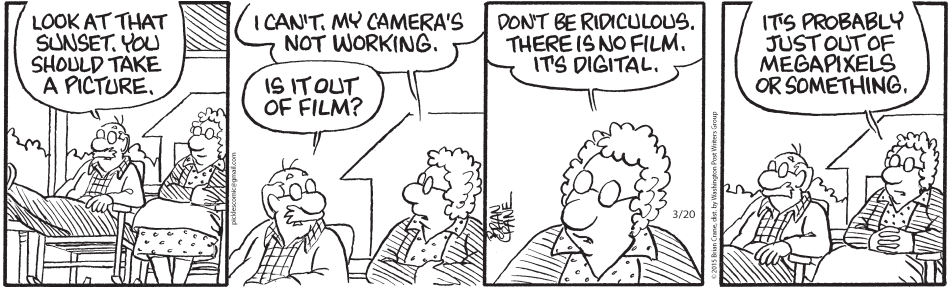
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



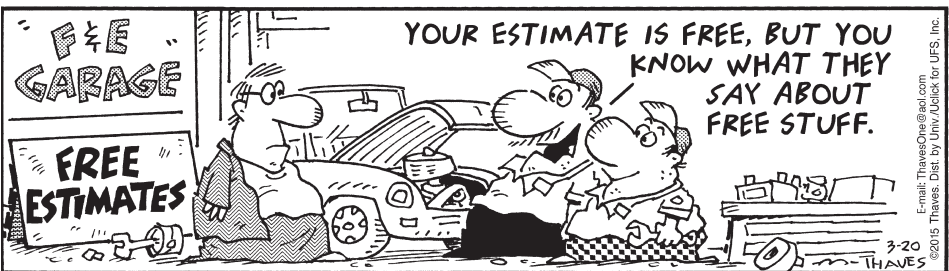
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



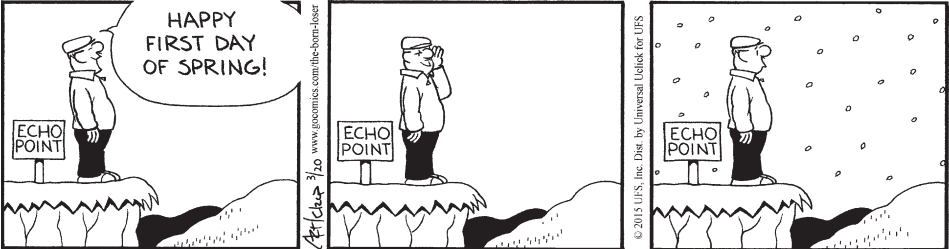
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



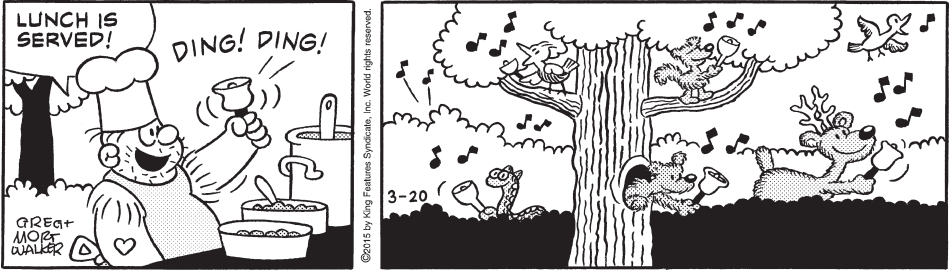
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



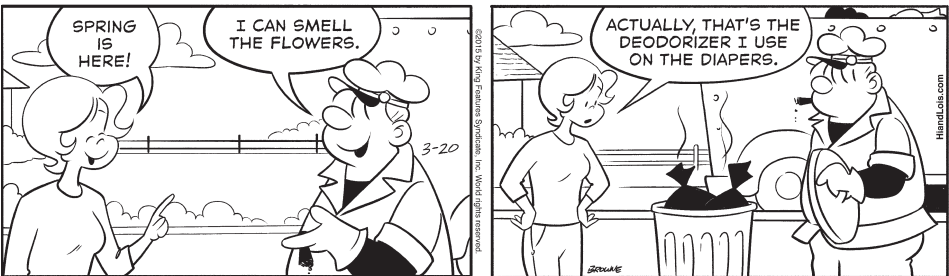
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



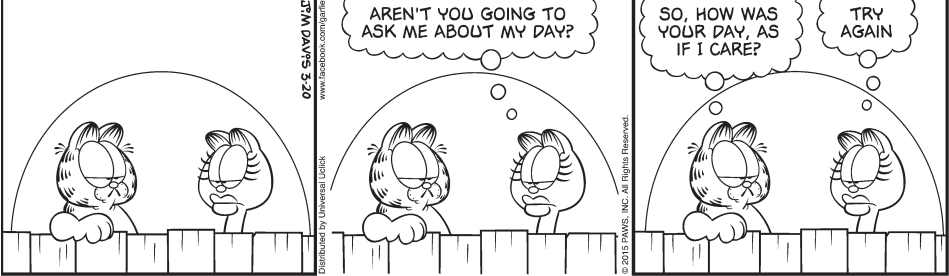
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Casual Remark Cuts Deeper Than What Friend Intended

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Tina," was very hurt by a friend recently. Her friend "Sally" called her "cheap" during a conversation ("she's cheap like you"). Sally didn't intend it to be hurtful, just an illustration – but my wife is very upset about it.

We use coupons when we grocery shop or dine out; we also watch our thermostats, recycle, etc. On the other hand, we have sent our children to university without loans, our mortgage is paid off, we have traveled extensively and our net worth is north of a million dollars with no debt. How do I make Tina realize that Sally's comment should not upset her so? — THRIFTY IN TEXAS

DEAR THRIFTY: What happened was unfortunate because the problem may be that Sally simply chose the wrong word. What she probably meant was that your wife is frugal. The difference between "frugal" and "cheap" is that being frugal is a VIRTUE. Because Sally hurt your wife's feelings, Tina needs to tell her how it made her feel so Sally can apologize to her before it causes a permanent rift.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teenage girl who has a fantastic life, a loving family, great grades in school and a nice house. I have a problem that seems to be taking over my life: I'm very anxious.

At first, it seemed I was just a worrywart, but lately, it's been nuts. I'm terrified someone in my family is going to die and I worry obsessively over it. I try to think it's going to be all right, but my anxiety just overtakes me.

I'm terrified of death and that my parents or my siblings will die tomorrow. I don't know who to tell. My parents freak out over the slightest thing. Please help me. — WORRYWART IN ARIZONA

DEAR WORRYWART: Many young people harbor the same fear you have. But because you say your parents tend to "freak out" at the slightest thing, I can't help but wonder if a tendency toward high anxiety runs in your family. Assuming that your family members are in

good health, your preoccupation with the idea they might suddenly die should be discussed with a licensed psychotherapist. Ideally, you should tell your parents what's going on, but if you're afraid to talk to them and ask for help, then speak to a counselor at school so the counselor can bring it to their attention.

Because this is troubling you to the extent that you have written to me, please don't procrastinate.

DEAR ABBY: How do you politely refuse to hug or shake someone's hand because of a medical issue that lowers your resistance to infection?

I had a stem cell transplant 18 months ago because of a recurrence of Hodgkin's lymphoma. I'm now on a drug that keeps my white blood count low. If I get a fever, I could end up in the hospital. I have been in remission for over a year and look healthy.

I don't really care to get into a long conversation about my experience, but I don't want to put myself at risk. How should I handle this without appearing rude? — HOLDING BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HOLDING: Not extending your hand should send the message. However, if you are pressed, tell a short version of the truth, which would be, "I can't do that because I have a medical condition that prevents close contact."

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.

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.)

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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 Pisces if born before 6:45 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Aries. The Moon is in Pisces if born before 8:28 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015:

This year you embrace a new beginning, partially because you are so unusually creative and dynamic. You could decide to change a certain facet of your life, even though you won't know what the result will be. No matter what happens, you are likely to be quite content in the long run. If you are single, you might find that you're attracted to a totally different type of personality. Avoid making any major commitments until fall, if possible. If you are attached, you spontaneously will take off on a travel adventure together. You could surprise yourself with the choices you make. PISCES' emotional ways sometimes get to you.

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)

★★★★ Your creativity opens door after door. You'll greet the day feeling inspired and energetic. Know what you want, and don't hesitate to go after it. Test out your ideas before you make them realities. Ask a friend to play the role of devil's advocate. Tonight: Lady Luck is with you.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Your sixth sense speaks to you more and more throughout the day. Make sure that you aren't listening to the voice that encourages you to go for what you want, or you might have trouble. Have a private discussion with someone you care about. Tonight: Not to be found!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might think that you need to get an early start, and it just might be worth it. Events seem to go as you would like, as the result of several careful negotiations. A loved one might feel slightly off. Be supportive. Tonight: Celebrate living. Your mood will be contagious!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be on top of a problem and far more upbeat than you have been in the past. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with others. Consider a new option. Ask yourself how much tension you can handle before deciding. Tonight: TGIF!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Return all calls before you make any

decisions, especially those regarding weekend plans. Consider taking a short weekend escape. You can't imagine what this getaway will do for you. Meanwhile, detach from your immediate issues. Tonight: Follow the music.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Be more easygoing, and you will see a big difference in how a loved one responds to you. In a sense, you could be renegotiating the terms of your relationship. Don't worry about the ups and downs. Reach out to friends for support. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Don't stand on ceremony. Remain positive, and your attitude easily could define the response you get. Honor a change in your feelings. Regardless of whether this change is negative or positive, be open and kind. Tonight: You have a huge range of possibilities.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might wake up with a very creative and dynamic idea. How you handle yourself and the way in which you express your idea will make a big difference. You might be more focused on certain projects and tasks than you realize. Tonight: Follow your whims.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might be a little out of sorts, but events will occur that will allow you more flexibility. Whether you decide to take this path is up to you. Lighten up a little and you might gain a new perspective. Honor a fast change. Tonight: Pretend that you are a kid again.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Pressure builds as the day goes on. You might want to let off some steam and then relax. A roommate or family member could be more combative than usual. Know that you'll be able to handle everything that comes your way. Tonight: Buy a bottle of bubbly on the way home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

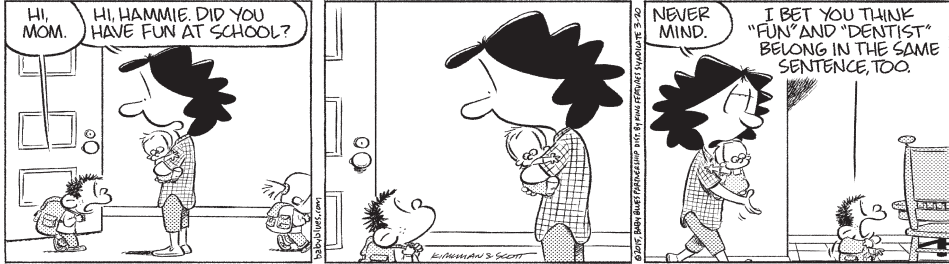
★★★★ You easily could change plans and decide to head in a different direction. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with a fiery personality. Try to be serious when listening to this person; she or she might need to share some news. Tonight: Hang out at a favorite haunt.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

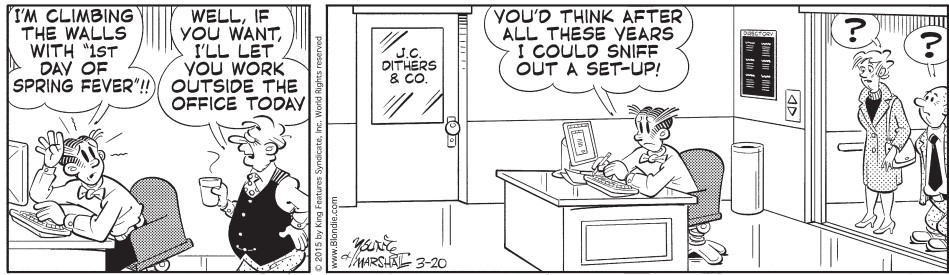
★★★ You could be taken aback by what is going on. This morning's eclipse in your sign might drain you a little. Take a walk and relax, but don't push yourself. Postpone any important decisions for now. If you need to, take the day off. Tonight: Treat yourself.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

