

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"I wish there was a mall where Mommy wouldn't meet ANYBODY she knows."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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Father Not Eager To Celebrate At Rival Graduation Parties

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced man with a live-in girlfriend I'll call Donna. Her two boys also live with us. Donna's older son will graduate from high school this year, and she has planned a party that her mother and other family members will attend from out of state.

My daughter, "Sara," is graduating from the same high school. Sara has shared her concerns with me that Donna's family won't care about celebrating her graduation. I tried to assure her that it's my day to celebrate her accomplishment with her.

I discussed this with Donna and asked if we could recognize Sara at her son's party. Donna refused because my ex is having a party for Sara, and her son would be an invited guest but not the celebrated graduate there.

I say it's a different scenario because I'm Sara's father and if I were remarried, we'd celebrate the step-sibling graduation together. Donna then told me she has some issues with the way Sara behaves at times. I feel this has given me an insight that I don't like. How should I handle this upcoming graduation and other important issues? — MIXED FEELINGS IN MISSOURI

DEAR MIXED FEELINGS: Handle the graduation and other important issues by keeping them SEPARATE. While it would be generous for Sara to be acknowledged at Donna's son's party, it isn't mandatory — and I'm sure the reverse isn't planned for the party your ex is hosting for Sara.

What the circumstances "would be" if you and Donna were married instead of living together is irrelevant because you are not married and the graduates are not step-siblings. However, this does point up that Donna has not warmed to Sara as much as she might have and you might wish she had. And, because it could be a deal-breaker, this is an issue that should be examined carefully in the very near future.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old girl. I love my mother, but she puts very little effort into how she looks. She has been divorced since I was a baby and hasn't dated much. When it comes to how we dressed, we are complete opposites. I like to put on real clothes, even if I'm accompanying my mom to the grocery store. She goes out wearing sweats and no bra.



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.

Sometimes I try to help her by picking out her outfits for the week, but she gets mad when I say anything about her no-bra rule. She says I'm trying to pressure her to be someone she's not. Maybe I am, but I want her to meet people and go on dates. It feels like she has no pride in what she looks like. I care about her, but I can't help but see that she could improve. — DOTING DAUGHTER IN MARYLAND

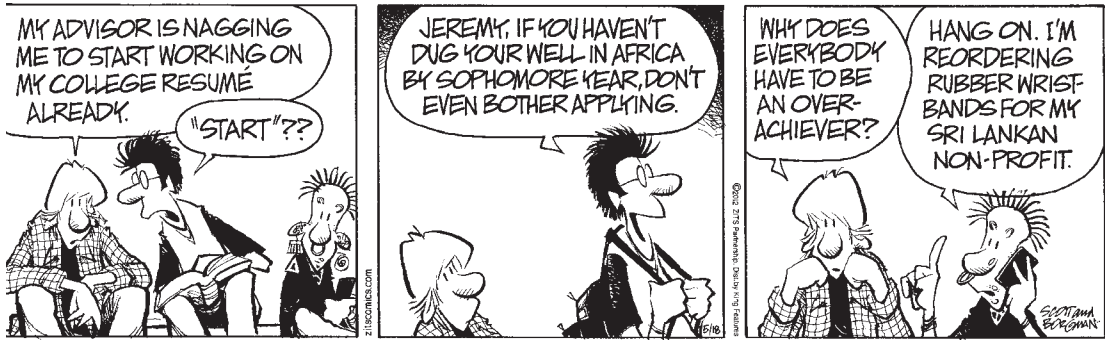
DEAR DOTING DAUGHTER: We could all "improve," but if your mother is comfortable with herself as she is, you should try to accept her that way. Many women find bras uncomfortable, and if they don't have to wear them they don't — especially when wearing loose sweatshirts.

Your mother appears to be happy with her circumstances. When she's ready to try to attract male attention, she will. You are sweet to want to help her, but trying to manipulate her isn't working, so for both your sakes, cut it out.

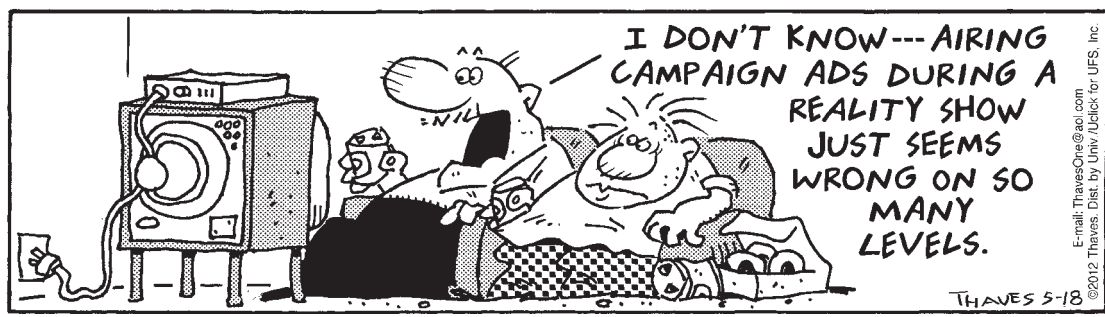
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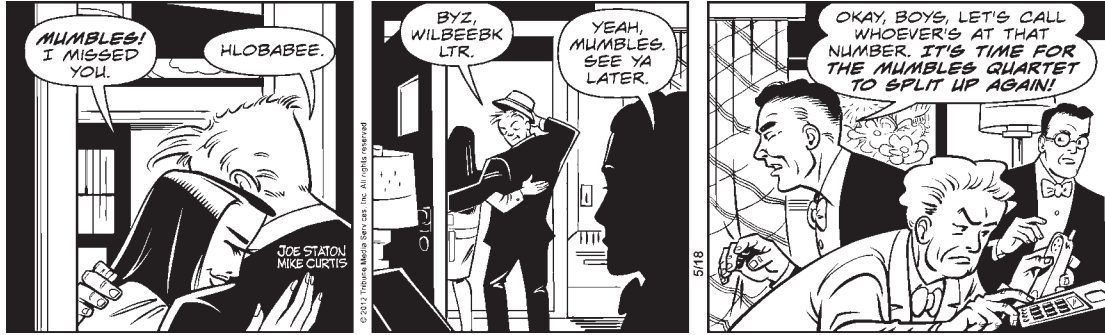
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



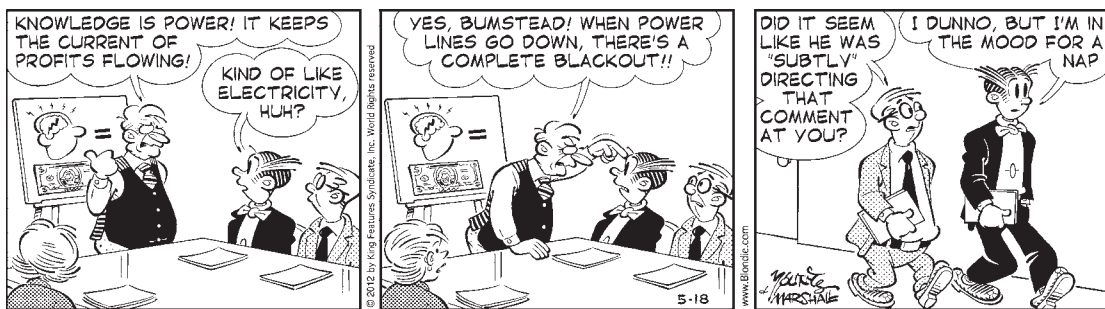
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



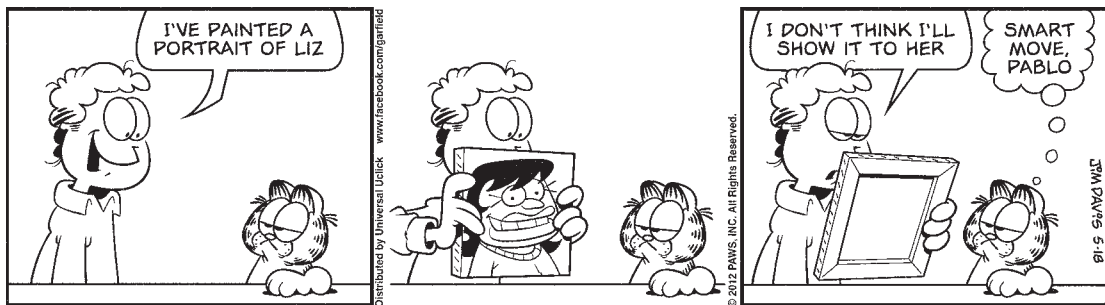
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



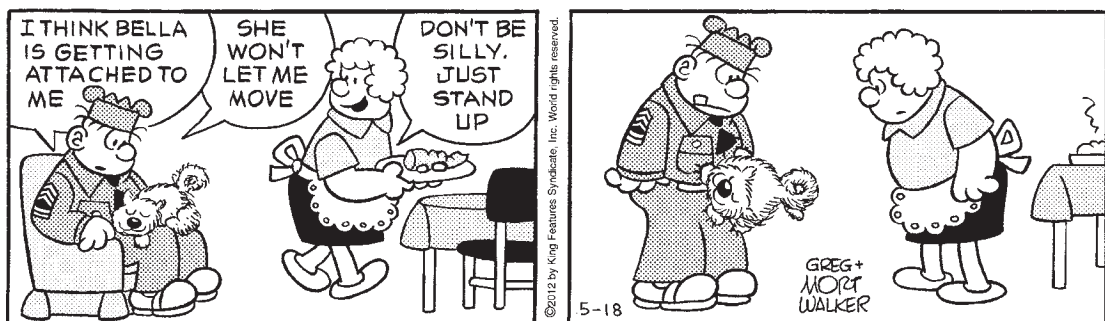
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



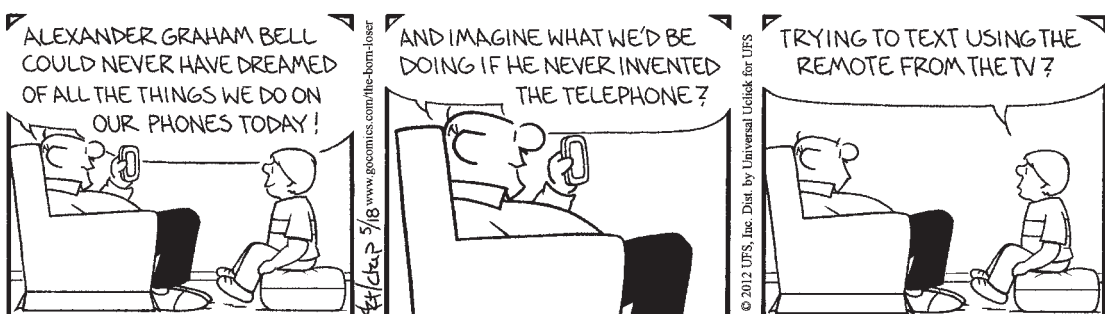
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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 Taurus all day long.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012:

This year you seem more integrated into the social scene than before. Your personality emerges even more and draws many special people toward you. If you are single, the world is your oyster. Have fun choosing the most suitable partner for you. If you are attached, curb a tendency to be a little too me-oriented. Your partner needs your time and attention. Travel and/or education could play a major role in your decision-making process. You are grounded, practical and charismatic this year. Your creativity weaves in and out of issues, plans and important relationships. Use this time well. Don't go to battle with a fellow TAURUS. He or she is as willful 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 become more aware of what you have to offer. Be sure to maintain your needs as well. Your budget could become an area for scrutiny. Wearing rose-colored shades might be fun, but it could cause a fiscal disaster. Tonight: Enjoy yourself without breaking the bank.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You smile, and others cannot help but respond. Do you have your wish list nearby? If so, you might want to zero in on a coveted item. Others seem only too happy to pave the way. Your creativity will come into play. Tonight: Paint the town red.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ A lot might be going on around you, especially in your community or workplace. You might only be seeing one facet of a situation. Know that this trait is neither all good nor all bad. You simply perceive things in a comfortable manner. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what you feel is important. You have a tendency to sell yourself short or become insecure. You'll do such a great job at covering up your feelings that you might not even know how you really feel. Go for what you want. Tonight: You are the party.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Events seem to naturally unfold in a positive

manner. You'll step up to the plate, but be aware that your finances could come into play. This situation could cost you. A partner could be confused or viewing a monetary situation very differently. Tonight: You are the lead player.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might have difficulty staying anchored. A key person in your life might not mean to be so vague — he or she is just hard to pin down to get answers. Let your imagination run wild. Welcome a brainstorming session, and answers will emerge. Tonight: Relax to a good movie.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your awareness of others and their expectations sometimes could cause you angst. Recognize your limits and what you are willing to do. Others tend to be unpredictable at this juncture. Curb your anger. Take a walk or participate in some other stress-reducing exercise. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You need to allow your mind to wander a little more. You often are a source of unusual ideas that seem to satisfy many people who have a difference of opinion. A friend could be pushy and wants you to spend more time with him or her. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink your plans with an eye to clearing up as much as you can in order to enjoy yourself. You come from a place of strength and understanding. Schedule a late lunch; you could find it very relaxing. Tonight: Whatever soothes your soul.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to try to do something very different than the way you typically do, so take a risk and do just that. You will enjoy the excitement and change of pace. Your imagination leads the way. Bring others together to join you. Tonight: Continue the fun.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ If you can take the day or part of the day off from your routine, do. You could find that the change not only reinvigorates you but also impacts a close loved one. In this freeing atmosphere, you'll discover a new vitality. Tonight: Close to home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

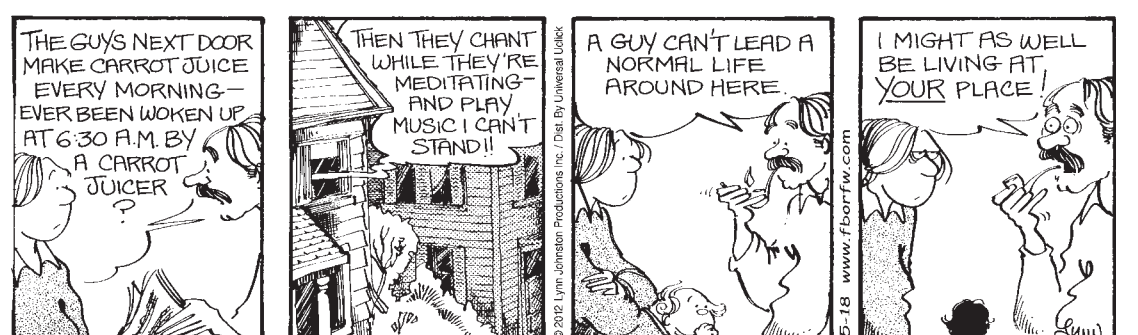
★★★★ Your words have power. How you decide to integrate an important matter could make someone very comfortable, or just the opposite. As you claim your power, recognize the impact you would like to have here. Tonight: Join your friends.

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