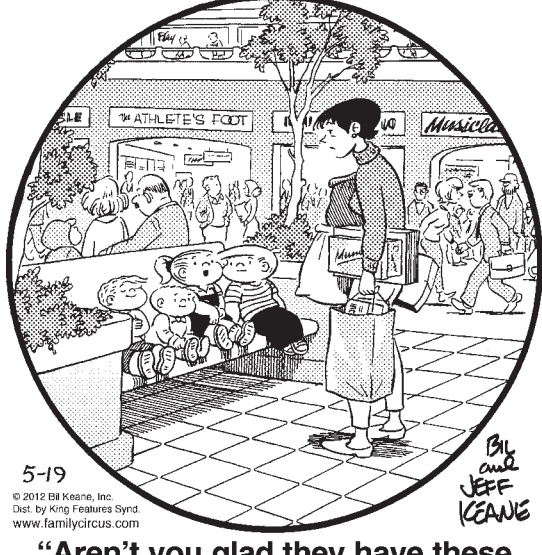


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



5-19
" Aren't you glad they have these places to SIT, Mommy?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Please continue.

Teen's Anti-Cursing Crusade Causes Her Friend To Cry Foul

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and have a dear friend, "Emily," who is offended by cursing. She literally has never said a curse word in her life. When I'm around her I never use swear words because I respect her and her friendship.

My issue is that Emily gets very upset if people swear around her. There have been nights that she ended up in tears because someone used foul language. She also angrily confronts people on this issue.

I commend my friend on her decision not to curse, but I think it's unrealistic of her to expect everyone in the world to bend to her morals. I also think it's wrong for her to try to force them. Abby, what are your thoughts? — CHALLENGED FRIEND IN LARAMIE, WYO.

DEAR CHALLENGED: If Emily prefers not to be in the company of people who use four-letter words, that's her privilege. And if she finds it offensive, she has a right to speak up and make it known. But to "wind up in tears" because someone used foul language — as long as it wasn't directed toward her — is overreacting. And for her to angrily confront someone about it would only invite more of the same. Emily will be much happier if she spends more time in the company of people who feel as she does.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Gina," is engaged but hasn't started making any plans yet. We have had some rough mother/daughter years but are now in a good place. When it's time, I would like my daughter to ask me to help her pick out her wedding gown. I have a strong hunch that Gina will ask a girlfriend instead. I also know that if I talk to her about my wishes, she'll say, "Sure" or ask me to join her friends. This may seem silly, but I want her to want just me to go. What do you think is the best way to handle this? — MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

DEAR MOTHER: Your relationship with your daughter may be better now, but its pattern was established years ago. You appear to be extremely invested in an "ideal" of how her wedding will be. For your own sake, lower your expectations. You can't make somebody want something if it doesn't come naturally. Because Gina isn't a mind reader, speak up now for that exclusive mother/daughter shopping jaunt. If she likes your fashion sense, she may agree. However, it is not unusual for a bride to include not only her mother, but also her attendants and future mother-in-law when choosing her wedding dress.



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.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend bought his house two years ago. We were fortunate to have found such a darling little place. It was owned by only one woman since it was built in the 1950s. She is now deceased, and we have no way of contacting anyone in her family.

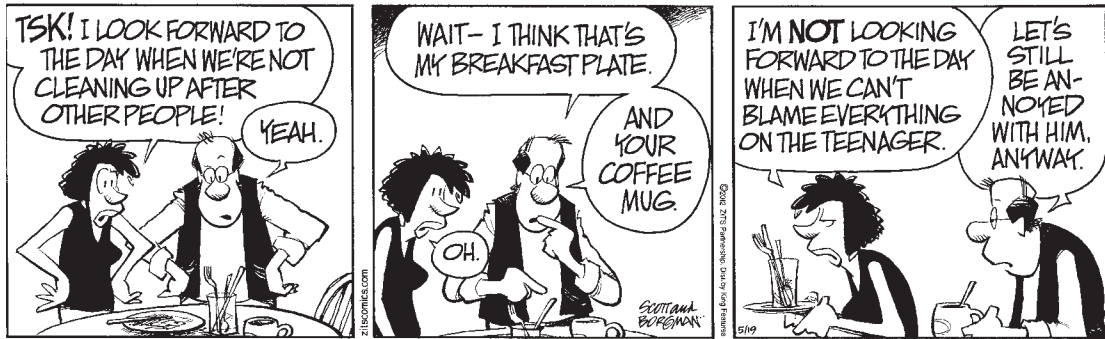
For the last two years my boyfriend has received greeting cards from an old friend of the former owner. What should we do about the greeting cards? I feel terrible that he doesn't know the woman who lived here is no longer with us. — STEPHANIE IN URBANA, ILL.

DEAR STEPHANIE: I know you and your boyfriend have the best of intentions, but according to the post office, whether there is a return address on the envelope or not, you should write "deceased" on the envelope and let the Postal Service handle the matter.

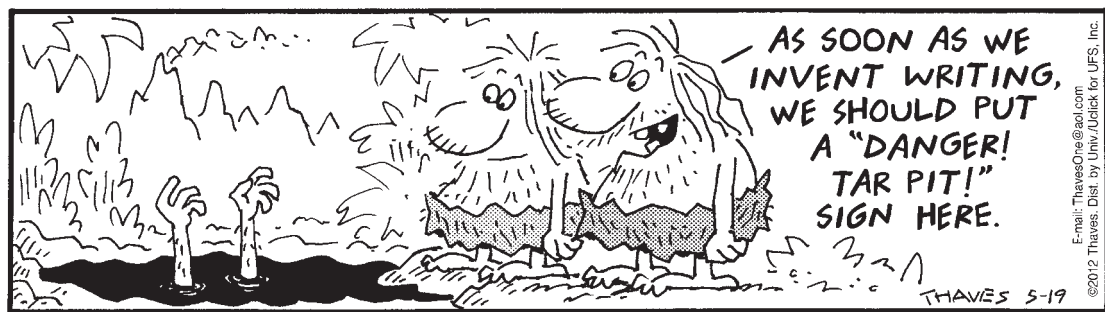
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



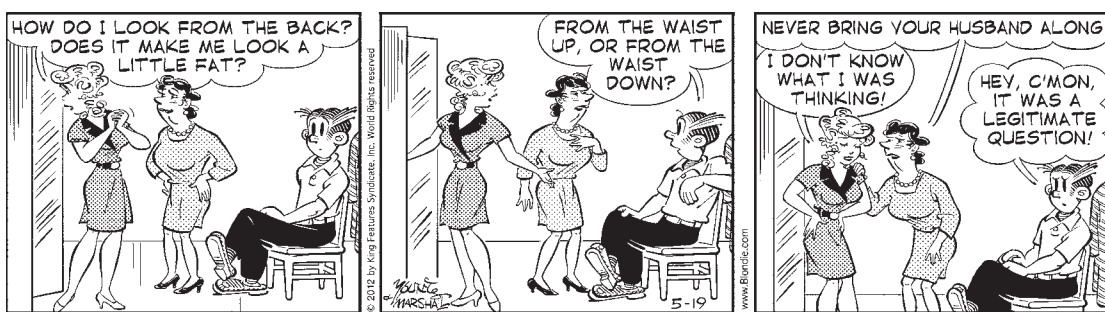
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



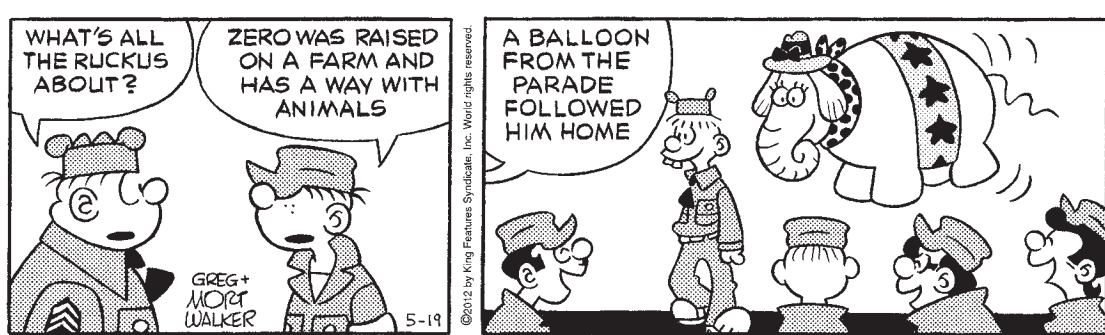
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



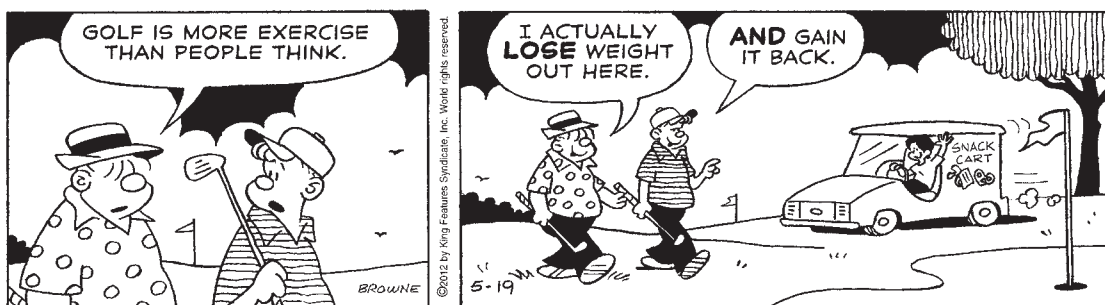
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012:

This year you become more centered and caring. Others -- even friends -- cannot get enough of you. If you are single, this newfound popularity could be wonderful. If you are attached, be careful, as you do not want your sweetie to become jealous. Make sure you give him or her your time and a lot of say in your mutual life. You'll see the world with new eyes. Travel, a foreigner or more education could play into this change. A fellow TAURUS is stubborn but does not show it.

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)

Whether you are involved with planning an event or buying a special gift, you are spending money. At one point, you might veer off in a different direction. You also could decide to spruce up your wardrobe. This behavior is so unlike you. Why not indulge yourself? Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Everyone will know that your old spunk has returned. You reach out to friends and loved ones, make plans and above all, decide to opt for something fun. Invite a friend or two to join you. Your vitality and charisma will replace a former dreariness. Tonight: You can have it all.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Sometimes by pulling back and doing your own thing, you feel more resilient and ready to deal with the many people in your life. A discussion with a partner has to happen, but there could be some fireworks as a result. Try not to personalize the discussion. Tonight: Play it as you like.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Be grateful for your friends. In some regard, they make your day very special, even if it is simply the fun you have together. Curb a tendency to be sarcastic. That tone easily could be misread. Tonight: Only where the action is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Stay in tune with others, as you might need to step in and take a leadership role. Many of you will be in

contact with older friends and relatives. Make plans accordingly. If you do not offer suggestions, what results might not be as rewarding. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Honor your need for a break in patterns and/or a change in scenery. Everyone needs to pull out of his or her routine occasionally. Whatever you choose needs to involve an outlet for your energy, whether it is hiking or walking around an airport. Tonight: Try something different.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Go along with someone's suggestion. This person will be pleased, and the outcome will make your life easier. You might want to stay closer to home, but you will like what occurs if you can break past mental barriers. Tonight: Visit over a great meal.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Others come to you with ideas, invitations and a need to be with you. Slowly but surely, you'll realize that your plans might need to be changed. Make it your pleasure. Be willing to walk into a new situation or scene. Tonight: Take a risk.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Dedicate some time to finishing up a project that has been on the back burner too long. You might have to revise your budget, as factors or elements of your life change. A parent or an authority figure could be very challenging. Tonight: Make it easy.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Do you realize how moody you have become? Still, a loved one or child puts his or her best effort forward to include you in plans. Hop in the car and take off. In the moment, you will relax. Tonight: Try a cuisine you have never tried.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

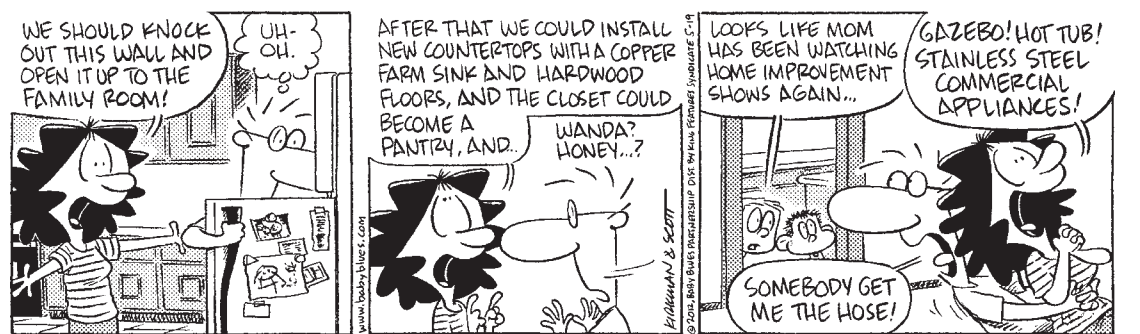
It appears you have some plans that could keep you quite busy at home. On some level, you are making an assumption and following that hunch. Do not get upset with a close friend or loved one, should there be a last-minute adjustment. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Return calls and finish an errand or two. Join friends for a mutually favored pastime, be it the movies, a baseball game or making dinner. Once more, you note how much a friend is changing. You do not need to comment, but you do need to respect this person's process. Tonight: Close to home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

