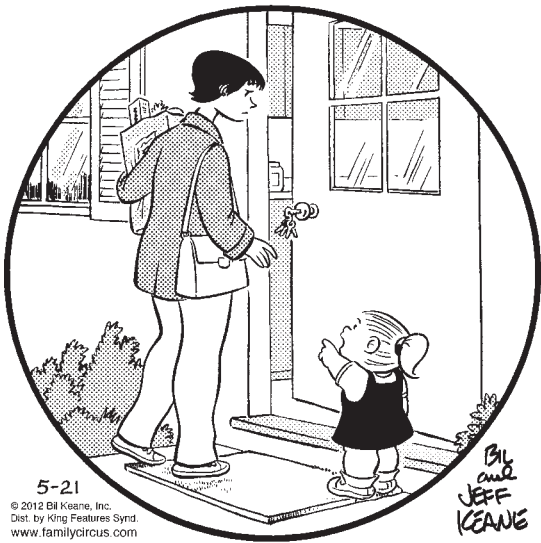
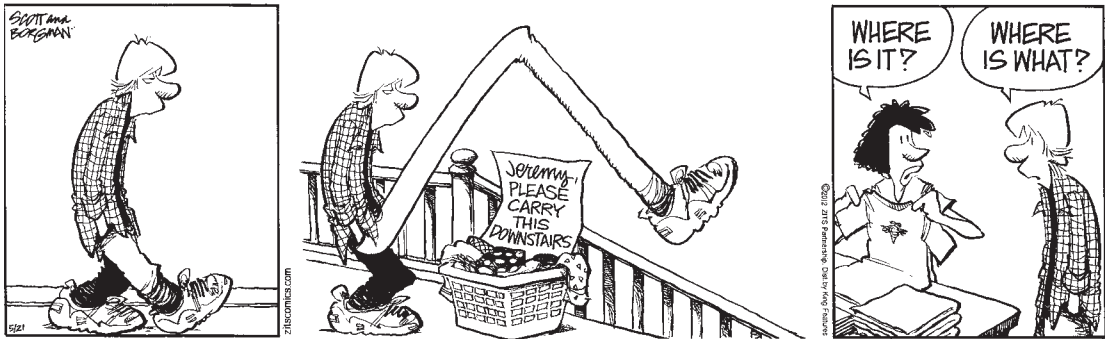


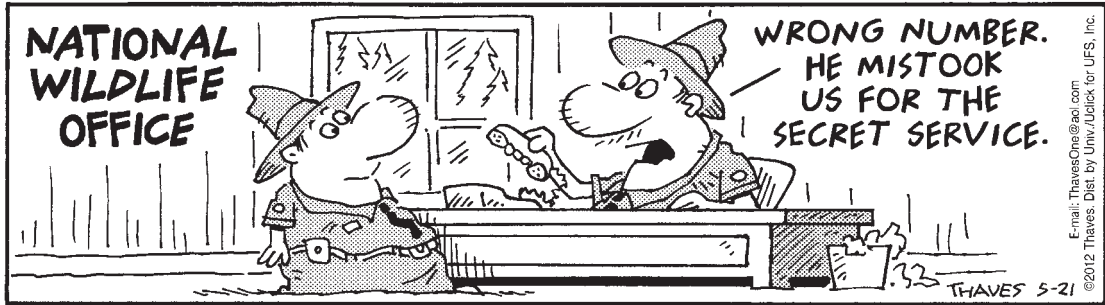
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



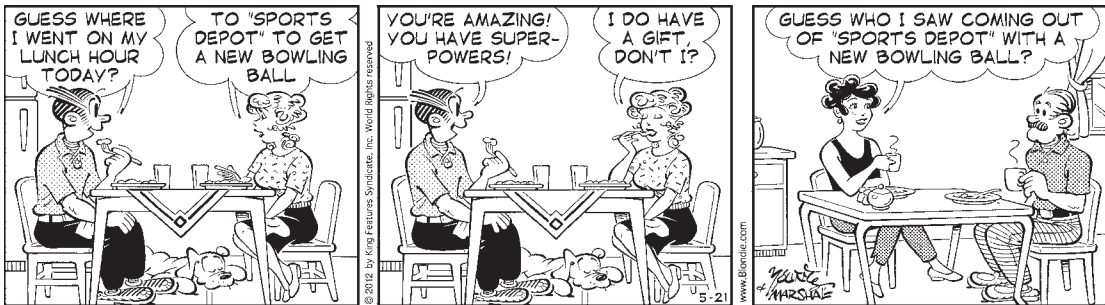
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



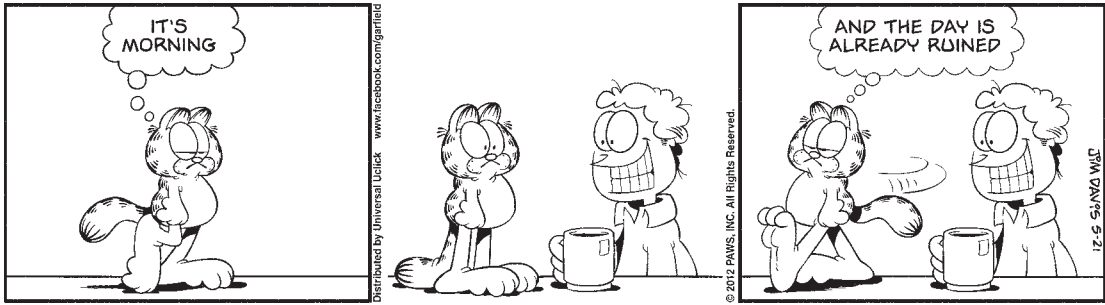
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



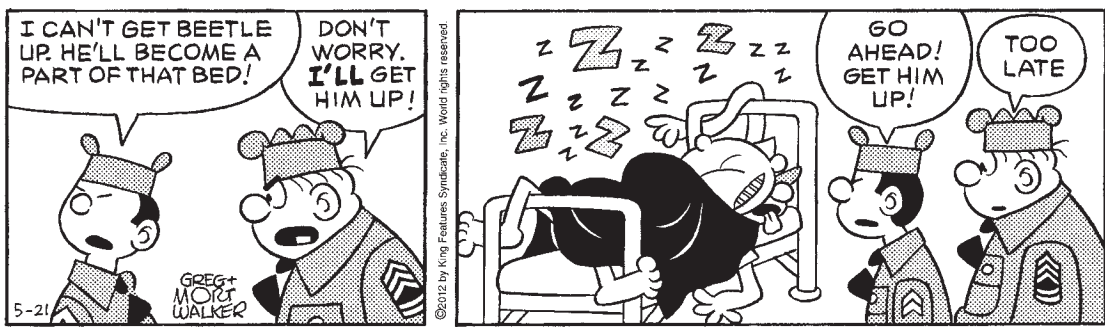
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Groom's Mom Turns Bridal Shower Into A Mob Scene

DEAR ABBY: I agreed to be maid of honor at my best friend's wedding. I am now planning her bridal shower and just received the guest list from her mother and the groom's mother, "Alicia."

Alicia has given me the names of about 30 guests and says there are more people she wants to invite. Abby, the entire list will amount to nearly 70 guests!

I thought showers were supposed to be for close friends and family only. Would it be out of line to suggest to Alicia that if she wants to invite that many people, she should give a separate shower? — OVERWHELMED IN NEW YORK

DEAR OVERWHELMED: You and the groom's mother are not on the same wavelength. She may be trying to repay social obligations, while you are simply trying to perform your attendant's duties.

Because Alicia is so insensitive, you must tell her firmly the maximum number of guests you can accommodate at the shower. It would not be out of line to suggest that she ask one of her friends to also host one. If she insists on inviting everybody to your shower, ask her to share the expenses with you. (Remember, bridal showers are usually hosted by attendants, friends or relatives of the bride, but not members of her or her fiancé's IMMEDIATE families.)

DEAR ABBY: Please pass along this suggestion to your readers: If you're separated or getting a divorce, use discretion if you're tempted to talk about it.

The more you bad-mouth the person you are divorcing, the more people will reject you. It may not seem fair, but it's true. People will "forget" that you never complained before and say, "I didn't know

she was so vindictive. No wonder he left!"

You will do yourself additional damage by ranting to co-workers. You're paid to work, not talk. Your co-workers are paid to work, not listen.

Do not confide your problems to your customers. They will stop doing business with you because they're afraid of being trapped by your pain.

If you must vent your anger and disappointment, do it in a support group. The members will empathize; others haven't a clue and don't care. A support group also can give you practical advice about lawyers, finances and emotional help.

Your pain will linger for months, but the patience of your friends and co-workers will fade. My co-worker managed to bore all of us. She quit therapy to spend the money redecorating her home to "erase him from her life." Not only did she lose all sympathy in that shortsighted, shallow act, she also lost precious time she should have spent healing and becoming strong and independent.

It's strange, Abby. People facing death don't disrupt other people's lives the way those with broken vows do. — TIRED OF LISTENING IN MARY-

LAND
DEAR TIRED: You make a strong case for keeping separate one's personal and professional lives. Friends and co-workers are important to anyone experiencing the trauma of divorce, but I agree that an outside source — such as a support group — can provide practical, impartial advice because the members can empathize without becoming emotionally involved.

Those who act this way may be looking for a sympathetic ear, but they usually wind up with a cold shoulder.

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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 Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012:

Sometimes you act as if someone has lit a fire under you, as you display a compulsive, driven quality this year. You will be unusually creative but also me-oriented. You have to live in this world with others. Stop and consider the people in your life. If you are attached, remember it takes two to have a relationship. Try to tame your ego. If you are single, you might attract quite a few suitors. One of them just might be the one. A fellow GEMINI reminds you with his or her very actions that the world does not revolve around 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)

★★★ Don't lock onto an event, communication or situation happening as you would like. Worry less about details; otherwise you could become one upset Ram. Be open to different ideas, yet still take the lead on a key project. Take a walk if stress builds. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You tend to get possessive at times. Are you doing that again? If a child or loved one is balking when interacting with you, that controlling tendency could be at work. Take a hard look within. Your ability to change your stance could make certain bonds flow more easily. Tonight: Buy a loved one a token of affection.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Your smile tends to disarm others. As a result, they might reveal a startling piece of information. Try to keep a straight face. It is better for everyone concerned. Express your ideas with confidence and respect. You still might get another view. Tonight: Aren't you spunky?

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You like to be busy and moving around. You could be quite content watching another person try to handle an authority figure, parent or boss. You know what is going to happen. The smart Moon Child will maintain a distance, for now. Tonight: You have a lot to mull over.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Listen to a friend. This person pushes to

have you agree or go along with him or her. Why not? A meeting has implications when someone reveals too much. Don't agree to any financial or business deals today. Tonight: Where people are.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could irritate someone beyond reason without intending to. Sometimes people do mix much like oil and water. Focus on necessities and not selling yourself short. Be overly diplomatic. If you are triggered, take a walk rather than challenge the other party. Tonight: Working or playing late.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance who often presents a very different view. This person is a source of ideas and a good friend, as he or she knows you. Don't sit on anger. You don't want to explode later. Try discussing your feelings in terms of hurt. Tonight: Be imaginative.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Deal with someone directly. You will get better results, especially if you are dealing with finances and/or emotional decisions. A male friend could become rather pushy. Still, this person has sound thinking on his or her side. Tonight: Togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You could be inordinately challenged by a situation or someone's fiery temper. Try to let this tension-laden event roll right over you. Consider a child or loved one. Make a special call to see how he or she is doing. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ As usual, you have a project to clear out. You get a lot done quite quickly. Remain in sync with someone at a distance. You might not have like minds, but you play devil's advocate well together. Just don't take his or her comments personally. Tonight: Exercise time.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

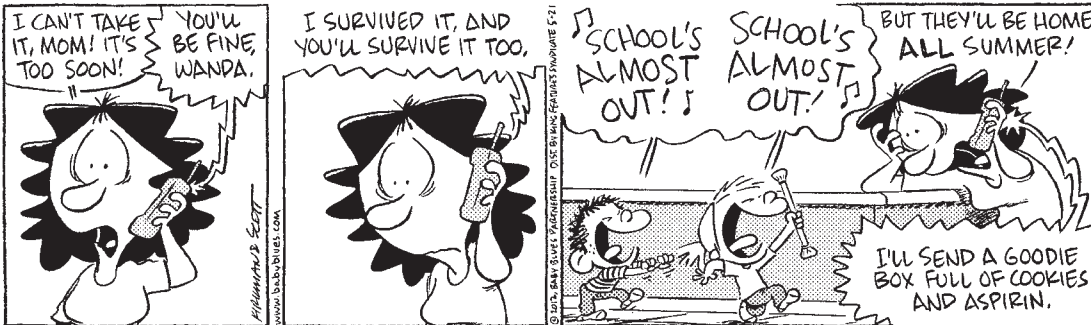
★★★★★ A partner develops a short fuse. Try to remain diplomatic or leave space for this person to come back in. Tap into your creativity and find answers. A family member delights you with a call. Real estate could be a hot topic. Tonight: Act like it is Friday night.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ If you can take some time away from the daily grind, it would work out well. You have a lot to share with a neighbor or sibling. The more you speak, the more you remember how tied into life you are. Use care with a volatile partner. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

