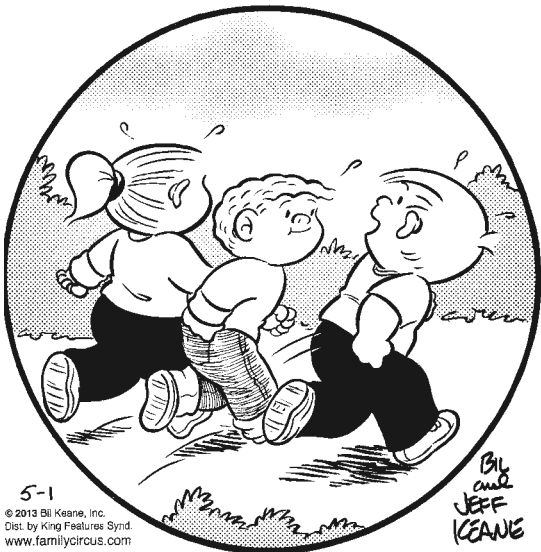


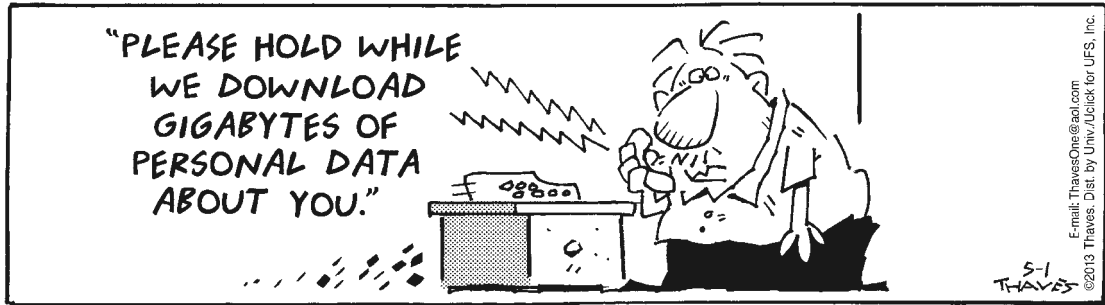
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



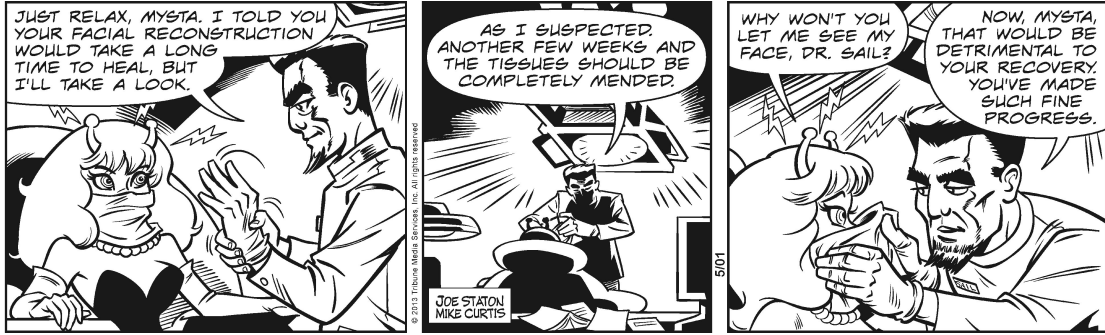
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



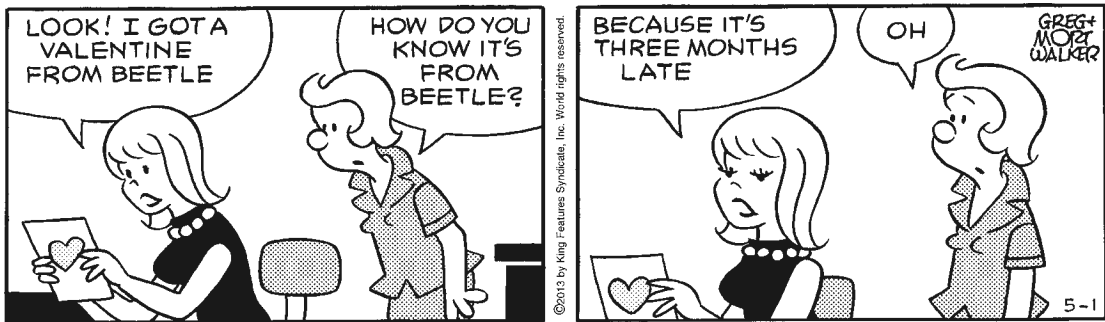
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



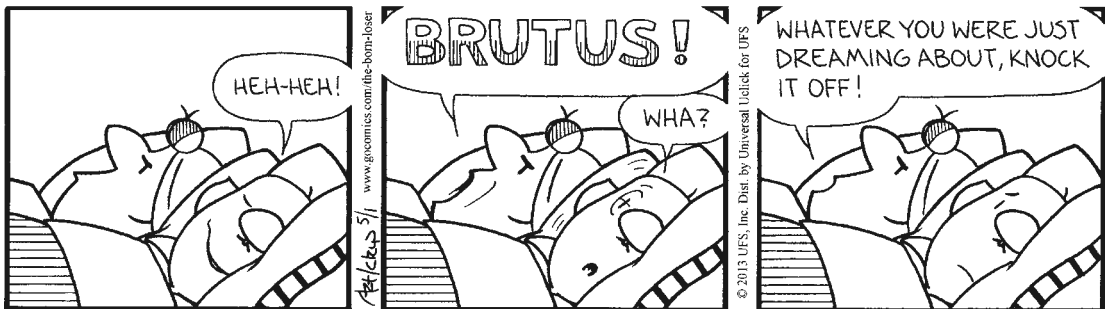
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Man Peeking Out Of The Closet Should Open It All The Way

DEAR ABBY: My oldest son came out to me as a gay man in a private conversation. I have no problem with him being gay; however, I DO have a problem with the fact that he has asked me not to tell anyone. He isn't ready to come out to anyone else. I tried to advise him that until he is true to himself, he won't be happy. My son says if he comes out to anyone else, it would 'hurt so many people.'

I will keep his secret, but there is a young woman he is living with and planning to marry, and I do not believe this is fair to her or her child. He is not happy being a gay man, and that's why he's choosing to live a lie. He was raised in church and feels like he is betraying God by being gay.

How can I support him and lie to this young woman he is with? My son is so confused. How do I help him and keep his secret at the same time? — ANONYMOUS

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Your son may not be 'happy' being a gay man, but that is who he is. For him to keep a secret like this from his fiancée, who plans to share the rest of her life with him, will be MORE hurtful to her if he goes through with the wedding than telling her now.

Help him by encouraging him to seek counseling through an LGBT community center. It will be strictly confidential, and there is nothing he can tell them they haven't heard before. He has already cracked open his closet door by disclosing his sexual orientation to you. This tells me that on some level he wants to open it all the way.

He is fortunate that he has a parent who is as accepting and wise about life as you. Continue talking to him and encourage him to talk more with you. It may help him to become more comfortable opening up and to accept reality.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small town where traffic isn't much of a problem. Recently, though, a young man was killed in a car wreck. He ran into a semi because he was

texting while driving. His final text was to a friend who had asked if they could get together for a night of fun.

As a rule, we look down on people who drink and drive, as this is unacceptable in today's world. But we do nothing to drivers who text and drive. Please advise your readers that no message is worth dying over. Last night there was ANOTHER traffic accident caused by the same thing! — ROBERT IN KILGORE, TEXAS

DEAR ROBERT: Sadly, that 'night of fun' will have to be postponed indefinitely. Sometimes it takes a tragedy (or two) to wake people up because they're operating under the delusion that they are the exception to the rules of the road or are invincible.



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 mother is in her mid-90s and in good health. She has no intention of dying soon, but asked me an interesting question. She has mileage points with a major airline and was wondering if she can use them for the 'final trip' back to her home state for burial when the time comes. Do you know the answer? — ONE-WAY TICKET

DEAR ONE-WAY: Your question is not only an interesting one, but it's a first. I contacted a spokesperson for a major airline who responded that his company does not accept mileage points as a form of payment for any type of 'shipment.' For her last flight, your mother would no longer be considered a passenger; she would be cargo, which is why her points idea won't fly.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in 'The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.' To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Taurus and a Moon in Capricorn if born before 7:20 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013:

This year your birthday gives you unusual power and strength. Should you decide to accomplish something, it is as good as done. You demonstrate your innate leadership characteristics. You also attract many admirers. If you are single, one of these people easily could become more than just a casual acquaintance. If you are attached, do not forget the importance of your significant other; otherwise, he or she could feel left out. AQUARIUS throws you into the limelight.

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)

★★★★ Focus your energy less on taking the lead and more on gaining a consensus regarding a key matter. You could see a situation far differently after having talked to various people. What you thought you were sure of might no longer be the case. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Tension could escalate if you continue on a non-negotiable path. Toss stubbornness to the wind, and you'll find that your stress level will drop almost immediately. You might want to justify your stance on an issue, but is it really worth it? Tonight: Do your own thing.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to take some time away from an issue and look at it later. Try to detach. Plan a mini-vacation if possible. You will come back revitalized and ready to handle nearly anything. You do have a lot on your plate. Tonight: Schedule some downtime with a friend.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your playfulness emerges. A loved one who has been uptight as of late might adopt a new, more upbeat attitude as a result of your lightness. Recognize that this attitude probably is only a temporary change. Enjoy it! Tonight: Meet friends. Go until you can't go any longer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out, so much so that you might need to screen your calls. You have to take care of

your must-do errands first. Plans could change. A discussion with a respected friend needs to happen soon. Tonight: So many possibilities -- decide what you want to do!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Listen to suggestions, but do not allow them or your social life to stop you from completing what must be done. A call will be coming in during the next few days, which could open the door to new possibilities. Tonight: Relax by getting involved in a favorite pastime.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could become involved in a situation that you normally would prefer to walk away from. Others find your logic to be quite wise. A close loved one might give you an earful. Just listen to what this person has to say; you do not need to agree. Tonight: Laugh and relax.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your smiling manner attracts a different response than anticipated. As a result, others seem to open up more. Know that a lot is going on around you. Try not to slip into negativity, as you will see the difference in how others respond. Tonight: Say "yes" to a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Listen to news with an open mind and an eye to being more responsive. You are more than willing to re-think a decision with those involved. A power play is a different story, and you might not want to get involved. State those limits. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Suddenly, your mind will turn on like a light bulb. You'll see many other options open up as a result. You might be somewhat tense about heading toward a dynamic change. Recognize what could happen if you do not take a risk. Tonight: Check in with a child and/or a loved one.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You are in your element today. You know it, and you feel it. Confusion surrounds a personal issue. Give yourself time to think through the possibilities. Try to revise a situation and eliminate some of your innate judgments. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

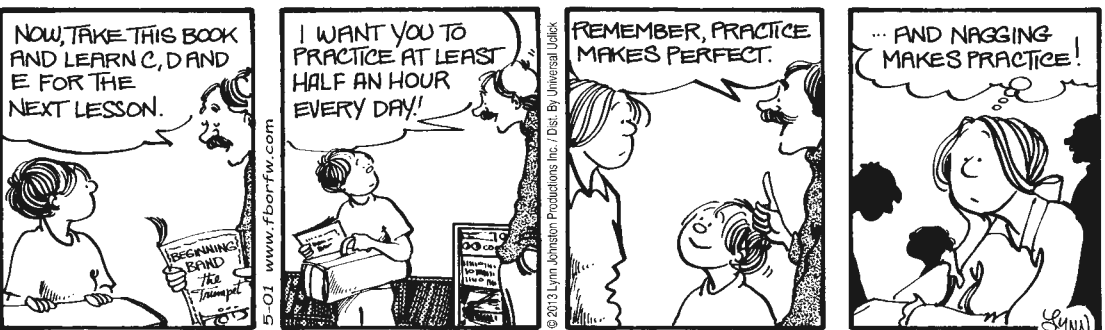
★★★★ You might not want to share so much with others. You could feel misunderstood, and you likely will be right. Take some needed time for yourself, and try to sort out your feelings. News coming in from a distance could pique your interest. Tonight: Early to bed.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

