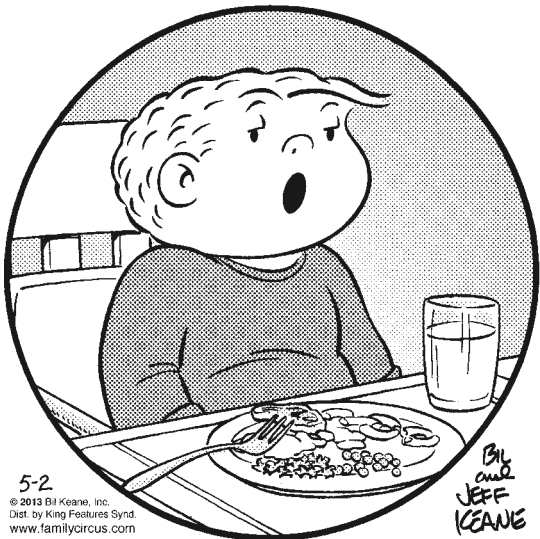
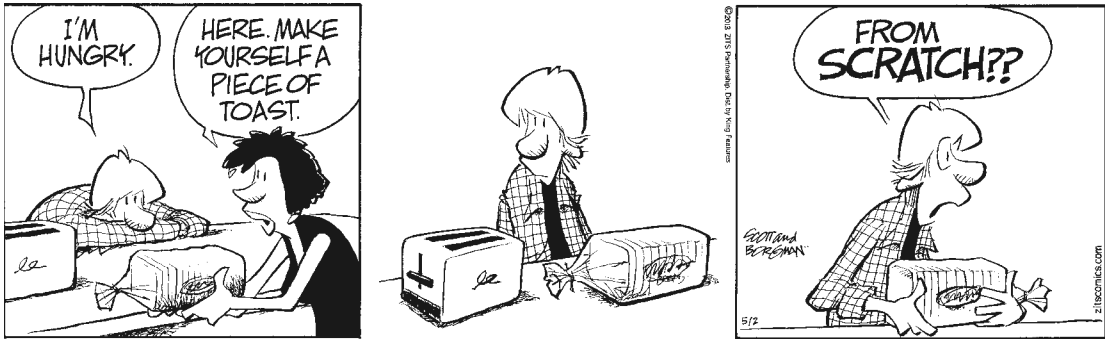


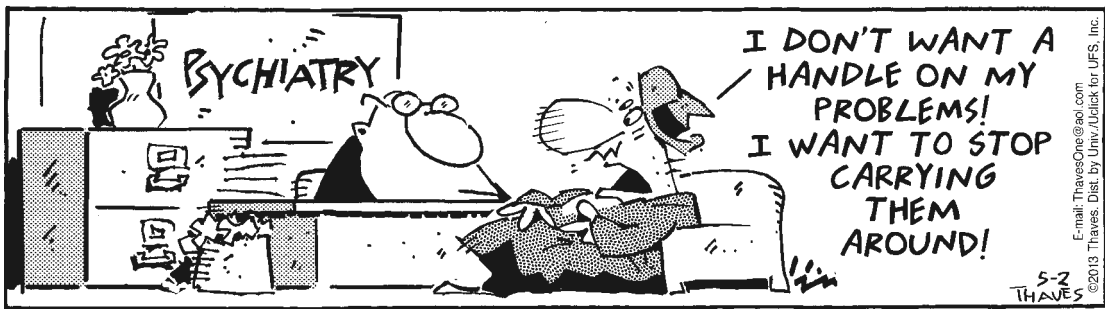
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



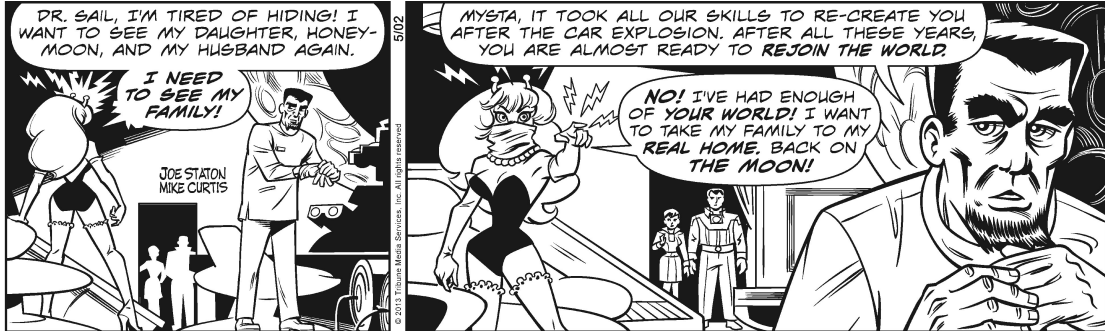
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



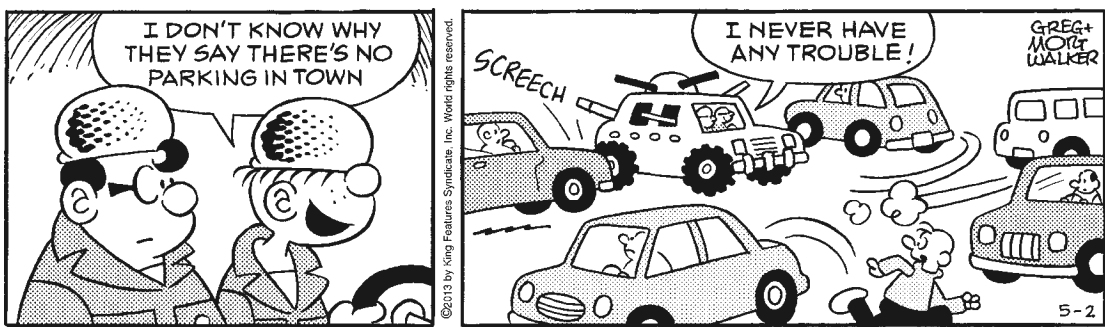
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



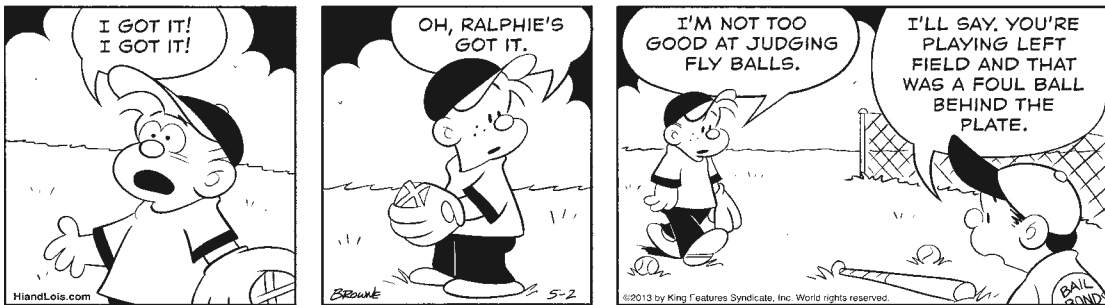
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Middle Schooler's Hearing Aids Cannot Tune Out Laughter

DEAR ABBY: Last year, I began to lose my hearing due to a genetic disorder and now I have to wear hearing aids. I will be a freshman in high school next year. My teachers all have to wear microphones so I can hear them.

I'm scared other kids will make fun of me for being different. I have already gotten laughed at. What should I do? — EM-BARRASSED TEEN

DEAR EMBARRASSED TEEN: When people laugh at a person who has a disability, it is usually out of ignorance. Because this happened at school or another place where there is adult supervision, you and your parents should talk to the principal or person in authority so that person can speak privately with the guilty parties and explain why your hearing aids and the microphone are necessary. Your parents should also have a meeting with the principal of your high school before you go so the problem can be avoided.

When I was in grammar school, a classmate of mine had severe hearing loss. Because the students understood what her problem was, she was never ridiculed.

P.S. Making fun of a child who has a disability is a form of bullying, and should be treated as such.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 25 and have been with my husband for nine years, married for four. I cheated on him twice. He caught me both times.

Even though I strayed, he decided to stay. But now he treats me like I'm a child and a prisoner. He took away my phone, my Internet and I can't go anywhere. He says this is my punishment for what I did. Do I really deserve that? I know we're both wrong, but is he more wrong? — BROKEN WIFE

DEAR BROKEN WIFE: From where I sit, you are equally wrong. How long ago did the cheating incidents occur? If they are recent, you two should be in marriage counseling. If they were long ago, then you

must decide if you want to live the rest of your life being treated as a child and a prisoner.

Your husband doesn't trust you because you haven't been trustworthy. But taking away your phone and Internet and keeping you under lock and key will not help you to rebuild it.

You two need more help than anyone can give you in a letter, and I hope you will seek it. If he won't go for counseling, you should go without him because I don't think the status quo can last.

DEAR ABBY: My sister and brother-in-law passed away two years ago. I am the only living relative of their 28-year-old son, "Louis." He is a loner, spoiled and a poor houseguest. I invite Louis over only because I don't want him to be alone at holiday times. My husband, teenage daughter and I have nothing in common with him, and frankly, he spoils our holidays.

How can I stop inviting my nephew without feeling guilty? Or is there another solution? I hate to make waves. — HOLIDAY HATER IN CANADA

DEAR HOLIDAY HATER: If you invite your nephew for FEWER holidays you will be able to ease your conscience,

enjoy more holidays and allow the young man a chance to become more proactive in planning entertainment for himself.

DEAR ABBY: I may be wrong, but isn't it presumptuous for someone to open the message card on a flower delivery before you get home when the flowers are for you? — KIMBERLY IN MARYLAND

DEAR KIMBERLY: You're not wrong. The person opening the cards isn't being helpful, but nosy. And it wouldn't be out-of-line to tell the person not to do it again.

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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 Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013:

This year a sense of great understanding emanates from you. Many people find this energy to be magnetic. Your career and commitments take top priority, so start working on your wish list. If you are single, you meet people easily. Someone could emerge who might become very special to you. If you are attached, make sure that your close bond remains a high priority in your life. Go out on an old-fashioned date once in a while. AQUARIUS is as stubborn as you are, but he or she is more experimental.

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)

★★★★ Bypass a power play, and you will have a close-to-perfect day. Others seem to want your attention, and they might resort to some odd behavior. You have a way of communicating that allows you to get past an issue with ease. Reduce your stress through a proven method or hobby. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ If you think that others demand a lot, you are 100 percent correct. If you would like to go in a different direction, do. Note the areas in which you impose restrictions. Be aware of what is going on with a child or loved one. Tonight: Be ready to go till the wee hours.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You understand much more about a situation than you realize. Have a conversation about this, and you'll see that others share your beliefs. You will find common ground. Tonight: Consider a weekend escape in the near future.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ A partner makes the first move. Respond accordingly, if possible. Recognize that you might be over-sensitive, and understand that this person might have strong feelings, too. Listen, but do not take every comment personally. Tonight: Meet up with a friend for dinner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be irritated by an older relative or a friend. A boss might be out of sorts as well. Be willing to

change plans and free yourself up. Others will find you to be unpredictable, as you'll decide that a new set of plans feels more appropriate. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could feel a bit out of sorts, as your mind repeats a situation over and over again. A partner might act up or do the unexpected. Stay focused on what is important to you. Answer questions with a newfound openness. Others will come to respect that. Tonight: Keep smiling.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might be a lot more involved in a creative endeavor than you thought possible. Look at the big picture in order to grasp the details. You could be overwhelmed by someone's demands. Take a step back if that's the case. Tonight: Add more fun into your life.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Check out a new possibility with care, especially if it involves a real-estate matter or an investment. Do not hesitate to get others' different perspectives. You'll want to make a solid decision if possible, so be completely aware of the risks involved. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by a certain situation. As a result, you might insist that the matter be handled as you'd like. The responses you get will surprise you. Use your instincts, and think twice before you decide on a big purchase. Tonight: At your favorite haunt.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Deal with your finances and investments, as they are your strong suit. You also might want to revise your stance on a serious matter. Your creativity will soar, no matter how you approach the situation. Follow through with your ideas, and brainstorm more. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could lose your temper with a family member, or vice versa. Take your time when making a decision. You might reverse direction several times -- at least mentally. Brainstorm with others. You eventually will make up your mind. Tonight: Go with the flow.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might want to evaluate a decision involving a personal matter. Be skeptical of someone new you meet, especially if you decide to get to know this person. You could be subject to an unexpected financial development, which could be positive. Tonight: Don't push.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

