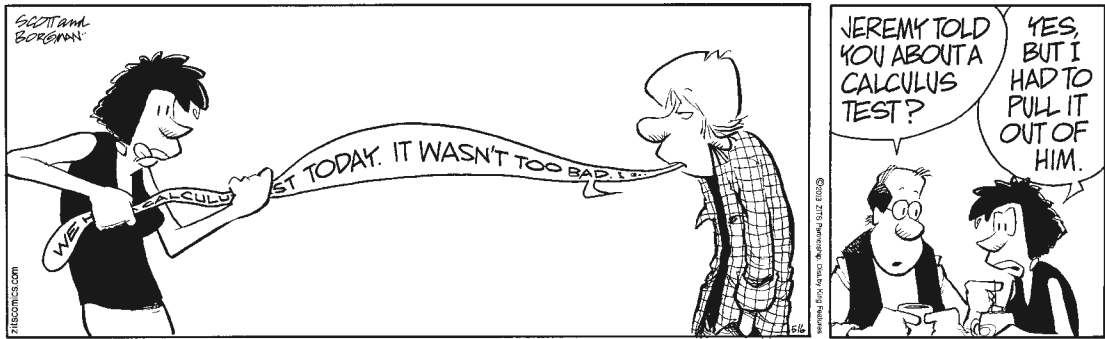


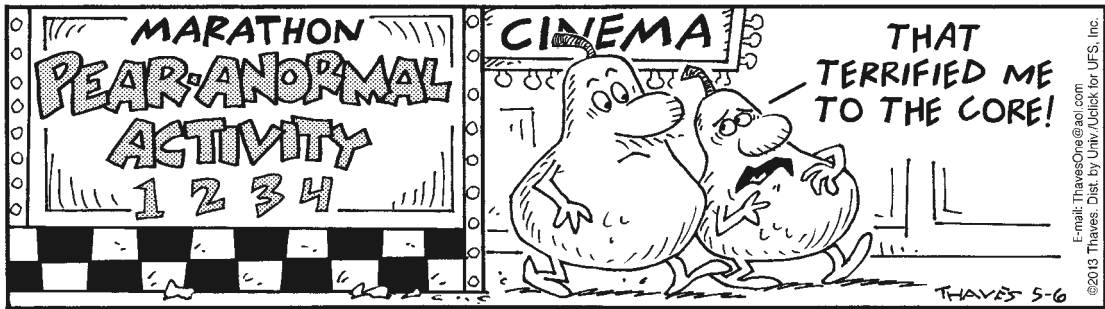
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



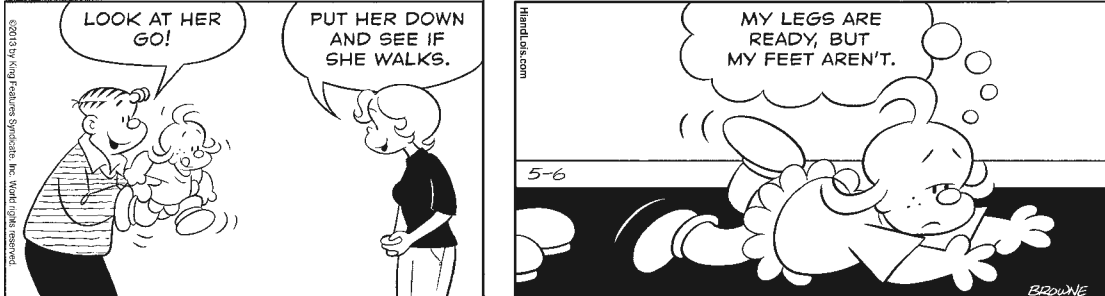
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



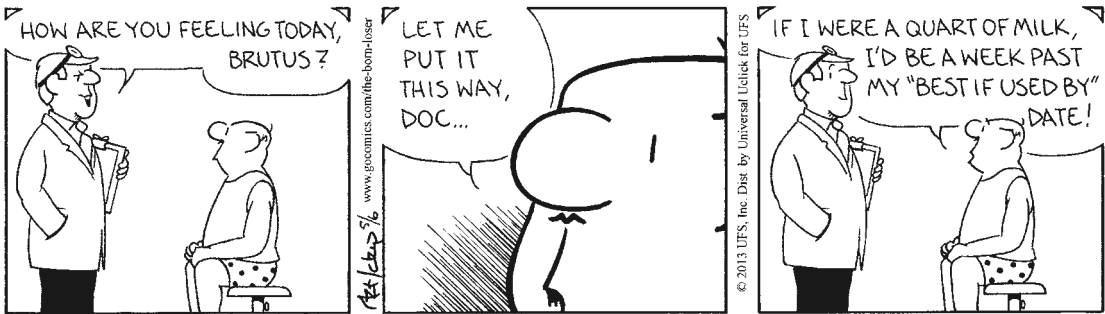
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



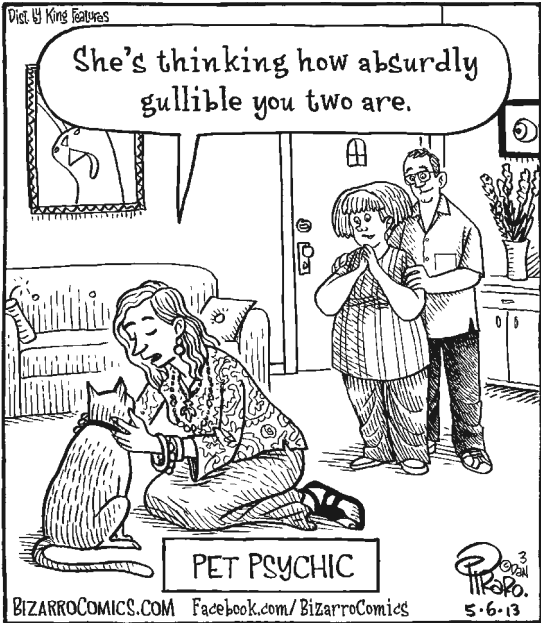
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Grandma Can Speak Up To Keep Phone Conversations Private

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter and her boyfriend live in another state, and I love hearing from her. However, when I call her, she always puts me on speaker phone, which I find rude.

I have never met her boyfriend and don't feel he should be in on everything I may talk to my granddaughter about. I think she's forming a bad habit. Am I wrong for feeling this way? — PRIVATE GRANDMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR PRIVATE: I don't think so. Not every word that comes out of your mouth should be community property. The next time it happens, all you have to do is say, "Honey, take me off the speaker, please."

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Carlene," is a neonatal ICU nurse who is required to work a certain number of holidays. For the past 12 years, her family has feigned attempting to accommodate her schedule and then planned holiday events at the same exact time and place as the year before. They have ignored repeated explanations and don't seem to care if we come or not.

For example, last Thanksgiving they once again made a big deal about everyone sending their schedules via email. We responded that Carlene would have to work until 3 p.m. Shortly after, we received a call from the host, who said: "We know you can't make it, but the celebration will be at 12 sharp! Maybe we'll see you some other time."

Abby, my wife feels like she is unimportant to everyone. She plans to stop attending all family events and celebrate only with me and our daughter. While that would be easier, I know it probably isn't the best solution. Should I support her decision, or is there some answer I haven't thought of yet? — LET DOWN IN TEXAS

DEAR LET DOWN: Your wife should make no decisions about future celebrations while she's angry. If she follows through on her impulse to boycott all family events, she will be cutting her nose off to spite her face. On those occasions when it's not possible to at-

tend extended family gatherings, celebrating with immediate family seems like a sensible solution. Or consider hosting the celebration yourselves so you can set the party time.

Your wife may have self-esteem issues that need to be addressed if she's taking this personally. As a nurse caring for the most fragile of infants, she's doing important work that should be respected. Please tell her to remind herself of that fact any time she feels "unimportant" because her efforts make the difference between life and death.

DEAR ABBY: I got pregnant by a man I'll call "Ryan," who was just a fling. When I told him, he told me to have an abortion. He even had a friend of his call, offer to pay for it and drive me.

Instead, I decided to "abort" Ryan from my life. I never told him when our baby was born. Part of me feels bad because I think every child should know his/her father and family members. Another man has been willing to step up and be a daddy for my child.

Should I even bother to let Ryan know? Should I give him a chance to rise to the occasion or keep things the way they are? — LIVING MY LIFE IN INDIANA

DEAR LIVING YOUR LIFE: This is really a question you should ask a lawyer, just in case Ryan has already risen as much as he intends to. Whether or not someone has stepped up to be your baby's daddy, Ryan has a financial obligation to that child.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013:

This year you open up to new concepts. Know that you can't fight city hall, but you can let go of rigidity and choose to look at other ideas. If you are single, you are likely to attract someone quite unusual yet dynamic. Regardless of whether this bond is long-term, you will gain from the contact you have with this person. If you are attached, the two of you could benefit from taking an exciting trip that you have been discussing for a long time. ARIES tests your patience.

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)

★★★★ The unexpected happens, and it adds excitement to your week. You might want to try to gain more control. You also might want to learn to trust your own abilities instead of resisting change. Remain secure, and know where you are headed. Tonight: Accept what is.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ Much that is happening around you is vague. You could feel as if someone is whispering in your ear. How you deal with a situation could change dramatically if you can get the hard facts. Pull back and listen more. Try to figure out what is really happening. Tonight: Not to be found.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You have pushed hard to accomplish a lot. It is clear that you can't take a shortcut and still achieve the same outcome. A partnership often tests your commitment. You might want to come to terms with the fact that interaction is part of the bond. Tonight: Dinner for two.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You say the right words and charge your inner circle with ideas. Your perception could be off, in that you might see things only from your point of view. A discussion could become overwhelming. You find that a child or loved one could be sassy. Tonight: Kick back.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink how you react to unexpected events. You'll be reminded that you have no control over anything but yourself. Situations like these

center you, and they also allow you to see life from a different perspective. Tonight: Let your imagination roam.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Look at what is happening behind the scenes with a key associate. This person might choose not to reveal much at first. Be patient with him or her, and your understanding will grow. The two of you will become closer as a result. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and watch what happens as a result. You might seem incapable of clearing up a personal matter. Consider rethinking a choice you made if you feel pushed by a family member. Support yourself more often in what feels right to you. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could feel out of sorts and unable to get a firm grasp on a situation that is impacting your daily life. What you can be sure of is that you are not getting the big picture. Lighten up when dealing with a controlling person. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Your fiery side emerges with a change of plans. You know what you want, but you also might want to let go of a need to be completely in control. You can control your own actions, but you can't control the stock market and other random factors. Tonight: Choose with passion.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be surprised at what you have to deal with. Did you think you were on cruise control? You certainly find out otherwise. Your ability to move mountains might need to come through. Stay centered. Tonight: Happily head home -- you need a break.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Though you're likely to hit a bump or two along the way, you will skip right over them and continue on your present path. There might be a persistent, annoying thought in the back of your mind. Do check out its validity, so that you can let go of it. Tonight: Fun and games.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

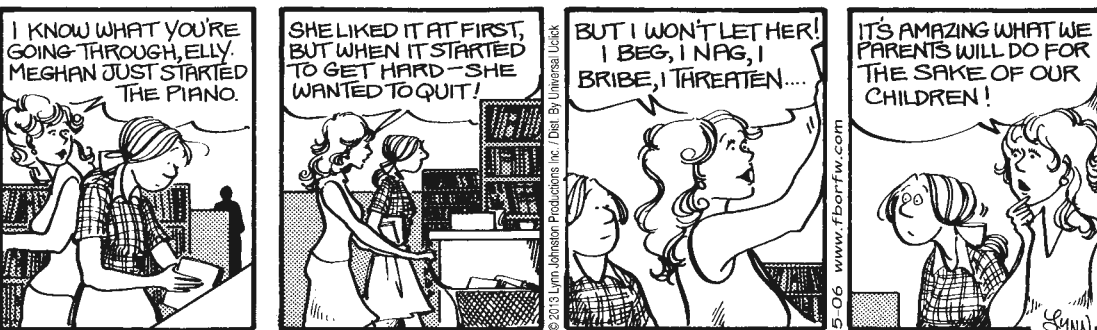
★★★★★ You might want to figure out what is necessary for you to make a change. Understand that you are dealing with others and their wishes, as well as your finances. Learn to say "no" when a request is not possible for you to meet. Start today. Tonight: Re-evaluate your spending.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

