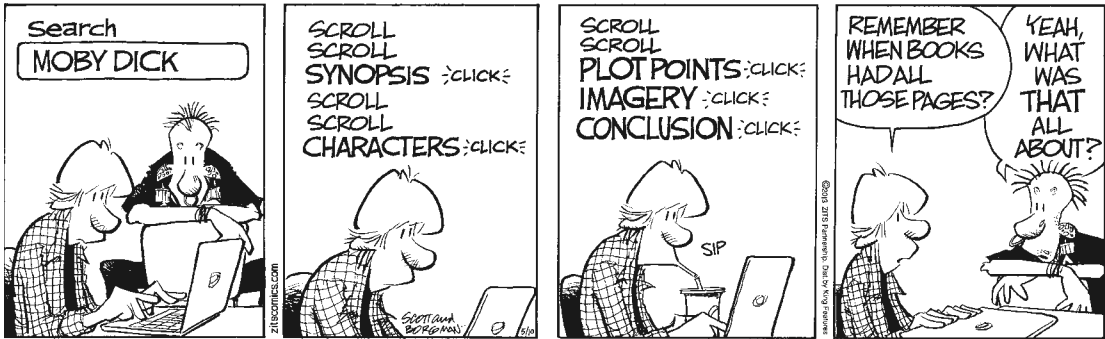


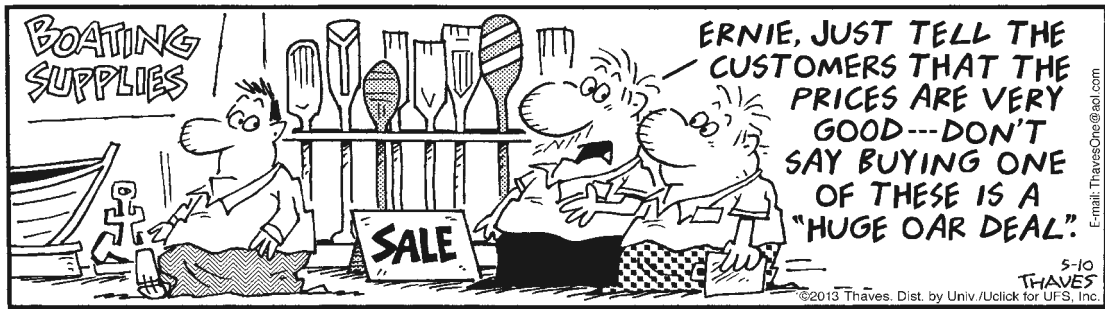
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



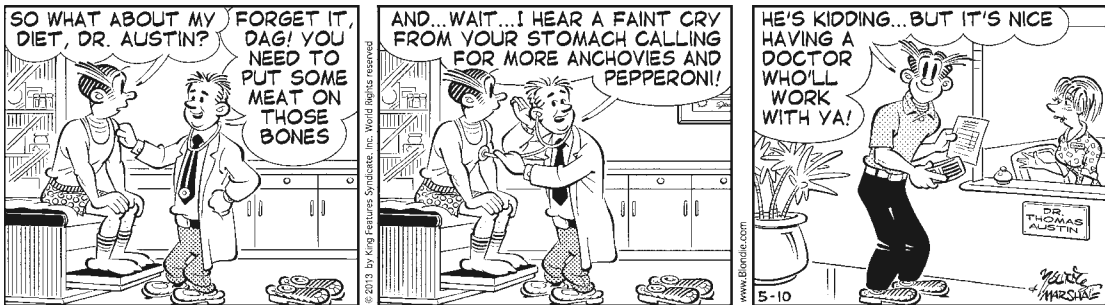
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



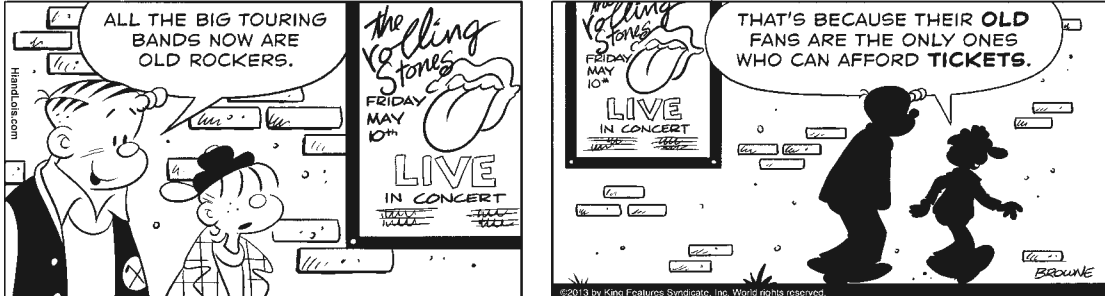
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



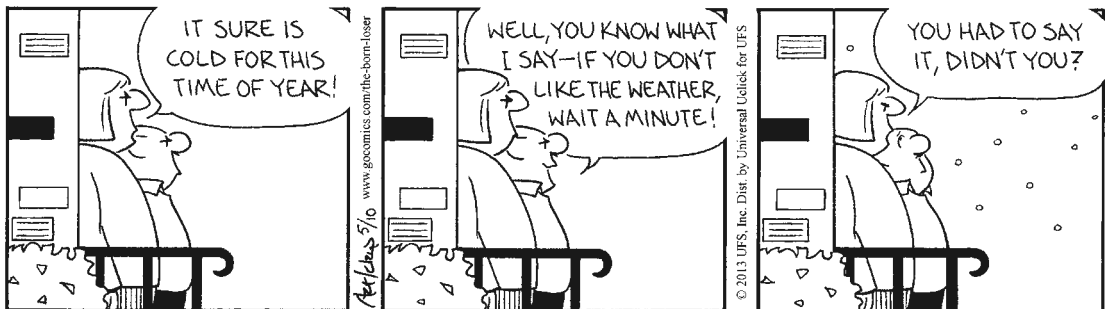
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Grandson's Choice Of Toys Is Cause For Family's Concern

DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime reader but a first-time writer. My problem has been bothering me for some time now.

We have a grandson who is 4 and very much a "princess boy." He likes girl toys and dresses and doesn't like any of his boy toys. We're at a loss about how to handle this.

He's an adorable little boy and we love him to pieces. His parents don't accept this behavior, and I'm afraid it will affect him now and in the future. How would you handle this? We don't say anything to his parents because they are pretty much in denial. — WORRIED GRANDMA

DEAR WORRIED: If he were my grandchild I'd talk with the parents. I, too, am concerned about how their attitude will affect the child in the future, because parents are supposed to love and accept children the way they are, and sexual orientation is inborn. Children who feel consistent disapproval grow up thinking they aren't good enough and don't measure up — which can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. I would "handle this" by making sure my grandson knew I loved, accepted and valued him just the way he is. If that means allowing him to play with the toys of his choice in my home, that's what I'd do. And if he showed more interest in art, music and dance and less interest in sports, trucks, etc., I'd support that, too.

I'm glad you asked this question. Your grandson may or may not grow up to be gay or transgender, which is how I think your letter is really about. Regardless of what his orientation is, it's very important that he knows he is valued for who he is.

DEAR ABBY: I know this boy that I really love. He's nice, smart and funny and I think about him all the time. He says he loves me back.

Is this true love, or just a mutual crush? I know I'm only 13, but I think I'm in love. Is it ridiculous to think I

have found true love in seventh grade? How can I tell whether it's love or not? And what would you consider the usual age to find your perfect other half? — CONFUSED IN LOVE

DEAR CONFUSED: No one can predict how old you will be when you meet someone who is your perfect other half. People's interests and needs evolve as they grow older, and what seems perfect today can seem less so when viewed through the lens of life experience.

I would never label your feelings as "ridiculous," but when you are in love, there is usually no doubt about it. Because you need to ask someone else if what you're feeling is true love, then it probably isn't.



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: I met a guy on an online dating site. It turns out I know him. He works at a store I shop in three times a week. He's nice, funny and everything I'm looking for in a guy except he's 25 and I'm 17.

He knows how old I am and for a while he was fine with it. Now he thinks I'm a cop and I'm going to bust him for trying to have sex with me 'cause I'm underage. He explained why he thinks that, and he made sense. But I'm NOT a cop. I gave him information trying to prove I'm not.

Abby, I really like him. How do I prove that I'm not a cop? How do I show him he can trust me? — NEEDS ADVICE IN OREGON

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: Undercover cops are older than 17. Because you say this man was "fine" with seeing you, but now is pulling away, it is possible that he is trying to let you down without hurting your feelings. You are not yet out of high school and this man is far ahead of you in life experience. Rather than try to talk him into having a sexual relationship with you, you would be much better off finding someone your own age.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

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 if born before 2:21 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013:

This year you often will steal the limelight, even unintentionally at times. You will continue to grow if you express the caring and stability that your sign is known for. If you are single, you will meet plenty of potential suitors, especially after June. Consider what type of relationship you want before deciding whom to date. If you are attached, your interactions will be enjoyable, as long as you allow your significant other to play an equal role in the relationship. GEMINI could help you make and spend money.

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)

★★★★ You finally find the time to relax. Make some calls, and touch base with someone you want to thank; this person has gone out of his or her way to help you. Schedule a lengthy lunch or leave work early. Make time for fun and adventure. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might want to show more compassion for someone who is always there for you. You could discover that the role you need to take is more laid-back than you thought. Move forward with a project in the morning, when you expect a more complete response. Tonight: TGIFF.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ The day gets better as the afternoon appears. You sense a difference. How you use the good vibes and energy is your choice. You might find that others see a situation differently from how you see it. Make this distinction a positive one. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Use the morning to push a project forward, make some calls or reach out to someone at a distance. Communication flourishes, and later in the day someone will share a secret with you. You'll glow with the knowledge of this hush-hush gossip. Tonight: Not to be found.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Handle all your important responsibilities first thing in the morning. By afternoon, you could free yourself

up. You will want to make time for a child or loved one who needs your time and attention. This person absolutely adores being with you. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to do more research before you take action. You can act with confidence after you check out some details. In the evening, you'll seem nearly unstoppable. Be sure to let someone know how much you appreciate his or her efforts. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ A partner gives you his or her opinion and verdict. You have tried to talk this person out of this decision, but that effort obviously has not worked. Detach, and you'll be able to understand more of where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Make a call, and meet a friend at a new spot.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be somewhat withdrawn, concerned with a problem. Understand what needs to happen to make a situation work. Others definitely dominate. You will need to walk in their shoes in order to grasp where they are coming from. Tonight: Share more.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Focus on completion. Plan on networking, and know that it could transform into a party. Make sure that you are comfortable with the situation. You are likely to meet someone new. Take your time getting to know this person. Tonight: On the Ferris wheel of life.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to make a difference where it counts. Start by spending more quality time with a loved one. By sharing more of yourself, this person will feel more secure; he or she could learn from your strengths. Tonight: Let someone express his or her caring.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could be behind on a project. Try to complete it, especially as your creativity will surge in the afternoon. Make a note of what might seem like wild ideas, but keep your focus on the end result. Tonight: You get into the fun of interacting with a loved one.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Be sure to make calls and schedule any important dealings with others in the morning. You will feel more than ready for the weekend by afternoon. Though you typically put 100 percent into any effort, the morning proves easier and more effective. Tonight: Weekend mode -- finally!

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

