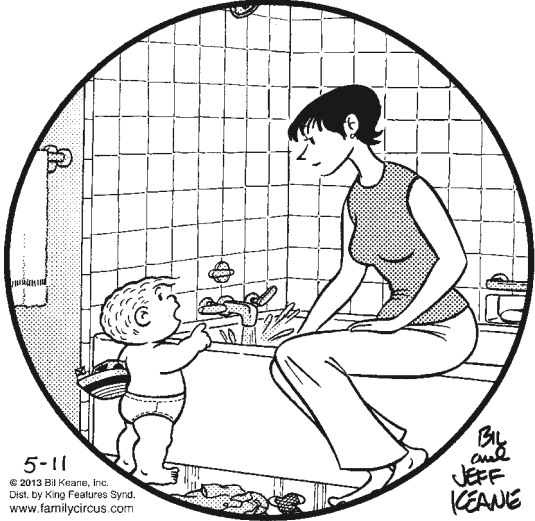
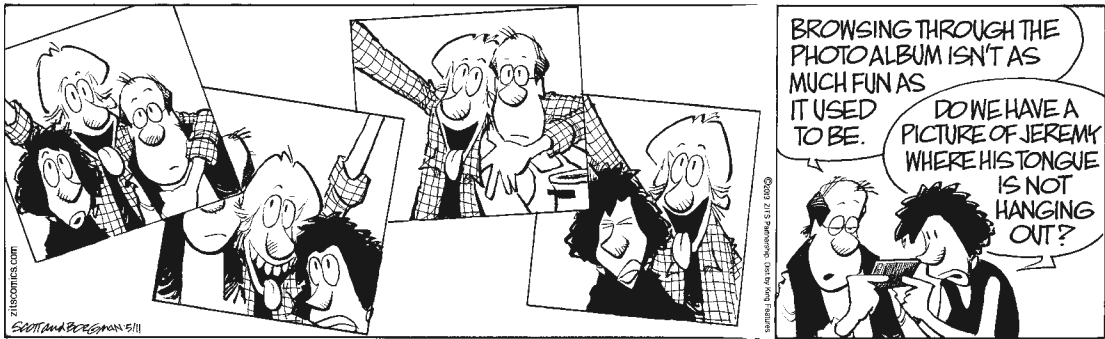


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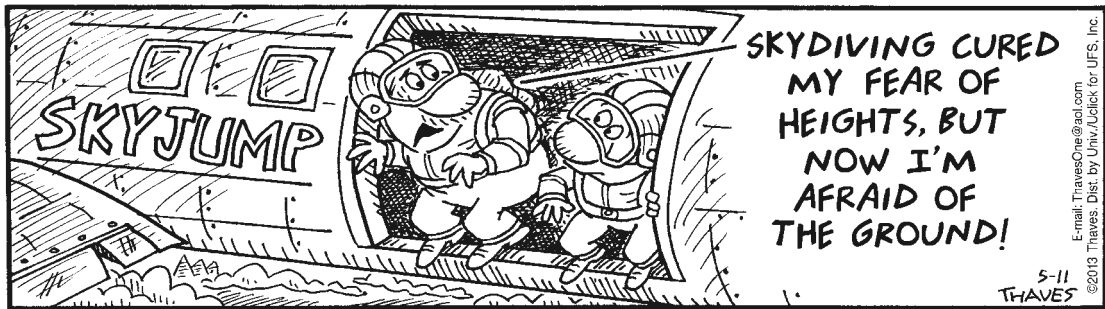


5-11
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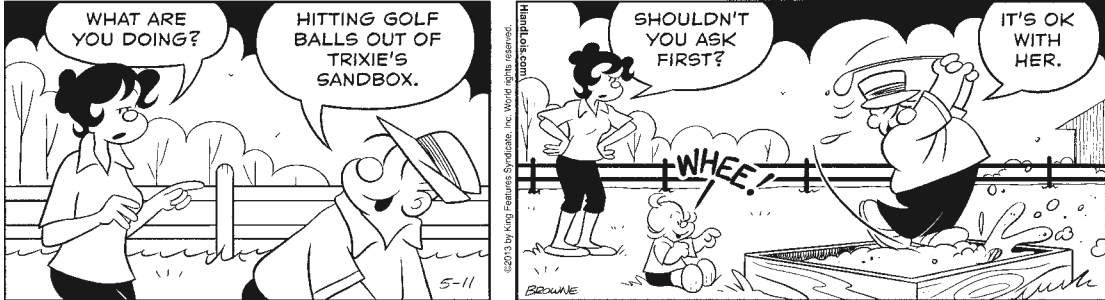
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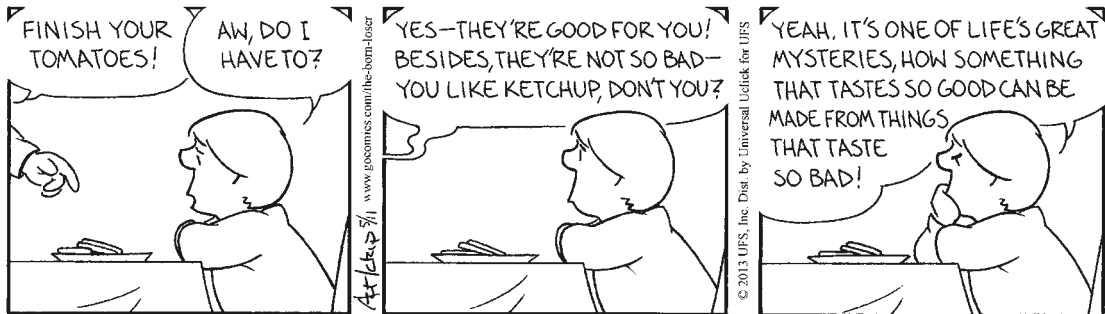
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Happy Tween Is Troubled By Feelings Of Depression

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl who is happy, healthy and doing great in school. But lately I have felt sad, lonely and just plain frustrated. I used to talk to my parents about it, but I don't feel comfortable doing it anymore, and my friends don't like listening to me.

I have tried hard to push back these feelings, but it is putting a strain on me. Sometimes I break down crying and can't stop. Most people think it's just my age, but it's not. It's more than that. I want to talk to a psychologist, but I'm scared to ask for one. What do you think? — SO MIXED UP

DEAR SO MIXED UP: Admitting you need professional help with a problem isn't something to be scared of. It is a sign of maturity. Your mood swings may be caused by the hormonal changes going on in your body as you are becoming a woman. However, because they are of concern to you, it is important that you let your parents and your pediatrician or a counselor at school know how you are feeling. It's the surest way to get the reassurance and, if necessary, the counseling you think you need.

DEAR ABBY: My 6-year-old daughter wants a dog more than anything in the world. She mentions it at least once a day. She's a great kid, well-behaved and doing well in school, so I hate to disappoint her. But I have absolutely no interest in taking on the added responsibility of a pet like that.

My wife and I work long hours and our home is unoccupied for most of the day. It would have to be adjusted to be pet-friendly. I have nothing against pets, but I could never be considered an animal lover. We currently have two goldfish, but I can see that the time those guys bought me is quickly running out.

I want my daughter to be happy and rewarded for

what a great kid she is. I DON'T want a dog. What do I do? — BAD DADDY OUT WEST

DEAR DADDY: I would have suggested that you consider allowing your daughter to adopt a hamster or guinea pig, but they require a certain amount of care. A child has to be responsible enough to feed, water and clean the cage daily, and at 6, your daughter is not mature enough. Tell her that when she is older you will consider letting her have a pet. Cats require much less care than dogs do. Perhaps a compromise could be worked out at a later date.

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 am 75, and when I pass on I would like the undertaker to remove my six gold caps from my teeth. Then my wife can sell them to pay for my funeral. I think this will work out well. What is your take on this? — ED IN FLORIDA

DEAR ED: As I started researching "dental gold," I realized that while there are companies that buy it, the price your wife would get will depend upon the weight of the gold — most of which is 16-karat — and the current market value of the metal.

Because of the nosedive that gold has experienced lately, I'm advising you to start saving up for your funeral NOW and to live long and prosper. My experts have informed me that most funeral homes are unwilling to remove fillings, caps, etc.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013:

This year you open up to many new ideas. You naturally will test your intuition and willingly experiment more. Many of you will continue to stay within the conservative boundaries you have established -- at least for the most part. If you are single, use care with anyone who might pop into your life from out of the blue. This person might not be as open or as clear as he or she would have you think. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to make a major purchase toward a long-term goal. GEMINI often encourages more wildness in 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)

★★★★ You will want to have a discussion involving your finances and potential growth. You have a lot of opinions and a variety of information, but it always is worth brainstorming with someone who has a similar perspective and different knowledge. Tonight: Say "yes."

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Do not let someone push you into spending more than you desire. You know your limits, and you might not want to waver. Follow your instincts as to what is best for you. Avoid overdiscussing a situation if you want a receptive audience. Tonight: Treat a friend to a movie.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You are full of personality and excitement. An offbeat friend can't seem to leave you alone. You might want to incorporate this person into some of your plans. You might know more about someone's feelings than he or she does at this moment. Tonight: Whatever you want.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★ For some reason, you might be out of sorts and not feeling good. You could be assessing a situation differently from those around you. Make time for a dear friend who often shares with you, and vice versa. Take some time to recharge your batteries. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A friend will reach out to you, probably to take off on a day trip or go to a fair or an art show. Make it your pleasure. Crowds offer an opportunity to meet someone

new and interesting. Unexpected developments force a change of plans. Tonight: Follow the crowds.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Relax, and you will achieve what you want. You sometimes have a heightened sense of responsibility. Do check in with an older friend or relative who shares many different ideas. A mini-vacation might be involved with future plans. Tonight: Appreciated for who you are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Be spontaneous. Your sense of fun and adventure will come out. Wherever you are, you open up to new ideas and have a good sense of direction. A conversation with a partner or dear friend could result in new suggestions to solve a key issue. Tonight: Where your mind can roam.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Bring forth more information than you have in the past. You have a situation that is changing the more you open up. When you keep your ideas to yourself, others are left to use their imagination. You might be surprised at some of the responses. Tonight: Say "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to defer more to others, unless you want to go your own way. Though you are a strong, independent personality, you also often want to be with your friends. Express more give-and-take in a relationship, and it will work better as a result. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Get into a fun project, or run some errands. A surprise easily could land on your doorstep. Maintain a sense of humor, and you'll have an easy time working through any problem that could emerge. Think positively. Tonight: Know that you do not need to do anything.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could be out of sorts with a friend who often throws a boomerang into your life. Know that this person probably won't change. You'll have a decision to make. Allow your inner child to emerge. Tonight: Give yourself a little more freedom to express who you are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You are on top of your game, and you'll enjoy yourself to no end. Listen to what is being shared within your immediate circle of friends. Know when to say "enough." You do not like to hurt anyone's feelings, but sometimes it is necessary to speak up. Tonight: Do what you love.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

