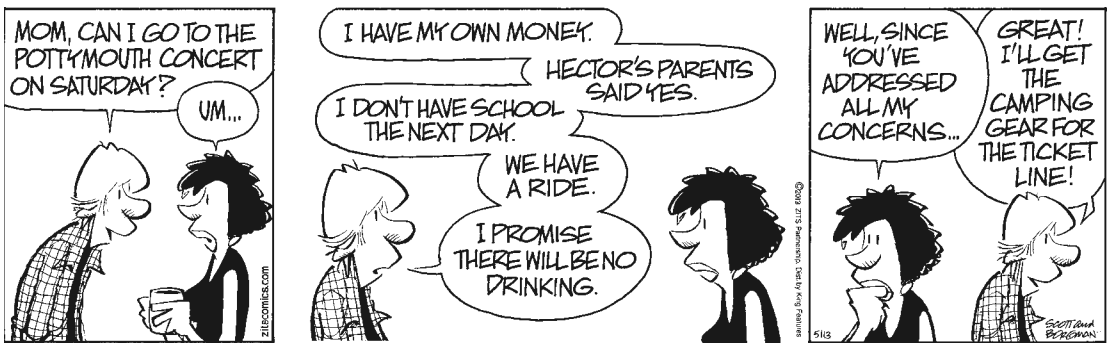


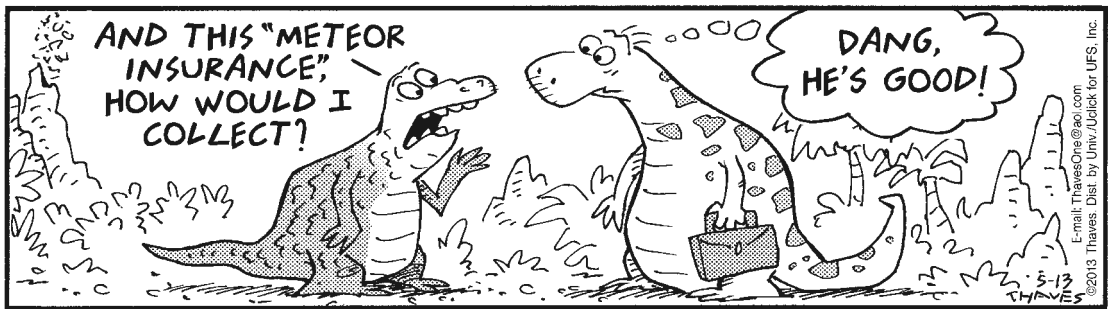
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



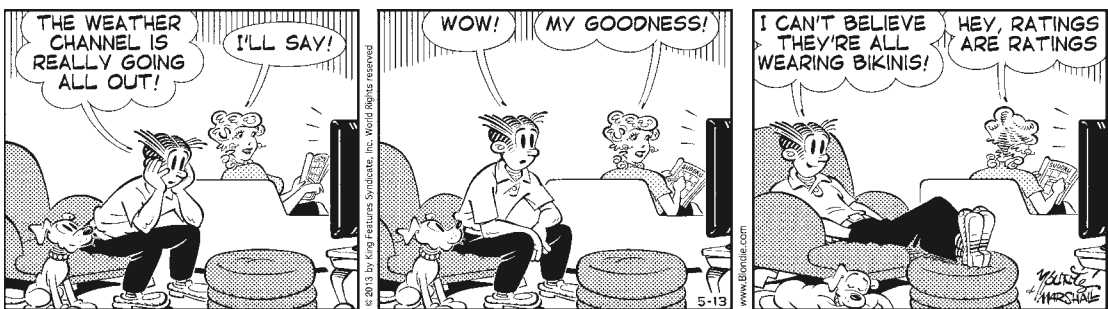
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



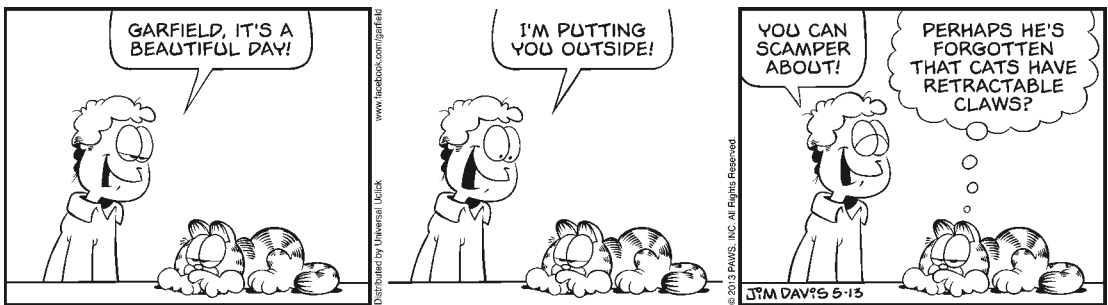
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



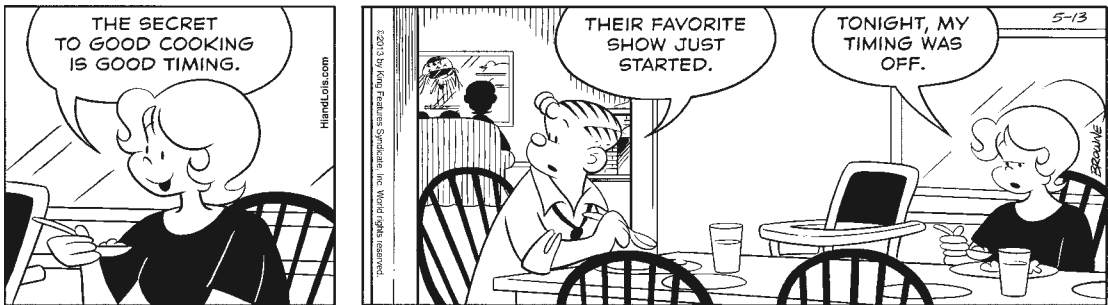
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



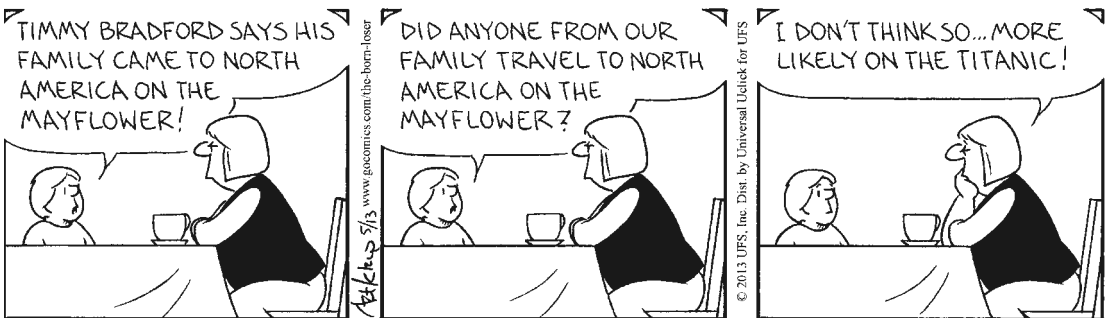
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Groom, Not Bride, Is Under Pressure To Change His Name

DEAR ABBY: My wife's niece is marrying a wonderful man of Greek descent this summer. Her grandfather insists that his last name is too long and impossible to pronounce. He thinks they need to change the name when they marry. He went so far as to make them call him so he could tell them what he wanted. Then he gave them 10 days to "think about it" and call him back with their answer.

He told the mother of the bride that if they don't change the name, then he's "just not into the wedding anymore," implying that he won't help them pay for the event. Needless to say, this has most of the family shaking their heads and thinking the old man has finally lost it.

We understand that this was common practice for families passing through Ellis Island coming to America a century ago, but have you ever heard of this being done for a wedding? Being a therapist, I thought I'd seen and heard it all — until now. Please give us some insight. I'm hoping his "ladyfriend" will read your reply and share it with him. — CAN'T BELIEVE IT DOWN SOUTH

DEAR CAN'T BELIEVE IT: You have described a man who is used to being in control and is not above using his money to manipulate. A century ago when people came to this country through Ellis Island, many of them were escaping discrimination and wanted to leave their past behind them, which is why they Americanized their names.

Others had it done "for" them by government officials who couldn't understand them when they pronounced their names and wrote down what they thought they heard. (Years ago, in Sioux City, Iowa, my mother knew two brothers who walked through different lines and wound up with the names "Ginsberg" and "Landsberg." I don't know which was correct.) Still others were so eager to become

"Americans" that they shortened or changed their names for that reason.

I sincerely hope no one is expecting Granddad to pay for the upcoming wedding. That he would attempt to blackmail the young couple in this way is shameful. Let's hope they are mature enough to ignore him, and that they have a long and happy life together. Opa!

DEAR ABBY: Our youngest daughter will graduate from college next month. The school is 10 hours away by car or a 2 1/2-hour plane ride. There are no direct flights.

My husband and I are excited about this special day, and so is his 82-year-old mother. (I'll call her Ethel.) She mentioned yesterday that she's excited to go.

Abby, Ethel is not a well woman. She has trouble walking, falls occasionally and hasn't been out of this town for 30 years. She is also hypercritical. She does nothing but complain about other people, her health, this country, etc. Looking after her would be a huge burden.

We'd like to attend this milestone event without the added stress of taking care of her. My husband and I have been

married 25 years, and Ethel still complains about me. Because she's such a handful, we have never taken her to dinner or a movie. How do we (kindly) tell her that what she has in mind is not going to be possible? — READY TO CELEBRATE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR READY TO CELEBRATE: You and your husband should tell his mother that graduations in the best of circumstances are stressful events and can be difficult for someone who is unsteady on her feet. You could also mention that seating is limited, because it often is at graduations. Then offer to videotape the ceremony so she doesn't have to miss it.

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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 Cancer if born after 2:57 a.m. (PDT). Prior to that, the Moon is in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013:

This year you aspire to accomplish certain life goals. A friend or group of friends encourages you during the times when you are not sure of your direction. Express your gratitude. If you are single, you are idealistic about romance. Be careful about putting someone you find appealing on a pedestal, as you would be setting yourself up for disappointment. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to partake in a special activity that fulfills a long-term dream. Remember to stay grounded. CANCER idealizes your stability.

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)

★★★ Tension rises because your vision seems to be in direct conflict with what is really going on. Deal with a domestic situation head-on, as it is taking you away from other important matters. A serious discussion likely will evolve as a result. Tonight: Stay present in the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Someone keeps distracting you. In the middle of a conversation, you could find your mind drifting off to other places. It might take some time, but clear out the distraction as soon as possible. Only then can you be more receptive. Tonight: A partner tries to be easygoing.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might be witnessing the aftermath of a very busy period. For some reason, you can't seem to complete everything that you feel needs to be done. Recognize that you are only human. Consider delegating part of your work. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Your mind might be drifting off to yonder lands, but realize that you need to be present in the moment. Call on your self-discipline. If this wandering continues, you'll want to consider taking a trip with a loved one in the near future. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Take your time with a decision, especially if it involves family or a loved one. At the present moment,

you might not be seeing the situation clearly, or perhaps you just don't have all the information you need and want. Ask questions. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what you need to accomplish. You will want to think through a question more thoroughly. You might not be able to see someone clearly at this point, and you could be wondering what to do. Reach out to others for feedback. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's unusual ideas and direction. You might want to proceed in a completely different manner. Honor a change that forces you to rein in your thoughts. Consider being practical for a week or two. Tonight: Out late with friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You can let go of a difficult situation if you so desire. Only at that point will you be able to detach sufficiently in order to gain a new perspective. You might want to have a long-overdue discussion once you discover a different answer or solution. Tonight: Brainstorm with a buddy.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly, and know full well that you first must get a personal matter resolved in your mind. You do not need to agree, but you do need to understand where the other party is coming from. Be a good listener. Tonight: Keep a conversation going.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Defer to others. You might want some time to explore a unique idea, and you'll want to make some phone calls. A friend could be unusually negative, and, in a sense, you might feel as if this person is trying to rain on your parade. Tonight: Say "yes" to someone's offer.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

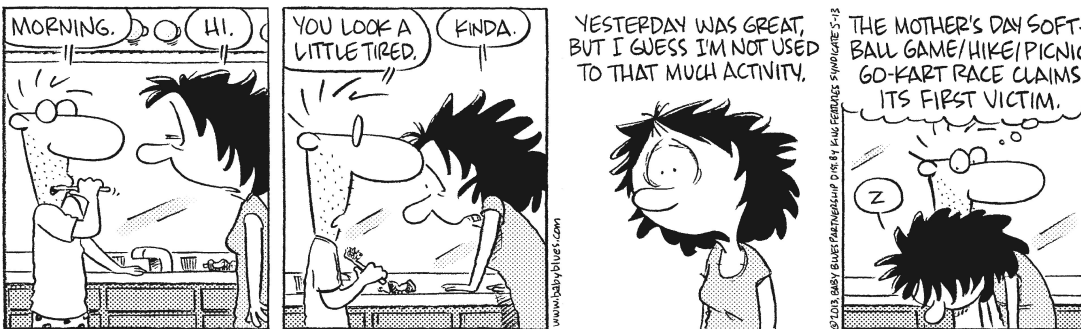
★★★ You could see confusion developing over a money matter. You might be wondering when would be an appropriate time to establish stronger boundaries. A serious discussion with a respected friend gives you a good sense about which way to go. Tonight: Remain nurturing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

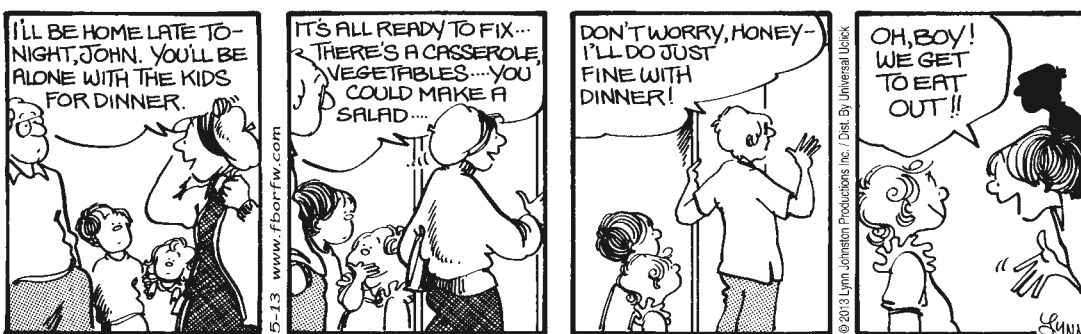
★★★★ You might not be ready to see a situation in its cold, stark reality. Make it OK to see only part of what is happening, despite feedback from others. Follow your intuition, and it will guide you. As a result, you will be able to gain some clarity. Tonight: Relax with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

