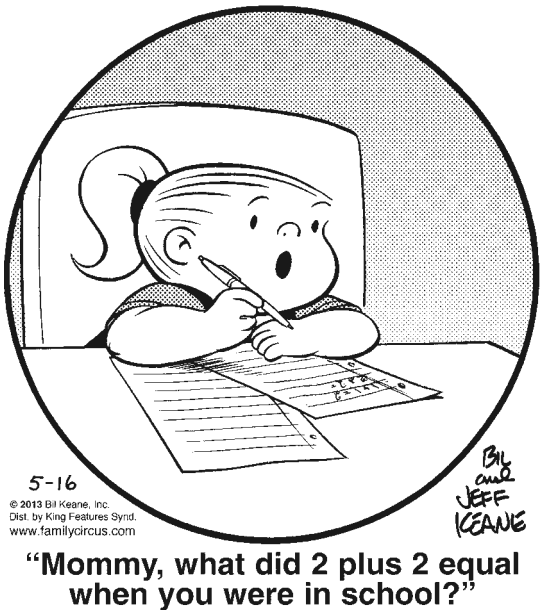
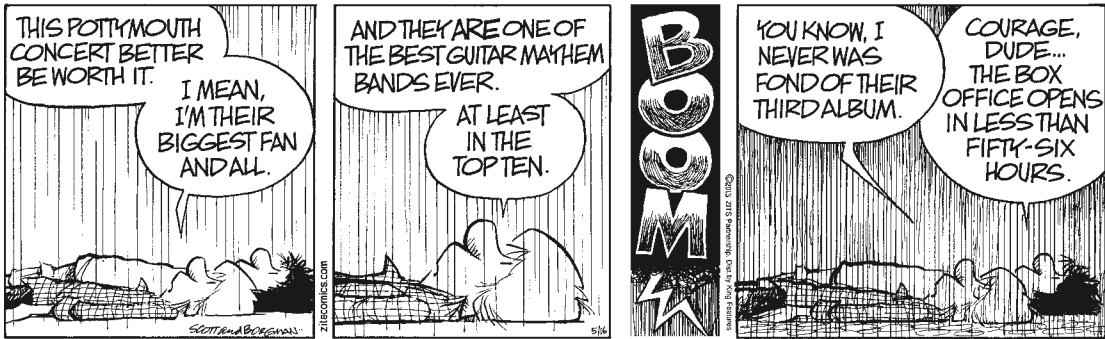


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



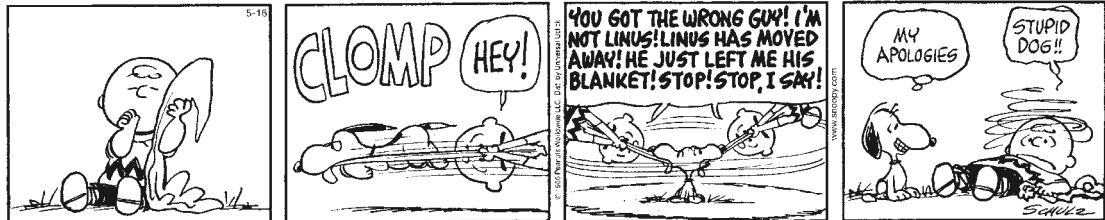
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



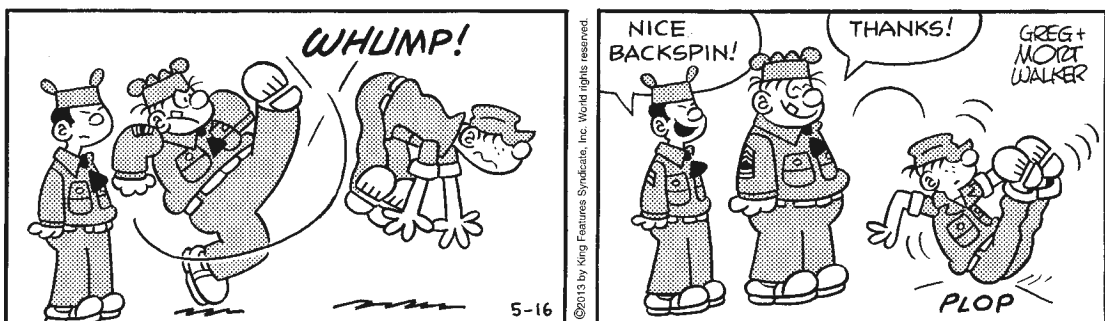
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



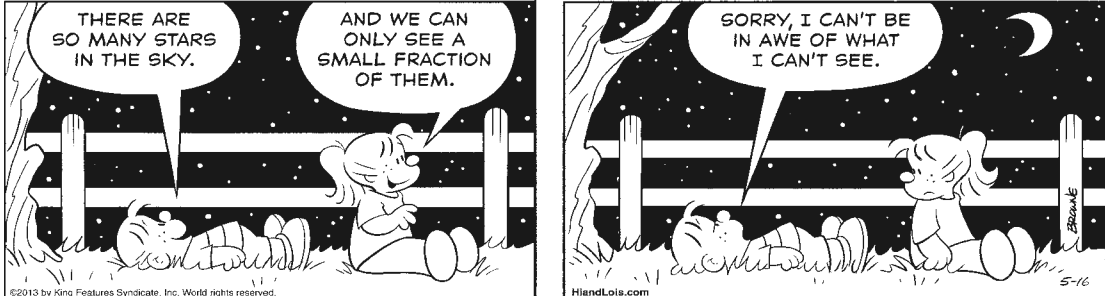
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



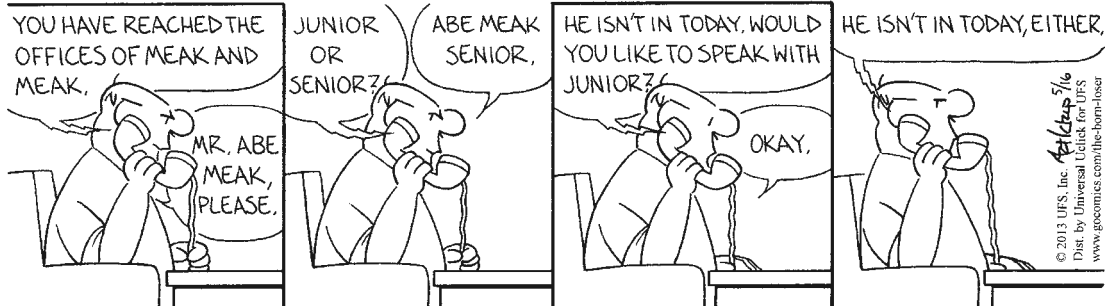
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



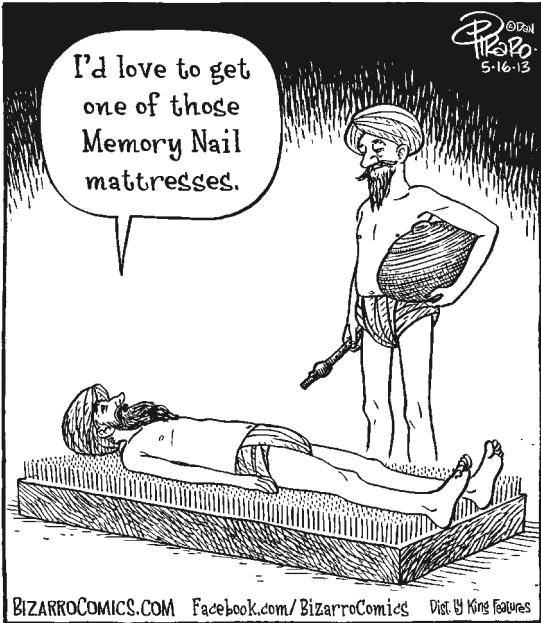
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Woman Needs Courage To End Man's Plan For Future Together

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorcee with college-aged children. I love my children, and I thought I loved my ex. However, after my divorce I wonder if I'm capable of loving anyone other than my children again.

Two years after the divorce I started a relationship with a man who is 10 years older. He had recently ended a long-term dating/living-together relationship. I wasn't particularly drawn to him, but he was very persistent. We finally, jokingly, agreed to be "exclusively casual" and began dating. My children don't dislike him; they are indifferent to him.

We have been dating for six years. I do not love him. He, however, professes to adore me and wants us to spend our lives together. I do NOT want this to go on any longer. I have some serious health issues and I'm not interested in having him as my caretaker. He has already made plans for us to be together for this. I don't want him doing this for me.

He's a good man. He deserves someone who wants the devotion he is so willing to give. How do I tell him to move on? I'm financially stable. He's not after my money; he's very comfortable on his own. I need to force him to go find a woman who needs or wants him. Many of his friends think I take advantage of his feelings. I don't want to be in this position any longer. Any advice you could offer would be a gift. — DRAGGING MY FEET IN TEXAS

DEAR DRAGGING YOUR FEET: The longer you put this off, the harder it will be, and if you don't open your mouth you are going to find yourself in exactly the position you say you don't want to be. The magic words are:

"John," I have enjoyed your friendship, but I'm not in love with you. I had hoped that as time

passed I would fall in love with you, but it hasn't happened and now I realize it isn't going to. I want to deal with my health issues on my own. I don't want you to be my caretaker. What I DO want is to end our relationship so you can find a woman who will love you the way you deserve to be loved. Sadly, that's not me — but I wish you well and ... good-bye."

Do not expect him to welcome this dose of reality, but those are the words that will set you — and him — free.

DEAR ABBY: I am a veteran and while I have spent this past year in school, I can't seem to connect with any of the younger students there. It's disheartening, to be honest, and I feel it's part of the reason I can't enjoy school at my age (23) after all my experiences in combat.

I can't decide whether to drop out and join a private security company, or tough it out and deal with these kids who don't take education seriously. I miss work at the same time. Any thoughts? — TORN IN MILFORD, CONN.

DEAR TORN: The students you describe are at a very different level of maturity than you — and I don't mean chronologically. After having experienced combat, you have a different perspective on what's important in life than someone who hasn't been tested.

You have EARNED the right to a college degree, so please don't waste the opportunity. If you complete your education, you will have more career options than if you quit now. If you feel you want to go into security work after graduation, that option will still be open. Others may not be.



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.

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 Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013:

This year you see life from a renewed perspective. At times there could be some negativity around you, but you will do your best to find a more positive path or more suitable alternatives. Your personal life becomes a higher priority. Your needs will change because of a transformation that takes place in your daily life. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Just go out and be yourself. If you are attached, the two of you make a shift this year and head down a new path. Both of you will enjoy the excitement that follows. LEO serves as an anchor for 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)

★★★★★ Don't worry if you wake up grumpy, because your mood will change quickly. Whether someone brought you doughnuts or a different type of treat, you have reason to smile. Creativity and good vibes work well with your spontaneous nature. Tonight: Continue being spontaneous.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You are anchored, and you know what you want. Someone might try to nudge you off that position, as it could come off as stubbornness. When you see the futility of continuing as you have been, others will notice. Be willing to try a suggestion. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep a conversation moving, and don't allow negativity to flow in. If you feel tired or drained, consider a checkup with the doctor. Once you relax, someone will share more of his or her thoughts. What you learn could surprise you. Tonight: Go with the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Put 100 percent into whatever you do. You see what others don't. They appreciate your insights, depending on how they are delivered. A little diplomacy goes a long way. Try to stabilize a situation. A boss might make an unusual demand. Tonight: Run errands.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ A conversation is important, but don't make it a bigger deal than need be. In fact, a touch of lightness

and concern will produce better, more positive results. The unexpected could play into your plans. You might hear news that forces you to regroup. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ A conversation could be affecting your mood, and therefore your plans. Could you be making more of a comment than what was meant? Talk to an older friend or loved one. This person's insight will help you find the answer. Tonight: Do for you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ A meeting could alter your plans. Your ability to get past an immediate issue will help you to function on a higher level once again. You could hear some unexpected, good news from a close loved one. Verify the details before taking any action. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You might be limiting yourself with self-imposed restrictions. Take today and live in the moment by listening to what others are really thinking, feeling or saying. This detachment will help you determine how to break down your own barriers. Tonight: Could be late.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Get past a momentary sense of insecurity. You might discover that a bright new perspective will greet you as a result, which makes interactions fun, lively and worthwhile. A loved one could act in a way that forces you to give him or her attention. Tonight: Why stop?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Work with an individual directly, and you'll receive the results you want. Though your friends might mean well, they don't always have the best sense of direction. Don't ask for advice; however, if someone offers some, remember to be polite. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Others seek you out, because they enjoy your perspective. Enjoy all of the activity, and know that you are valued. Touch base with a child or loved one. Sometimes you get so busy that you forget to make time for a phone call or a caring gesture. Tonight: Hang out with a good friend.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might want to turn a situation around, but you'll need to work within established boundaries. Use caution with any financial investments, as plans are likely to backfire right now. Avoid any careless spending, and be sure to count your change. Tonight: At a favorite place.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

