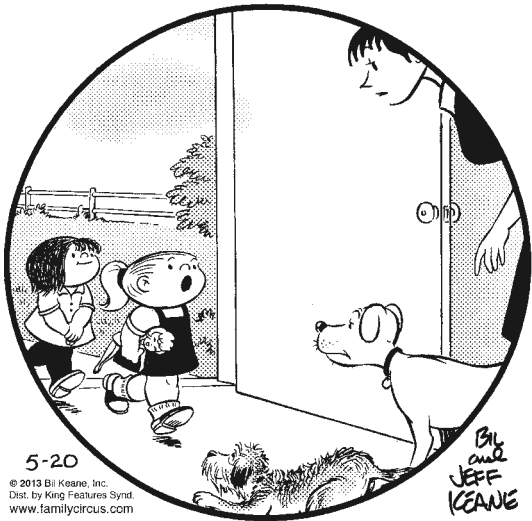
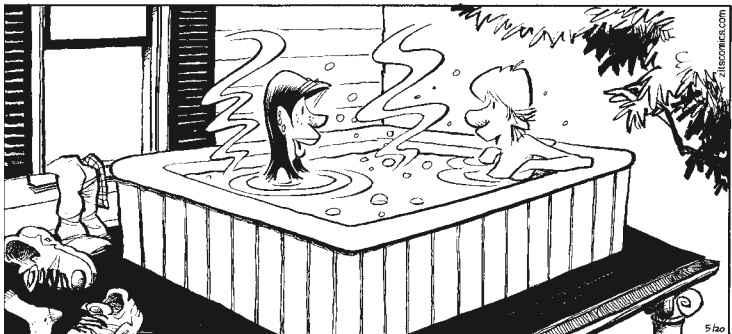


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



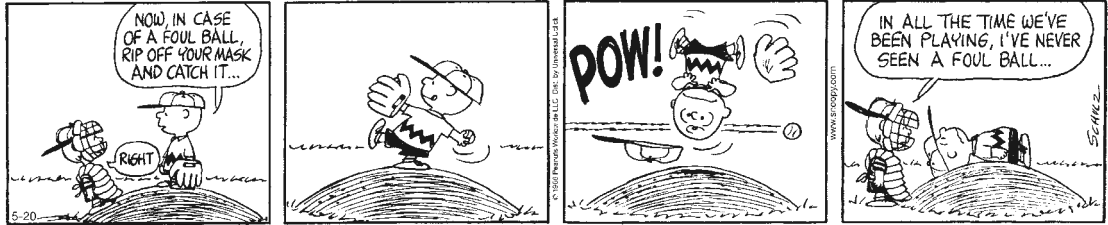
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



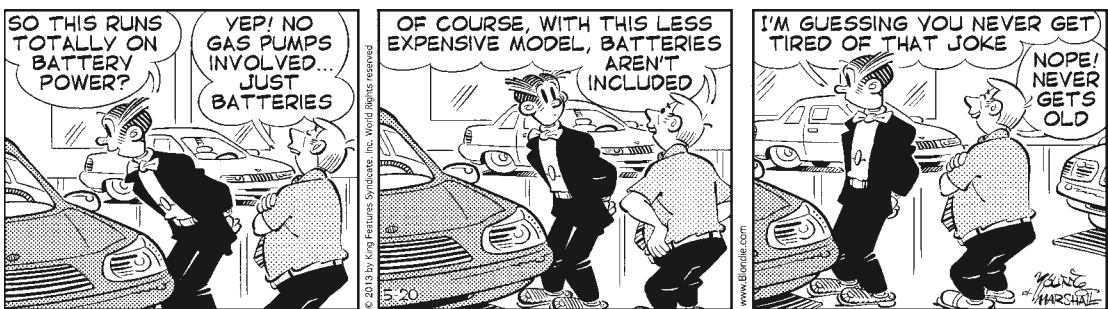
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



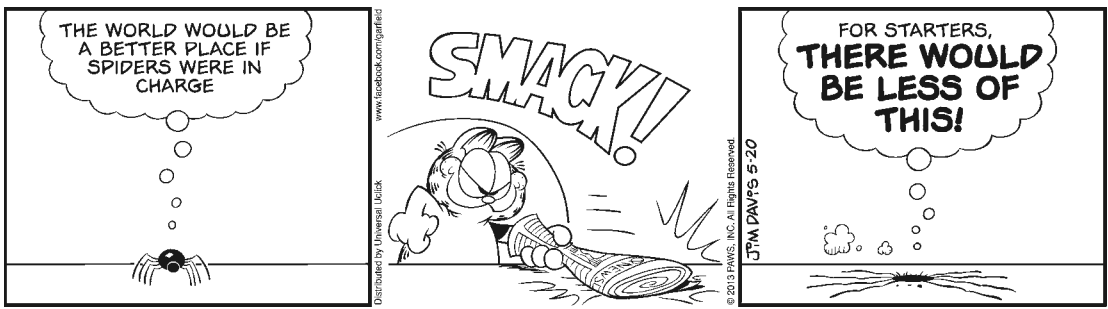
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



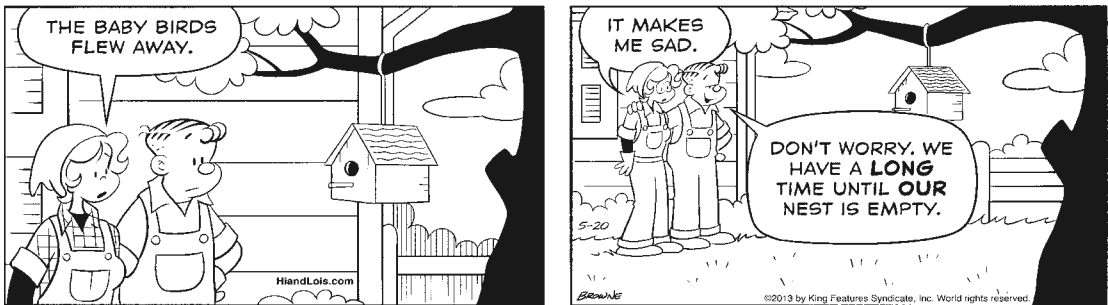
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



G.E.D. Hopefuls Should Get Diploma Before Costs Go Up

DEAR ABBY: I have worked in the field of education for more than 40 years, with the last 25 years serving in adult education, helping students complete their high school equivalency diploma.

BIG changes are impending world-wide in this very important educational service. Starting in 2014, the cost may go up. Up until two years ago, the classes in our community were free. The testing cost \$7.50, which paid for a printed diploma. Since then, the cost has gone up — first to \$25 and then to \$35.

Now the GED program has been bought by a for-profit organization and the costs will go higher than ever. Furthermore, it will no longer be possible to take the test using pencil and paper. It will all be done on computer.

Please encourage the thousands of adults who do not have their high school degrees to make a life-changing decision for themselves and their families NOW! — JOY IN A CLASSROOM DOWN SOUTH

DEAR JOY: I am sure many readers will thank you for this important heads-up. Readers, the changes Joy has described will go into effect on Jan. 2, 2014. According to the media representative for the GED Testing Service in Washington, D.C., the costs of the tests will be determined by the state in which it is administered. It is currently between \$0 and \$250, and in 2014 will "marginally increase or decrease" according to which state you live in. (Decrease? Forgive me for being doubtful ...) Criteria for passing or failing the test will remain the same.

Readers, any of you who are not computer literate should start now. Do not delay. If you are uncomfortable with technology and have a friend or relative who is knowledgeable, more information can be obtained by visiting www.gedtestingservice.com.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in the workplace for 20 years. During that time I have witnessed lying, cheating, lechery, betrayal, vicious gossip, arrogance, enti-

tlement, stealing and bullying, etc.

Last week, a co-worker whom I liked and respected confided to me that she hopes a 102-year-old relative will die soon because she needs to inherit some money. I was floored and had a hard time keeping the shock off my face.

Does work bring out the worst in people? Is it because we all must be here every day? Is it too many people competing for too few resources? Is my hide too thin? Am I in the wrong job? — THE DAILY GRIND

DEAR DAILY GRIND: When you spend eight hours a day with people, they usually reveal their core values at some point. In your case, you appear to work with someone who "over-shares." I don't think your hide is too thin, and I'm not in a position to tell you if you're in the wrong job. You may, however, be overdue for a vacation.

P.S. Let's cross our fingers and hope that relative makes it to 110.

DEAR ABBY: Please settle a family disagreement. A scratch ticket is given to a friend or relative as a gift. If that ticket is a winner, is there an expectation that the winnings should be shared with the person who gave the ticket? — JEFF IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR JEFF: A gift is a gift. There is no obligation to share. Alexander Pope wrote, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," but if you are hoping you'll get a cut of the money, don't hold your breath.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

© 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 in Taurus if born before 2:10 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, it will be in Gemini. The Moon is in Virgo if born before 10:07 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, it will be in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013:

This year you often fuss about details and even could become quite critical; however, you also express a care-free, intellectual attitude and a sense of fun. Can you understand why some people might be wary of you? If you are single, you attract many suitors, regardless of which side of your personality you choose to express. Relate to someone who accepts you for you. If you are attached, certain situations could arise that force your hand. Make an effort to be more understanding with each other. LIBRA draws out the talker 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)

★★★★ Open yourself up and allow greater give-and-take. By the end of the day, what once seemed like a problem because of a change in perspective will dissolve. Your insights clarify issues, and others seek you out as a result. Tonight: Dance right out the door.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Clarification might be hard to get right now, as everyone has a different perspective. Listen to the different opinions in order to get to the root of a problem. The issue simply might be a lack of flexibility. A person from a distance could be challenging. Tonight: Easy works.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You are anchored in reality. You might not be sure which way to turn. A partner seems quite certain that he or she knows the only right way. Let your creativity flow, and you could be surprised by what emerges. Avoid a power play. Tonight: Pretend that it's still the weekend.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Communication could be stifled, if not difficult. Be sure to listen to all of the information that comes in. Someone might be the source of a power play; know that the only way to win here is not to play. Just carry on as if this control issue does not exist. Tonight: Time at home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ It takes courage to speak up and tell it as you

see it. Be direct when sharing your beliefs, and remain open to a discussion. You could feel drained by an unexpected demand placed on you by a friend. Remember to honor your boundaries. Tonight: Chat over a glass of wine.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ By midafternoon, you could be ready to ask for help. Tension will ease, and you'll still be captain of your ship. A discussion leads to brainstorming about responsibilities and what can be achieved. Delegate that which you don't do so well. Tonight: Stay within your budget.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ If you choose to ignore hassles in the morning, know that you will be able to revisit them in the afternoon. An unexpected insight could come in from out of left field -- someone never ceases to surprise you. This person keeps life exciting! Tonight: Join a friend for dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You seem to encounter complications left and right. Your sense of humor will emerge, and it will carry you through these issues with ease. Though you might not accomplish everything you want, you'll maintain a good attitude. Make it a point to get some alone time. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Listen to forthcoming news. The problem lies in the complications. By late afternoon, you'll be able to get past any hassle that heads your way. Make time to meet a special friend whom you often don't get to see. Tonight: Why not meet now? Pick a favorite place.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Take in others' various ideas and suggestions, as it will force you to look at a situation differently. You could be overwhelmed by what comes up. Learn new ways of solving a problem from an intellectual friend. This person has great insight. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

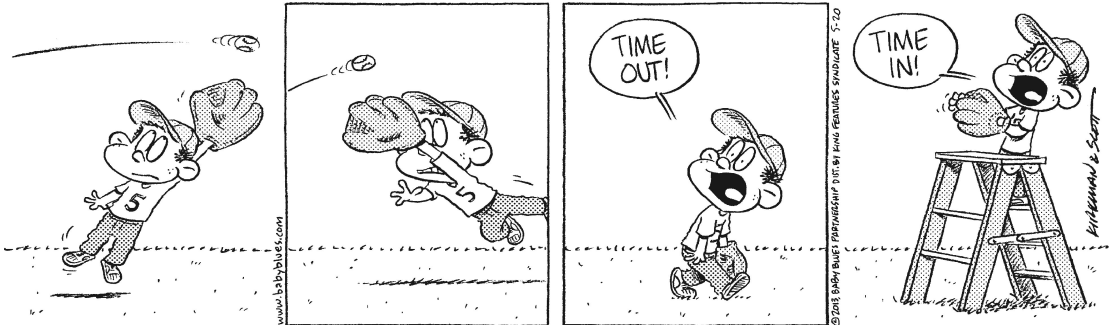
★★★★ You might want to figure out why a partner is creating uproar. Your instincts range from running in and helping to taking a step back. Creating some space will allow this person to see the knot that he or she has tied. Your help might be viewed as bossy. Tonight: Do your thing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

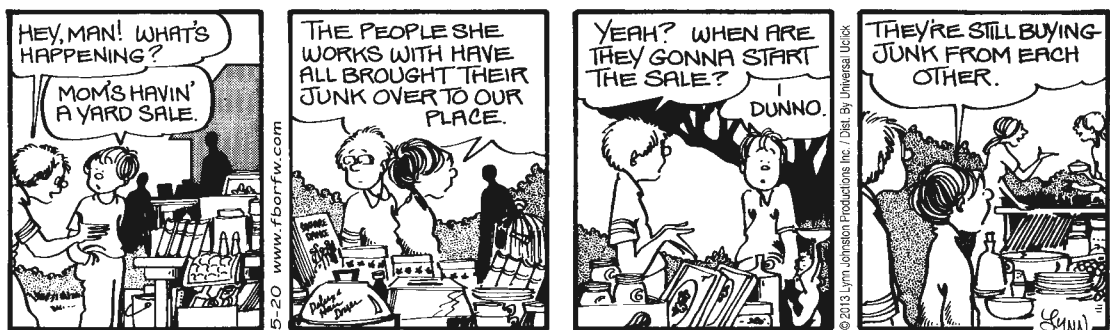
★★★★ Deferring to others has its pros and cons. You know what you want. A friend might come up with requirements or demands that you do not feel are reasonable. If you decide to take a stand, expect a strong reaction. Tonight: Visit with a dear friend or loved one.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

