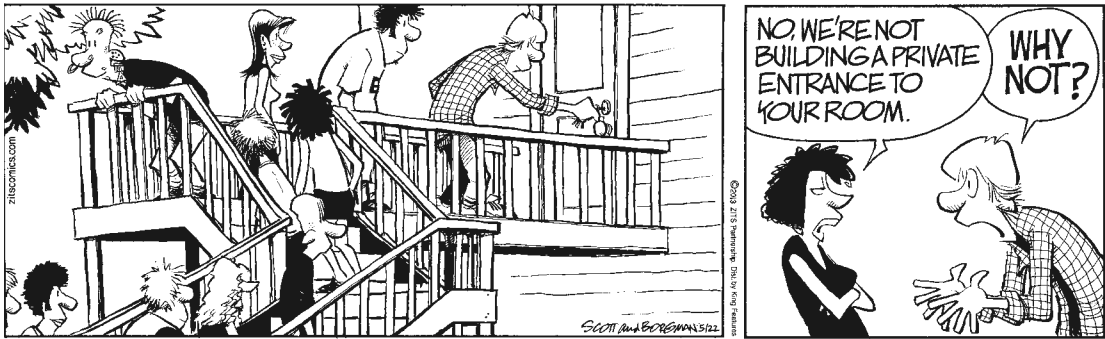


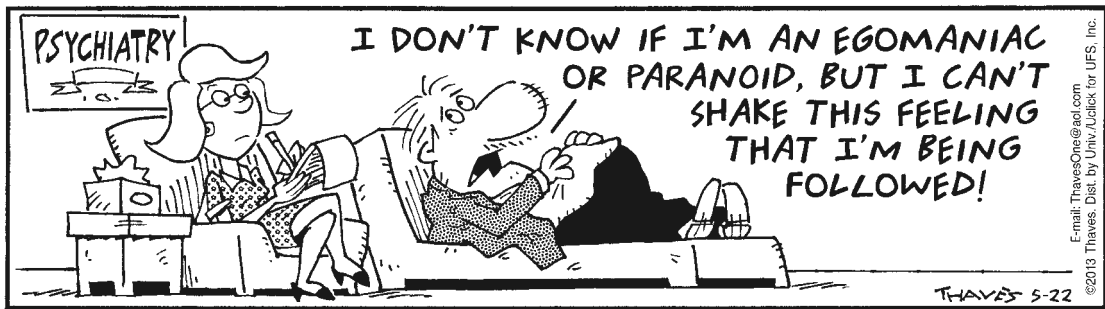
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



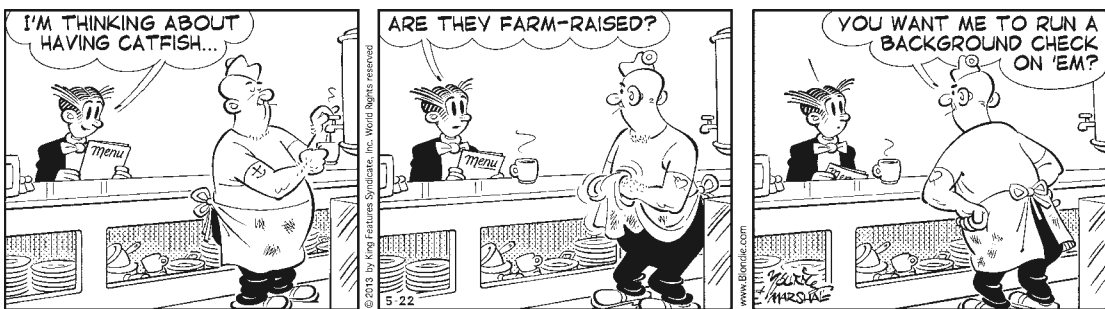
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



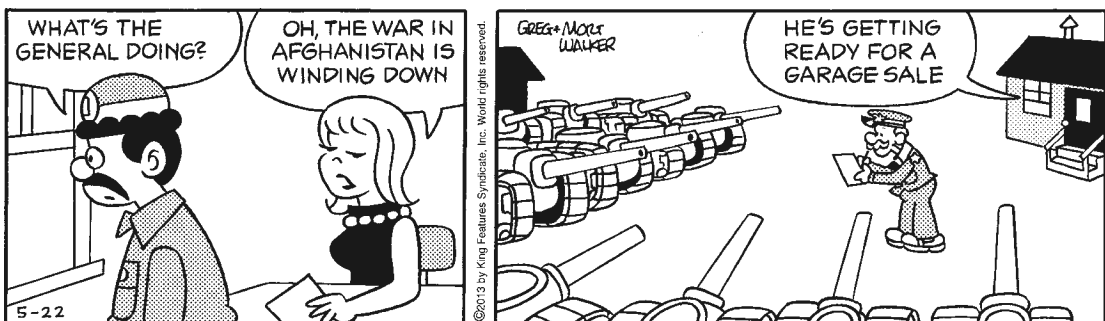
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Gender Reassignment Involves More Than A Lifestyle Change

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently learned that our sister-in-law's adult son from a prior marriage, "Charlie," is now "Claire." My husband and I have three sons, ages 2 to 10 years.

This sister-in-law expressed concern that our 10-year-old would remember Charlie and say something inappropriate. She's demanding that we lie to him and tell him Claire is another daughter we have never met.

My husband and I do not lie to our children. We feel it is best to explain to all three of our sons that Charlie has decided to make a lifestyle change and let them ask questions if they choose. What is your opinion? — TRUTH-TELLING PARENTS

DEAR PARENTS: I don't believe in lying to children either, but before you tell your sons that Charlie decided to make a "lifestyle change," I urge you to do some research about gender identity. It is not as simple on any level as changing an aspect of one's lifestyle. It is about who Claire truly feels she is inside.

If your oldest boy remembers Charlie, he should know that some people feel from an early age that they were born into the wrong body — the wrong gender. Fortunately, there is help for it in the form of medication and surgery. He should be told that the problem has been solved and Charlie is now Claire. When the younger children are older, they can be told the same thing in an age-appropriate manner if the subject comes up.

DEAR ABBY: My children's father died of cancer about a year ago. As a result, they receive Social Security benefits as his surviving dependents. He had no life insurance, so this is all they have.

The problem is nearly everyone who finds out they receive this money becomes angry and jealous. Abby, these benefits came from his earnings and are

meant to assist me in supporting the children he is no longer here to help with. We try not to mention the money, but sometimes it comes up in conversation.

How can people be jealous about money received from such a tragedy? Would they really want to lose a family member in exchange for cash? Please ask people to be more considerate in a situation where a child has paid a far greater price than any check in the mail could cover. — SURVIVING MOM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MOM: I'm sorry for your loss. People, particularly in a difficult economy, can become jealous if they think someone is getting "something for nothing." (And depending upon how dysfunctional a family is, they might indeed be willing to "lose" a family member in exchange for cash.)

I'm passing your sentiments along, but my advice to you is to stop discussing finances unless there is a specific reason why the person you're talking to must have that information.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law picks her nose in front of others by covering her finger with a tissue and then digging deep into her nose. She claims this is acceptable behavior even though the rest of us are grossed out. She refuses to stop unless somebody like you tells her otherwise.

Please help with this. I have a 7-year-old daughter who sees her, and I don't want her to think this is proper behavior in public. — GROSSED OUT

DEAR GROSSED OUT: It's one thing to use a tissue for a gentle nose-blow, and quite another to use it as camouflage for a major excavation. That your MIL is grossing out those around her should be evidence enough that what she's doing is bad manners. It is showing lack of consideration for those around her.

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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 Gemini and a Moon in Libra if born before 1:55 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013:

This year you become very aware of your social interactions. You want more from your relationships, and you approach life with a greater understanding and lightness. Your lack of intensity might be a relief to many people. If you are single, you'll meet someone who could become very special to you. If you are attached, you are likely to fulfill one of your goals together. You will enjoy the process as much as you enjoy the outcome. **SCORPIO** has a lot of your qualities, but he or she is quieter about it. 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)

★★★★ More options could appear than you'd thought possible. Consider having a long-overdue conversation with a trusted adviser or friend. You will gain a new perspective as a result. Both of you will see the negatives as well as the positives. Tonight: Continue a conversation over dinner.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might not be sure about an offer that seems nearly too good to be true. Give yourself time and space. Do what you must, but call a trusted loved one for a talk later in the day. Together, you make great decisions. Tonight: Make it easy to get together with friends.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Use the first part of the day for anything that depends on your ingenuity. Sometimes you go overboard without intending to, especially financially. Avoid taking a risk for now. Later, when you have an opportunity to weigh the pros and cons, do. Tonight: Get some R and R.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Getting going might be nearly impossible. Why not take the day off? You might need some space in order to see a situation more clearly. Also, stop and consider what you want from this circumstance. You will come up with an effective solution. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Answer calls, and arrange an impromptu meeting later in the day. By late afternoon, you will want to

slow down and do a bit of reflecting. You also might want to complete some quiet work. Rethink a personal situation involving a loved one at a distance. Tonight: At home.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to do something very differently from how you have in the past. Do some research, or at least bounce several of your ideas off someone. You will be able to determine which way to go after having this conversation. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You have extra charisma this morning, especially if you make decisions from the perspective of the greater good of the whole. Be sure to keep an eye on the ramifications of a financial decision. Avoid a risk, no matter how dreamy it might seem. Tonight: Treat yourself.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★ Gather much-needed research in order to confirm in your own mind which path is right for you. Listen to powerful feedback from a friend and/or an adviser. This person has your best interests in mind. Later today, let others know how you feel. Tonight: Where the action is.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might not believe the good will that surrounds you this morning. You don't often get sunny weather with the wind pushing you in the direction you want. Network, make calls and say "yes" to a sudden meeting. Tonight: Take some personal time; you have a lot on your plate.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Assume the lead, but know that you could get some flak for your decisions. Be aware of your boundaries. The afternoon presents you with a positive response and a brainstorming session. You'll get to share your dreams with others, and they with you. Tonight: Take a break.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

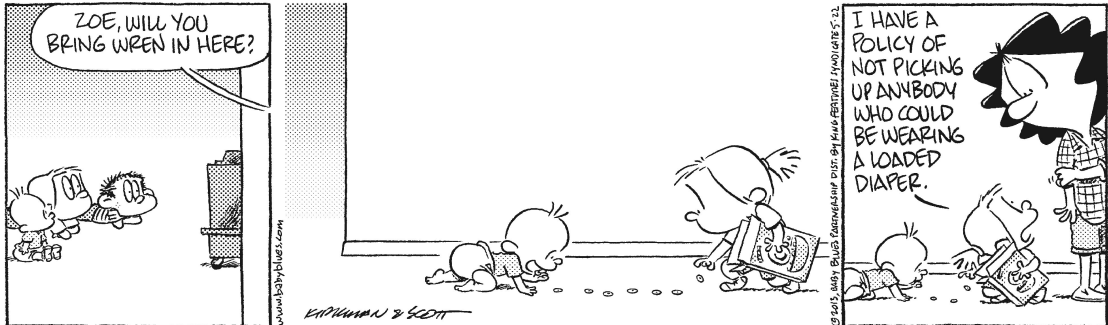
★★★★ By all means, get ahead of a problem by finding the solution. Though many might not understand how you got there, they will be relieved to discover that you got to that point. Accept a last-minute request to fill in for a boss or supervisor. Tonight: Consider being freer.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Respond in kind to a partner who is making sure that you are on the same page. Unity might be more important than you realize. Look to plan a trip or getaway for a few days. It is time for you to indulge in a long-term desire. Tonight: Look beyond the obvious.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

