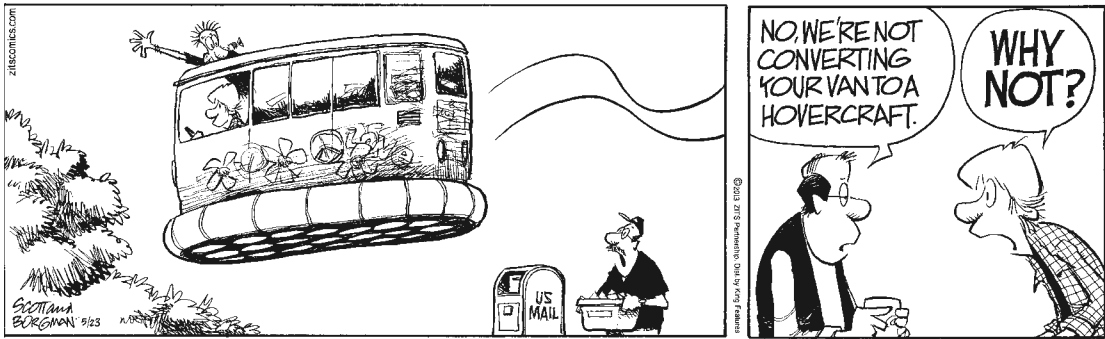


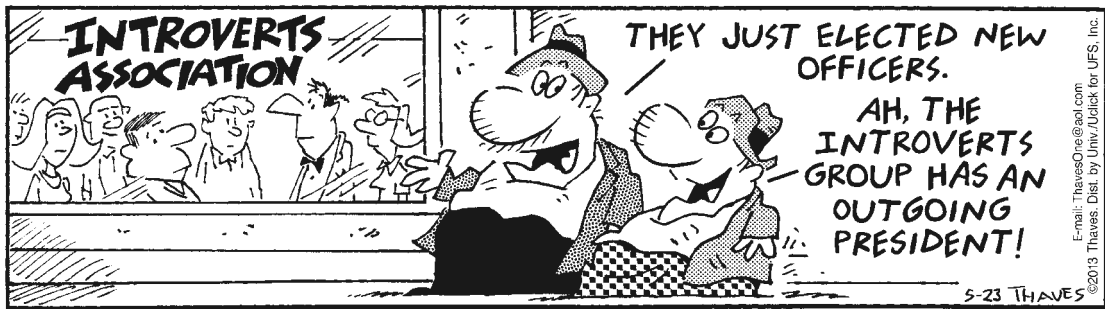
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



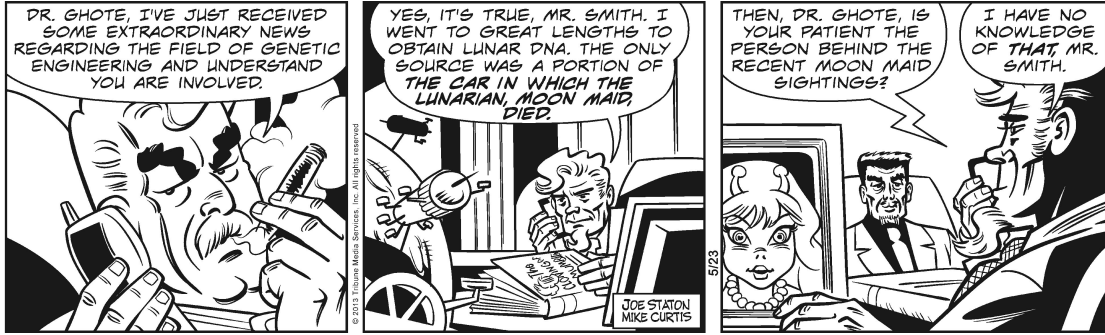
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



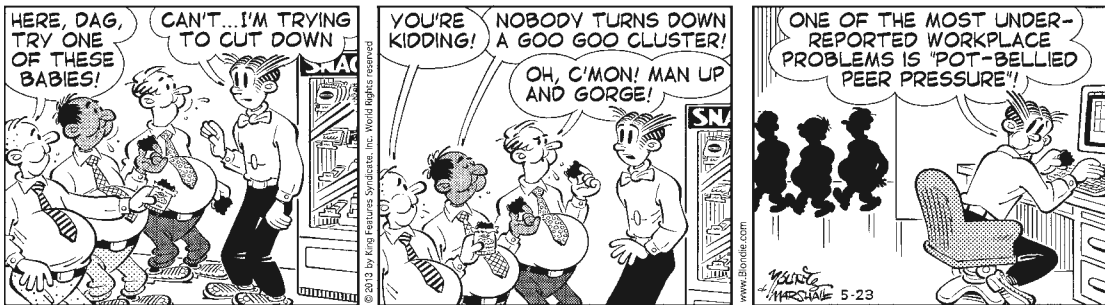
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



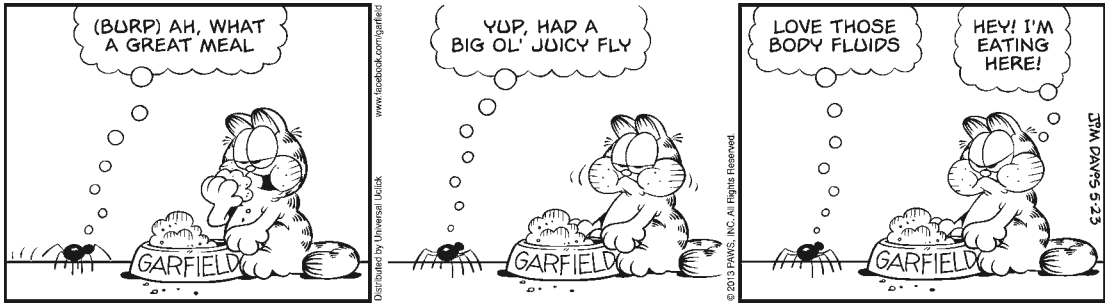
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



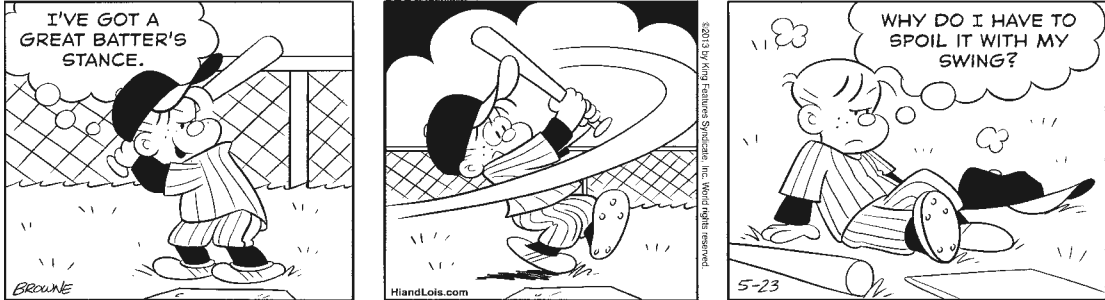
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



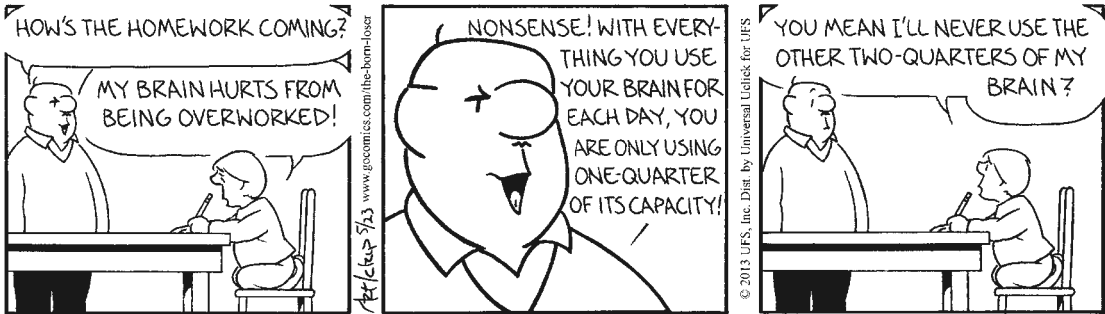
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



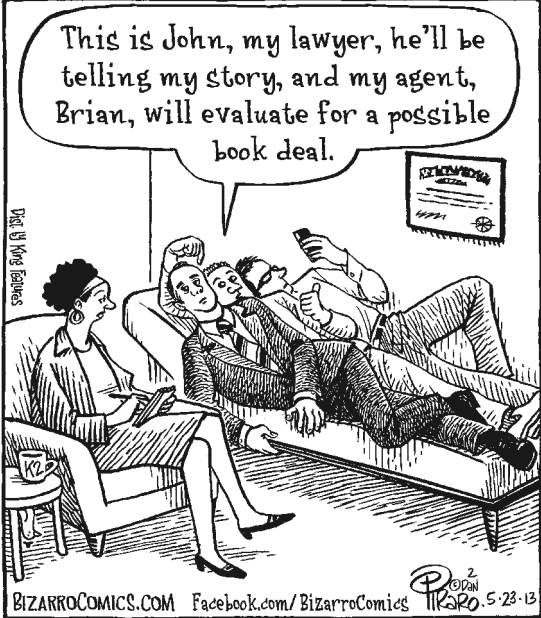
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Money Spent To Keep Kids From Smoking Is Not A Bribe

DEAR ABBY: I was surprised to see you equate a concerned grandmother's creative solution to smoking with bribery in your Feb. 14 column. The word "bribe" has a negative connotation. What the grandmother did was offer an incentive, NOT a bribe, that will benefit her grandchildren in the long run. I think the woman should be congratulated.

Now for a disclaimer: When my daughter was 14, I came up with the same idea in the form of a wager. I bet her that if she could resist peer pressure and not become a smoker by the time she was 21, I would buy her the dress of her dreams. To my delight, she won the bet. By then she was studying to become a marine biologist, so instead of a dress, the money went toward a wetsuit.

At 43, she's still a nonsmoker and she has now made that same bet with her children. It's the best money I ever spent. — RETIRED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

DEAR R.C.S.W.: Oh me, oh my, did I get clobbered for my response to that letter. Out of the hundreds of letters and emails received, only ONE person agreed with me. The rest were smokin' mad. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In my many years as a school psychologist, I have counseled hundreds of parents and teachers about dealing with behavioral issues in children. I often make the distinction between a "bribe" and a "reward" by describing a bribe as something you give someone to do something dishonest, while a reward is given for doing something commendable. What she did was reward their good choice in not developing a potentially fatal habit. — OLD-SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

DEAR ABBY: When you give someone money for something that has already been completed, it's a paycheck and not a bribe. It was pointed out to me

that few of us would continue to go to work if we weren't paid for it, and those grandchildren were being paid for "work" that was already completed. It's an important distinction that may be helpful for

parents and other adults to understand. — FORMER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your answer! What that grandmother did was REWARD her grandchildren, not bribe them. A lot of pressure is put on teens, and it takes considerable willpower and maturity to avoid some of these temptations.

At 16 or 17, it is hard for them to imagine being over 30, and none of them can imagine being 60 or 70 with lung disease. Hooray for grandparents who can help them avoid adopting a life-threatening habit in any way they can! — GRANDMOTHER IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY: I told my son I would give him \$1,000 at the age of 21 if he didn't smoke. It wasn't bribery. It was a great tool to combat peer pressure. Whenever he was offered a cigarette, he could simply say he had a better offer. Not only did it work, the other kids were envious. — MICHIGAN MOM

DEAR ABBY: My pre-teen daughter was devastated when her maternal grandfather died from the effects of emphysema. In spite of it, she took up smoking in her teens. We threatened her, grounded her, took away privileges, even tried guilt trips. Nothing worked. Her choice to smoke was influenced by her peer group.

I would have mortgaged our home, sold our possessions and borrowed money from the bank if I thought I could have altered her choice by bribing her. By the way, she has been diagnosed with pre-cancerous cells, but even this hasn't been enough to cause her to quit. — WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING

© 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 Gemini and a Moon in Scorpio.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013:

This year your interactions with loved ones come to the forefront. You are a bundle of energy and fun, but you'll discover the need to slow down when it's necessary. If you are single, you will attract someone who is on the same page as you. Be aware that this person might be in the midst of a transformation, and you easily could grow in different directions. If you are attached, the two of you often connect when you are less intense. As a result, your bond will be enhanced, and you'll become closer. SCORPIO studies the reasons behind your actions.

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)

★★★★ If you feel sluggish, do not be surprised. Your dream life last night might have been unusually active. Stay low-key in a discussion with a partner. Even if you have made a decision, take a day or two before you act -- new information could be heading your way. Tonight: Relax.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might have a set of errands and projects to complete, but a loved one keeps requesting your attention. Decide to make an adjustment, rather than get upset. You have a lot to do, but remember that people, especially this person, come first. Tonight: Come to a decision.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Make your move. You know what you want to do -- now go for it. Others might be distracting, so for now, leave them be. Once you feel more relaxed and accomplished, you might be more available. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise, even if it's just walking the dog!

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your creativity leads you in a new direction and opens up a lot of doors. If this energy is funneling into your work, you might want to test out your ideas. In an emotional sense, you will see the results soon enough. Tonight: Reach out to friends, and start the weekend early.

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

★★★★ You'll want to understand what is happening with you before you respond to others. If you feel out of sync, you might want to take part of the day off or work

from home. A change of pace also could help. Go along with a friend's suggestion. Tonight: Stay close to home.

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

★★★★ You might want to understand what is motivating a loved one, especially if a situation makes no sense. Listen to feedback from someone you care about. You have the ability to be remarkably flexible -- demonstrate that characteristic. Tonight: Catch up on a neighbor's news.

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

★★★ You appear to be confident, but you actually could be concerned about a financial matter right now. Get advice from several people who think differently from you. Weigh a risk carefully; the potential losses might not be worth it. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

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

★★★★ You finally will feel ready to make a decision or have an important talk. Know that you might need to repeat your words in a way that others will understand. Use the moment to network, or choose to do some other activity that you would enjoy. Tonight: Out on the town.

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

★★★ Take a break from all the activity. You will be happiest when you're working by yourself in handling an important issue. You might want to deal with a friend or loved one directly. Stop and consider where you are coming from. Are you being clear? Tonight: Play it low-key.

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

★★★★ Rethink a decision involving a long-term goal. A meeting gives you a greater grasp on what is happening. You might be in the middle of some dynamic changes. Sometimes by saying nothing, you really are saying "yes." Tonight: Tap into your imagination, and then go for it.

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

★★★★ Your ability to move past a problem helps you let go of a difficult situation. A higher-up will give you approval to move in a certain direction, and you'll feel empowered. Know that this person will be observing how well you handle a professional matter. Tonight: To the wee hours.

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

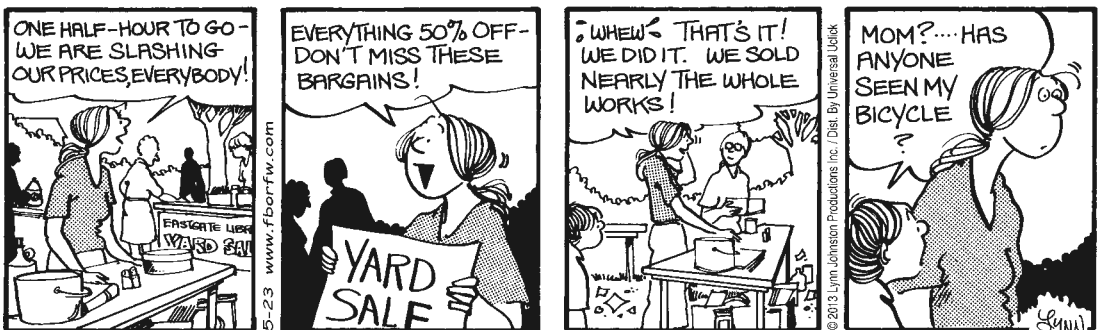
★★★★ Your ability to empathize with others emerges. You might be able to help someone who can't see the big picture. Ease this person into your vision, as he or she could have difficulty letting go. As a result, he or she will make better choices. Tonight: Try some vegan cuisine.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

