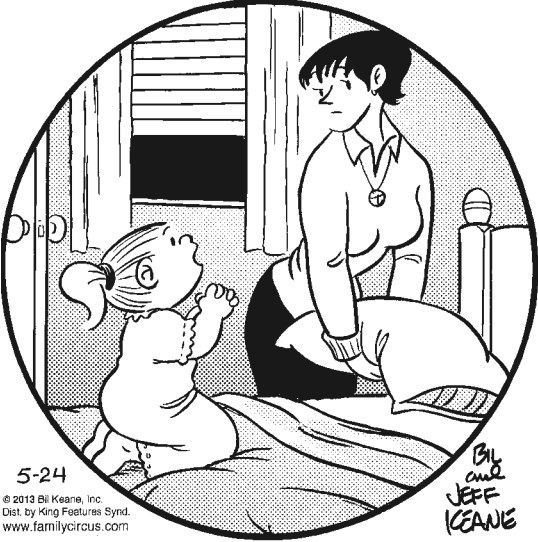
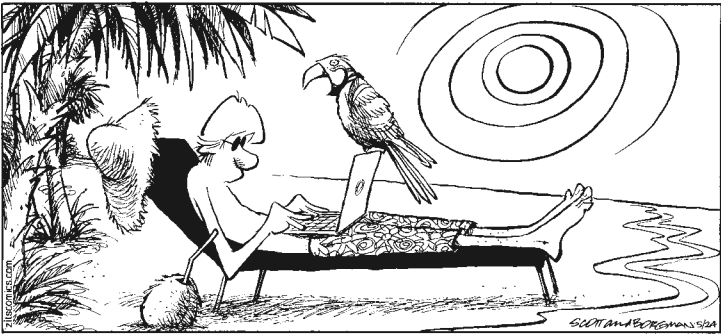


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



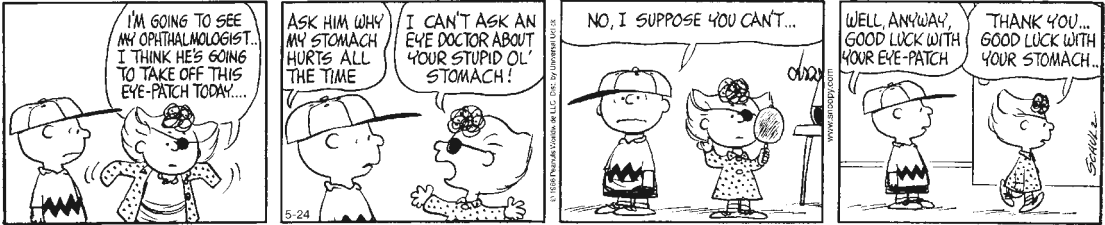
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



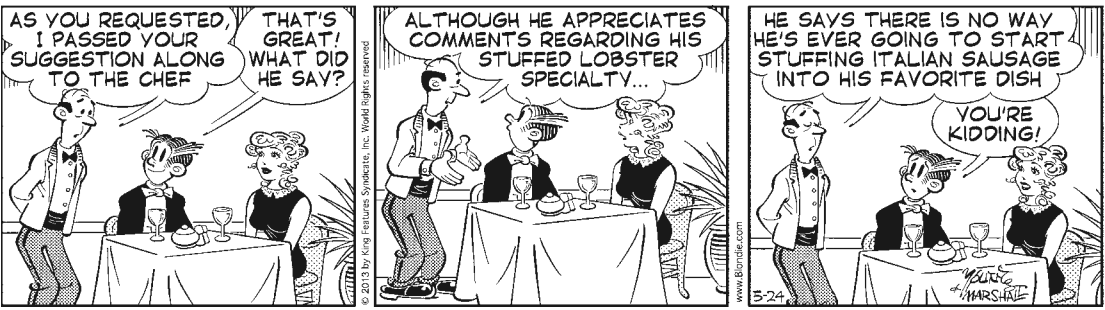
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



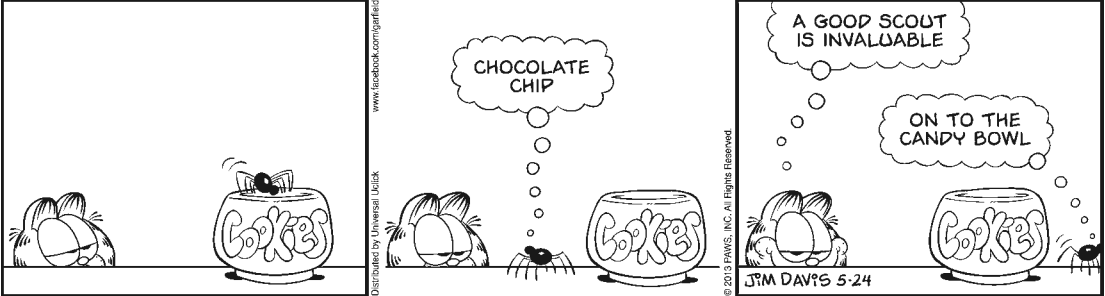
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Wedding Thank-You Note Fails To Deliver Intended Message

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I attended the wedding of the son of some old friends in another state. Rather than buy the young couple a gift, we instead gave them a check for \$1,000. Imagine our astonishment when a month later the following arrived in our mailbox:

"Dear 'Loretta' and 'Evan,'
"Thank you for the generous donation. We really enjoyed spending that money. If ever you feel like you have too much of it, we would gladly take it off your hands."
"Love, 'Mason' and 'Candace'"

Abby, my husband and I have worked hard for many years in our business and have been blessed by the Lord. We are not millionaires. We were happy and humbled to be able to share with them — until we received this. The money wasn't a donation; it was a GIFT. — STUNG IN SIOUX CITY

DEAR STUNG: Let's hope the note you received was an unfortunate attempt at humor. While the message may have gone over like a lead balloon and I'm sure the parents would be beyond embarrassed if they knew, at least you received a thank-you for your generosity. I hear from many people who complain that their gifts were not acknowledged at all.

DEAR ABBY: One of my co-workers takes company research presentation books into the rest-room with him multiple times a day and spends upwards of half an hour in there with them. The unsanitary implications of this drive me batty.

I am not germophobic, but taking shared materials into the bathroom while you're doing your business is just too much for me. It's not like he's taking in a newspaper that can be tossed out; these are research materials that we must all share!

My co-worker told me I need to "get over it," that

this is a "me" issue. Am I crazy or is taking shared workplace materials into the bathroom gross and inappropriate? — WAITING FOR E. COLI TO KILL ME

DEAR WAITING: You are asking the wrong person this question. You should be asking the head of human resources or your boss.

I'm no germophobe either, but I agree that what your co-worker is doing is extremely inappropriate. You should not have to sanitize your hands after touching anything your co-worker might have touched, but that's what I'm suggesting you do.



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.

It would take me forever to tell you everything that has been said and done. Forgiving sounds simple, but it is the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Can you help? — CHALLENGED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CHALLENGED: If hate and resentment are eating away at you, then it is probably healthier for you to let go of it. Forgiving someone isn't doing something for someone else; it is a gift you give yourself that allows you to move forward with your life. Your religious adviser can help you — or, if you prefer, a licensed mental health counselor.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Scorpio if born before 2:39 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013:

This year you opt for a new beginning. You will be happier if you act like the master of your own destiny. You often will suppress your anger only to have it later emerge in inappropriate ways. Learn to verbalize your feelings more often. If you are single, you will open up new doors, but first, you must completely detach from someone in your past. If you are attached, the two of you struggle with your differences. Don't worry so much about them — just accept each other as you are. SAGITTARIUS can be very testy at times.

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)

★★★ You could be coming off a lot tougher than you actually are. Someone might think that you are arguing. When you simply are trying to give a different perspective. Stop and communicate your feelings rather than having to demonstrate that you are right. Tonight: Dance stress away.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You are sensitive, and you'll sense that tension is mounting. You could become quite provocative as a result, which is not usual for you. Let go of any rigidity, and opt for a solution. There are other methods of self-expression. Tonight: Observe what difficult looks like.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to see a situation differently, and you'll take the necessary steps toward achieving that goal. Know that you can't sit on anger, whether it is grounded or not. Try to express your anger in a way that can be heard. Tonight: Confusion surrounds an older person.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be questioning what might be the best way to proceed with an angry friend. Anger is close to the surface for many people. Try to stay reasonable. Listen to what this person has to share, and try not to pass judgment. Tonight: Let off steam with a co-worker or pal.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You will feel tension build in nearly every as-

pect of your life. A discussion with a friend could help free you up. You suddenly might see a situation in a different light and feel less pressured. Remain sensitive to a child or loved one. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ No matter what words you use to convey your thoughts, it seems as though others feel challenged. That is not your intention! Take a look at what is happening around you. Perhaps others are overwhelmed. Tonight: Do not hold a grudge; instead, go out and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Pressure continues to build. A partner will make a demand, and you might not know whether you can meet it. A fight could ensue if you are unsure in any context. Don't take action until later today, when a conversation seems more plausible. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might trigger a partner or key associate. Whether it is inadvertent or intentional makes little difference, as you have your hands full. Letting off steam might feel good, but resist the urge to do so right now. Tonight: Buy a token of affection for someone you care a lot about.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might want to rethink a decision that involves a private matter, as it could be affecting other areas of your life. You can try to work through your stress and anger, but don't be surprised if you get triggered. You can sit on a situation for only so long. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You will make your point, no matter what it takes. If you see someone take off on the warpath, you'll know that he or she got your message. Is this the reaction you wanted? Count on passing the peace pipe sooner rather than later. Tonight: Treat someone to drinks and munchies.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might be irritated by a domestic or personal issue. Considering all of the responsibilities that you need to handle, you could lose your temper more easily. Be careful, as this could affect various people in your life. Tonight: Go along with a friend's suggestion.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

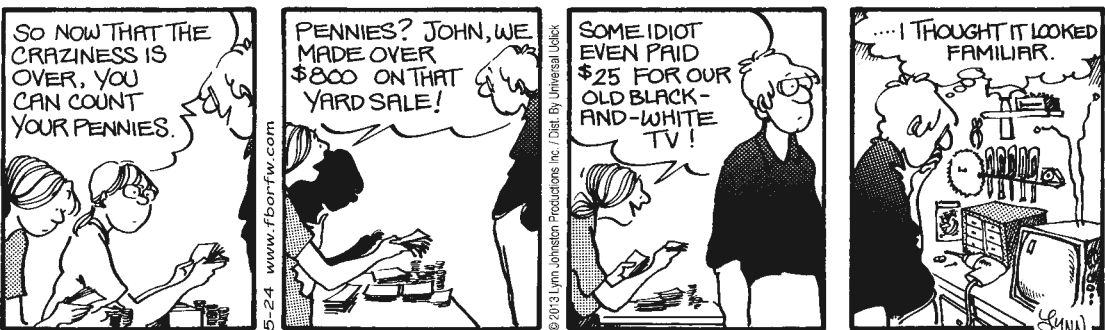
★★★★ Someone is so in tune with you that you don't need to say much in order to make an impression. Remain understanding, and take in the big picture. You will gain some insight as a result. Make a phone call to an older relative at a distance. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

