

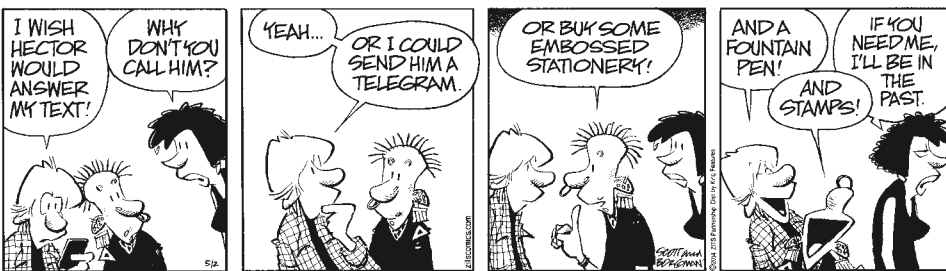
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



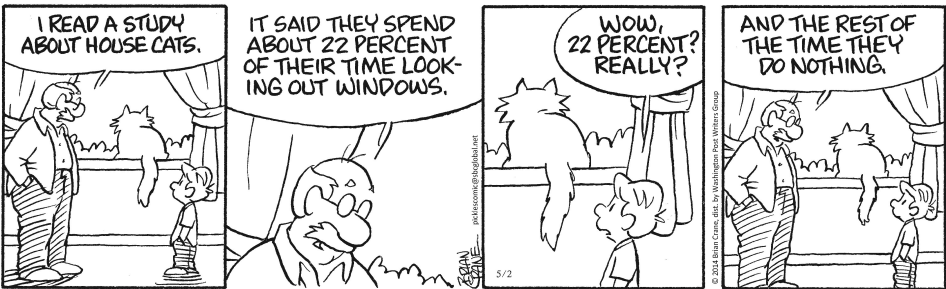
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



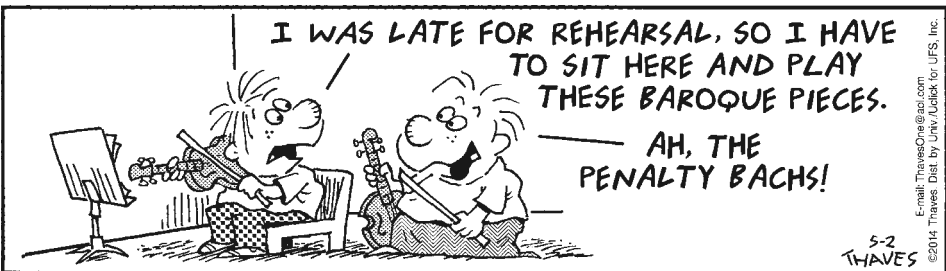
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



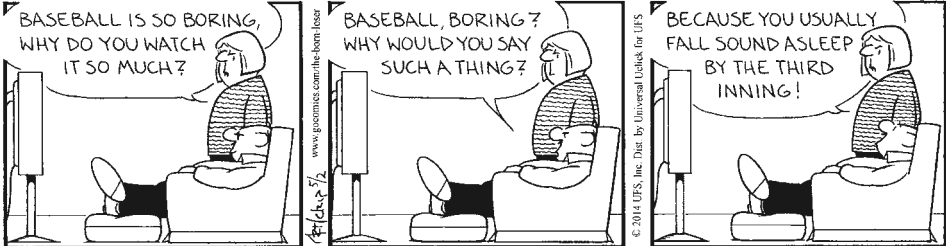
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



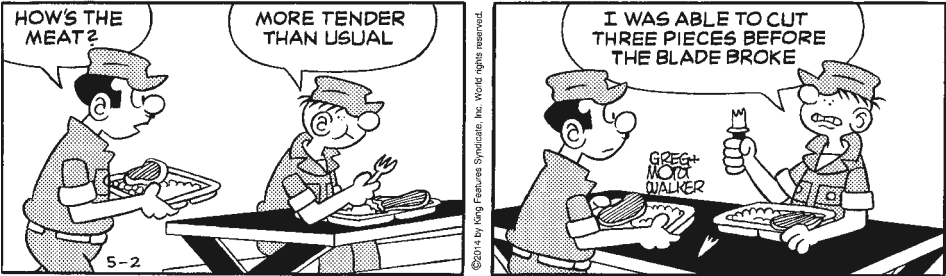
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



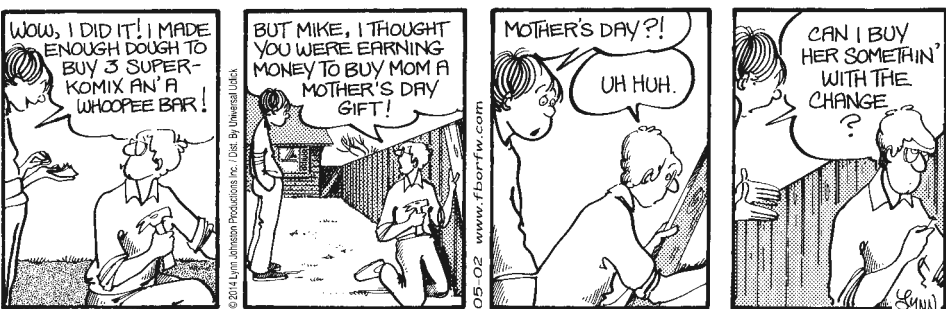
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Kids Are Collateral Damage In Wife's War On Marriage

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I both served in the military. When she returned from Egypt 19 months ago, she dropped a bomb on me, saying she didn't want to be married anymore. She said she had settled for second best all her life and that's what she had done with me. She went on to say she knows there's someone better than me out there, and she's going to find him.

All the evidence points to an affair, which she denies — constant trips out of town, emails and phone calls. We are now living paycheck to paycheck. We have no more savings and I'm paying all the expenses when it comes to the kids. She retired a year ago and refuses to get a job worthy of her experience. The worst part is, our kids have suffered.

We have been separated ever since she got back. She says our kids aren't worth her trying to save our marriage. Our close friends and family are still shocked, but no one more than me. It has been a struggle, which almost caused me to have a breakdown. Everything I do now is to lessen the impact on our kids. What advice can you offer me? — TRYING TO COPE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TRYING TO COPE: Please accept my sympathy. Your marriage is over and you have to accept it.

If you haven't consulted a lawyer, you should do it NOW to figure out what your responsibility — and HERS — will be to the children once your divorce is final. They should be cared for by the parent who is willing and able to give them stability, and the lawyer can help you determine this. From your description of your wife, that would be you, while she searches for someone she "deserves." Personally, I hope she finds him, because the way she has treated you has been brutal.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a student in a community college. I enjoy the diversity of the students here; many are adults who are changing careers or getting the education they've always wanted.

One woman in my class has a habit of bringing her toddler with her. I understand that sitters can be unreliable and child care is expensive, but this disrupts the class — and I know it distracts the mother, as well. She often has to get up mid-lesson when her child needs to use the restroom.

I don't want to step on toes or intrude in people's personal lives, but college is no place for an unruly toddler. How can I handle this? — STUDENT IN NEW YORK

DEAR STUDENT: I wholeheartedly agree with you that toddlers do not belong in college lectures where they distract the students. This is something that should be discussed with whomever is conducting the class, and if that doesn't fix the problem, with the dean.

P.S. Some colleges have baby-sitting facilities on campus.

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.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Taurus and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014:

This year you draw in a lot of opportunities. Your normal circle of friends and advisers seem to give you less positive feedback than they have in the past. At least you will know that your choices will be yours and no one else's. Take some time for yourself, and incorporate some kind of centering activity into your life. If you are single, be careful, as you could attract someone who is emotionally unavailable. Get to know a potential sweetie very well before committing. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from frequent weekends away as a couple. By summertime, you will act as if Cupid's arrow has hit you once more. CANCER is a good friend, and he or she often picks up on what you don't.

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 might feel overwhelmed by what you think you have to get done. You could work yourself into a tizzy if you are not careful. Do not sit on negativity for too long. Reach out to a friend who offers a different perspective. Tonight: Enjoy some time with your pals.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ A loved one or dear friend could push you too far. This person has a history of giving you the cold shoulder and developing an attitude when you least can handle it. You could be overwhelmed, and your vulnerability might be high. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You are a force to be dealt with, especially when facing a problem. You could feel overworked. You might want to push someone away who is negative. A friend who really cares about you will let you know that he or she supports you. Tonight: TGIF! Get the gang together.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Let go, and understand what is happening around you. You could be disappointed by a loved one's response. Do not make a fuss over this issue. Know that an older friend or relative really admires the way you handle situations. Tonight: Hook up with a special person.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others like to be with you, but you might not have enough time to accomplish what you want. Retreat in order to get done what you must, and leave some free time for your friends. A call from a loved one at a distance will cheer you up. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Take a stand that is long overdue. You might want to look at a personal matter in a new way. Others might see you as cold or remote. Make an effort later in the day toward a friend or loved one. Once you do, the caring will flow once more. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Take an overview of what is going on in front of you. You can't underestimate the importance of a financial matter. You need to have a conversation with a key person who can give you some important information. Tonight: Make a call.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★ Others see you as closed-off. Ask yourself why this impression of you exists. You might be in the habit of being overserious and not even realize it. A friend will try to help you loosen up, but first you need to clear the air. Tonight: Enjoy a close conversation with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Allow others to run the show for now. You might want to take some time off to enjoy yourself. You could see the caring emerge once more in an old relationship. Sometimes you are too tired and withdrawn for your own good. Tonight: Out on the town.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You tend to pick up where others have slacked off. You might not be as sure of yourself as you normally are. Indulge a roommate or loved one later in the day, when you have more time. Make it OK to postpone plans for now. Tonight: Do what is best for you.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Holding you back on a Friday might seem close to impossible, yet a statement by a superior could stop you in your tracks. You understand your priorities and decisions. Make calls, and follow through on what is important to you. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

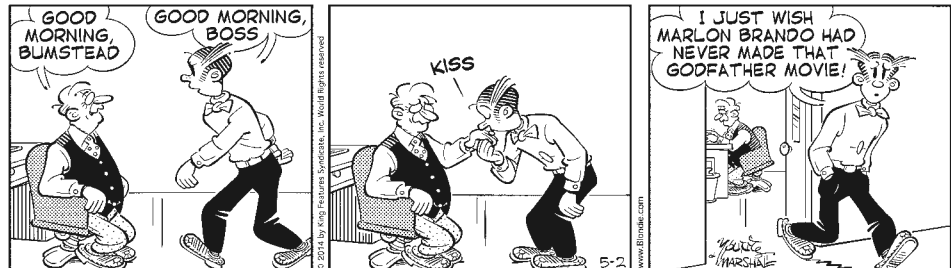
★★★★ Consider your priorities and what works for you. Family and your home life continue to be instrumental to your well-being. Do not minimize a needed expenditure. It is important to indulge yourself a little more than you have in the recent past. Tonight: At home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

