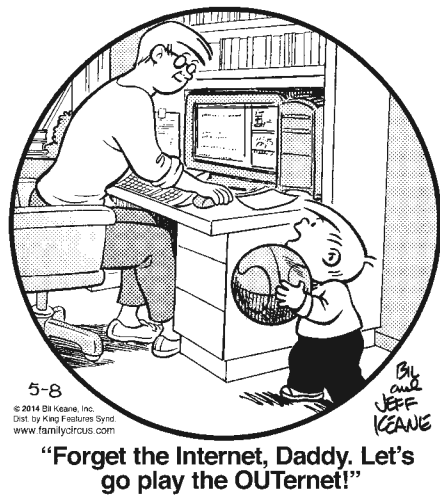
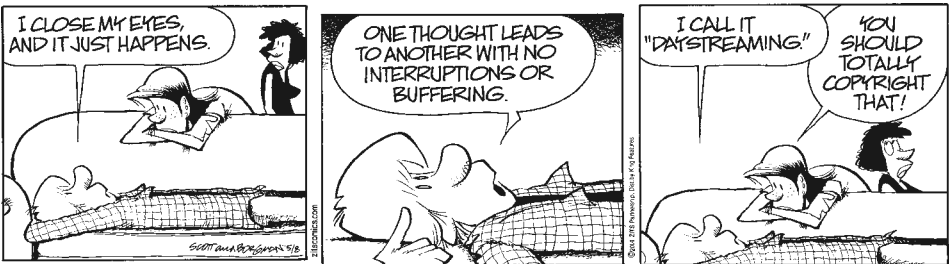


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



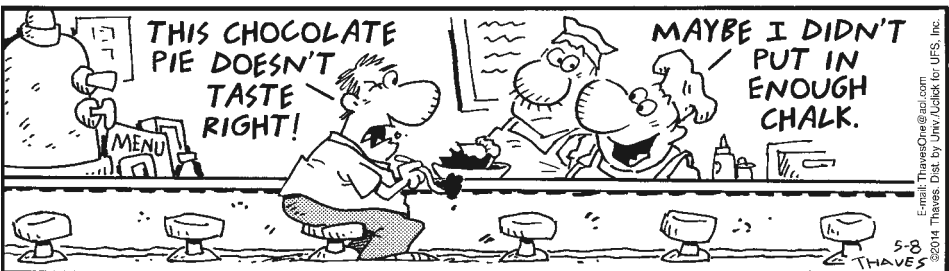
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



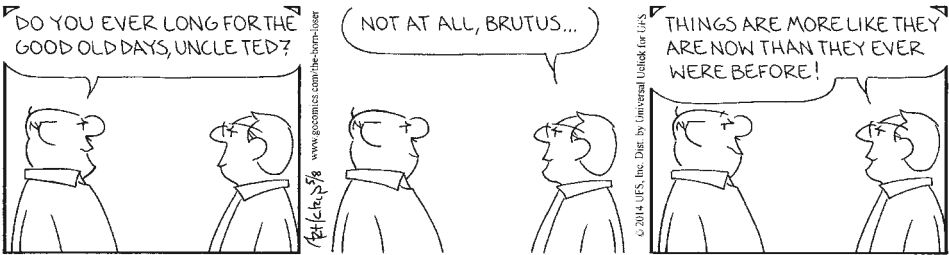
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



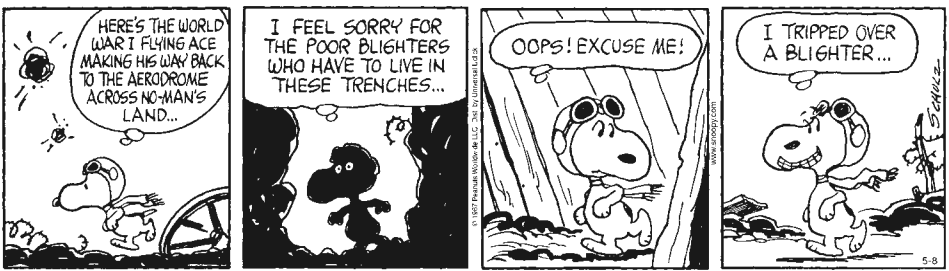
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Sleeve Tattoo Could Raise Eyebrows At Black-Tie Event

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young professional female with a military background. I'm well-educated and have a great job. However, I am also tattooed. The design is a tasteful full sleeve, with some work on my chest and other arm.

I will be attending a black tie affair for my boyfriend's company and am wondering what attire would be appropriate for such an event. I'm not ashamed of my art, and I have no issue with baring my arms, but would this be acceptable in this circumstance? — FOREVER COVERED

DEAR FOREVER COVERED: I'm glad you asked, because it depends upon what kind of company your boyfriend works for. If it's creative, then to display your body art would not be shocking. However, if the company culture is conservative, it might attract unwelcome attention, and I don't recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been intimately involved with another woman. Our relationship has been great for the past eight months. There is an immense amount of love and caring for each other. Although we have been together, we do not currently live together.

My problem is she's still living with her ex-husband. They have been separated for 12 years, but circumstances have brought them back into the same residence. I don't have an issue with their "roommate" situation. I have been to their home, have stayed the night and I'm OK with their arrangement.

What I DO take issue with is him introducing himself as her husband. Since I heard him do that, I have been in an uncomfortable state. Am I wrong for feeling this way, or is she wrong for allowing it to happen? — SEETHING IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SEETHING: Whether this couple has been separated for 12 years or not, they are still legally married. He IS her husband. You may be feeling uncomfortable because you

feel like you may be involved in a triangle, and from where I sit, it may be true. It's time to have a frank conversation with your partner to clarify exactly what your role is.

DEAR ABBY: I have been trying to plan my son and future daughter-in-law's rehearsal dinner. The bride originally told me a local pizza place would be fine for the dinner. I insisted that I would like something "nicer," and she said it was up to me.

I have found a place within budget, but have just learned that the bridal shower is being catered by the same place. Is it acceptable for me to have the rehearsal at the same place?

We live in a town with relatively limited options, and there are other important festivities going on that day that limit my options further. Holding the rehearsal dinner at my house would be too stressful. Would it be OK to have it at the same restaurant, but serve different food? — FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW

DEAR FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW: Absolutely! And congratulations on the forthcoming happy event.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014:

This year your determination mixes with an insatiable curiosity. The combination could be very powerful in enabling you to succeed in nearly any matter you pursue. Ask yourself if there are any alternatives. If you are single, you'll develop a new way of looking at people and assessing them as potential sweeties. Don't forget about passion! If you are attached, enlist your significant other in helping you with key ventures and ideas. This person will be very supportive of what you are doing because of your excellent communication. This period could begin quite soon. Schedule plenty of downtime together. VIRGO can be picky, critical and difficult!

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)

★★★ Efficiency becomes a theme for the next few days. Your focus on being resourceful remains a high priority every day. An emotionally laden conversation could add some stress, as it likely will be taken out of context. Tonight: Follow through on calls and some other practical matters.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Your imagination knows no limits, at least to those around you. Do not be surprised if someone wants to pick your brain about an important issue. Remember, you are only one person. Remain sensitive to a friend who appears flaky. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might not understand your strong desire to stay home today, but you probably will want to give in to this whim if you can. The pressure and hassles of outside life could be getting to you. At home you can relax, even if you have to do some work. Tonight: Make it easy.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Keep a conversation moving, even if you are uncomfortable with what is being said. Some of the comments might hit too close to home. Understand that everyone has limits, and perhaps you have pushed too hard beyond yours. Tonight: Return calls, then decide.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Be more aware of all the information

coming your way from out of the blue. It might seem as if a friend suddenly opened the flood gates. You need to listen well and try to be nonreactive. Understanding could evolve as a result. Tonight: Let the party begin. Expect to treat a friend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You'll feel energized, so let a friend unload. You might not be able to stop this person once he or she gets going. Even if you are not that interested, make a point to put your best foot forward and listen. Don't allow yourself to tune him or her out! Tonight: Start the weekend early.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Pull away from a source of constant chatter, especially if you feel a need to gain a fresh perspective on a situation. It is nearly impossible to stay centered when feeling hounded or overwhelmed. The issue might have to do with someone else. Tonight: Out late.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ The emphasis is on friends and on an important meeting. You might not see eye to eye with others. Gain a more complete perspective before making an important decision. A partner or loved one seems to have many opinions. Listen. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Responding to all the calls and questions that head your way will take diligence and endurance. You recently might have realized that that kind of follow-through is imperative in maintaining your professional and personal well-being. Tonight: Continue the process.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You have a unique ability to discipline yourself and not overreact. Some people might take that behavior as a lack of interest, even though that is not the case. You often detach from extremely volatile situations. Tonight: Listen to your intuition.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

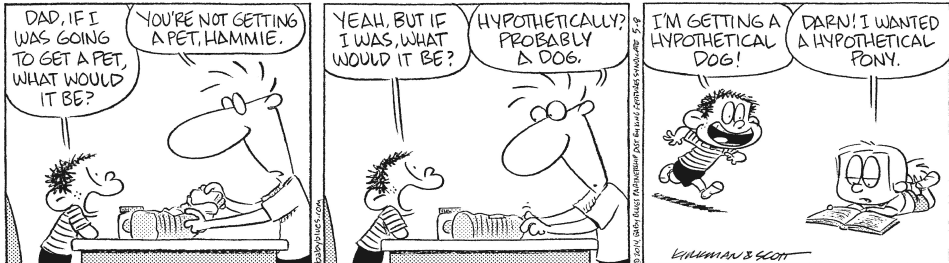
★★★★★ Someone you care about might be seeking some answers and wanting more feedback. You could be out of sorts. Make a point to listen to a loved one who needs your time. Your ability to respond and be diplomatic will be tested. Tonight: Out for dinner. You choose where.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

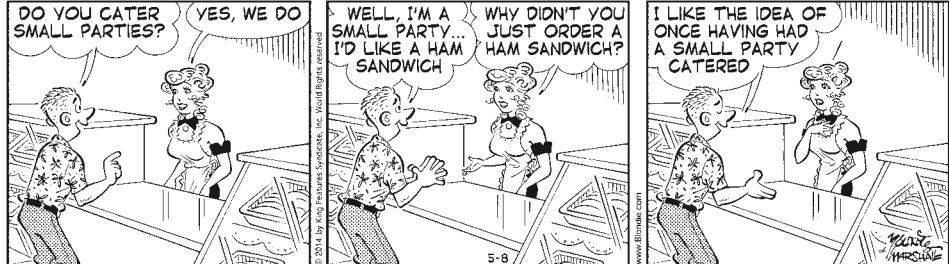
★★★★ Others might want to assume more control. Let this happen, and don't worry so much about how others handle their responsibilities. This detachment will empower the interactions between you. Tonight: Sort through all the suggestions, then choose the best one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

