

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



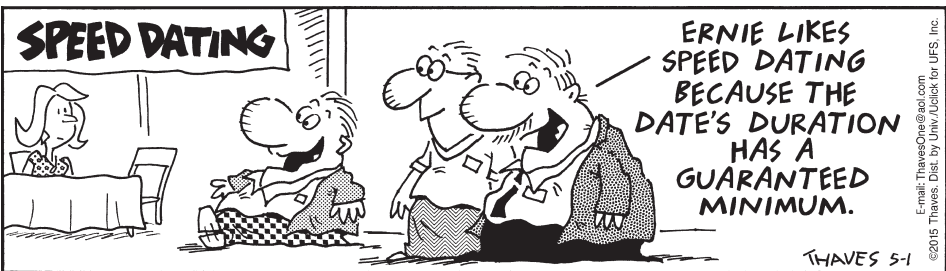
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



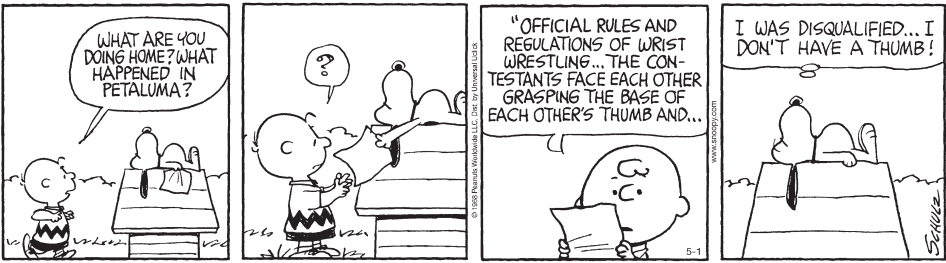
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



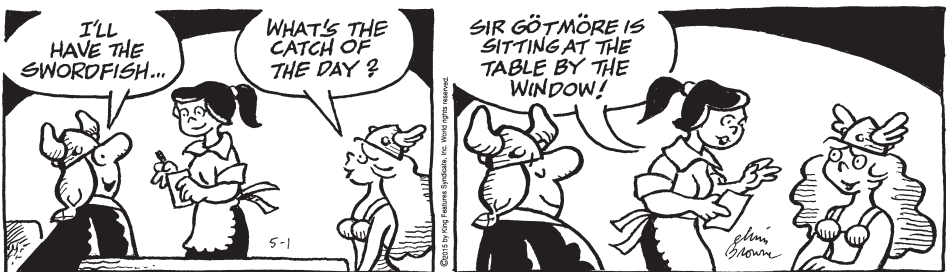
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



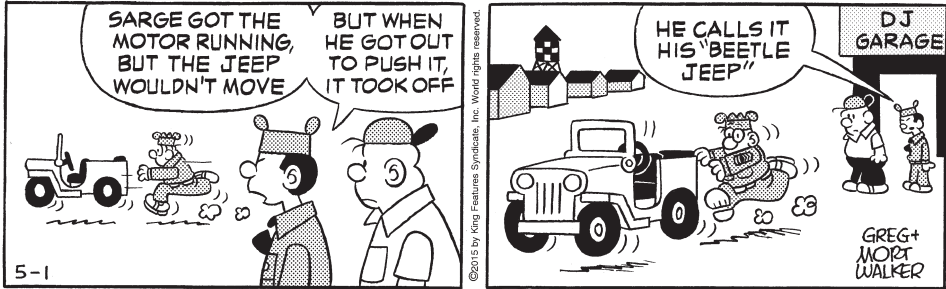
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



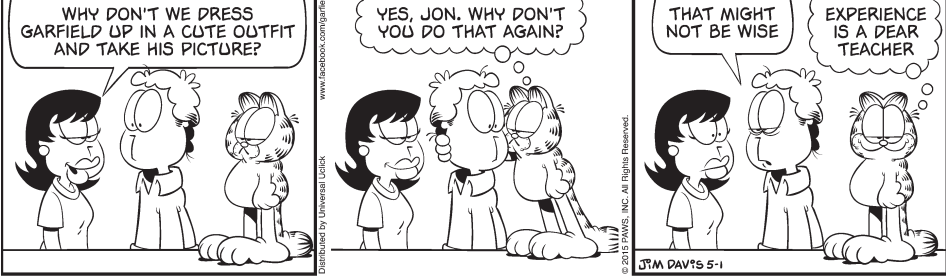
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Speedy Diagnosis Is Essential For Treatment Of Lyme Disease

DEAR ABBY: May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. I'm a longtime Canadian reader who has suffered from it for many years. More than 300,000 people are infected by this tick-borne illness every year, yet people know little about it.

If someone doesn't recognize the symptoms and seek treatment immediately, Lyme disease becomes chronic and debilitating. For many years it wasn't well understood, and many sufferers like me have gone from doctor to doctor with their long list of symptoms, becoming increasingly frightened and depressed.

Please suggest your readers learn about Lyme disease by visiting ILADS.org or canlyme.com. It isn't as rare as some people believe. It has been found everywhere on the planet except Antarctica. – LYN D. IN "ABBYLAND"

DEAR LYN: I'm glad to do that. Several years ago, my husband caught Lyme disease while sitting in a friend's living room in California.

Our friend's dog had been running loose through some marshland that afternoon, and several ticks it picked up bit my husband. When he noticed the bulls-eye inflammation, we called our doctor, who said to come in right away and have it checked. After taking one look, the doctor called in his partner – a doctor from Connecticut – to take a look. (Lyme disease is named for a city in Connecticut.) They said the rash was "classic."

My husband was lucky for the quick and accurate diagnosis. Because it was caught early, strong antibiotics headed off any serious problems. But not everyone is so fortunate, and people with chronic Lyme disease have been known to suffer for life. A word to the wise: Be informed.

DEAR ABBY: My father always wanted a son, but he and Mom had only one child – me. Now that I am the mother of two boys, he has taken over their schedule and signs them up

for activities they often are not interested in pursuing. This results in my spending my time away from work taking them to activities and sports they don't enjoy.

How can I respectfully tell Dad I don't want him doing this? He often calls my children and me lazy if we say we don't want to participate in the swimming, karate, soccer, baseball, gymnastics and other activities he constantly signs them up for. We just want some downtime once in a while. This has caused many angst-ridden arguments. Please help! – NOT INTERESTED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: Everyone enjoys downtime once in a while, but if your children are spending their days sitting around, your father may have a right to be concerned. Daily physical exercise is important for good health.

Because none of the activities your father has chosen "for" your sons appeals to them, talk with them, suggest they choose a sport that DOES interest them and have them sign THEMSELVES up for it. Then inform your dad that you no longer want to hear critical comments about your boys because they are not constructive, and if it doesn't stop, he will be seeing less of all of you.

P.S. Because your dad signed his grandkids up for activities, I'm mystified that he wasn't more involved in providing their transportation.

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.

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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 Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015:

This year you have a flair for diplomacy. You seem to choose the right words without saying anything too dramatic or harsh. Your actions follow that same theme, especially when initiated by you. You have a lot of energy and focus on your domestic and personal life, to the point that you could be annoyed if you get involved in a time-consuming work project. If you are single, date all you want, but mark the period from mid-August to your next birthday as significant. A relationship started during that period will be long-lasting. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy just hanging out together. You also might develop a mutual hobby. LIBRA is gracious.

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 will need to defer to others in order to accomplish anything. You might be surprised by how helpful a touch of wit and humor can be. Someone of authority could be very controlling. You will surprise this person with your unpredictability. Tonight: Unleash your imagination.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could overextend yourself in an effort to turn a situation around. Call a loved one who cares a lot about you. Work with what appears to be a far-out idea; you'll see the positives with ease. Someone you respect proves to be more rigid than you thought. Tonight: Join friends.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your originality mixed with ingenuity will prove to be today's problem-solver. You might choose to keep many of your judgments to yourself, as they will not help move a situation forward. Your smile and wit make the impossible nearly possible. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You seem to be coming from an anchored position. Others see where you are coming from and naturally will want to delegate more responsibility to you. Be willing to say "no" if it could have a negative impact on the quality of your personal life. Tonight: TGIF with a favorite person.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Listen to news from various sources. It could be difficult to get only the facts. By the end of the day, you might be chucking at the many different versions attached to one event. Recognize your limits, especially with your daily life. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Before you head out, be sure to balance your checkbook. A mistake made now easily could mar not only the weekend but also other future happenings. Once you know the lay of the land, you will feel better. Make time for an important discussion. Tonight: Your treat!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Tap into the energy around you in order to draw in more of what you want. Listen to news, and be direct in what you choose to do. Honor a change, and you will be far better off than you originally had thought. Tonight: All smiles wherever you are.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Intuitively you know it is best to maintain a low profile. The people you care about will seek you out anyway. You'll want to avoid some strong headwinds from an associate who must have it his or her way. Let it go for now. Tonight: Reach out to a friend at a distance.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to gain a better understanding of the dynamics between you and someone else. Emphasize the importance of your friendship, no matter what is occurring. Detach, so that you don't trigger this person. Listen to what he or she has to say. Tonight: Accept an offer.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ One-on-one relating draws in positive results. You might feel as though you can handle a problem and get past it with ease. Open up to different possibilities more often; you are sure to like the outcome. Tonight: Be the ringmaster of the party.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

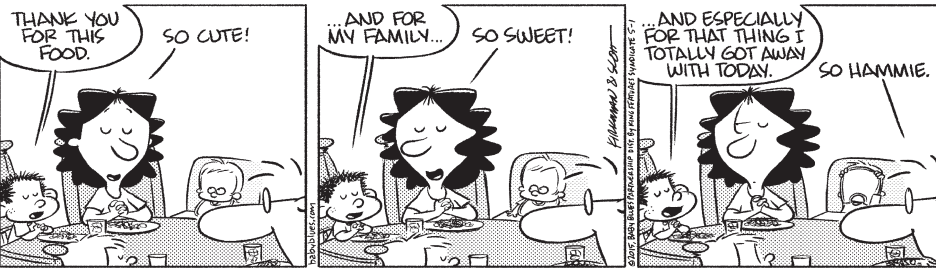
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. This person will be thrilled to hear from you, even if he or she gives you some flak. Examine what is going on behind the scenes that allowed a situation to become more difficult than need be. Tonight: Feel as free as a bird.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

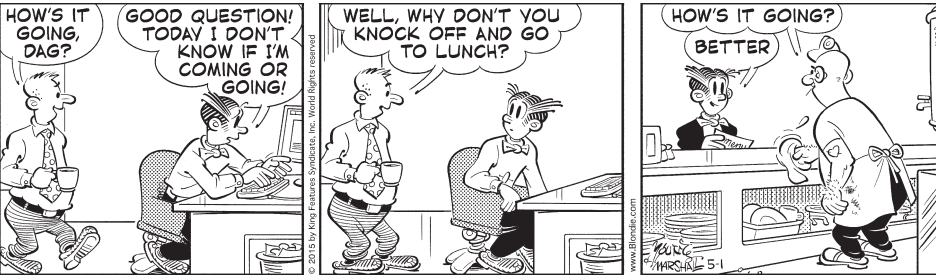
★★★★ You might want to be more expressive than you have been in a while. Your way of handling a problem, with the help of a key person in your life, is likely to work. Let others know how closely knit you are, as it will explain some of your choices. Tonight: Dinner for two.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

