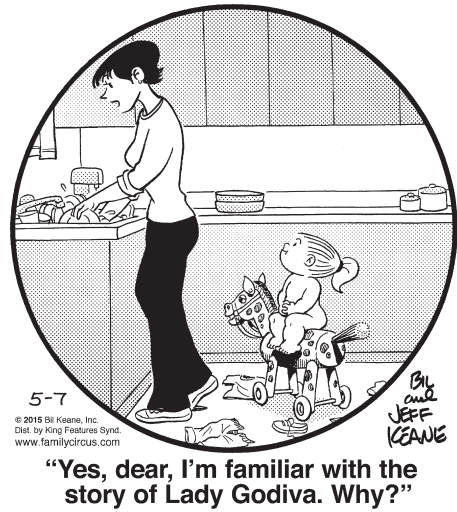
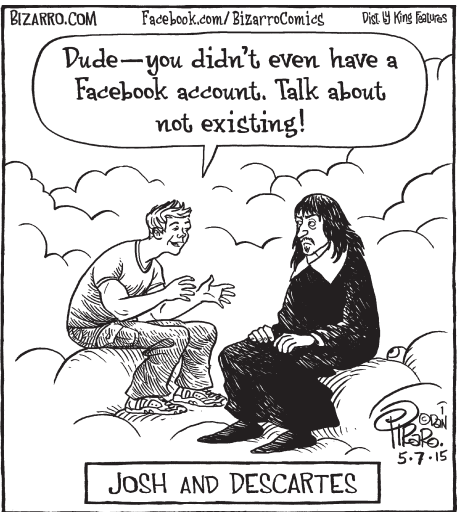


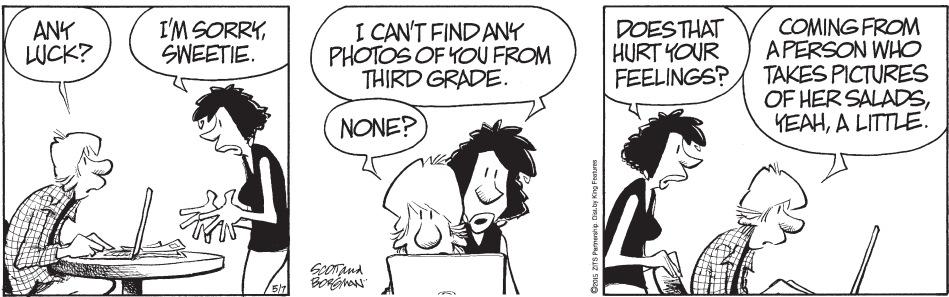
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



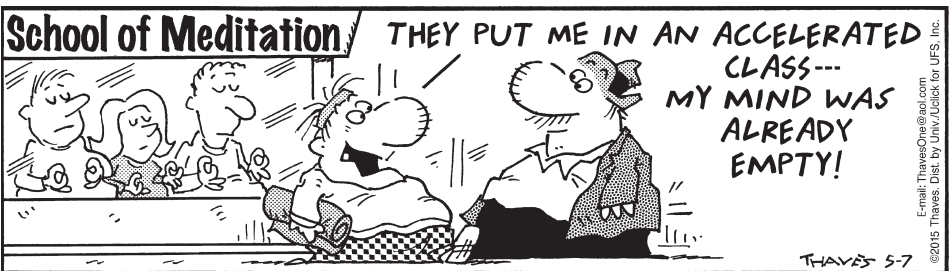
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



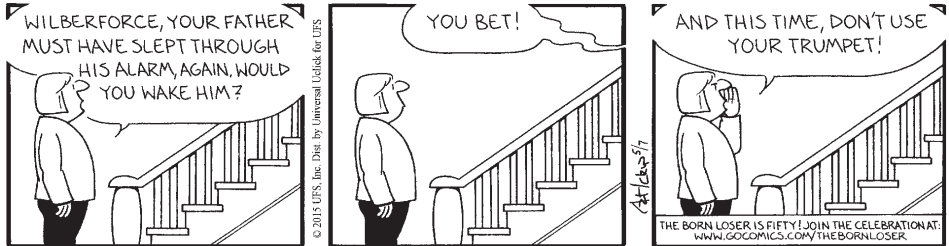
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



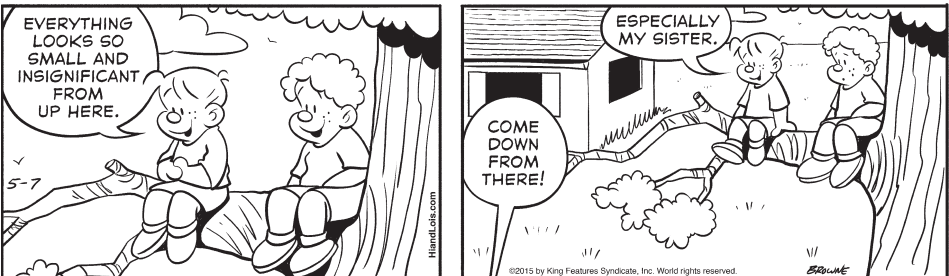
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



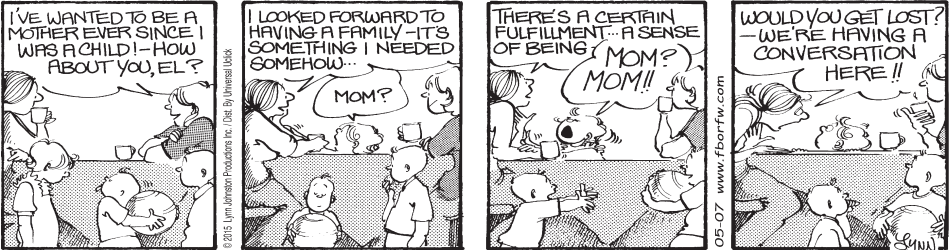
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Cancer Diagnosis Is Unlikely To Thaw Grandmother's Heart

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my grandmother has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has elected not to treat it. The doctors give her a year at the most. My dilemma is whether to extend just one more olive branch.

She has never been a "warm and fuzzy" type of grandmother. She was cold and distant when I was in my teens and 20s, and downright mean when I was in my 30s. If I try to talk to her at family functions, she turns away and begins a conversation with someone else, not even acknowledging that I'm standing there. Last year at a family reunion, she took several photos with my mom and sister, and when it was suggested I join them in the photo, she walked away before one could be snapped. I'm not the only family member or grandchild she behaves this way toward. None of us knows why.

Do I try one more time, suspecting the diagnosis hasn't softened her heart and that I'll again end up with hurt feelings? Or do I assume that nothing I do now will change who she is and that I will have no positive, happy memories of her? — INVISIBLE IN KANSAS

DEAR INVISIBLE: Frankly, the chances of your grandmother transforming into someone warm and accepting don't look promising because she appears to be a punitive and unhappy person. However, if you feel you might have regrets if you don't try once more to connect with her, then make the effort so that when she dies, you'll know you did everything you could. Don't do it for her; do it for yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since I was young, which was not that long ago, I have known my parents' marriage wasn't a healthy one. But only recently has it begun to affect me emotionally. It isn't that I blame myself, but that I'm afraid of how my own romantic endeavors will fare.

Recently, I was told about my mother's

infidelity. I was always curious and suspected that one or both of them had affairs. But now more than before, I worry about finding love. Love is something we all seek, and I believe we all need, but I don't see myself as able to handle that kind of heartbreak.

I understand why Mom did it — that's part of what hurts me. I'm angry that they would masquerade a failure "for me," that failure being their "relationship." I think my anger is valid. My family has screwed me up emotionally and it started long before I knew what was going on. What should I do? — SCREWED UP IN OREGON

DEAR SCREWED UP: When children are raised in a household where the parents' words and actions are different, they cope either by believing only what they are told (even if it contradicts what they see

happening) or only what they see. While it can interfere with forming healthy relationships later in life, it's the way they keep themselves sane.

You are right to be concerned, and I hope you will discuss this with a licensed counselor or therapist because if you do, you will find it helpful.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Sagittarius if born before 2:16 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015:

This year you open up to many challenges, which ultimately will turn into exciting opportunities. You learn to pull back and keep your eye on the big picture when deciding what is best for you. Though you can be very giving, you also must remember to put yourself first more often. Travel could play a substantial role in your year. If you are single, you could meet someone quite dynamic. Depending on how you feel, this bond could become long-term. If you are attached, the two of you often delight in going away together where you will not be distracted by your day-to-day life. CAPRICORN is more reluctant to try new experiences than you are.

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 have quite a reaction to what is happening. Make it a point to stop and have a discussion before proceeding any further. Take charge if need be. You know how to execute a goal. In this case, it might be to create more financial comfort. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll relate directly to a loved one or dear friend. You might not be exactly sure of what you need, but after a discussion, you will gain clarity. Detach, make several important goals and reflect. You will know what to do. Take the risk. Tonight: Follow the music.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might decide to let others dominate. You love to guide conversations and be listened to, but sit on that need for now. Observe others' styles of conversing and making suggestions. A friend will understand how you feel and let you know. Tonight: Chat over dinner for two.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ A partner or several people around you might have very different ideas. Make that OK, but be willing to blaze a new path and not worry for a change about everyone else's reactions. Tonight: Listening to a different point of view doesn't mean you will embrace it.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You have energy and creativity, but

you might be pushing into an area that you probably would prefer not to have to deal with. Stop and look at what you need or want to take on. Pace yourself, as you will want to schedule some time just for fun. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Decide to spread your wings and approach a situation differently. You tend to stay with the tried and true because of the comfort. Someone might offer his or her support as you move in a new direction. You could be quite pleased by embracing a new habit. Tonight: Think "weekend."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Keep moving forward. Honor a change, and be more forthright about what you feel. Sometimes your need to be diplomatic prevents you from claiming your power. Stop and rethink your approach. Support yourself, but remember to be diplomatic. Tonight: Head home early.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You are likely to tell it like it is. Whatever direction you choose to head in, you'll succeed. Honor a change, and listen to feedback from others. Detach from a problematic situation, and you will see what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Make calls. Plan the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to come to terms with a financial matter or perhaps revise your budget. You probably won't be comfortable with what you are seeing. Give yourself the time and space to handle this basic issue. You will come out beaming. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Beam in what you want, as the universe flashes a green light in your direction. Do not hesitate; just go off and pursue your heart's desire. Others might be surprised by what goes down as you race full speed ahead. Tonight: You are on a roll.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

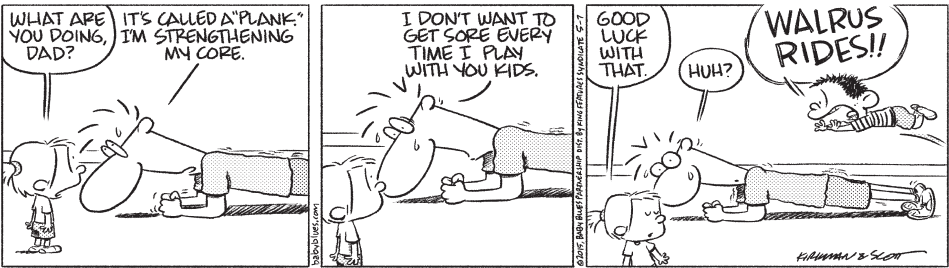
★★★ Assume little, and you will be much happier. Be willing to observe rather than blindly trust someone's words. You will gain a clearer insight into what might be possible. Honor a change in yourself. The result could be more dynamic than you realize. Tonight: Be unavailable.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

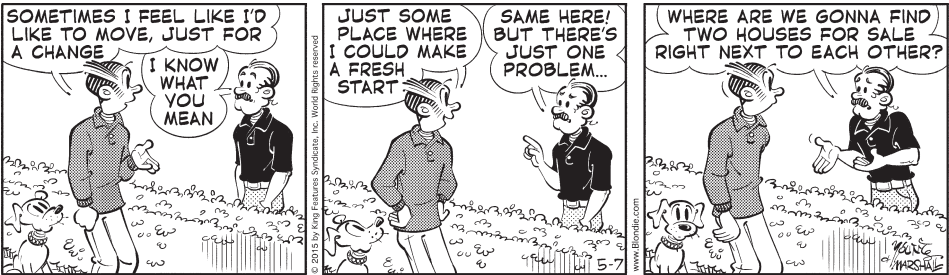
★★★★ Someone you meet today might be seemingly cool and collected, but he or she probably is extremely emotional. Can you deal with that type of personality? Zero in on an important project or goal that you can complete by the weekend. Tonight: Be happy.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

