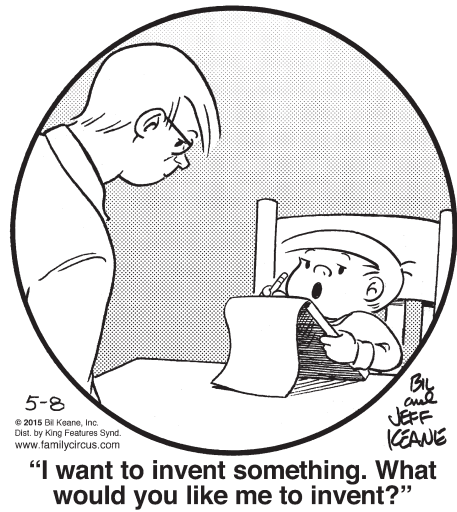
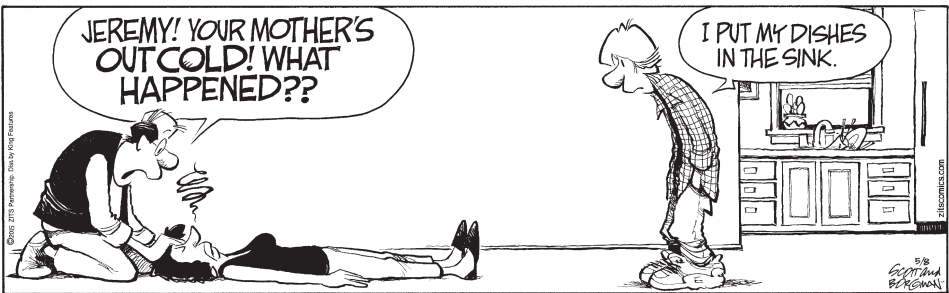


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



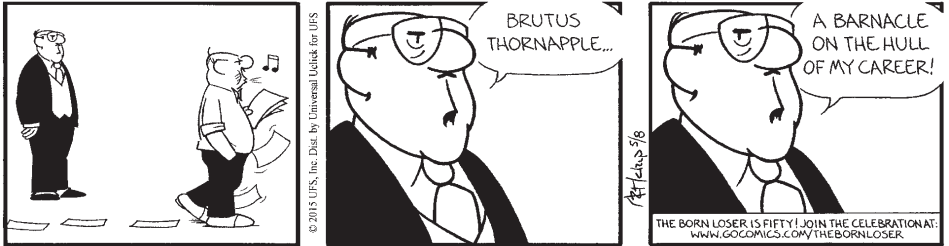
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



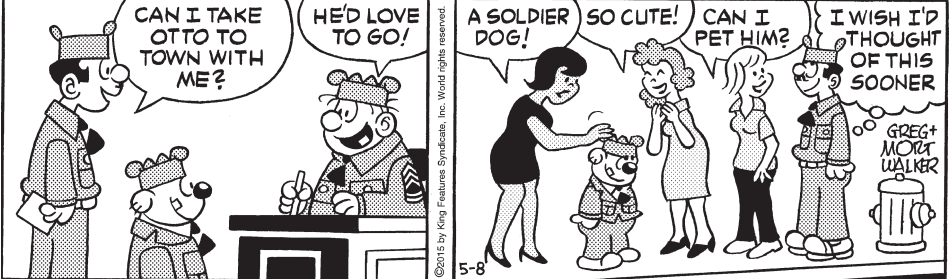
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



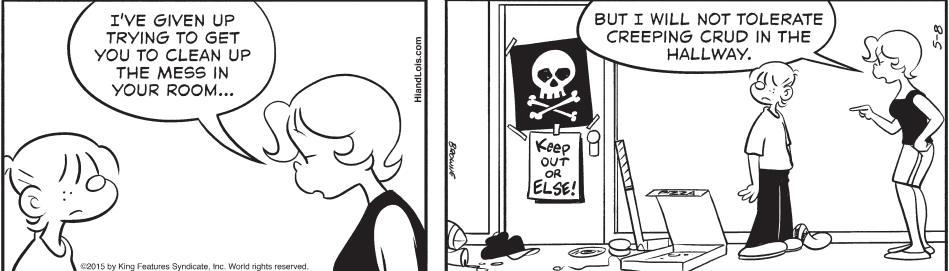
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



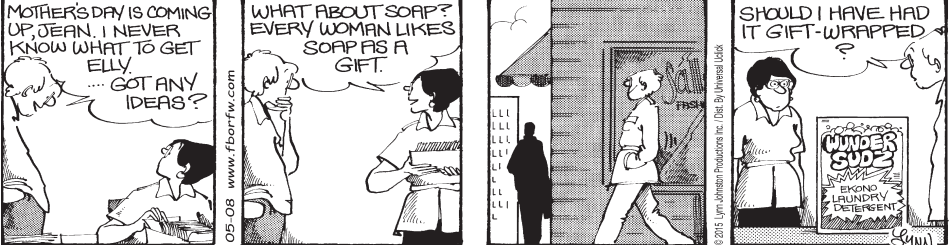
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



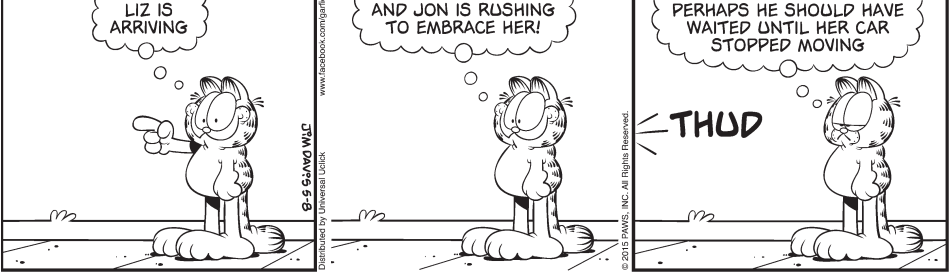
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Couple Encounters Rough Seas Over Gift Of Cruise Vacation

DEAR ABBY: I represented my daughter "Stacy" and her husband as their real estate agent. When any of my children purchase a home, I waive my commission. My daughter knew I had been trying to finance a trip to South America for my husband so he could complete his "bucket list." She gave me a cruise on one of the most expensive cruise lines and airfare to South America as a gift for helping with their home purchase.

After my husband reviewed the itinerary, he said it wasn't the trip he had in mind and wanted to know if my daughter could change it. I was embarrassed to ask her after receiving such a gracious gift. He became indignant and said if she really wanted to give him something he wanted, she wouldn't mind changing the trip.

I told Stacy I couldn't accept her gift because it was too much money. My husband is now angry with me because he feels I am the person at fault for the loss of the trip. Is my husband right that we should request a gift exchange from the giver, or was I justified for not accepting it in light of the fact that it was too much money? — JUST WANTS PEACE

DEAR JUST WANTS PEACE: Your husband sounds like a handful. HE was at fault. Your mistake was allowing him to put you in the middle.

I'm sorry you fibbed to your daughter about why you refused her generosity, because the expense had nothing to do with it. Your husband's ingratitude had everything to do with it. Because the cruise didn't suit him, HE should have spoken to her and asked if the itinerary could be adjusted. That way nothing could have been lost in translation, and he might have gotten his wish.

DEAR ABBY: During WWII, while I was overseas in the Navy, I received a "Dear John" letter. It was devastating, especially because I was so far away and unable to immediately respond. Do you think it is ap-

propriate for a person to send such a letter while the person is far away, especially while in the service, or should the person wait until the service member returns home and say it's over face-to-face?

After all these years, I have heard many pros and cons about this question. I can think of no one else with such a wealth of knowledge in this area to ask but you. After hearing from you, I will finally put this to rest. — JOHN IN VINELAND, N.J.

DEAR JOHN: A decade ago I would have said — and DID tell someone — to wait until the person came home. My thinking was the news might demoralize the recipient and distract the person enough to get her/him killed.

I CHANGED MY MIND after hearing from service members stationed in the Middle East who told me I was wrong — that it's better to get the word while there were buddies close by who could be emotionally supportive. They suggested that if the service member hears the news when he gets back — alone and possibly traumatized by what he or she has been through — that it could make the person more vulnerable to suicide.

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.

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 Taurus and a Moon in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015:

This year you often catch yourself daydreaming. Others notice that you aren't always present. Use care in professional situations. Your creativity frequently emerges in your daily life. Your friendships and networking associates also play a critical role in events this year. If you are single, you could meet someone that enthalls you to such an extent that you have eyes for no one else. A friend could be a factor in bringing you together. If you are attached, the two of you frequently plan on taking weekends away together. You have a way of feeling more grounded when you are together. CAPRICORN can be fussy and demanding.

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)

★★★ Your intuition works with an authority figure more times than not. This person wants to hear what you have to say. Experience has taught him or her that you usually have the facts, plus the energy to follow through. Speak your mind. Tonight: Lead the gang into the weekend.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Follow through on what needs to happen in order to make time to be with a loved one. Follow your sixth sense with a child. The more detached you are, the more caring you can be. Understand where he or she is coming from. Tonight: In the whirl of the moment.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll feel best relating to others on a one-on-one level. Tension could build to a nearly unprecedented level. You might feel as if you'll gain a better sense of direction by interacting in this way. Know that there is no stopping you right now. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Defer to those around you. You might want to share a long-term goal or desire with a loved one. A friend could be unusually insistent on having his or her way. You could be somewhat tired and reactive if you are not careful. Tonight: Roll into the weekend.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Whereas others seem to jump right

into weekend mode, you'll be left holding the bag. You might have a lot of small details to clear up. Get everything done as quickly as possible. No one loves the weekend quite as much as you do! Tonight: Do what you must, then relax.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You could be at a point where you want to let go and enjoy your contemporaries by participating in a project with them. Don't underestimate the ramifications of having to deal with an authority figure or someone whom you can't relax around. Tonight: Charge into the weekend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could feel as if you have no choice but to respond to a family member. Nevertheless, you might have a different type of conversation from what you had anticipated. Be more forthright with your thoughts, and be ready for the same in return. Tonight: Head home early.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Be as direct as possible with a loved one. You will find this person's response to be authentic as well as heartwarming. By approaching a matter with integrity and openness, you'll achieve dynamic results. Go for a walk to ease any stress. Tonight: Hang with your pals.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You'll need to be more aware of your finances. How you deal with someone could change your direction and choices. Curb some of your bluntness by replacing it with understanding and receptivity. You might be shocked by the difference it can make. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are poised and well-informed. These characteristics tend to emerge more and more when dealing with a difficult friend or associate. You could be coming off a lot more domineering than you realize. Try to soften this character trait. Tonight: All smiles.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You have the ability and the knowledge to take the lead, but the smart move is to let others assume that role. They need to understand how much work will be involved; otherwise, all the responsibilities will fall on you to handle. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

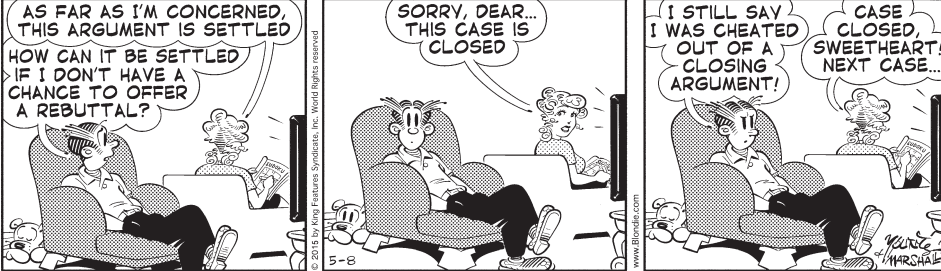
★★★★ You could be at a point where you want to try a different approach. You might not be seeing the results you want. Be willing to reach out to a friend for feedback. You must remain authentic in any case. Drama won't work. Tonight: Let the party begin!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

