

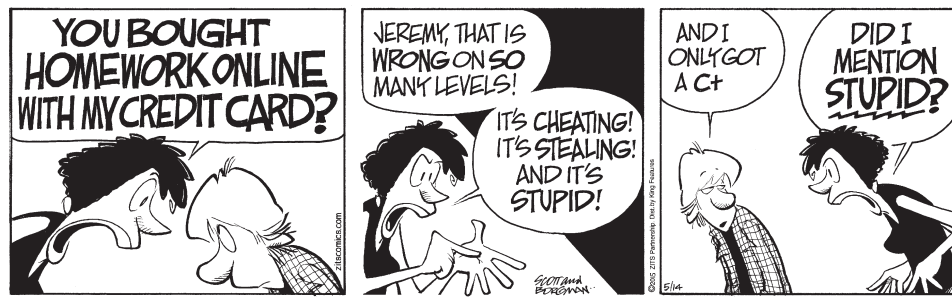
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



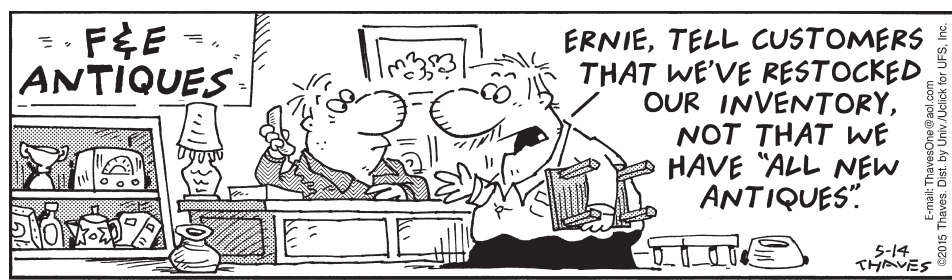
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



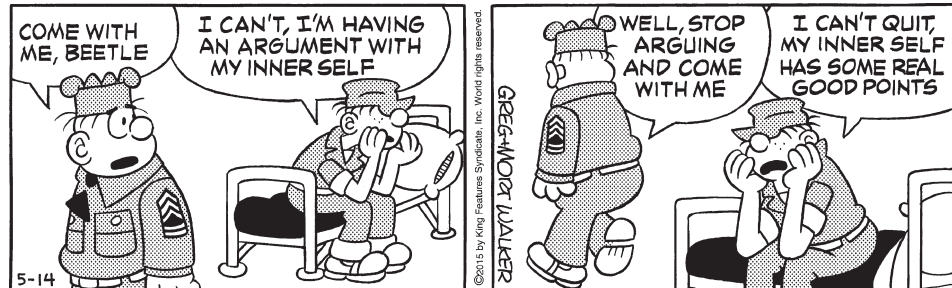
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



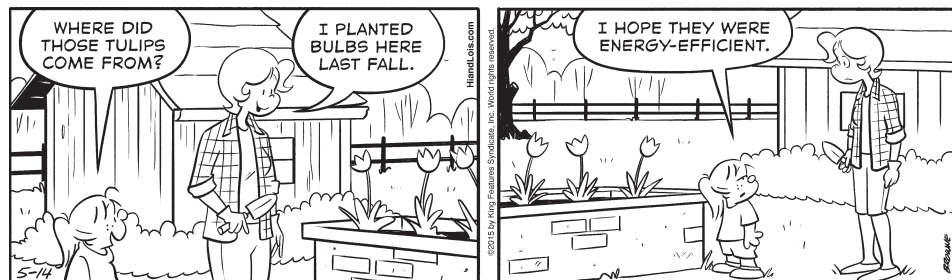
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



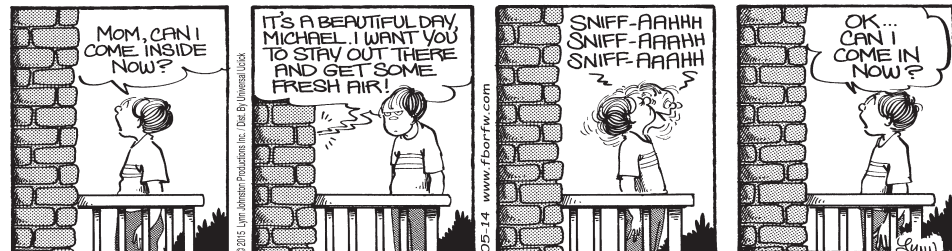
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Words Can't Heal The Pain Family Endures After Rape

DEAR ABBY: What do you say when someone has been raped? I have a friend whose granddaughter was brutally raped and left for dead. I have asked a few questions about how she is doing and receive only cursory answers in response.

I know this incident has caused great sadness within this family. What do I say? What do I do? I am at a loss for words, and don't know how to help. Any advice you can offer would be greatly appreciated. —STYMIED IN ARIZONA

DEAR STYMIED: You have shown your concern by asking. It should be clear to you that your friend is not comfortable discussing the family tragedy in detail. Now drop the subject, because sometimes being at a loss for words is a GOOD thing. When your friend is comfortable talking about it, he/she will do it without prompting.

DEAR ABBY: This past week I read to the students at a local grammar school. I read to kindergartners, second- and fourth-graders. The children were great, quiet and attentive. They asked insightful questions about the stories.

The teachers, on the other hand, were a disappointment. They dressed the way I dress when I work in the yard — jeans and T-shirts. What an unprofessional image they presented to these youngsters! They missed a wonderful opportunity to be a positive example of women in the workforce by displaying a total disregard for their appearance or the impact they have on young minds. —SAD TO SEE IN NEVADA

DEAR SAD: I, too, remember when teachers dressed more formally in the classroom. But that was then and this is now. On the bright side, one would hope that teachers gain the respect and affection of their students less on how they look and more on the love of learning they are able to instill.

DEAR ABBY: I recently took two days off from work to stay home with a cold. When I returned to work, a co-worker started commenting on how I might be contagious. Then during our lunch break, she commented that she didn't want me to sit next to her "because she didn't want to get sick." I told her there were plenty of other seats if she preferred to sit elsewhere, and sarcastically thanked her for making me feel "welcomed."

She continues to bring it up and is now pushing everyone to use hand sanitizer and sanitize their work areas. I'm offended. I think it's rude. A couple of co-workers are now sick with similar symptoms. Is she being rude, or am I oversensitive? And how should I respond? —OFFENDED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR OFFENDED: Your co-worker isn't rude; she's a germaphobe and with good reason. If everyone was careful to use hand sanitizer and sanitize their workstations and shared surfaces — door knobs, light switches, lunchroom equipment — there would be fewer individuals taking sick days. In a case like this, you should stop being defensive. The best way to respond to the woman is not to respond at all.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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 Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015:

This year you have the energy and support to zero in on one of your many desires. You could have one friend that pushes you so hard, to the point that squabbles often result. Learn to pull back when you have had enough. If you are single, the best part of getting to know someone is during the first few months. Someone who could have a great deal of impact on your life will appear sometime after August. If you are attached, the two of you enter an extremely romantic phase, in which you will act like new lovers. Plan on taking a special vacation together. ARIES can be challenging.

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 have the ability to move through a lot of different errands and projects quickly. A family member might need some extra attention. If you don't get a response from this person, keep trying. Your creativity will emerge with a loved one. Tonight: As you like it.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might be exhausted by news that is forthcoming. Lie low and manage a matter that is close to your heart. Emotional extremes could hit you quickly and point to a change of pace. Don't worry so much about an important choice you need to make. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Zero in on a key issue in a meeting, and you'll discover what your associates' views are. This information could prove to be more important than you realize. Open up to talks, and let others express their logic and reasoning. Tonight: Among the crowds.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You have the ability to move a boss or parent to a new way of thinking. Use subtlety to get the effect you want. Someone close to you appears to be a little off. Do not push this person, as you might not see eye to eye with him or her. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for more information, and

touch base with a loved one at a distance. This person will be able to express another perspective or side of an issue. Open up to a new possibility. You could feel awkward when dealing with a professional. Tonight: Ever playful.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with others directly. You could feel as if someone is not supporting you in achieving a long-term desire. Open up a conversation with the person in question. Perhaps a situation regarding your home life is dragging you down. Try to find out. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to have a break from the hectic pace. What you want and what you get could be a different story. Rethink a decision that involves a higher-up. Communication could open your eyes to an aspect of a situation that has evaded you up till now. Tonight: Say "yes."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You could be overtired. You might wonder what would be best to do with regard to completing a project. Consider taking a power nap; you will feel a lot better afterward. Keep your eye on a money matter. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your fiery side emerges, and you will ask questions. You are likely to notice how someone wants to be drawn into the conversation. Surprises surround you, especially involving a child or loved one. A partner could be on the offensive. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Tension emanates from a judgment that you are making of yourself. Know when to pull back and handle this issue within. Do your best to clear out what you must. Your creativity comes forward once you relax. Allow stronger one-on-one relating. Tonight: Fun and games.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

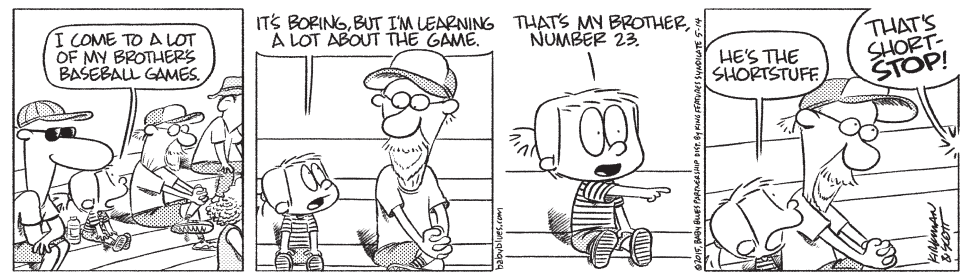
★★★★ You are likely to say exactly what you want and think. Add a touch of diplomacy, and you will find the responses you get will be much better. Your creativity emerges when someone tosses his or her negativity at you. Refuse to take on these issues. Tonight: Strut your stuff.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be exhausted and questioning your limits. You simply might be having an off day. Take some time just for you. A change of pace could make all the difference in how you feel and think. An important friend is likely to be hard on you. Tonight: Pay bills.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

