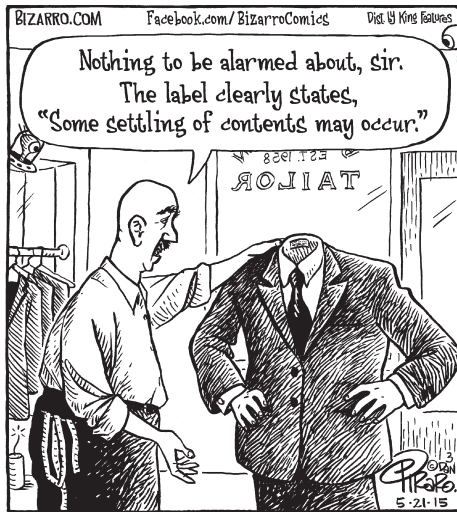


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



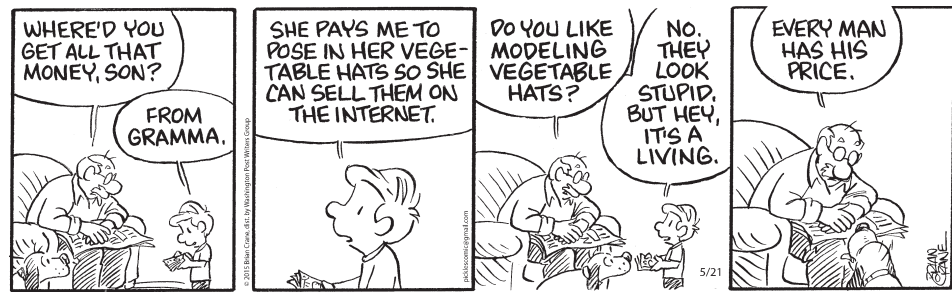
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



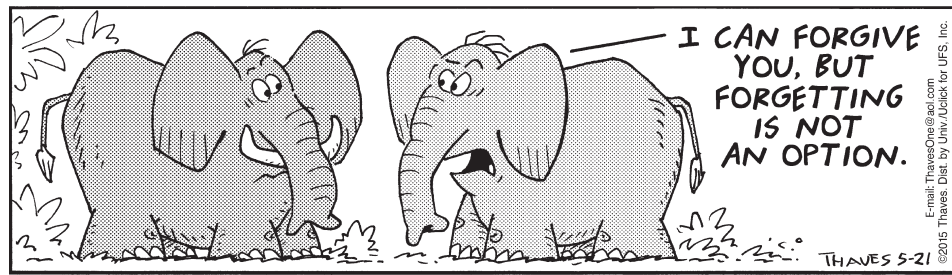
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



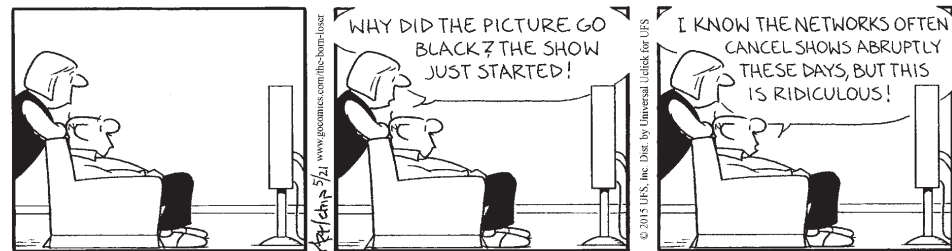
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



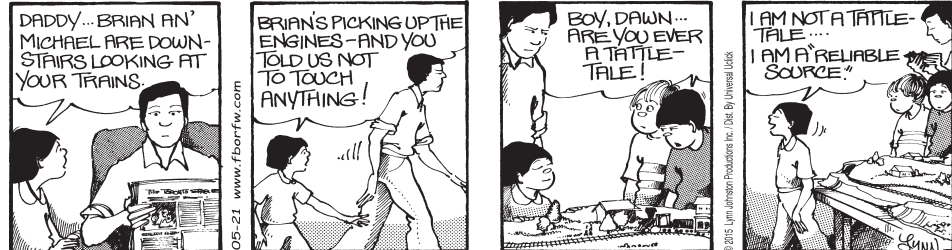
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



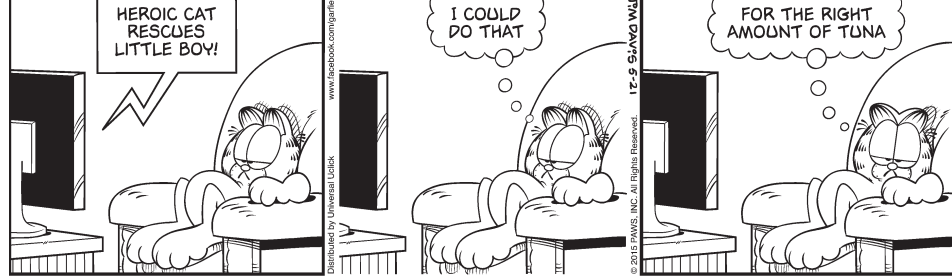
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Being A Good Listener Is The Best Way To Be Heard

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to "Tired of Talking to Myself" (Feb. 13), whose husband's ears slam shut when she begins to speak. This is not a problem that's exclusive to men. Women do it as well. As a retired PA (physician's assistant), when talking with patients, I would refer to it as selective hearing loss.



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

"Tired" needs to look at her own behavior because I have never seen one partner be the only guilty one. My wife can hear the ticking of the turn signal that wasn't turned off, but she doesn't always hear my questions or statements.

men hear us talk, they will say all they hear is blah, blah, blah. "Tired," if you try to be patient and use the abridged version, maybe communication will get easier with fewer repeats. - HEIDI IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: I wonder what kind of things she's saying to him. There's a saying I have found to be true: "Men marry women and hope they never change. Women marry men and hope they will change."

I have been married for 35 years and recently my wife has started pointing out every little thing I do that she thinks I should do differently. I have reached the point that when she starts one of her observations, I say, "Could you add it to your list and put it somewhere?" and that's the end of the conversation. Nit-picking does not make for a great marriage. - TIM IN ARIZONA

There are many reasons why it happens, but the way to resolve it is to listen when your partner talks to you. If you do, you will find that he/she returns the courtesy. Perhaps if "Tired" gives a closer look to her own behavior, she'll stop referring to it as a male problem. - FRANK IN PORTLAND, TEXAS

DEAR FRANK: Thanks for your letter. When I asked readers for input, they heard me loud and clear and gave me an "earful":

DEAR ABBY: Focus is a strength for many men like me. I am a little hard of hearing and need to focus on what I am listening to. If you want open ears, hold my hands and make sure I am looking at your face. You will now have my attention. Tell me what you want from me. I want you to be happy and will do what I can for you. - A LITTLE HARD OF HEARING (CHUCK)

DEAR ABBY: Some researchers say women speak about 13,000 more words a day than men do. There's a joke that explains it's because we have to say everything twice! - JENNY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: Men have no patience. They only want to hear a brief, straight-to-the-point version. Women tend to tell the story from beginning to end with every detail explained so nothing is misunderstood. When

DEAR ABBY: There are three words men always respond to: sex, food and money - not always in that order. Use one of those words when talking to them and you'll always get a response. - BETH IN THE SOUTH

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 Cancer if born before 1:45 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015:

This year your sensibilities seem to soar. You also view situations from many different perspectives. Emotionally, you often will find yourself on a roller-coaster ride. Incorporating all the information you receive could be challenging at times. If you are single, you might already have encountered an important person to your life's history earlier this year. If not, remain open-minded. If you are attached, remember that your relationship is a two-way street. CANCER can cause financial swings if you go along with his or her ideas.

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)

**** Hang in there, and you will be able to clear up a problem that involves your domestic life. Your ability to get to the bottom of a problem will emerge. You'll make peace at the end of it all. A close friend appreciates you and lets you know. Tonight: You are full of surprises.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** Your ability to draw someone out will be enhanced. You will want to weigh the pros and cons of a financial matter before making a decision. A discussion could be divisive. As a result, you are likely to encounter a major roadblock. Tonight: In the moment.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** You see the importance of harnessing a vision. A partner might see the matter differently. Friends add an unpredictable element to your day. Speak your mind, and listen to a suggestion. Don't forget to buy a card for someone special. Tonight: Just be yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**** Listen to news more openly than you have as of late. Even though you might not like what you hear, you could discover that someone reveals useful information. Avoid a controlling person; don't get tangled up in his or her web. Tonight: Take some much-needed private time.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

***** Zero in on what is important to you. You will need to play it low-key and have an

important discussion that you have been avoiding. A power play could complicate a decision. Detach a bit before thinking this matter through. Tonight: Catch some zzz's.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

**** If you don't want to accept more responsibility, say "no." Don't worry so much about others' reactions; you need to feel comfortable. Intensity surrounds a child or new friend. Be careful before diving in and affecting this person's decision. Tonight: Make weekend plans.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

*** You might be more emotional about a personal matter than you realize. You could have difficulty sorting through your feelings and your options. You are in a period of uncertainty. You should consider breaking out of a rigid mindset. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

**** Read between the lines with a situation that affects a loved one. A power play will backfire if you refuse to play. Go with the moment, even if it makes hash out of your schedule. Express your caring on a deeper level. Tonight: Relax to a great piece of music.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

**** You could regret a decision you make today. If possible, sit on it a little longer and decide what is possible. Others will be testy, and they suddenly might balk at what they previously had thought was OK. Use care with your finances; a mistake could be costly. Tonight: Say "yes."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

**** You could be in a position where you must take a stand with a loved one who seems to be driving a hard bargain. You are able to see the big picture, while others cannot. Think carefully before taking a stand. Tonight: You are on top of a problem, even if you don't realize it.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

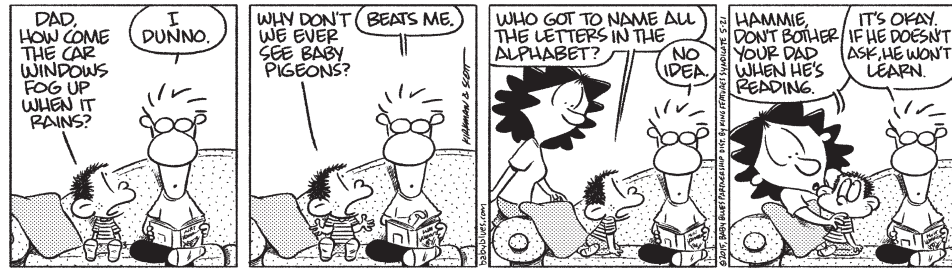
*** Dive into a project that might prevent you from getting into weekend mode. This project might require a financial and emotional investment in order to be completed. Ask for feedback from a friend who understands what is occurring. Tonight: Out late.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

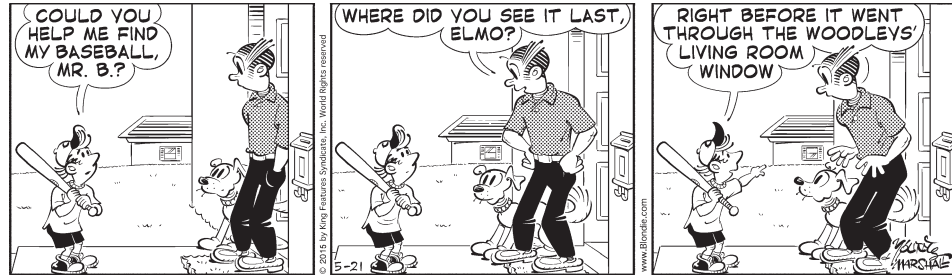
**** Your creativity will come out when dealing with various situations, and it will allow you to communicate your caring. A financial issue could arise that might need more than a little imagination to be handled effectively. Tonight: Tap into your inner child.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

