

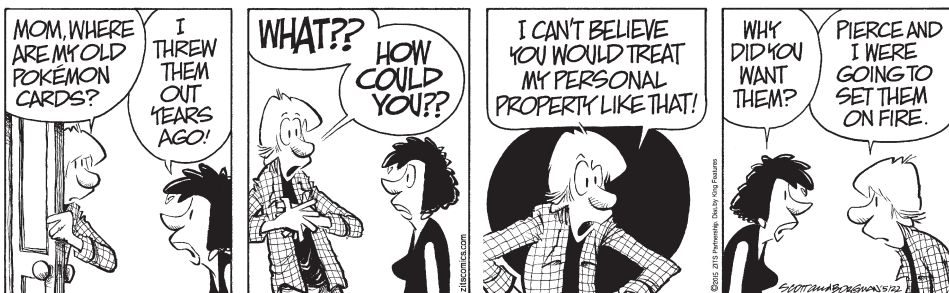
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



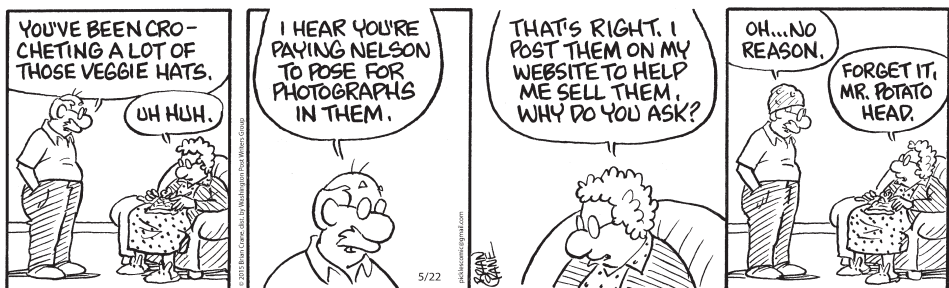
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



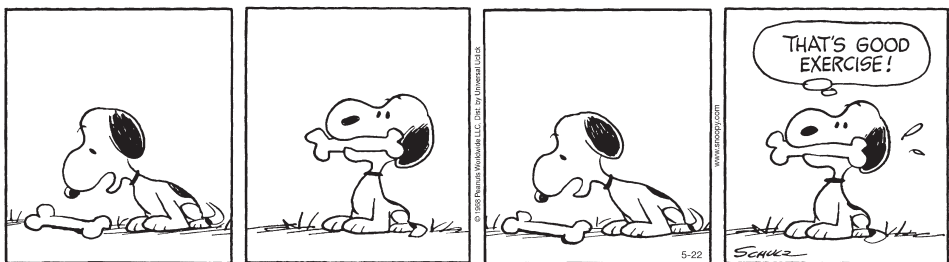
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



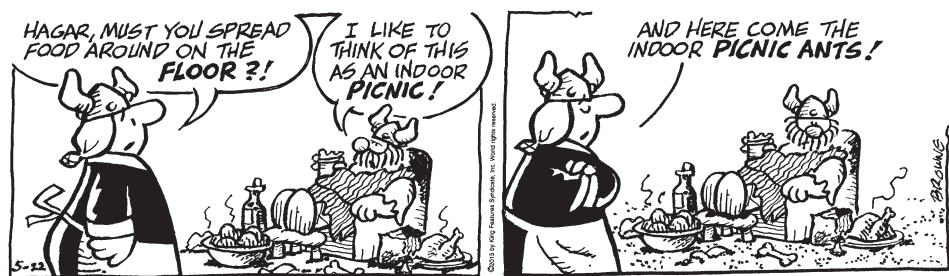
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



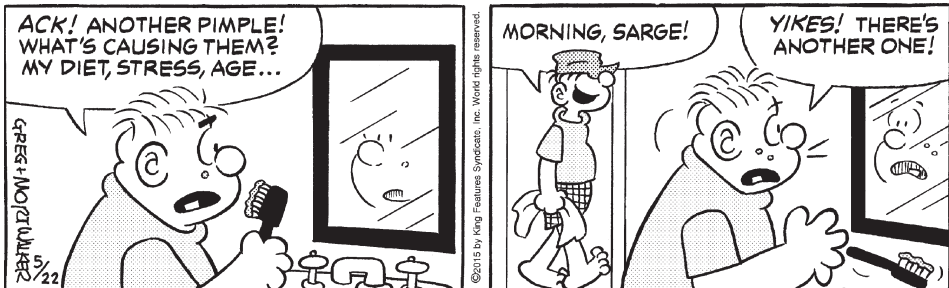
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



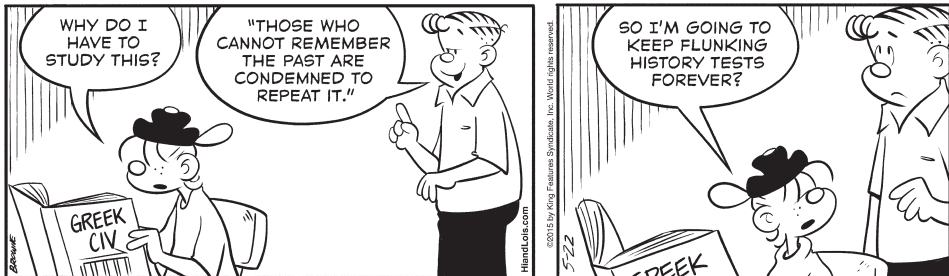
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



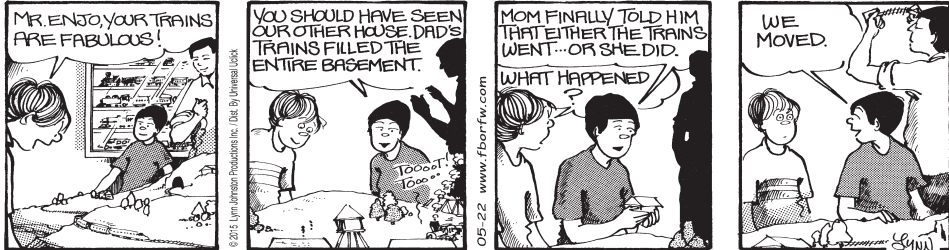
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Mother's Alcoholism Poses Serious Threat To Her Baby

DEAR ABBY: I just realized I'm six weeks pregnant. I have always wanted to start a family and raise children with my fiancé, but I have a big problem. I am an alcoholic and have been struggling with this issue for a few years. I don't know the effect this could have on my baby, but I know it isn't good. My fiancé also drinks a lot, and our home situation isn't the greatest for a child because of it.

What can I do that would be helpful in my circumstances? I don't want to put my baby's life at risk. I tried AA in the past, but was unsuccessful. I'm afraid I'm destroying my family before it is started. — TRAINWRECK IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TRAINWRECK: You are right to be concerned. If you plan to have this baby, it's important that you find a gynecologist and quit drinking IMMEDIATELY! If you can't find the strength to do it for yourself, then do it for the sake of your little one.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

"There is no safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy. Alcohol can cause problems for the developing baby throughout pregnancy, including before a woman knows she is pregnant. Drinking alcohol in the first three months of pregnancy can cause the baby to have abnormal facial features. Growth and central nervous system problems (e.g., low birth weight, behavioral problems) can occur from drinking alcohol anytime during pregnancy. The baby's brain is developing throughout pregnancy and can be affected by exposure to alcohol at any time.

"If a woman is drinking alcohol during pregnancy, it is never too late to stop. The sooner a woman stops drinking, the better it will be for both her baby and herself."

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my girlfriend, "Kendra," for four years. We're ready to take our relationship to the next level, but I'm starting to have second thoughts

because of her mother. To put it simply, she's not a nice woman, and she doesn't have any friends. Her husband died a few years ago, which makes her very much alone. Her only social life is Kendra.

Abby, she thinks of me as a threat to their relationship, and she's trying everything in her power to break us up. She says negative things about me to Kendra and she's rude to me at all times. She says she will not give us her blessing if we decide to marry.

Because we live only 10 minutes from her and have no possibility of moving farther away, is it possible to have a healthy marriage with such a "cancer" in our lives? Or would our marriage be doomed from the start? Do I stay or do I go? — UNSURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNSURE: Unfortunately, no one can make this decision for you. Much depends upon whether Kendra can recognize how unhealthy her relationship with her mother is and distance herself emotionally. While love can conquer almost everything, unless she can do that, and not allow herself to feel guilty for being happy, marriage to Kendra could be like competing in a marathon with one foot encased in a barrel of cement. I'm not saying don't do it, but pointing out that if you do, it will be a challenge.

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Gemini and a Moon in Cancer if born before 2:42 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015:

This year you enjoy your life, and you communicate with greater clarity. Others listen to what you say and come to a point of understanding. You often encounter people who are difficult or withdrawn, but your sunny side reels them in and helps them open up. If you are single, romance is highlighted through August. This winter, you will want to be more committed. If you are attached, communication flourishes between you and your sweetie. Romance blooms and strengthens your bond even more. LEO loves being around you.

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)

★★★★ Clear through any mandatory errands and details quickly, as you see a special opportunity or meeting heading your direction. Others admire your resourcefulness, though they also might be intimidated by it. Treat a family member with care. Tonight: As you like it.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ The recent ease of communication has somewhat withered. You will have to be more persistent with confirmation and follow through. A partner could prove to be unusually challenging. Just let this person's words roll right off you. Tonight: Make it an early night.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You have entered a period where everything flows more easily. You might need to make the first move, and quickly at that. You'll see a new vision of what is possible. Start sharing it with others, and you will like the results. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You'll get a second wind as the day ends. Make sure you have tied up all loose ends and you leave with a clean desk. Once you meet up with a friend, you'll loosen up. You might not have realized how much self-discipline you had to use this week. Tonight: Let your hair down.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your momentum picks up as the day

gets older. You'll sense a difference in others' moods as well. If you want, adjust your schedule to visit with a friend who is having a difficult time. Let go of a need to have situations go as you would like. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to assume a lower profile than usual. You have put all your efforts into whatever you were doing this week. Some time off seems more than necessary. Releasing yourself from obligations, even for just a day, revitalizes you. Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and don't let anyone stop you. You are heading down the path to victory, and you know it. Be as clear as possible. Understand what is happening with a child or loved one. Make this person's wish a reality. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Pressure builds, and you'll be able to reach the goal you have desired. You might want to answer a question a child poses. Be aware of your choices. You understand the power of mystery, but have you experimented with the strength of openness? Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll feel as if you have done your fair share in a partnership. On some level, you might be holding your breath to see which way the issue tumbles. Be willing to interact with a key person and clear the air. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be on top of a problem without realizing it. You will like the results more if you lie low for now. Take a walk, and detach from all the mixed messages your mind seems to be playing. Try to maintain a positive attitude. Tonight: The weekend begins now!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Defer to others while you can. You might experience an inordinate amount of pressure to present a topic in a certain way. A friend doesn't seem to be getting the complete visual of what you are doing. Honor your own thoughts first. Tonight: Let others make the first move.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Take a stand if you feel you must, but with everything that is happening, your action might lose some of its power. Stay on top of an important project. Take your time this afternoon, and don't rush a conversation with a key loved one. Tonight: Let the world be your oyster.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

