

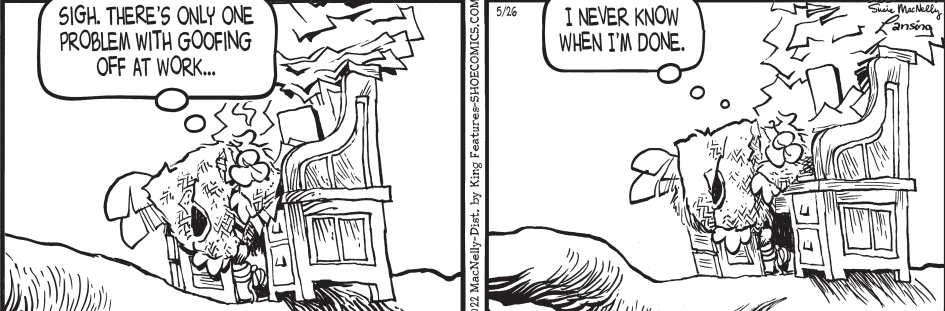
Peanuts



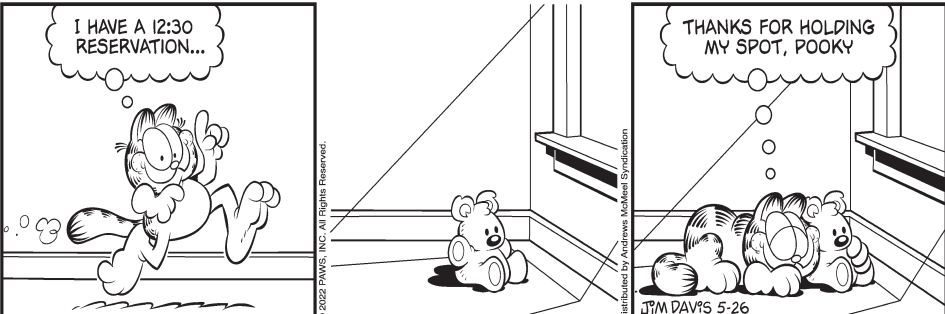
Hagar The Horrible



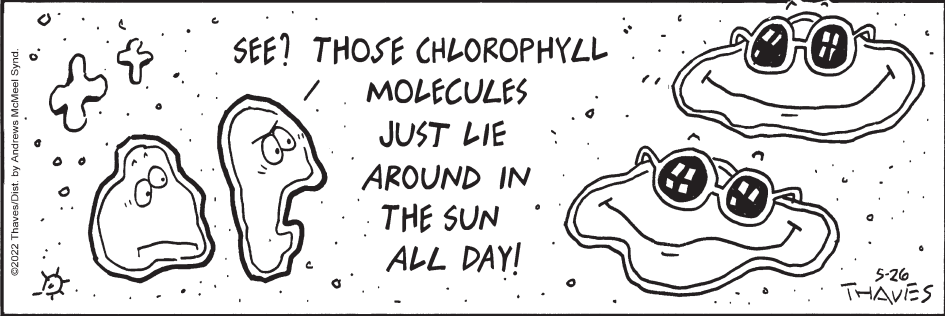
Shoe



Garfield



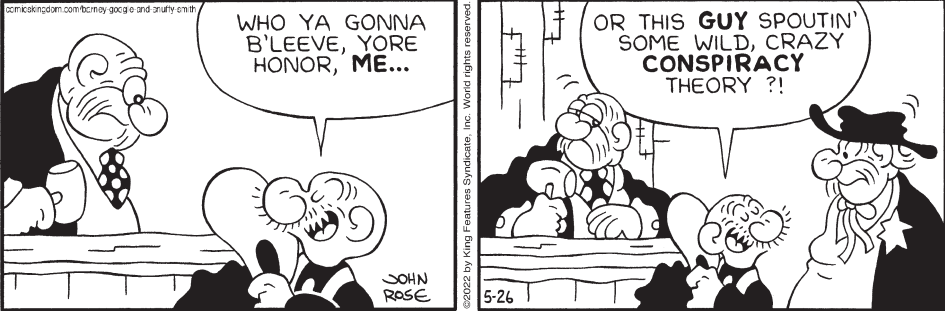
Frank and Ernest



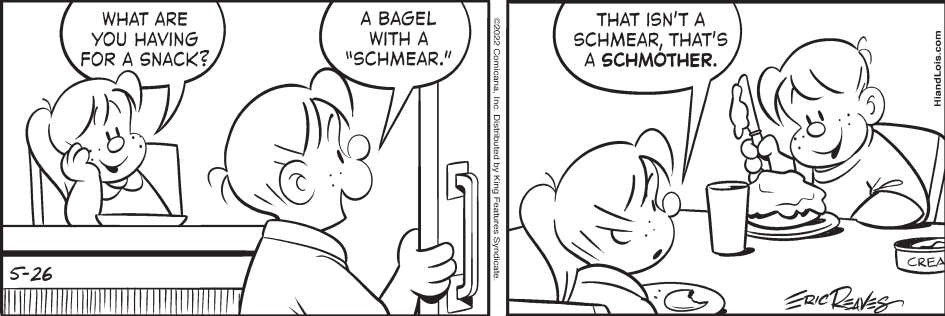
Blondie



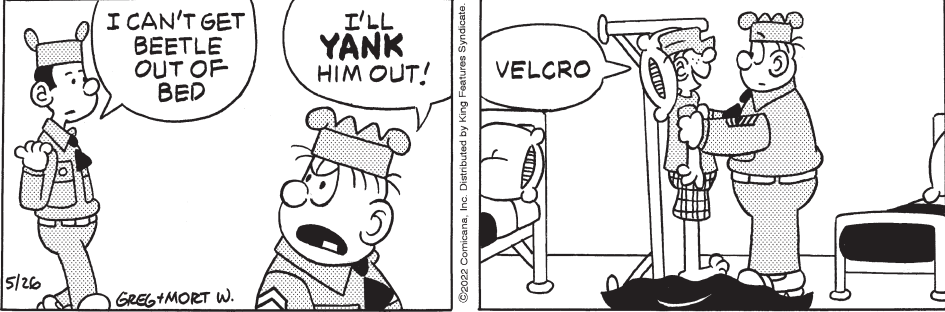
Snuffy Smith



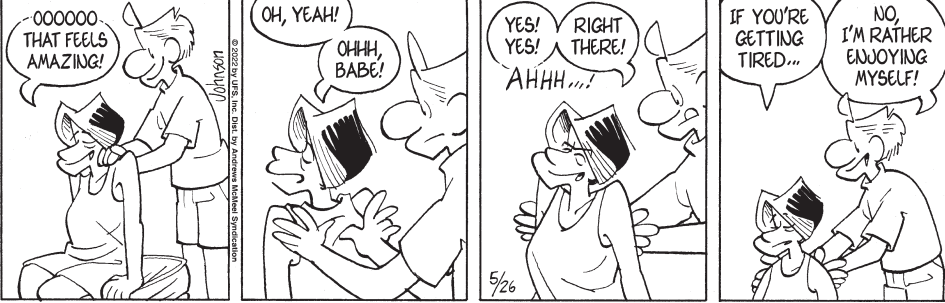
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Your Birthday today:

Forward motion, a positive attitude, and trusting and believing in yourself will lead to a brighter future. Your insight, experience and knowledge will set you apart and help you find people who can make your dreams come true. Stand tall and be proud of what you have to offer, and reward those who join forces with you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You're on a roll, so don't look back or stop midstream. Build momentum and move quickly. Strive to finish what you start and win over people who can help you. Romance is on the rise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't let your emotions get you in trouble. Check your ego at the door and be a good listener. Sparring with someone looking for a fight will end in disaster. Focus on what's important to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Focus on self-improvement. Criticizing others will backfire, making you look bad. Take care of your responsibilities, and don't let yourself be bothered by the actions of others. Romance is favored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take an active role in whatever excites you or promises positive changes. How you live, learn and deal with what's going on around you will determine how others perceive you. Be brave!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Pay closer attention to meaningful relationships. Don't take anyone or anything for granted. Be willing to offer as much in return as someone provides to you. Handle financial matters with care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Get out and about. Experience is the spice of life. Participate in activities or events that will spark your imagination and encourage you to make the changes you've only dreamed about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Initiate changes at home that will help you enjoy your life, relationships and hobbies. Make a point to get your responsibilities out of the way quickly. Romance is encouraged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- A problem with a friend, relative or peer will set you back if you aren't prepared to follow through with your plans. Don't get involved in other people's problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't limit what you can do because someone opts out or disrupts your plans. Take pride in what you do; carry on until you get your desired results. Focus on personal endeavors.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Take a moment to review and rethink your strategy. It's OK to do things differently. Put your energy into preparation and find unique ways to market what you have to offer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You'll need a pick-me-up to continue a steady pace forward. Don't let changes disrupt your plans or keep you from making pressing decisions. Trust in your judgment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Take a stance, speak up and follow your plans. Don't fold under pressure or give in to someone trying to discredit you. Keep your passwords and personal matters secret to avoid loss.

DEAR ABBY

Advice written by
Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: One of my siblings was abused as a child. In turn, he abused me when he was a pre-teen and into his teens. It stopped when he got a girlfriend at the age of 14. This was news to my parents.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, I have tried to explain to my mom that I don't like being around him. She has heard me, but she pretends like it didn't happen and still tries to get everyone together for holidays, etc. The idea of seeing him makes me sick, and I'm terrified for his children.

I went to therapy as a young adult to work out my issues with him and what happened. The abuse has affected my ability to hold onto relationships, and I fight depression often, which I am good at hiding. She keeps saying, "but you were so close as kids." I don't think she understands what "grooming" is. Can you PLEASE explain it in a manner that doesn't make me feel like it was all my fault? -- GETTING BEYOND IT

DEAR GETTING: Your fault? NONE of what happened was your fault! Predators groom victims by first establishing a close relationship with them, telling them they are "special," that their bond is special, that the usual rules of behavior do not apply to them, bestowing time, attention and gifts, and pledging them to secrecy. Please show this to your mother. I hope it will help her understand that getting the family together is not in the cards now or ever.

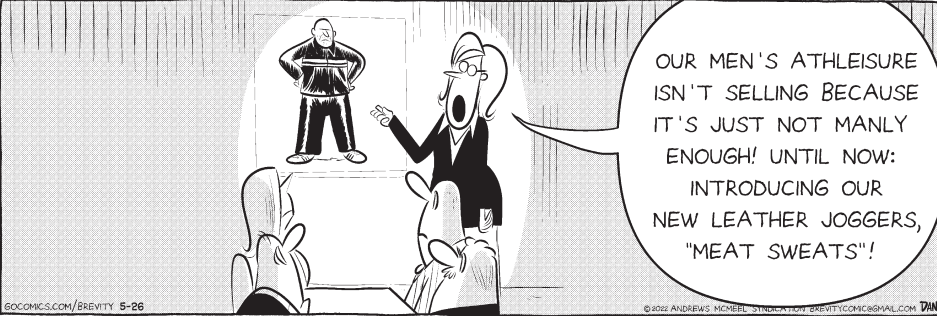
I am concerned by your statement that the abuse has caused you to be depressed, which you are "good at hiding," and which prevents you from forming relationships. Those issues might be resolved if, as an adult, you consult another licensed psychotherapist. While it may not be something you wish to revisit, I hope you will consider it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who is engaged to a wonderful woman who has a busy life. We met online 18 months ago and felt an instant connection. She has two grown children, a 16-year-old son, two grandchildren and one on the way. We live five hours apart and see each other every three weeks.

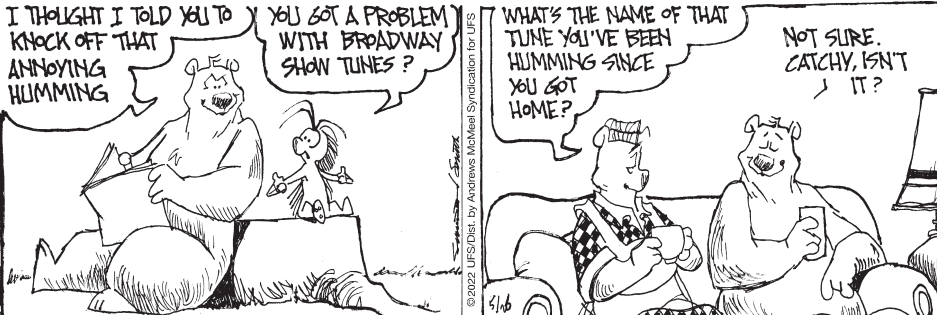
My concern is that we talk only once or twice during the week and maybe text once a day. It is not enough for me. I have expressed how I feel, but I think she's just too busy. She plans on moving in with me once we are married. I recently purchased a brand-new home. Because she is so involved in her family's lives, I can't see her leaving them to live with me. What should I do? -- NERVOUS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVOUS: You and your fiancée need to have a serious, in-depth conversation about how this will work. It is important you two clarify how she plans to divide her time between you and her family because, right now, you are getting the short end of the stick. Will the 16-year-old live with you? Because you aren't getting what you need from this relationship despite the fact that you have explained what your needs are, it may be time to rethink this romance.

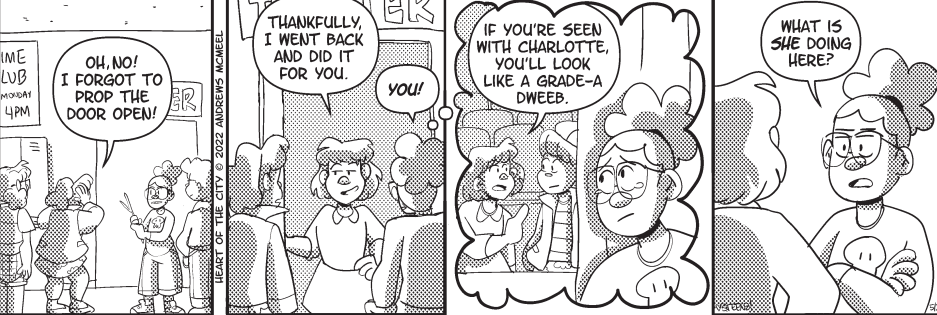
Brevity



Grizwells



Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



Born Loser

