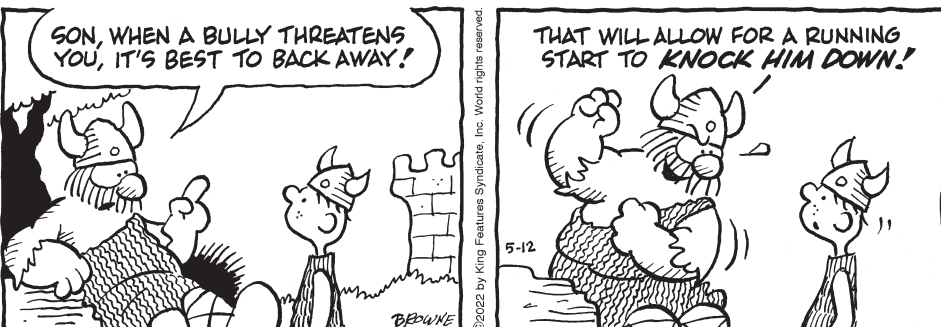


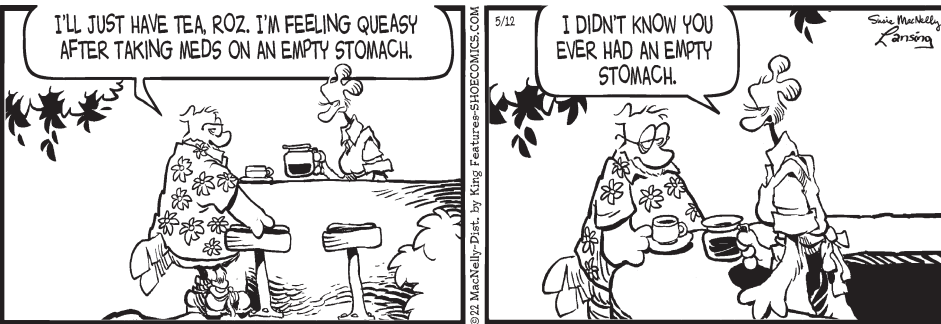
Peanuts



Hagar The Horrible



Shoe



Garfield



Frank and Ernest



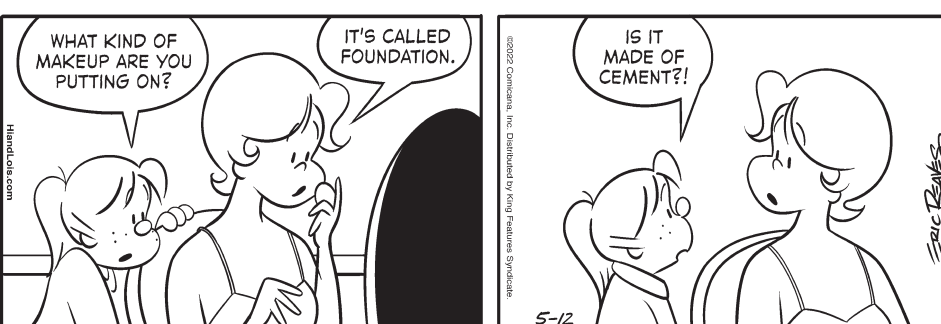
Blondie



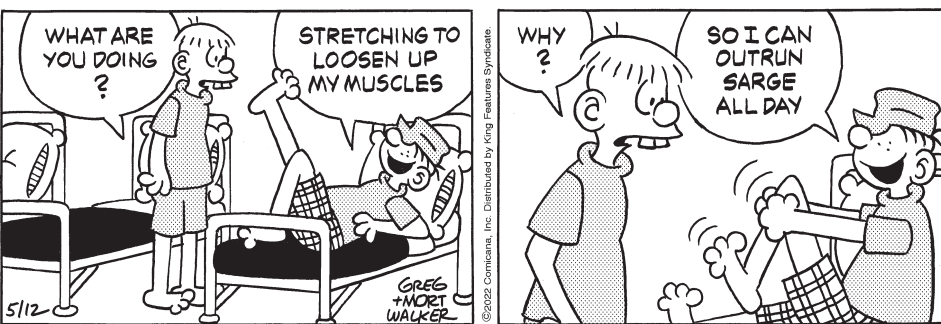
Snuffy Smith



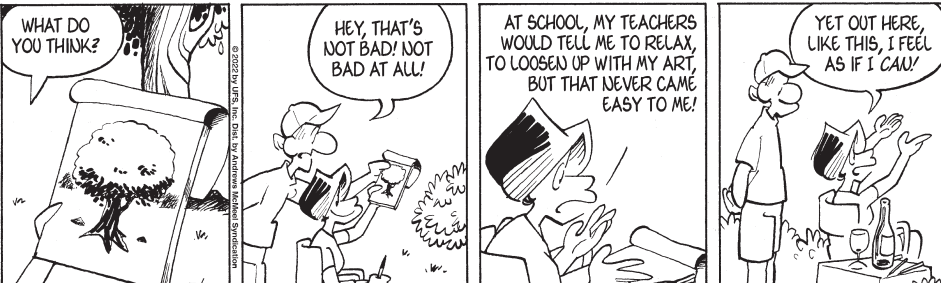
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Your Birthday today:

Rely on your ability to do research, and create a plan that encourages you to act and participate instead of standing on the sidelines uncertain of what to do next. Turn your attention to what matters to you, and don't fall behind or lose sight of what you have to offer. Follow your instincts and forge ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Change begins with you. Look for the best way to get things done and refuse to let someone's input cause uncertainty. Trust your instincts and put one foot in front of the other.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Participate in something that sparks your imagination and helps you find alternative ways to reach your goals. The information others share with you will require adjustments to suit your needs.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Do your best to get along. If you let your emotions take control, you'll regret it. A creative outlet will encourage you to focus on what you can do instead of on what you cannot.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Use your skills efficiently and stay updated to ensure you can function at top level. Shoot for the stars and be a leader. Use the experience you gain to help build a secure future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Gather information, observe and network. The interactions you have with people who can offer insight into trends or how to make your skills more in demand will set you on a profitable path.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Discussions will give you a better understanding of what's possible. Be honest about your feelings and intentions, and find out where you stand. Personal growth and home improvement are favored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Get the OK before making changes that affect others. The input you get will help you decide what's feasible. Don't take on a burden you cannot handle. Be realistic and monitor your progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Plant both feet on the ground and give your all until you get what you want. Make a change at home that will render your life and responsibilities more manageable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Take care of your physical and emotional well-being. Don't take an unnecessary risk that puts you in a vulnerable position. Make alterations at home and practice moderation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't feel obligated to do something because someone else does. Follow your heart and surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you. Give others the freedom to do as they please.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Focus on the changes you want to make. Avoid discussions with negative people or those who like to meddle. Take an intelligent approach when helping a cause or addressing a concern.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Look at contracts and documents that influence your ability to earn money and handle it wisely. A potential move or change in direction looks promising. Send out your resume.

DEAR ABBY
 Advice written by
 Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Brooke," lost her grandfather five weeks ago. She has chosen not to tell her 4- and 10-year-old kids about it. She has ordered my husband, me and our son not to mention it. The kids see her grandmother at least once a week, and SHE is not supposed to tell them either.

I didn't know the kids hadn't been told and I started to say something at a family dinner. The 10-year-old heard me, and I got shushed. I'm mad at the whole situation. Brooke refuses to tell them "until she's ready," and I couldn't disagree more. I understand her grief. I have lost grandparents and parents. The services won't be for several weeks. I understand she can't deal with the loss yet, but denying her kids the truth only delays the grieving process and also doesn't allow them their time to grieve and process.

Now Brooke is mad and screaming and crying about it. I'm trying to back off, but I'm angry that her needs are being put first and at being told I made a horrible mistake by offering the love and caring I thought they needed. How can I repair the perceived mistake I have made?
 -- VEXED IN VERMONT

DEAR VEXED: If you were unaware that your DIL was trying to shield her kids from the reality of their great-grandfather's death when you spoke out, you did nothing wrong. However, you should have offered an apology to her privately. Back off and lie low until the funeral. Your DIL is not herself right now. She needs time to cool off and regain some perspective. It would be interesting to know how your son feels about the way she's handling this. With luck, he can smooth things over.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband leaves town for a work trip or a vacation, or if I'm out of town for any period of time, we are suddenly in love again! We miss each other like crazy and send loving texts and exchange mushy phone calls like we're still newlyweds.

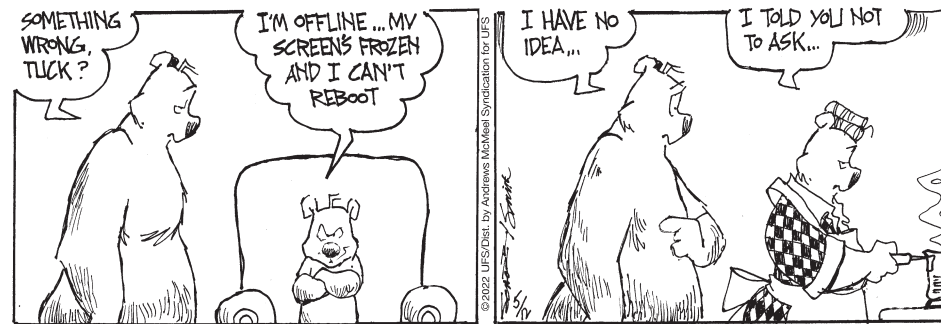
When he's home and we're living life with jobs, kids, bills and responsibilities, we are disconnected and distant. We interact more as partners and friends than romantic lovers. We've been married for 21 years, and it's always been this way. Does absence truly make the heart grow fonder, or can we stand each other only when we're not together?
 -- PERPLEXED IN TEXAS

DEAR PERPLEXED: Absence doesn't always make the heart grow fonder, nor does it necessarily drive a wedge between a couple whose marriage has a strong foundation. That when you are apart you and your husband feel the need for the romantic connection that brought you together tells me your marriage is strong in spite of the responsibilities of your daily lives. Have you considered treating yourselves to an occasional date night, just the two of you, away from the distractions of the children? If you haven't, I'll bet you would both enjoy it.

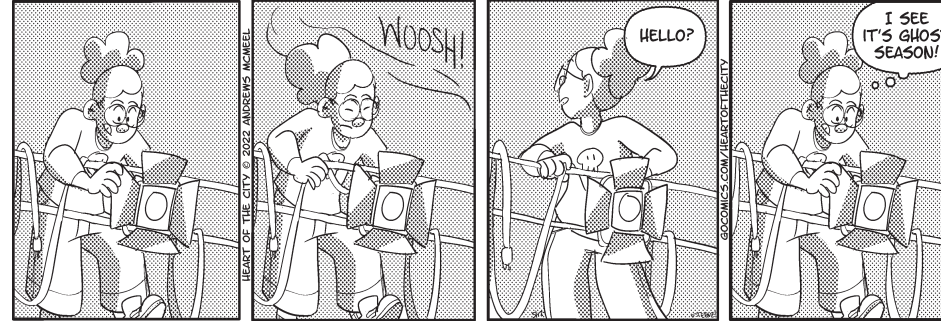
Brevity



Grizwells



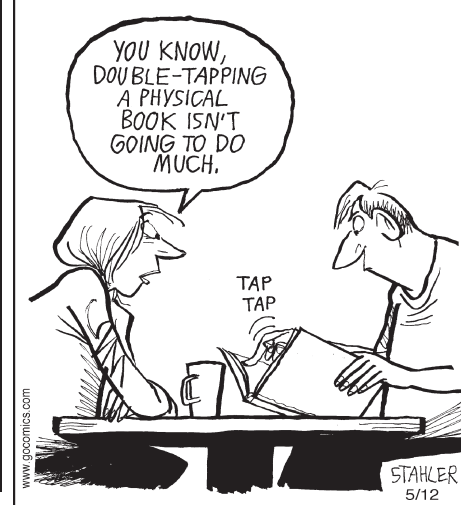
Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



Born Loser

