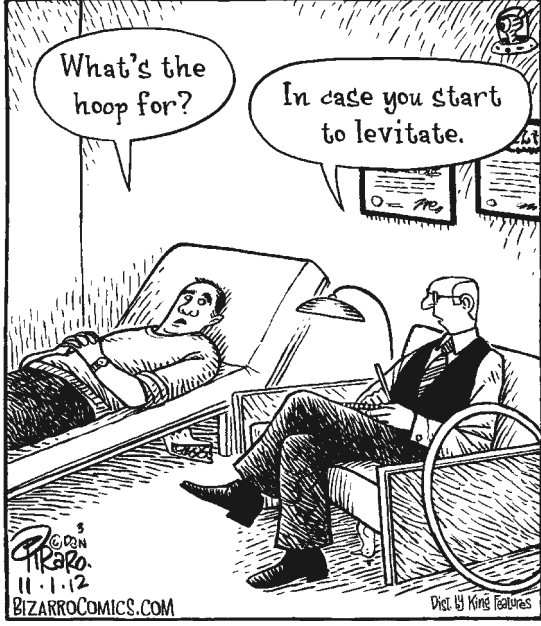


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



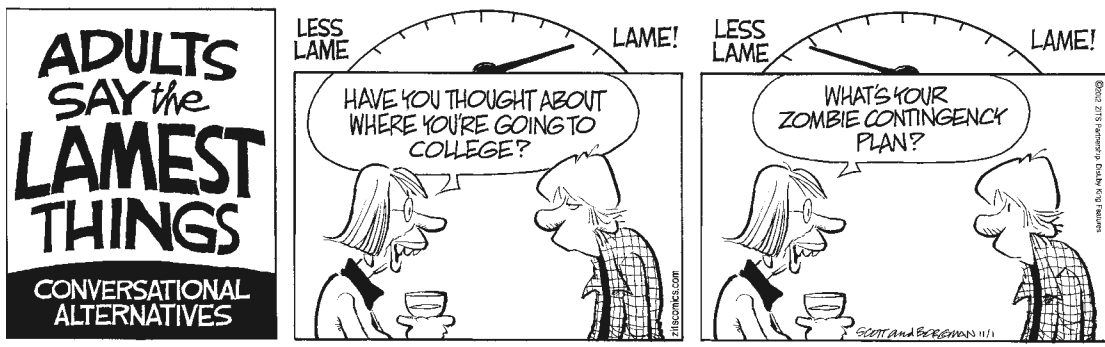
"Sorry, Sam. Nobody gave out doggy treats this year."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



What's the hoop for? In case you start to levitate.

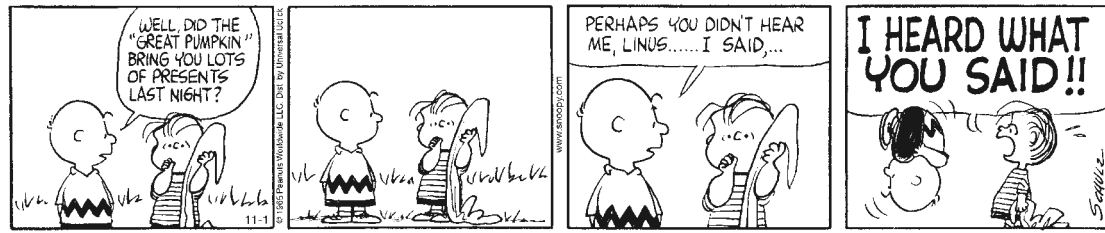
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



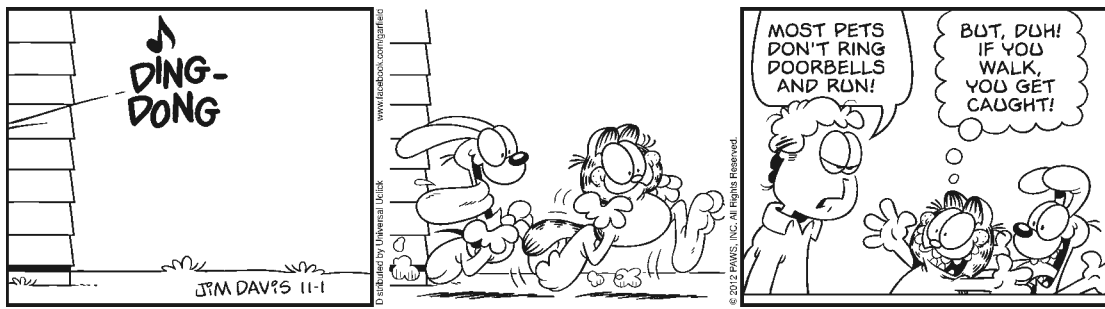
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Father's Grave Lies Unmarked After Widow Spends His Money

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away a year ago, after being married to "Valerie" for 14 years. After his death, she got his life insurance. She paid for his funeral and the burial. She also bought a new house and a horse within two months of losing our father. Four months later, she was dating another man.

My sister and I didn't ask for anything except a few articles of Dad's clothing. Having spent all the insurance money, Valerie is now asking me and my sister to give her money for our father's headstone. We feel his life insurance money should have been used for this. My question is, are we wrong for being angry with her? Isn't she at least morally obligated to purchase his headstone? — LOST GRIEVING DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: Your stepmother should be ashamed of herself for foisting off her moral responsibility to her husband of 14 years. And no, you're not wrong to be angry about it.

You and your sister must now decide if you can live with the thought of your father having an unmarked grave. Ask the people who manage the cemetery if they might allow you to have a special planting — a bush, perhaps — to be used as a marker in lieu of a headstone.

DEAR ABBY: Last night I got a debt collection call for my brother, "Stan." He and his wife, "Susie," are ready to file for bankruptcy and have been dodging creditors left and right. This is the first time I have heard from Stan's creditors, but creditors have called me about other family members, too. My relatives expect me to lie to the callers to protect them.

Abby, I pay my bills and pride myself on living an honest and open life. I feel bad for Stan and Susie, but it is right for them to expect me to deal with their creditors when they won't? — FED UP IN DELAWARE

DEAR FED UP: Of course not. However, whoever made that call may not have been in compliance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, which applies to

those who collect debts owed to creditors for personal, family and household debts. (These can include car loans, mortgages and money owed for medical bills.)

According to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, a debt collector may not contact the debtor's friends, relatives, employer or others, except to find out where the person who owes the money lives or works. If the calls continue, contact the Federal Trade Commission by calling (toll-free) 1-877-382-4357 or visit its website, www.ftc.gov.



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. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Over the years I have become friends with a client of mine, "Doug." I live in Wisconsin; he lives in Florida. We are both happily married and share about family and work. We use instant messaging for work-related issues and to chitchat. We have typed "I love you" to each other at times — but only if we're being sarcastic, joking around or saying thanks for some help.

My husband doesn't think you can say "I love you" to a friend without having feelings or wanting more. I have never regarded Doug as anything but a friend, and he feels the same. Can I say "I love you" to a friend without it meaning something more? — SPREADING THE LOVE

DEAR SPREADING: In my opinion you can, and many people do. There is a difference between saying "I love you" and "I am in love with you," and I'm surprised that your husband doesn't realize it. Could he be feeling insecure?

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Scorpio and a Moon in Gemini all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 1, 2012:

This year you are very strong-willed about what you want, and you do not take "no" easily. You will tap into your intellectual side in order to display your determination. You are sensitive to what is not being said; you can read between the lines. Detach when you are triggered, and you'll become a more effective communicator. If you are single, your sensuality and wit emerge. Enjoy deciding who, what and where! If you are attached, you will relate more effectively. Your sensitivity to your sweetie will draw you closer together. GEMINI's energy can bowl you over sometimes.

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 right words to make an impression. You have a tendency to renew yourself and your thoughts. Encourage others to do the same. You could act in an unpredictable matter. Opportunities knock on your door; it is your choice whether or not to respond. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Be aware of a tendency to go overboard, especially today. Someone or something might be so tempting that you might not be able to say "no." You don't need to spend any money in order to impress others -- you are impressive anyway. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You blossom, and someone responds. You could feel as if a child or a new friend is being manipulative. A loved one also might not be reliable, as you will see soon. Use your strong personality to draw in more of what you want. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Know what is going on behind the scenes, and deal with it as best as you can. A problem could occur in which someone you know might want to reveal his or her true feelings. You will land on your feet, no matter what. Use your intuition. Tonight: Get some extra Z's.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what works. You could be taken aback

by a new perspective. Lie low and watch a situation evolve, as you might not be up for taking any huge risks right now. You will move when you feel more secure. A friend lets you know that he or she supports you. Tonight: In the whirlwind of the moment.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Keep pushing to achieve what you want. You might have a last-minute show of support or energy. You will accomplish much more than you thought possible and feel pleased with the results. Demonstrate your caring through a card or a token of affection. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by everything that is going on around you. Listen to your instincts when dealing with someone at a distance. This person opens you up to a lot of new opportunities. Tonight: Read between the lines.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Relate to a loved one directly, as he or she has an unusual sense of merriment and often can be rather whimsical. You enjoy being around this person, so make plans to visit in the near future. Your attitude could be affected greatly if you don't get to spend quality time with him or her. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Others are quite dominant and lively. You could get into the quirkiness of the day. A meeting reminds you how much a friendship means to you. Others could elevate your stress level. Throw your rigidity away, and everyone will have a good time. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★ Pace yourself, and don't allow someone to upset you. Separating your personal life from your professional or outside life will only make your day-to-day routine simpler and easier. Try not to share so much private news. Tonight: Off to the gym, or take a walk.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might not be able to greet the weekend yet, but you will act as if you are. You spontaneously could decide to throw out a project that has become rather complicated. A child or loved one gives you a reason to give in to a more self-indulgent day. Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

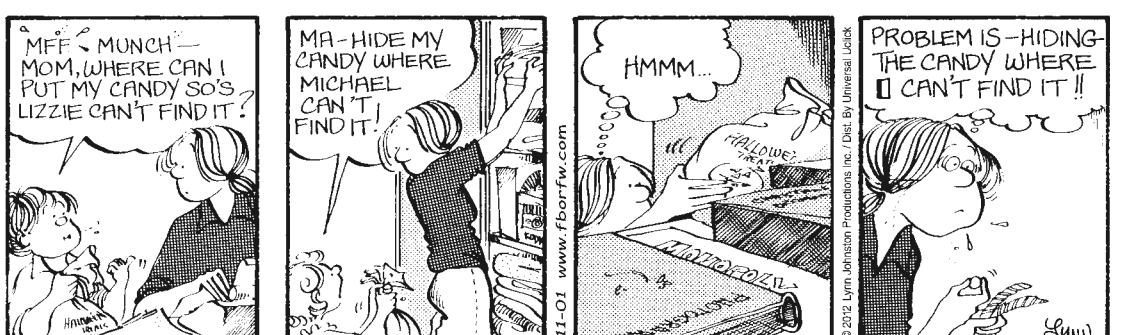
★★★ Stay close to home, or work from home, if possible. Others find you performing on a high level right now, even in this more relaxed situation. You might want to check out an investment that could involve your finances or a real-estate matter. Tonight: Happy at home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

