

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



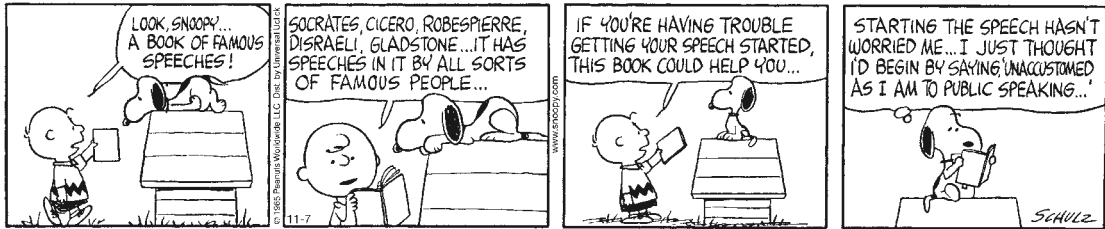
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



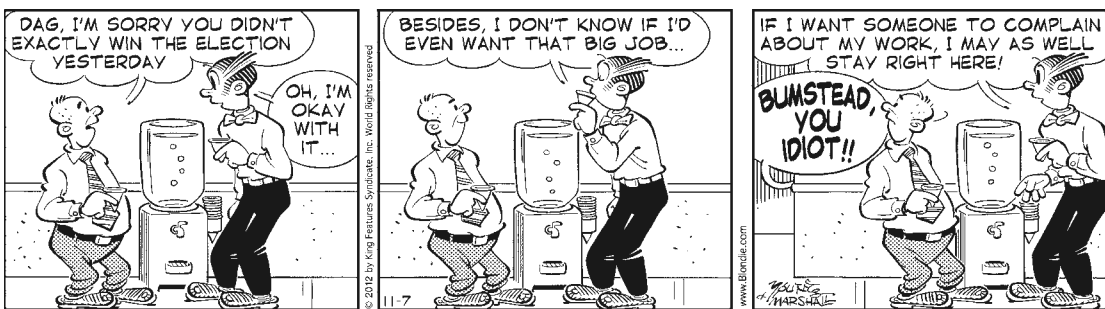
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



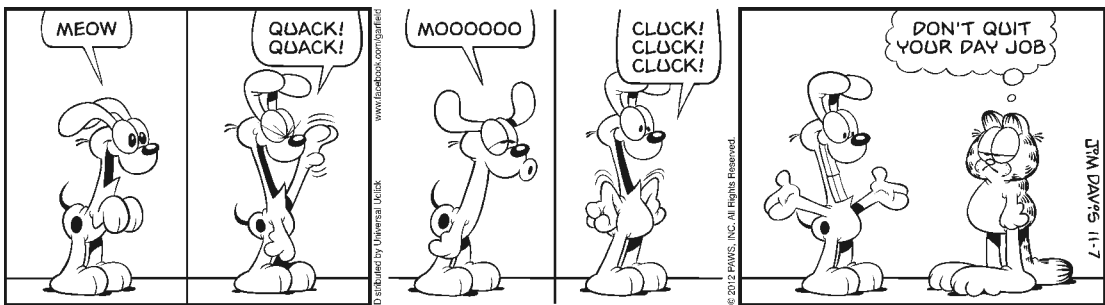
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



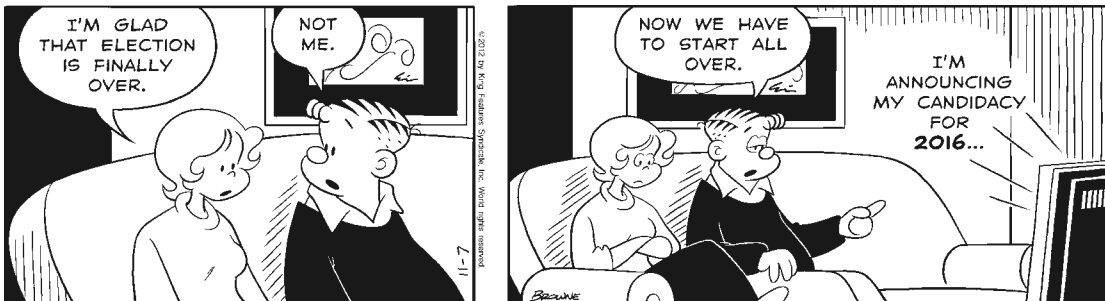
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Woman Can't Achieve Perfect Family With Boyfriend In Jail

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Rick," is in prison and has been there for two years. He is the father of my 2-year-old son. I got pregnant three months into our relationship.

Ten days after our son was born, Rick had to turn himself in for something that happened prior to my getting pregnant. He was sentenced to five years. He was supposed to serve only two years of it, but another charge caused that to change, and he won't be home for another year and a half.

I'm starting to get confused about our relationship because we barely have one anymore. We never get to see each other or talk.

Every time I have a night out I meet different people, but I feel too guilty to continue with anything. My girlfriends all tell me I need to move on, that I don't deserve this and that I'm the one "in prison." But I really want the perfect family.

What do you think I should do, Abby? Move on and be happy, or sit here playing the waiting game? — LOST AND CONFUSED

DEAR LOST: I'm glad you asked. Although Rick is the father of your little boy, you are not married to him. Therefore you are not morally obligated to put yourself into suspended animation until he is released from prison.

If you really want the "perfect family," you should do as your friends advise and move on, not because Rick made a mistake that got him into prison, but because there was a second offense that extended his sentence. It suggests a pattern.

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago I was given the news that a close friend had committed suicide. I wish I could say it's the first time I have been in this situation, but I can't. My issue is, I think suicide is more than a little selfish and I am unable to get beyond my anger. How do I support the family and friends of a

loved one who has died by suicide when I can't get past the anger? — OVERCOME IN GLEN BURNIE, MD.

DEAR OVERCOME: I'm sorry for the loss of your friend. While it is normal to feel angry about the suicide, you also need to find some compassion. Individuals who decide to end their lives do so for various reasons — to stop overwhelming emotional pain, because of mental illness, to punish someone, because of an incurable illness, and sometimes out of impulse.

Whatever your friend's reason was, please do not take it out on the grieving family and friends. They are dealing with enough of their own mixed emotions right now. If you feel you can't control your emotions, stay away until you can.



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: My husband is in a nursing home for long-term care. The holidays will soon be here. How do I sign the holiday cards? Should I include my husband's name? My son is living with me. Do I include his name, too? — GETTING READY IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR GETTING READY: It is perfectly acceptable to include all three names on your holiday cards. (Send them out early, because the post office is sure to be especially busy in December.)

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering what families should do with old pictures if someone in their family is transgender. — ANDY IN OHIO

DEAR ANDY: They should ask their transgendered relative what he or she would like done with the pictures and take their lead from the person's wishes.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Leo if born before 8:35 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 2012:

This year you feel empowered and energized. You sometimes might not think that you will land on your feet, but you will — just keep the faith. You have the capacity to spend a lot and also to make a lot. Focus on your long-term goals. If you are single, meeting people is a breeze. Take your time when deciding whom to choose. If you are attached, the two of you might have different visions of what constitutes "the good life." Know that there is a way to bridge this gap. VIRGO is a friend you always can count on.

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 a tremendous reservoir of energy and creativity. Plug this unusually high-voltage vitality into where it will make a difference. Your spontaneity emerges, and it seems as though you can do no wrong. Tonight: Let your hair down.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You might be considering spending more time at home. You could be pushed and pulled between two seemingly opposite interests. Consider a home-based business more seriously, if that is a fantasy of yours. Tonight: Play it low-key.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might want to keep a conversation moving. You could learn a lot just by saying whatever is necessary to keep the other party chatting. This person could be clearing up a lot of hostility, which will make it easier for him or her to relate to others. Tonight: Visit with an old pal.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ A cohort or friend has strong opinions about what you should and should not do. You could be unusually irritated by this person's interference. You know a lot more about what works for you. Listen politely, but follow your chosen path. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Be realistic about your limits. You could be pushing someone away. Your hot temper often comes out

with someone close to you. Words that are said will be difficult to take back, so be careful when voicing your opinions. With your innate flair for drama, you sometimes come off more confident than you realize. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Much is going on, but you might choose to stay mum at this point in time. You are dealing with some suppressed feelings that could affect your perspective. Your low-spirited attitude could lead to an argument with a roommate or family member. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be overthinking a situation more than usual. Question yourself as to what is irking or driving you. Root out your deeper feelings before saying anything, as misunderstandings are easy to have at this point. Tonight: Join friends for a midweek break.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Pressure builds, and you might feel as if you must accomplish or complete a task to someone else's expectations. You demand a lot of yourself — possibly even more than this other person does. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Take another look at a situation, as your perspective might have been a little harsh the first time around. You have the resilience necessary to take a verbal blow or two and not let it affect a situation. Know that not everyone is like you. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ A partner or close friend initiates a conversation. It could be about a project you are working on together. Your temper flares very easily and often out of the blue. You might not be pleased if you let yourself say the first thing that comes to mind. Tonight: Chat and visit over dinner.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

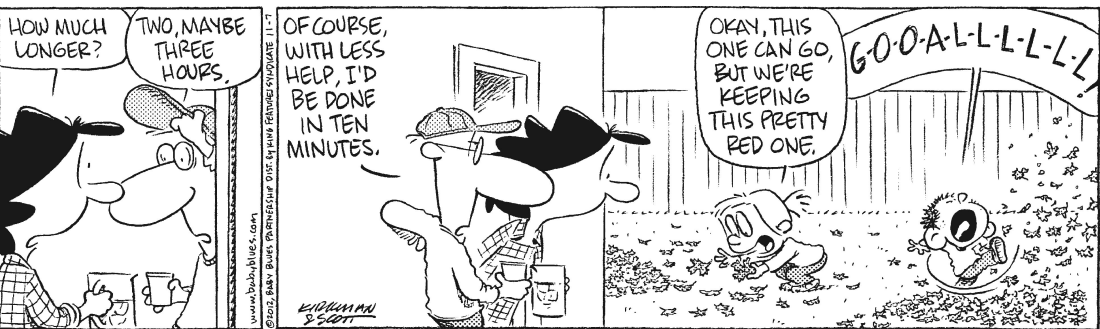
★★★★ Others seek you out, and for the most part, you are pleased to hear their news. A meeting could be far more important than you realize — do not hesitate to make the first move. Someone might be cantankerous, no matter what you do. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

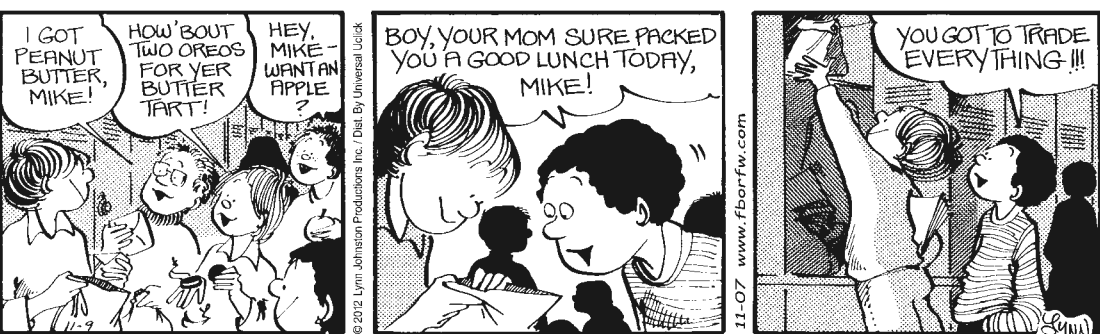
★★★★ Dive right in to whatever you have on the schedule for today, as you'll want to get through it as quickly as possible. You have a lot of ground to cover. Be social and forthright in your dealings. Someone might be a bit difficult to deal with. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

