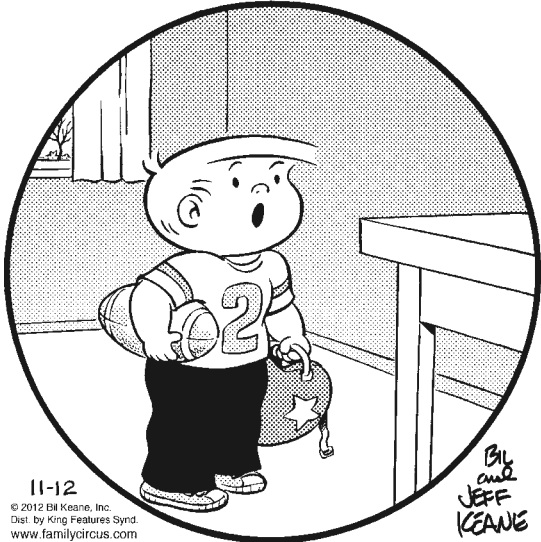
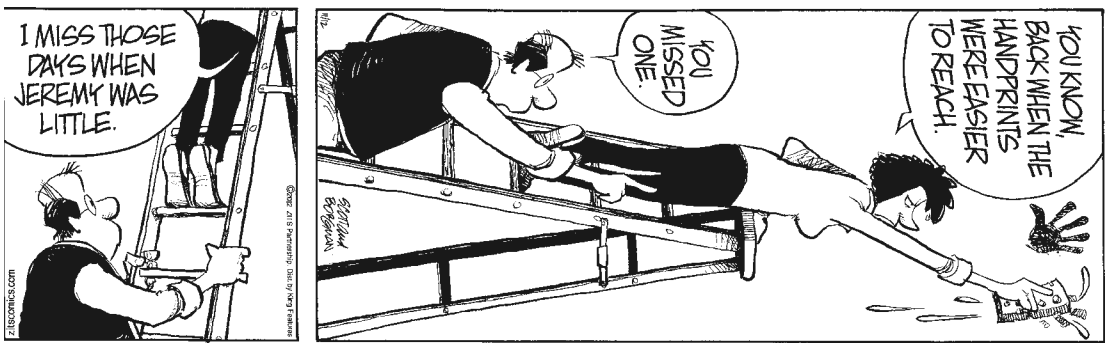


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



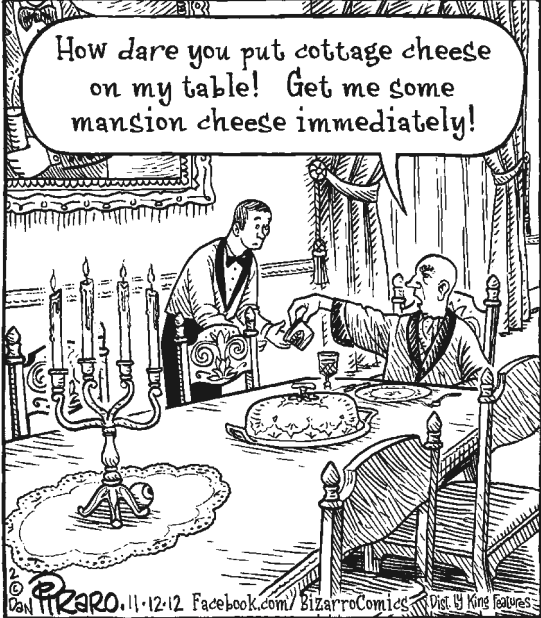
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Grandparents Prepare A Home For Twins They've Never Met

DEAR ABBY: In a few months, my husband's 10-year-old twin grandchildren are coming to live with us while their mother serves her time for felony DUI. My husband and I are in our 60s and have never met them before.

We have tried to avoid contact with their mother because the encounters were generally unpleasant. She alternated between being bitter and hateful, and desperately calling for financial help because she's a single mother with four children. She alienated her own mother and it looked like the younger children would wind up with child protective services if we didn't step up and offer a temporary home with us.

The new circumstances will require the four of us to make some big adjustments, but we believe it will enrich our lives, too. My dilemma is what do we tell the kids when they inevitably ask why we have been absent in their lives? I can't bring myself to tell them the truth about the way we feel. — CAUGHT OFF GUARD GRANDMA

DEAR CAUGHT OFF GUARD: Having lived with their mother, your husband's grandchildren probably understand very well the reason for her felony DUI. Be honest and explain to them that you weren't around because their mother didn't make you feel welcome. Then assure them that you have always loved them, that you are here for them now and will be in the future if they would like you to be.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 43 and have been hosting Thanksgiving for 19 years. My mother turned it over to me when I bought my first house because she was tired of doing it.

We always entertain the same group of 12 relatives. I have mentioned doing something different, but no one has enough room or the desire. If I didn't host it, I'm afraid they'd be hurt and have nowhere to go.

How do I break it to them that I am burned out? I

would just like to go out to eat and see a movie. Please help. — EXHAUSTED HOSTESS

DEAR EXHAUSTED: Ten days before Thanksgiving is a little late to cancel what has become an annual celebration. However, it would be the perfect time to announce that after 20 years of hosting the gathering, you are burned out. Therefore, those who have enough room should share the responsibility and alternate with you, or all of you should make your own arrangements.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my husband and I decided that when our nieces and nephews turned 18 we would stop giving Christmas gifts. That decision has worked out fine — until my husband's nieces and nephews began turning 18. Now it has become an issue with his side of the family, particularly his mother. She has made it clear through emails that we "have" to buy them gifts.

I don't know what to do. I don't want to start a war over gift-giving, but on the other hand, if we buy for his family, we have to buy for mine. We don't have a lot of disposable income. Please help us find a way to get through this. — GRINCHED IN LAS

VEGAS

DEAR GRINCHED: Emails are a wonderful form of communication, but when it comes to a discussion that involves emotion, it's time to use the old-fashioned telephone. You and your husband must call his mother and explain that buying gifts for the nieces and nephews on both sides of the family has become too much for you, which is why you have drawn the line at age 18. The "kids" are old enough to understand the gifts don't come from Santa. And so, for that matter, is your mother-in-law. Shame on her for pressuring you.

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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 Libra until 3:10 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, NOV. 12, 2012:

This year easily could be one of your most creative years yet, and you'll look back on it as being a very special time in your life. You often see the successful path to nearly any objective. If you are an artist, writer, musician or any other artistic field of expression, you could reach a pinnacle in your work. If you are single, your desirability speaks for itself. Your high energy and natural charisma make it nearly impossible for anyone to say "no" to you. Do not settle, as there always will be something better out there. If you are attached, your sweetie will say "yes" more easily. Curb a tendency to be too me-oriented; a partnership is a two-way street. A fellow SCORPIO reads you cold.

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)

★★★★ Work with certain individuals and engage in conversations with greater depth and insight. You might feel constrained for a short while, but that will pass. Your interactions with a higher-up will be tested once more. Tonight: Make time for a special person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Defer to others, especially extremely creative individuals. You work well with someone who has a broader vision and deeper understanding than you. Let this person take the lead. You might experience some resistance from a key partner. Tonight: Try a stressbuster.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Pace yourself, and try to understand that you can accomplish only so much so fast. You might not want to express everything that is on your mind, but at this point, it might be wise to do so. Remain as direct as possible. Tonight: Make time for a visit to the gym or a brisk walk.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ In general, you are unusually resourceful. Tap into your creativity and ingenuity. A child or loved one might appear to be closed down. You initially might be a little touchy at first, but you will come around -- just get out of your head. Tonight: Let your imagination lead the way.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Listen to your inner voice regarding a partnership. Financial matters are affecting both of you and could be a part of what needs to be discussed. You might not want to push someone away, but inevitably you will. Tonight: Happily head home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Listen to news, and be willing to reach out to a loved one. This person might be unusually shifty right now. Your creativity can create a comfort zone for both of you, in which you can handle some issues that need to be addressed. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Be aware of your spending and where it might be leading you. Your ability to get through a problem marks events that surround you. Relax with a family member over lunch. This person enjoys the extra time with you. Tonight: Treat yourself.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Tap into your creativity for solutions, and use your efficient nature to complete more tasks than usual. Your plate is most certainly full. You could be overzealous at the moment. Lighten up, and you will be able to relax. Tonight: Chat the night away.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Take your time making an important decision. Your intuition will help point you in the right direction with a matter involving home, family and finances. Remember, there are no problems ... only solutions. Tonight: Revamp your budget.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You have a way of making an impact that often startles others. You think with a traditional type of logic, yet sometimes you are willing to take a risk of unusual proportions. Express your thoughts to others so that your actions do not seem so far out. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★ Your ability to take a stand and impress your logic on others seems high at the present point. If you become too rigid in discussions, you could lose others. Do not mix someone's idea simply because it is not yours. Tonight: Into the wee hours.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance who cares a lot about you. You sometimes slight this person by not showing him or her enough compassion. If you see a relationship changing, could this scenario be a possibility? Tonight: Make some phone calls.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

