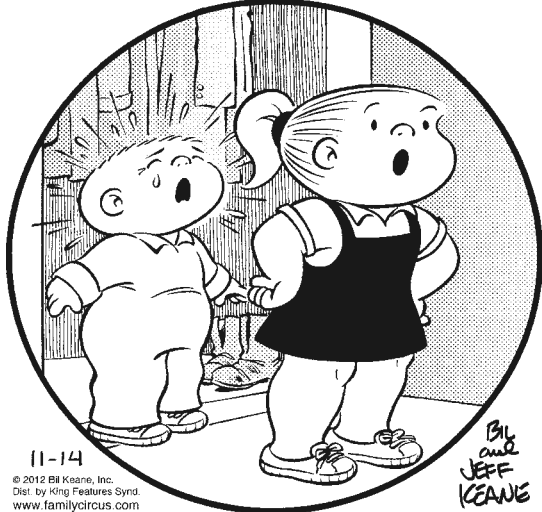


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



11-14
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"Mommy! Will you help PJ hide? He always hides here and gets mad when I find him."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



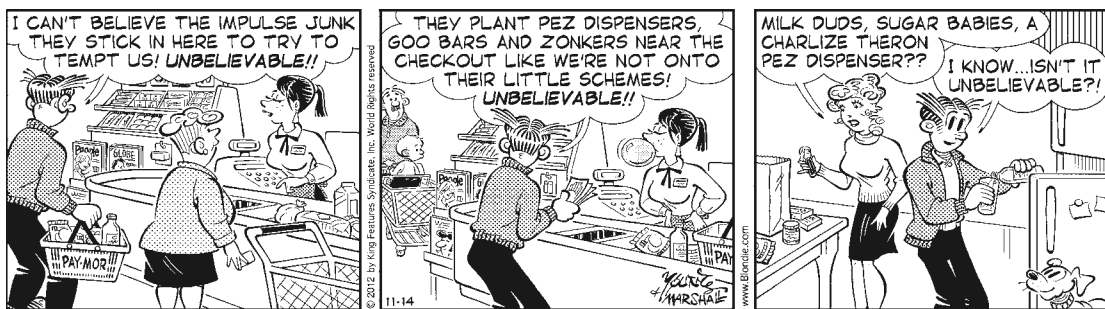
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



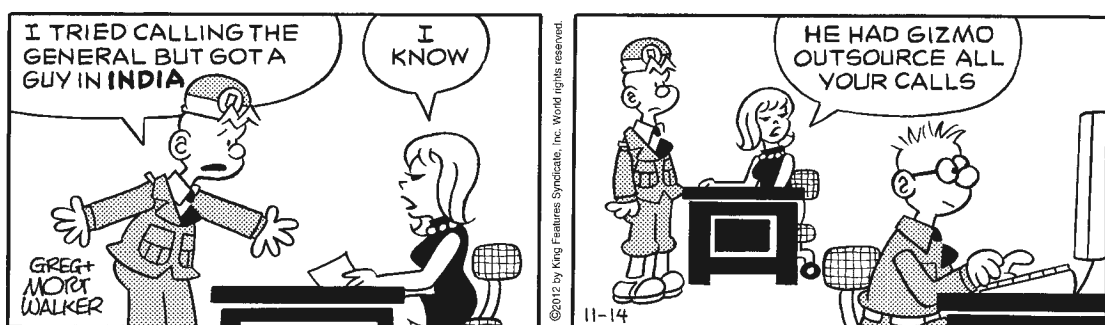
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



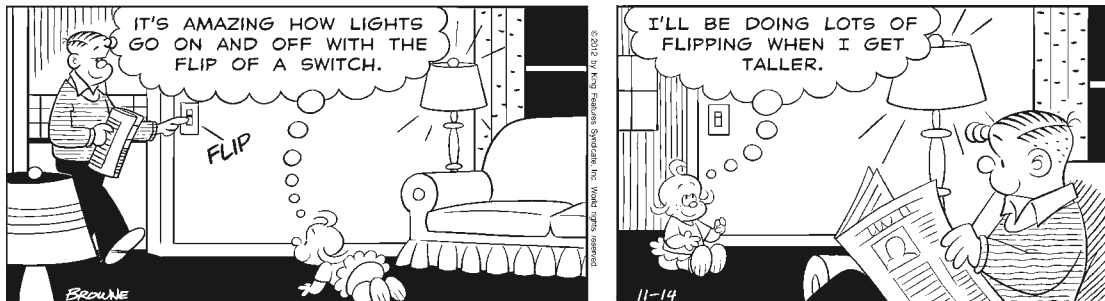
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



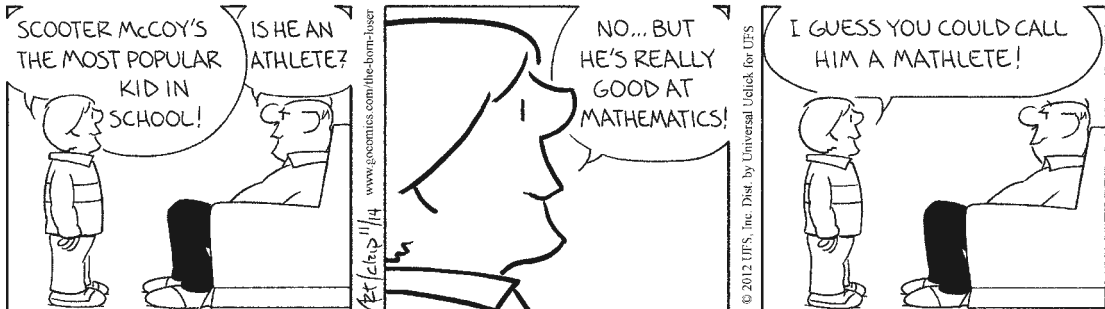
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Writing Skills Learned Early Pay Big Long-Term Dividends

DEAR ABBY: I am delighted that you still offer the booklet "How to Write Letters for All Occasions." When I was in my early teens, I ordered this booklet from you. It taught me not only how to write letters, but it gave me confidence to write — letters and more.

I have continued to write letters throughout my life. My skills, honed at such a young age, helped me in completing the often required writing during college and in my working life. I am called upon to write many letters, reports and memoranda. I am always complimented on my style and form, as well as the speed with which I am able to produce the needed documents.

Although I often use email for communication, my writing skills serve me well. I now do some creative writing as well, having built on the skills I attained through your booklet. Most important of all, it is a wonderful feeling to have stayed connected with friends and family over the years. A letter is an enduring reminder of love and friendship — one that exists far longer than a phone call. I owe so much to the booklet I ordered from Dear Abby years ago.

Thank you! — KATHERINE IN STOCKTON, CALIF.
DEAR KATHERINE: Thank you for your beautiful letter and for letting me know how helpful my booklet has been for you. Letter-writing and emailing can be difficult for many people who aren't used to organizing their thoughts on paper or while viewing their computer screen.

Some don't know what to say, while others are afraid they'll say the wrong thing. But anyone can write a letter or email by following a few basic rules. My booklet, "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," contains not only the fundamentals, but

also examples for almost every occasion. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby — Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

With the holiday season upon us and people sending greetings and thank-you's through the end of the year, this is the perfect time to send a handwritten letter or a well-written email.

While letter-writing or emailing may always be a chore to some people, there are occasions when the most appropriate, sensitive and elegant means of communicating one's thoughts is by the written word.



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: Why don't men wear their wedding rings? I can understand if they work in construction or something. But I see men at my medical office wearing suits, and while they wait for their appointments they talk about their wives, with no ring in sight. What gives? — SINGLE AND WONDERING IN KANSAS

DEAR SINGLE AND WONDERING: What "gives" is that some men are not comfortable wearing jewelry, and their wives don't insist upon it.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 and Moon in Scorpio if born before 2:52 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 2012:

This year you express how unusually savvy you can be with your finances, though you might want to be more willing to take risks. You brainstorm easily with others, and you always seem to come up with more ideas as a result. Express your concern for a child or loved one. Allow your imagination to flow, and you will express a more resourceful side. You seem to drop words like "impossible" and "no" from your vocabulary, which creates more possibilities than you could have imagined. If you are single, you might fuss a lot as you spruce up for dates. Toss yourself into the excitement of the moment. If you are attached, most of your problems stem from misunderstandings. SAGITTARIUS always encourages you to take risks.

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)

Communicate an unusual idea, yet be willing to accept suggestions. A brainstorming session could be fruitful. The unexpected plays a large role in how events unfold. You will respond in what might be considered a startling manner. Tonight: Nearly anything is possible.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You might keep pushing the limit with a partner. A discussion about ideas could be more important than you realize. A friend confuses plans without meaning to. Relax and work with the changes, if you can. Note a sudden insight. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Others seek you out; try to remain responsive. Your imagination could take you in a new direction. Share some of these thoughts with a close associate. You could be surprised by this person's reaction. You can't predict what he or she will do. Tonight: Go with the program.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You might be unusually focused on your daily life. Somehow, someone shakes up the status quo, and you'll realize how accustomed you have become to a tried-and-true routine. Allow yourself to be uncomfortable and let some new elements into your life. Tonight: Get some R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Let your mind expand to other ways of thinking. You will notice the difference and be more positive as a result. A partner could surprise you with an idea, which might be hard to grasp. Your fiery personality emerges when facing the unexpected. Tonight: Let your hair down.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Stay centered, and know what you want. Take some time to get grounded before heading into what could be an unusually busy day. A partner continues to be vague. This fudge state is authentic, but there really isn't a reason for it. Give this person some space. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Stay on top of your work, an important situation or simply the day's events. A friend or associate inadvertently could confuse plans or a conversation. You might decide to go off and do your own research in order to confirm what you are hearing. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Know that you could change your budget and priorities if you so choose. You might not be sure as to what your expectations are with a creative option or dynamic interaction in your life. Think less and enjoy more. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You are energized, and you zoom right through any confusion. You'll come out on top, no matter what. Your impulsiveness, mixed with your ingenuity, carries you easily through any hassles. A child or loved one could surprise you. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Your intuition tells you that more information is coming. Remember to assume a passive stance. Though this trait is not innate to you, it could work. Your resourceful mind cannot be turned off, so note the ideas that inevitably come forward. Remain positive. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Your immediate concern goes from others' evaluation of your work or performance to simply letting go and being yourself. You can't push to the extent that you have without integrating some lighter and easier interactions. Tonight: A friend makes life far more appealing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

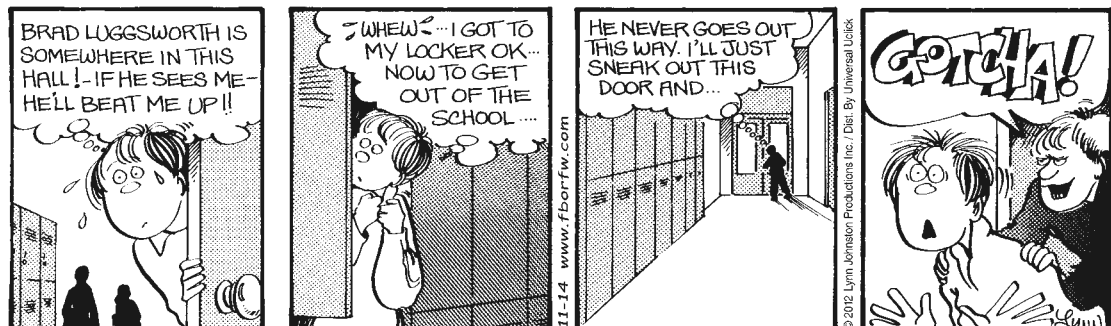
Pull back and examine what is happening. Be careful not to make judgments or become triggered. Your eyes will open up to a new perspective, especially if you can accept responsibility for your side of the issue. Tonight: In the limelight.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

