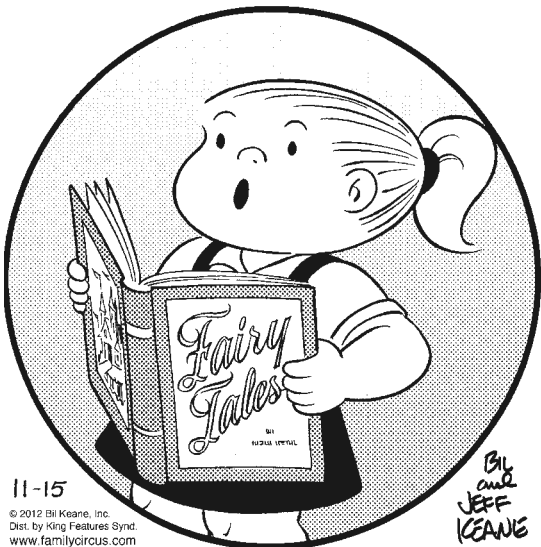


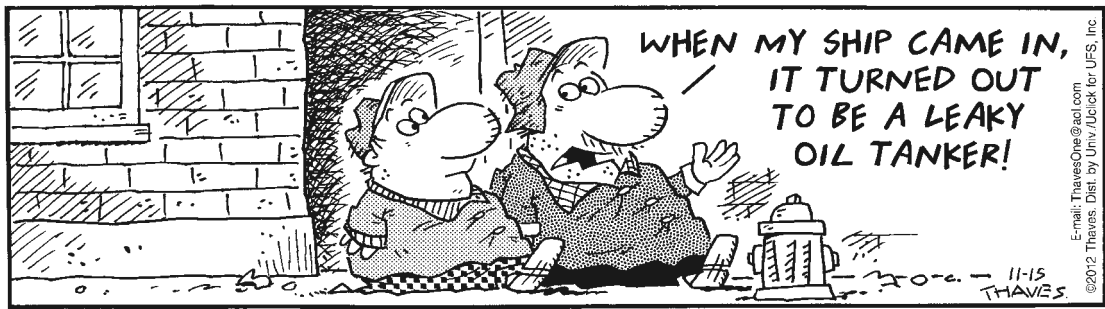
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



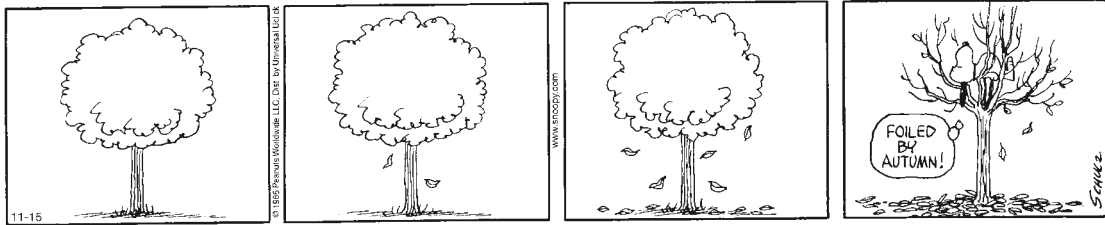
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



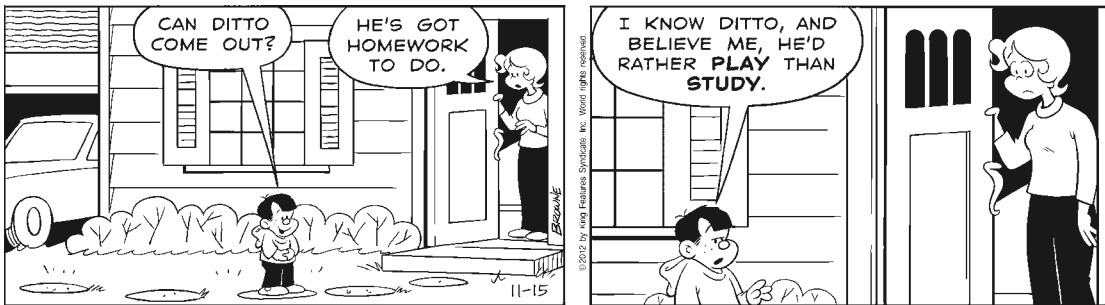
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Church's Familiar Routine May Comfort Alzheimer's Patient

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing about a letter you published Sept. 23 from "Friend in Arizona." She wrote that after her friend "Blanche" was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Blanche had asked not to be "paraded around for others to gawk at" after she reached a certain point. You advised that continuing to take her friend to church every Sunday was going against her wishes. I disagree.

I'm an LPN and specialize in Alzheimer's. I have been doing this for more than 25 years, and have headed Alzheimer care units. One of the things we strive for is some sense of normalcy. These people lose their short-term memory at first. But many have strong, vivid memories of years ago.

Going to church every Sunday is probably one of the few things Blanche actually remembers, and it most likely brings her a sense of comfort. Most of the parishioners probably have known her for years. This isn't walking through a mall full of strangers; it is enjoying fellowship with old friends. I'm sure they are not "gawking."

Nursing homes are often frightening to Alzheimer's patients — full of strange sounds and people. Church, however, is full of beloved hymns and friends.

Unfortunately, there will come a time when her disease will progress to the point that these trips will become stressful for her, and possibly that her behavior will become too difficult for church. But until that time comes, I hope this dear friend continues to do such a wonderful thing for this woman. I only hope that I have such caring friends in my later years. — JENNIFER IN CARTHAGE, MO.

DEAR JENNIFER: I would like to thank you and the many readers who urged me to change my answer to that letter. Some pointed out that Blanche had elicited the promise when she was a "different person," far different from the woman she is today. However, I am torn.



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.

While I think it's brutal for older people who suffer from dementia to be treated as pariahs and isolated (and many are), and clearly this friend is well-meaning, I also feel strongly that a person's wishes stated in advance should be respected. Blanche may have wanted to be remembered as the person she was, and entrusted her friend to carry out her wishes "after she reached a certain point."

The writer of that letter asked me if I thought she was wrong to disregard her friend's wishes. I apologize if anyone was offended by my telling her I thought she was.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a disagreement. No matter what we are doing, she's constantly checking her cellphone for texts or emails. Then she'll get into text conversations and talk to herself while I sit there wondering what's so funny. It happens a lot — anytime, anywhere. Her cellphone is a constant companion and usually the center of attention.

Am I too sensitive in thinking that the phone should be put away sometimes when we're together? Or is this the world in which we now live? —

LIKE I'M NOT THERE IN RICHLAND, WASH.

DEAR LIKE YOU'RE NOT THERE: You are not being overly sensitive. Have you told your wife that you feel she's neglecting you because she pays more attention to her cellphone? If you haven't, you should. If she has any consideration for your feelings, she will turn it off for an agreed period of time so she can spend that time with you.

Marriages take work if they're going to last, and communication is crucial. If she refuses to listen to you, deliver the message via text or email, or with the help of a licensed marriage counselor.

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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 Sagittarius all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 15, 2012:

This year emotional extremes mark your year. Know that whatever your mood might be it could be subject to change. You could gain financially through a partner, the lottery or even the IRS. Manage these moments well, and you will be just fine. If you are single, you could meet a foreigner or someone unusual who piques your interest. Spend some time getting to know this person. If you are attached, take a workshop or go on a trip that you have been talking about. SAGITTARIUS can be provocative. 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)

★★★★ Push past the obvious, and be willing to clear up a disagreement. You could feel emotionally naked, in a sense, by the time you fix the issue. Your ability to read between the lines helps you understand what someone might not be revealing. Tonight: Break down a barrier.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Deal with a certain someone directly. You might have difficulty understanding what is going on with this person, as he or she believes that you tune him or her out. You have found yourself drowning in empathetic feelings in the past when dealing with this person. Tonight: Make nice.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Others declare their strength and power in a way you can relate to. You might be overwhelmed because you feel the need to respond to the many different situations that come forward at this time. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Focus on your effectiveness and on getting the job done. You could be overwhelmed beyond your norm, as there will be a flood of paperwork on top of your regular work to get through. Do not make this a big deal — just get it done. Tonight: Choose a favorite way of relaxing.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your powerful personality emerges because you have so much to handle. Once you get through the hectic part of your day, you can kick back and enjoy a

loved one. Make a point of sharing your feelings with this person. Be understanding. Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to touch base with a roommate or family member midday. Whether you sense or actually know that a lot is about to happen, it makes a difference to clue this person in to what is going on. Be available to others. Tonight: Happy to be home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Calls, emails and conversations whirl around you at a hectic pace. Sorting through all of your messages, responding to them and prioritizing them could make you wish you were a computer. Remember the importance of expressing your feelings. Tonight: Swap tales of the day.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Be aware of the expense of entertaining a friend in style. You might want to rethink that decision. You have a tendency to get lucky when you deal with this person so you don't have to go overboard to impress him or her. Trust in your desirability. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You have so many opportunities falling into your lap that you might not be sure which one you would like to jump on first. Communication with friends and business associates informs you of the state of affairs. A loved one is expressive. Tonight: Whatever you want.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★ The less you disclose, the better off you will be ... even if someone is asking for feedback. This person might not be OK with what you have to say. Strong feelings emerge with someone you look up to. Be willing to discuss whatever you want. Tonight: Play it low-key.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. At the last minute, you might realize that you have alternatives that you had not considered. Allow more lightness to enter your life, and try not to take yourself so seriously. A friend helps you laugh at a situation. Tonight: Where the fun is.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

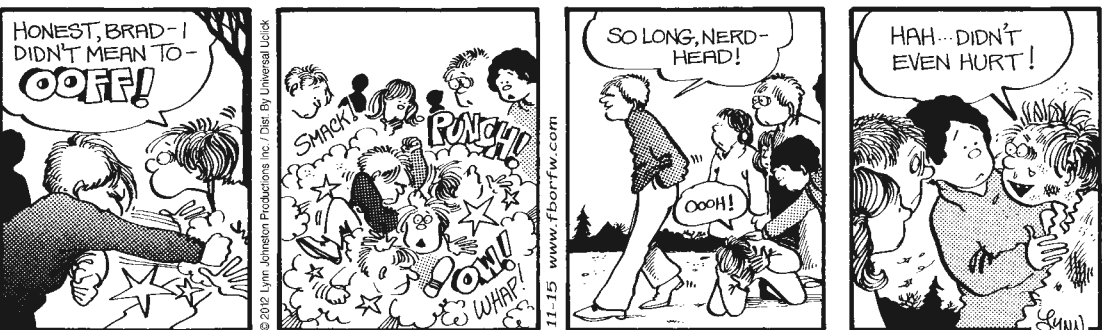
★★★★ You are on top of your game, and others sense that you are centered. Do only what you want, and don't sell yourself short. Recognize that others are observing the way you handle various situations. Many of them might follow in your footsteps. Tonight: Could be late.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

