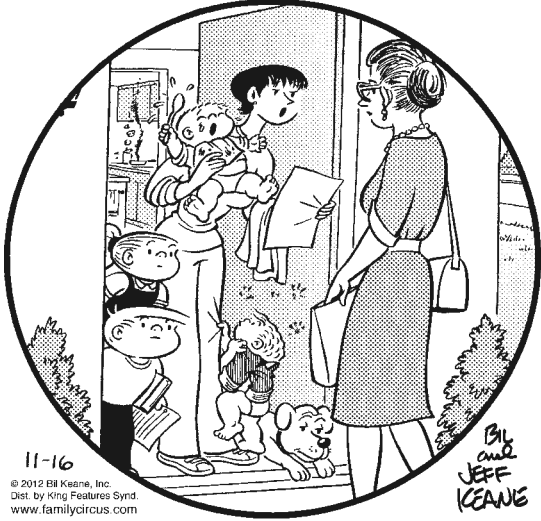


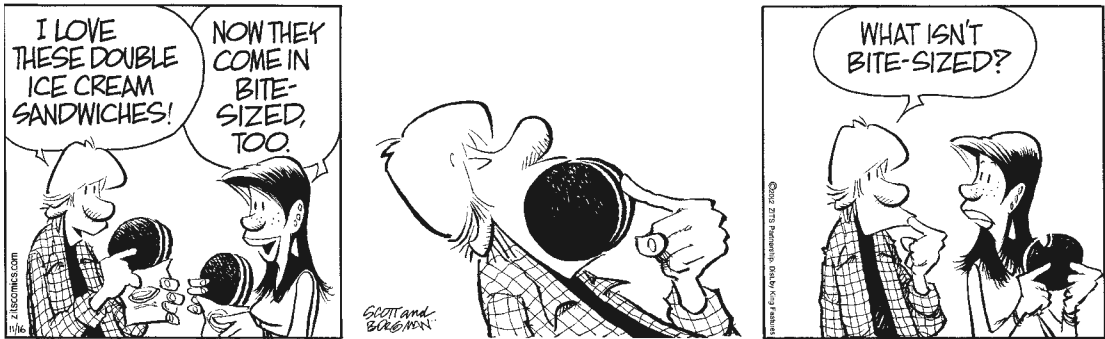
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



11-16  
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**"Well, YES, I'd like to be the ideal mother. But, frankly, I'm just too busy raising my children."**

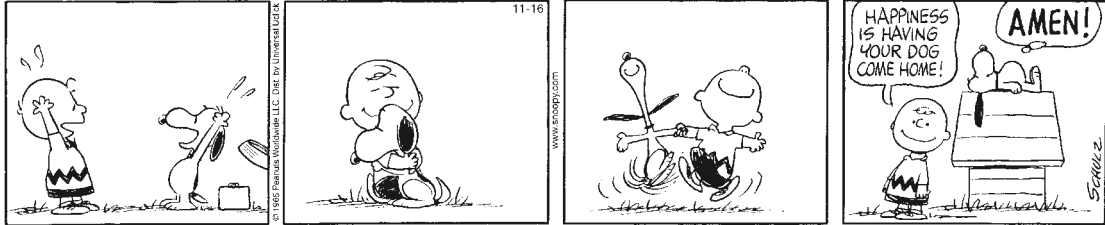
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



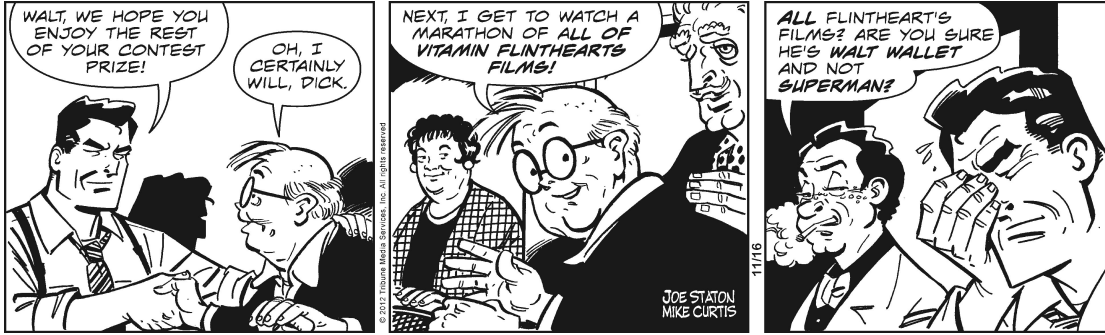
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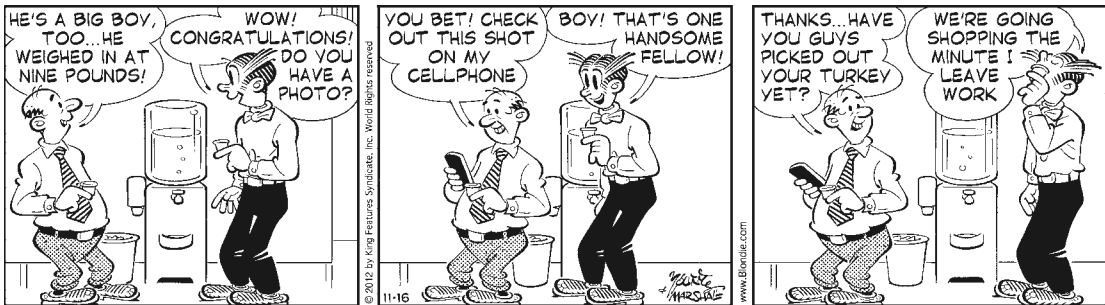
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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



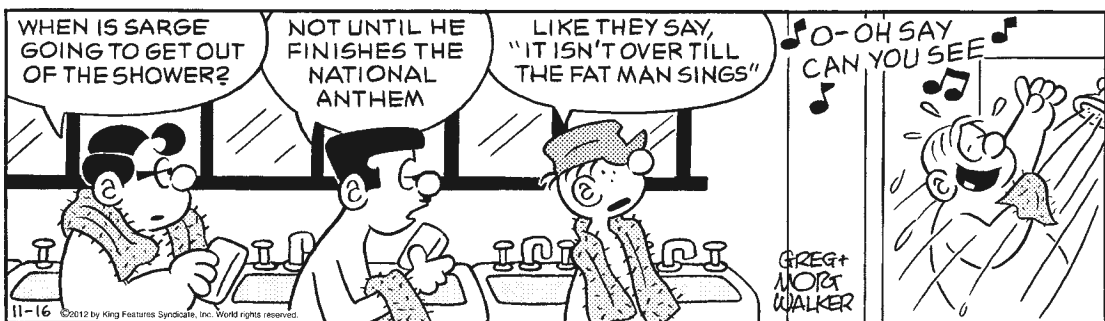
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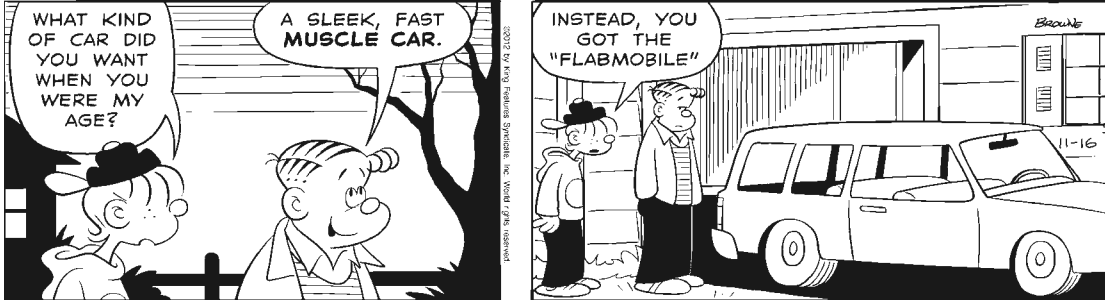
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



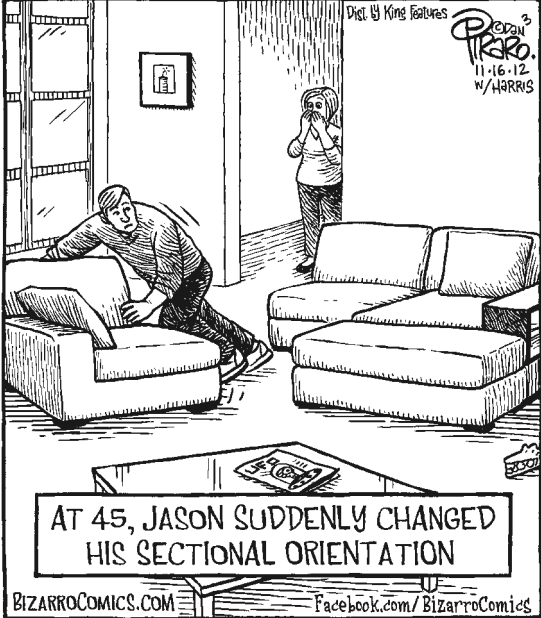
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Small, Yipping Dog Is More Than Boyfriend Can Handle

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Richard," and I are a mature couple who have been seeing each other for three years. I love him. My dog is the issue.

"Princess" is a 2-year-old rat terrier/mini-pinscher mix. She weighs 9 pounds and is spoiled. (I admit I'm a softy when it comes to discipline.) She barks at anyone and anything she sees. Her barks are shrill and can be annoying. But I live alone and feel she is protecting me.

Richard can no longer tolerate Princess' barking and has curbed his visits considerably. Except for this issue, he is my dream guy, and I feel lucky to have found him. I was married for more than 20 years to a controlling man, and I had to defer or compromise on everything. I will not compromise on this. I feel Richard should understand my attachment to Princess, especially when he's not around.

I miss him. Our dates are now only occasional. He thinks I prefer the dog over him, and that's not the case. Am I being selfish? Why can't I have them both? Is there a future for us, or have we reached an impasse? — WONT GIVE UP THE PUP, LAFAYETTE, LA.

DEAR WONT GIVE UP: Loving one's dog is not being selfish. You COULD have them both if you would contact a dog trainer and start giving Princess a doggy education that includes boundaries. Incessant barking should not be allowed.

Perhaps once Richard sees that Princess no longer regards him as a hostile intruder, he will feel more welcome. But that could take some work on the part of all three of you, if he's still willing.

DEAR ABBY: My grandpa remarried when I was a child. He and Grandma "Ella" each have five children. She is a wonderful woman.

When the holidays roll around, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, my grandparents always host

at their home. They spend all day fixing up the house and preparing the food. When it's time to eat, Grandma Ella's children think they should be first in the line. If someone else tries (some of us on my grandfather's side of the family have small children), they grumble and complain.

When the dinner is over, it's always my mom, one of my two aunts and me doing the dishes and cleaning up. Grandma Ella's family never help. They just stroll back into the living room and watch TV or leave to go somewhere else. It would be nice to get some help once in a while so Mom, my aunts and I could also relax after the meal. Just leaving the mess is not an option. We tried it once, and Grandma and Grandpa ended up doing it. Any advice? — STRESSED IN ADVANCE IN IOWA

DEAR STRESSED: Gladly! This Thanksgiving when everyone arrives, Grandma and Grandpa should cheerfully inform the happy revelers that small children will be fed first, regardless of whose side of the family they come from. At the same time, each of the adults should be ASSIGNED a cleanup chore so one side of the family isn't stuck with the entire burden. Unless your grandparents assert themselves, nothing will change, so please suggest this to them in advance.

DEAR ABBY: When a man is married, who is supposed to come first in his life — his wife or his mother? — TIRED OF BEING SECOND STRING

DEAR TIRED: At the risk of sounding preachy, the Scripture says a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife. As much as a man may love his mother, in order to have a strong and healthy marriage, his wife should come first if he must make a choice.

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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 if born before 2:35 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 2012:

This year you transform part of your life and make it more to your liking. It will be a slow but worthwhile process that will affect other areas of your life as well. You become a better communicator, and others listen to what you have to say. If you are single, your sensuality speaks even if you decide to downplay it. You have many options, so choose with care. If you are attached, the two of you might want to invest in a special acquisition together. Be direct with others, especially loved ones. CAPRICORN understands your depth.

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 might feel as if you carry the weight of many on your shoulders. You are willing to give 110 percent, no matter what you do. Realistically, saying "no" might be more appropriate than letting yourself be overwhelmed. Tonight: A must appearance.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You have the ability to see beyond the obvious, and you often fix situations because of their likely ramifications. On the other hand, you know when to take a risk on something worthwhile. Friends often scratch their heads at your decisions. Tonight: Go for exotic.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ One-on-one relating becomes successful, if you go with the flow. You might feel as if you do not have enough energy to do everything you want to do. A partner becomes fiery out of the blue, which catches you off guard. Be careful. Tonight: Try to get rid of the momentary friction.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Others are demanding, and you could be unusually distant, which will be frustrating to those who want you to respond immediately. You might resent the intrusion of those who make demands. A loved one occupies your thoughts and interests. Tonight: Enjoy your space.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Work, tasks and your to-do list all catch up with you today. Focus, and get as much done as possible.

You'll want to enter the weekend free and clear. As a result, your pace might be hard to keep up with, but you'll make sure to get the job done well. Tonight: Party the weekend in.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Though you might not be sure of your weekend plans yet, your mind could be long gone. Your ability to daydream is fueled by a suggestion or two from close friends. Your sense of direction and ability to follow through on key projects seem to awaken your mind. Tonight: Loosen up.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Be sensible when making plans. If you feel the need to handle a personal matter, do. In the long run, following your desires will make you more efficient. If you feel the need to make a change or a move, discuss it with a family member first. Tonight: Don't push.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You will accomplish a lot more if you just relax and go with the flow. Someone might decide to revamp his or her schedule, which could have a definite impact on you. Listen to someone else's news. Tonight: Meet a friend at a favorite spot.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be tired of having to be so precise and careful with your funds. Should you choose to loosen up, you will see the results almost immediately. Proceed with caution, even if you do not want to. In the long run, you will be left smiling. Tonight: Your treat.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Remain sure of yourself, yet also understand that others might not be as driven as you are. Evaluate what is happening, and understand that differences are natural. Your uniqueness is what puts you in the position of gains and growth. Tonight: Curb some sarcasm.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might want to try a different approach. Discuss this matter with someone you trust who can give you adequate feedback. Understanding evolves between you and another person after a long-overdue conversation. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Friends surround you, as they show their support and offer you a sense of direction. You could be taken aback by what is happening with someone you care dearly about. This person's anger could be overwhelming, whether it is directed at you or not. Tonight: With friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

