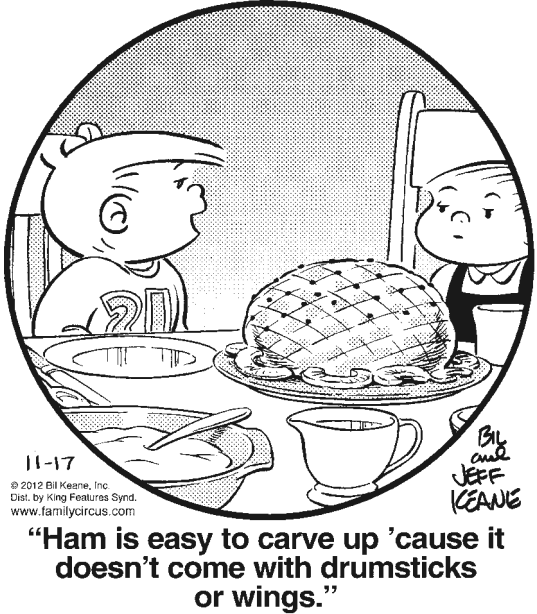


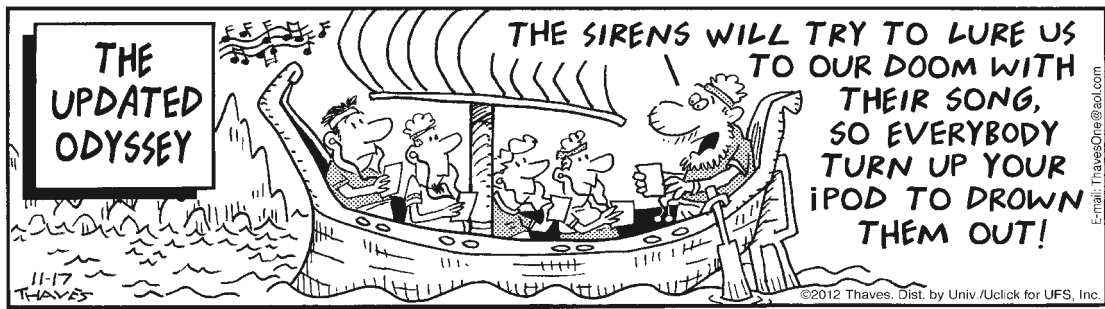
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



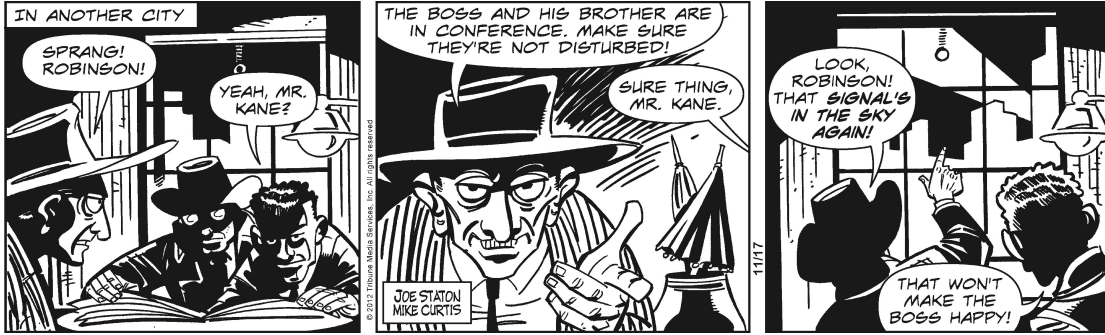
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



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



Man's Seldom-Seen Girlfriend Fails To Measure Up For Mom

DEAR ABBY: My son, "James," is 25 and has been dating his girlfriend for three years. He has brought her over only five times.

This is his first girlfriend, and I think he is getting way too serious and thinking about marriage. While she seems nice, I do not think she's the right girl for my son to marry. James has not talked to me about marrying her just yet, but I think he knows I'm not a fan.

My question is, do I talk to my son about how I feel, or I just bite my tongue and let him make his own decision, even though I think he'd be making a big mistake? Or should I say something and risk ruining our relationship?

James isn't the easiest person to talk to, especially when you don't agree with him. I'd hate to see him marry her and wind up divorced, knowing I might have been able to stop it. — MOTHER KNOWS BEST IN NEW YORK

DEAR M.K.B.: At 25 years old, your son is an adult. A three-year relationship is not a whirlwind courtship. James and his girlfriend may already have an inkling about how you feel about her — which is why you have seen them only five times in three years.

If you want any relationship at all with your son in the future, do not interfere. Let him work this out for himself. He may be your son, but he's no longer a child, so don't treat him like one.

DEAR ABBY: My wife thinks it's improper for my parents to include their grandson — our 8-year-old son — in their Christmas card photo. He's their only grandchild.

I have seen people include pictures of their pets, cars, boats and all sorts of other things in their photo cards. So why not grandchildren? My parents

have pointed out that this is the only opportunity for their friends to see their grandchild, but my wife thinks he should be included only in OUR Christmas card. What do you think? —PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

DEAR PULLED: I think your wife is selfish, judgmental, and should be ashamed of herself for wanting to deprive your parents in this way.

Now I have a question for you: What's her problem? It's obvious that she has one where your folks are concerned.

DEAR ABBY: I had a great friendship that I threw away. "Shane" and I got along really well and, frankly, we ventured beyond friendship multiple times when we lived near each other. I think the "relationship" was good for both of us. Then I lost my temper during a trivial argument, and now he won't talk to me. We live in different states now, so the phone is the only way for us to contact each other.

Abby, I know the falling-out is my fault. He said something that shouldn't have set me off the way it did. How do I fix this? I miss talking to him, and he won't answer my calls anymore. — REGRET MY TEMPER

DEAR REGRET: It appears Shane has not only moved away but also has moved on. When you were neighbors, the friends-with-benefits arrangement might have influenced him to forgive you. However, because that "leverage" is gone, you should move on, too. If he is unwilling to talk things out, there really isn't a way to "fix" it.

And now, a life lesson: The next time you're about to say something you might be sorry for later, remember that you can't "unring a bell" and that it cost you a friendship.

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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 Capricorn all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 17, 2012:

This year you harness an ethereal quality that keeps emerging from you. You have many ideas, and some of them are great. You also have the ability to be practical in how you manifest these concepts. Originality and practicality, when mixed together, are a close-to-unbeatable combination. Use them well to create more of what you want. You will transform part of your life and be much happier as a result. Sometimes the intensity of these changes will be greater than you could've imagined. If you are single, someone quite special enters your life. Use care with any type of commitment, as what pleases you now could be very different in a few months. If you are attached, your sweetie needs to be kept in the loop. It will make all the difference. CAPRICORN might rain on your parade.

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)

★★★★ Make time for an older friend or family member, as this person is easy to please. You might decide to bring along a child or loved one. Though the extra person might change the mood, no one cares. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out to others, and try to catch up on news and plans. Once you start talking, it could be hard to stop all the conversation. You might feel pushed to your limit when trying to fit in everything you want to do. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Understanding is the result of a conversation in which you and the other person explain where each of you is coming from. Good vibes come through, no matter what you decide to do. Your plans will be revived as a result. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Others dominate the conversation. As a result, you might not be sure whether to make plans or just passively express interest in what is discussed. Make plans that suit you and that will bring you happiness. Tonight: Just do not be alone.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Remain evenly paced, and understand your

limitations. You could be overwhelmed by everything that goes on, which likely will form an obstacle to doing whatever you want. Plans keep changing. Touch base with a child or loved one. Tonight: Having fun works.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your energy quickly dwindles when dealing with a child or loved one. You also could hear an earful from someone else regarding what he or she wants and needs. A conversation could encourage some deep thought; don't make anything heavier than need be. Tonight: Frolic away.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might opt to stay close to home or with family. You also might want to visit a friend and catch up on news. You find that your feelings seem to be constantly changing and, in some cases, are deeply emotional. Tonight: Invite others over for dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Keep conversations moving, and feel free to discuss what might have been a difficult topic in the past. Push comes to shove if you are not careful. Let someone have his or her way. You cannot stop this person anyway. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Pull back some, and you will note a possessive streak in yourself. Usually, those feelings come from insecurity, and they trigger behavior that can be difficult. Discussions could draw in important information, which could lead to understanding. Tonight: Make it your treat.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ The Moon in your sign adds energy, magnetism and a certain appeal to your day. You will want to act on a conversation when making plans. You see how feelings can be separate from actions. Note the schism, but don't make it a big deal. Tonight: As you like.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Do less and relax for a change. Sometimes you go overboard. More often than not, you are assertive and do not stand on ceremony. For everyone involved, pulling back works better. It builds greater confidence in the various friendships or bonds involved. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 21)

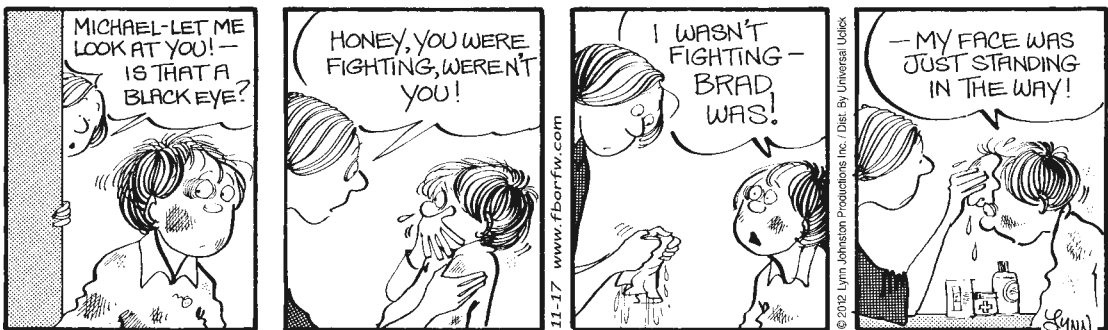
★★★★ Focus on the possibilities of what could happen if you relax more. Bring friends together for a little get-together in the near future. A male pal becomes unusually demanding and will continue to be that way for several weeks. You don't have to do anything about it. Tonight: Where crowds are.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

