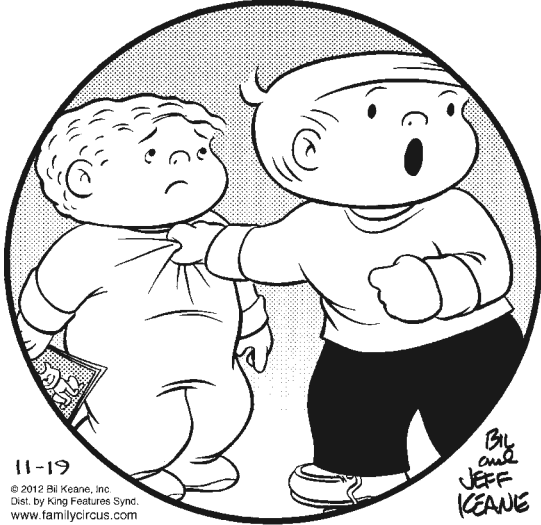


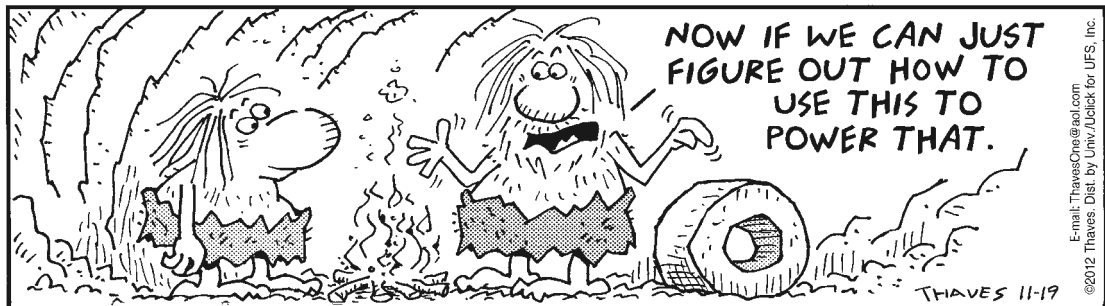
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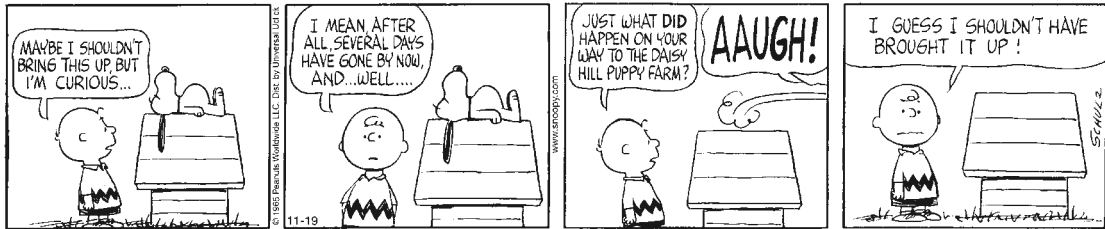
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FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



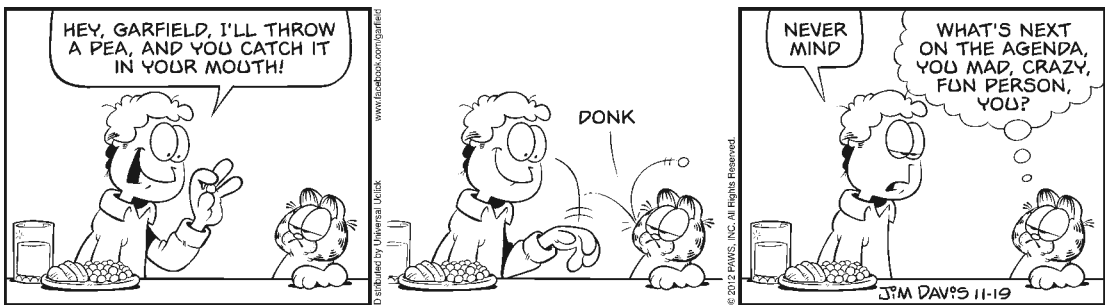
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BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



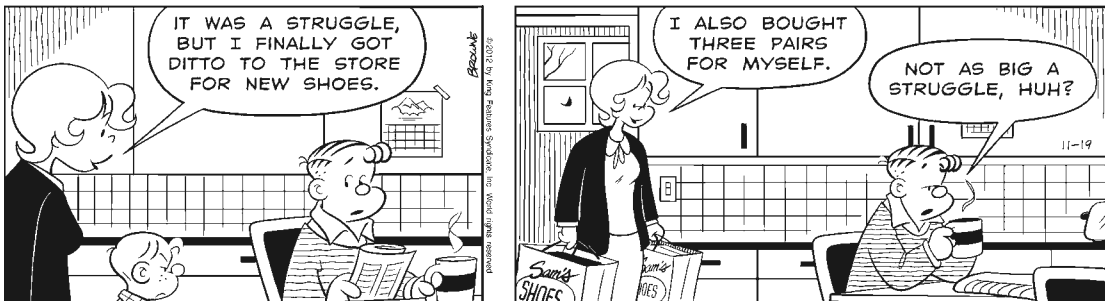
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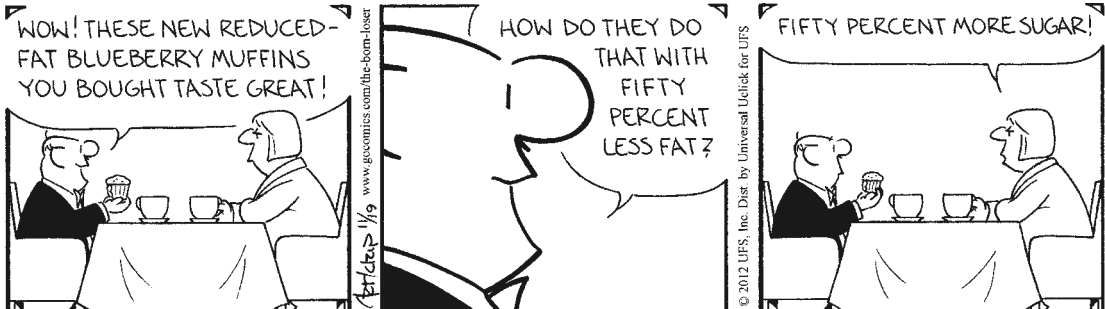
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Family Insists Woman Is Fine Despite Two Suicide Attempts

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old woman, diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder after two suicide attempts. I have tried to get my parents and siblings to attend a session with me so they would understand my diagnosis, but all I hear is, "You don't need all those drugs. You're FINE — just a little different than the rest of us," and, "You have always been 'odd' and we like you that way."

I have given up trying to get their support, but my gifted 14-year-old nephew has been asking questions about my diagnosis. I'm not sure how much to tell him, especially about the suicide attempts, one of which landed me in the hospital.

Any advice about what I should tell him and how to get family support? — HEARING VOICES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR HEARING VOICES: Tell your nephew the truth. If he is as intellectually gifted as you say, he will go online and start researching. Explain that your condition can be overwhelming at times, which caused you at one point to try to harm yourself, but that it is kept in check with medication.

Your relatives may be reluctant to admit that there is a mental illness in the family, which is why they refuse to allow your psychiatrist to confirm it. However, you may be able to find support from NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. With 1,200 affiliates, NAMI provides grassroots, self-help groups for people with mental illness and family members who are affected by it.

The website is [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) and I hope you will check it out. The organization was established in 1979, and it may be able to help you get through to your family that your problems are not imaginary.

DEAR ABBY: I host a lot of gatherings at my home and sometimes when I am on vacation. I put a lot of thought and effort into them. Some are themed par-

ties, such as Valentine's Day or a luau.

Do you think it's rude for guests to show up 10 or more minutes early? I enjoy hosting, but I need the last few minutes before party time for ME, so I can

get dressed, light candles, put out the food or just plain relax for a few minutes. Your thoughts, please. — WONDERING IN WESLEY CHAPEL, FLA.

DEAR WONDERING: I agree with you. Guests with good manners show up at the appointed time. While arriving 15 minutes late is acceptable, to arrive early is an imposition on one's host.

DEAR ABBY: My young married daughter, "Megan," has a problem with a neighbor. This woman has a family of her own, but is in Megan's business so much she is now actually taking my grandbaby out to eat at restaurants and seems to want people to think the baby is hers.

I have spoken to Megan about this. She doesn't like what is going on, but feels powerless to stop it. This neighbor does a lot for my daughter, and Megan doesn't want to hurt her feelings. What can she say that will put this woman in her place and make her realize that my daughter's family is not up for grabs? — OHIO MOM

DEAR MOM: Megan is NOT "powerless." As the mother of that child, all she has to do is start saying no. If the neighbor asks for an explanation, she should reply that what's going on is making her uncomfortable. Period. There is no need to be unkind about it — just firm.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, 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 in Scorpio and a Moon in Aquarius all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, NOV. 19, 2012:

This year a partner you regularly deal with keeps you optimistic. You often get too cynical and too focused on reality. Take lessons from this person, and you will see positive results. Try the power of positive thinking. If you are single, you always are attractive to the opposite sex, and this year is no different ... except that you seem to want to spend more time at home. A friend or family member could introduce you to your next sweetie. If you are attached, you will become closer as a result of working through an issue together. GEMINI can be an interesting friend. 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)

★★★★ Dive into a meeting and open up conversation. You could be taken aback by everything you hear, and might need time to process the information. Many people might be confused by all the conflicting messages. You will help them sort fact from fiction. Tonight: Where the action is.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Take a stand and listen to what is being said. Your ability to gain financially will be marked by many options. Use care when dealing with a boss, even if the information he or she touts is off; otherwise, you might not want to deal with this person's reaction. Tonight: In the limelight.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Look beyond the obvious for answers. You could see a situation differently as a result. You also might decide to be more open. You have the ability to read between the lines. You get someone's mixed messages better than he or she does! Tonight: Look to new vistas.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ A partner or close associate initiates a conversation. You could be uncomfortable at first, but it does not serve you to avoid the situation. Be open, and refuse to allow a misunderstanding to end the communication between you. Tonight: Talks over dinner.

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

★★★★ Listen to news more openly, and stay on top

of a partner's actions. You need to understand where this person is coming from. A meeting could have a very positive outcome, as long as no one plays into a misunderstanding. Tonight: Let a loved one make a suggestion.

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

★★★★ An even pace is your signature, and it has brought you laurels in different areas of your life. You might want to impress someone. You only have to be yourself. This person already is impressed. Continue as always. Tonight: You might want to take a walk to reduce stress.

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

★★★★ No one doubts your creativity or abilities. As a result, a special opportunity heads your way. Make sure that both you and the other party know what could be demanded of each of you. Detach, and you'll gain an even broader perspective. Tonight: Share with a trusted friend.

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

★★★★ You might want to understand what it takes to make a family member content. Your efforts to ease some tension will open this person up. Honor what he or she says; otherwise, you could be creating an even bigger problem. Tonight: Relax. Enjoy a favorite pastime.

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

★★★★ You tell it like it is. You are well-grounded, and you know what you feel; however, the way you express yourself could be very different from how someone else does. This person might have a different perspective, but don't shut down his or her ideas. Tonight: Hang out.

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

★★★★ Listen to news, and make a money decision according to what you are hearing. If you try to oversell the situation, you only will confuse yourself. You have a lot of energy, and you need to keep it focused. Clear out as many errands as you can. Tonight: Get some R and R.

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

★★★★ A child or loved one delights you with his or her antics and sets your good mood today. You might want to plan on spending more time with this person than you currently do. Confusion surrounds plans and a financial investment. Tonight: Beam in whatever you want.

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

★★★ Know what is going on behind the scenes, and get more information if possible. Postpone any decision-making as long as you can in order to figure out the proper path to take. A partner or family member only adds confusion to the moment. Tonight: Choose a stressbuster.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

