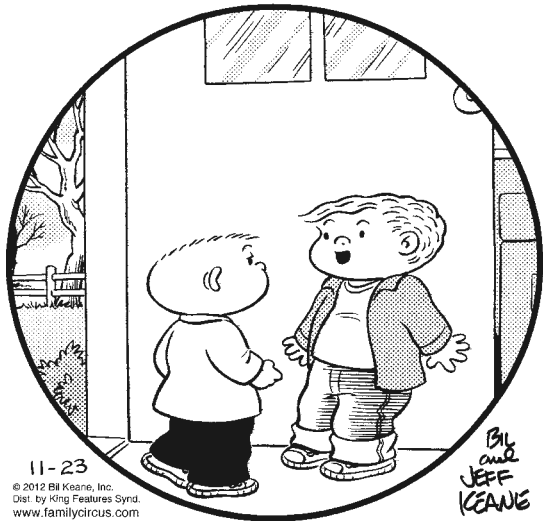


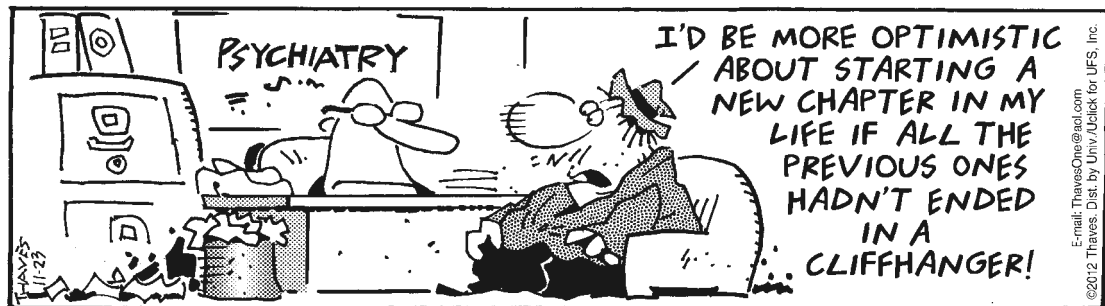
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



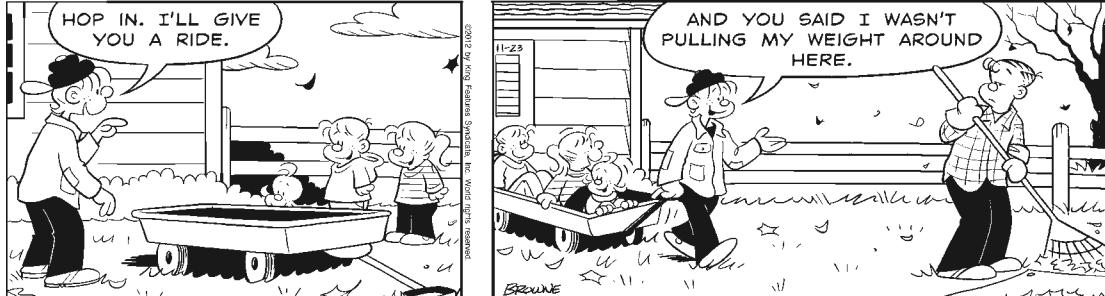
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Widower Looks For The Right Way To Say 'Thanks But No Thanks'

DEAR ABBY: My wife died a few years ago. I live alone and have been a bachelor since then. Old friends have been kind enough to pass along the names and phone numbers of widows or divorcees they felt would be of interest to me. I have taken several of them out to dinner. Some were interesting, but for one reason or another we didn't have enough "chemistry" for me to call them for another date.

What is the considerate thing to do after having just one date? Should I call the person and say it was pleasant, but ...? Should I not call at all and move on? I feel guilty at times for not following up with some comment, as they were mostly nice women. Any suggestions about how to handle these situations would be welcome. — MIAMI WIDOWER

DEAR WIDOWER: Conversations such as this can be awkward, which is why many people avoid having them. Because you feel you "should" say something, a way to handle it would be to say you had a nice time, but you are still grieving and are not ready for a relationship. Chemistry is supposed to be mutual, so don't be surprised if some of the women aren't interested in pursuing a relationship with you, either. That's life.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a store that is popular with teenagers. Every Christmas, parents and grandparents come in here with absolutely no clue what to get. Asking "What's popular right now?" doesn't help. (What's cool to one teen may be lame to another.) I'd like to offer a couple of tips to help clueless relatives select the right gift for their teen.

- (1) Bring a recent photo of her or him. We can tell a lot by looking. It will provide hints as to what kind of gift they may like.
- (2) Copy a list of their "likes" from Facebook and bring it with you. It may mention books, music,

movies or other interests that will make it easy to track down something they would enjoy.

I hope this helps some of your readers. — VALERIE IN FORT WORTH

DEAR VALERIE: Bless you for writing. I'm sure many parents and grandparents will take your suggestions to heart. Santa isn't the only one who needs a "helper" at Christmastime.



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: What do you think of a 30-year-old man who posted every detail about his breakup with my daughter on Facebook for all of their 1,000 friends and family members to read? There was some personal and very painful stuff.

Is this the "new generation" norm? Or is he immature and inconsiderate? — HURTING FOR MY DAUGHTER

DEAR HURTING: Welcome to the wonderful world of the Internet, where millions of individuals have chosen to live their lives online for all to see. And while you and I might consider what happened to be a form of kissing-and-telling, bragging, a bid for sympathy and in poor taste, the people who love your daughter will "unfriend" this person, and those who love gossip will devour every detail with relish.

In time your daughter will realize she is lucky this relationship is over. Whether her former boyfriend used Facebook to gain 15 minutes of fame or as a weapon to hurt her, I think she can do better. Don't you?

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Aries all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 23, 2012:

This year you often become angry and frustrated if you feel that others are not being as sensitive as you would like them to be. Recognize that you are more dynamic than in past years. People could be taken aback by this new strength and energy. If you are single, you have many admirers circling around you. You might discover that the person you choose to relate to is volatile. Give yourself time to decide who is right for you. If you are attached, try not to be controlling. You cannot change your significant other, no matter what you do. Accept that fact, and there will be more understanding between you. ARIES can make you smile at the drop of a hat. 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)

★★★★ Someone might not have adjusted to your new spirited, spontaneous self. By doing the unexpected, you irritate this person and cause him or her to question the status quo. Stay level and refuse to respond to his or her reaction, and you both will be better off. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Stand back and rethink a personal situation. You could be trying to absorb sudden insights, which might be uncomfortable. By detaching some, you will get yet a different perspective. Realize the implications of trying to control a situation. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ If you can, the wise move would be to steer clear and not get involved in controversy. Your depth and ability to move past an immediate problem will play an important role. A partner or loved one could be enmeshed in an upsetting situation. Tonight: Find your friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Take a stand, whether you are comfortable doing so or not. Someone who has clout could be very challenging. You do not need to play into this person's power play. You simply must support yourself in what you want. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to others. You might be

overwhelmed by someone's strong drive. This person could deliver surprising news of a different variety each time you meet up. Reorganize your day in the best way possible. Tonight: Reach out to someone at a distance.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with people in general on a one-on-one level. Brainstorm away. Use your creativity to the max, and know what you want. A child or new friend could capture your interest. Opportunities emerge from your ingenuity. Tonight: Meet up with a loved one for dinner.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, as everyone around you seems to have a very clear idea of what he or she wants. Loosen up and relax with a friend or two, and get into a game while others are out shopping. A family member could be testy. Tonight: Just go along with someone's plans.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Move forward with a project or choose to join a friend this Black Friday. You could get a lot done quickly and efficiently by working together. Call a partner if you are unsure about a purchase. Tonight: Could go into the wee hours.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ As you set out to do some Christmas shopping, allow your creativity to emerge. You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. Nothing can ease the pressure like diving right in, but remember to maintain your budget. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ The unexpected occurs close to home. You might not be able or want to handle everything that comes down your path. After a while, you might decide to make a run for it, whether it's to join a friend or simply to get away from the uproar. Tonight: Make a to-do list.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could be busy, as you start in on some holiday errands. You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. At the same time, you are working through some intense feelings from a different situation. Let your lighter side emerge. Tonight: Hang with friends.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Curb a need to be possessive by worrying less about others. You might suddenly encounter the perfect gift for a certain someone. Don't hesitate to get it. A friend could become controlling or touchy at the last minute. Tonight: Take the action back to your pad.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

