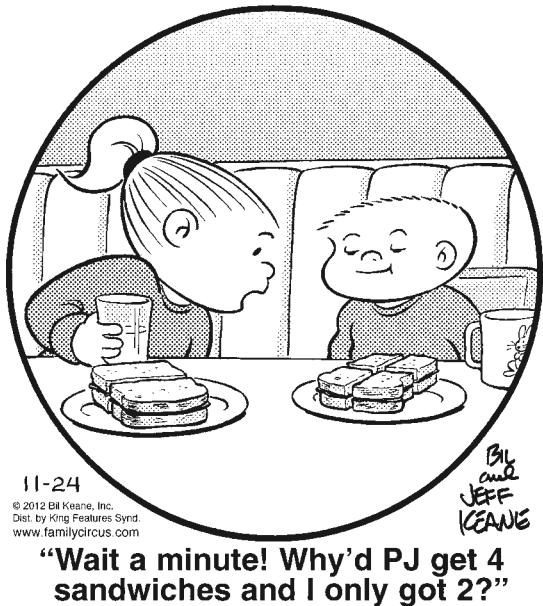


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

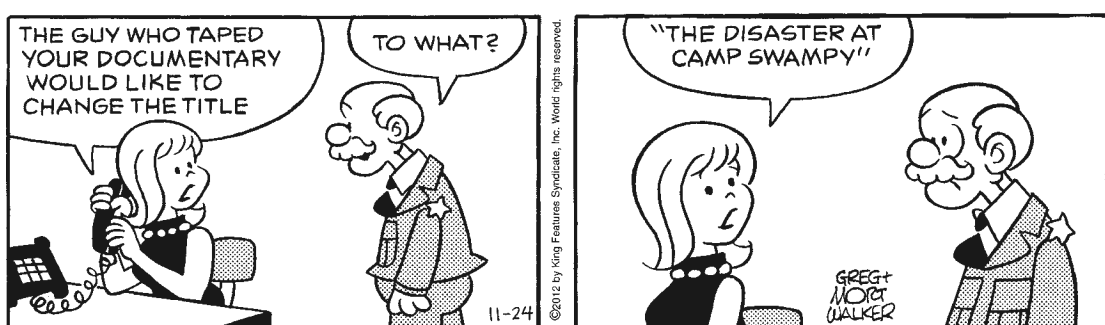
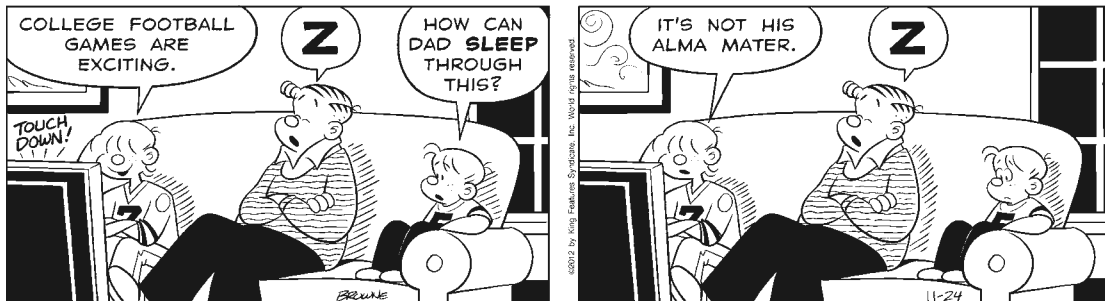
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES

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


Teen Who Wants A Baby Must Stop To Think Things Through

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and my boyfriend, "Todd," is almost 18. He wants us to have a baby. I would like to, but I live with my grandmother because my mom has a drug problem and my dad was killed when I was 9. I'm scared if I get pregnant she won't let me keep it.

My grandmother and I don't get along sometimes, and I'm scared she'll have my boyfriend put in jail. I have thought about this, and I really want to have a baby with him. I love Todd more than anything. Is it bad that I want to get pregnant? I'm in ninth grade and he'll be a senior. Please give me some advice. — WANTS TO BE A MOM, PRINCETON, W.VA.

DEAR WANTS TO BE A MOM: Before you and Todd rush into this, it is important to consider how you will take care of a baby. Babies are not just cute; they are also completely helpless and A LOT OF WORK.

Some schools offer students a program in which boys and girls are given dolls that require 24-hour care. They are just like real babies in that they cry, wet, and must be "fed" and with a parent at all times. Students are assigned to care for their "baby" for a week or more, and often, by the end of the assignment period, the desire to have a baby disappears as the reality about the degree of responsibility becomes obvious. Please look into the possibility of attending a class like this because it is important.

If you become pregnant as a freshman, it will lessen your chances of graduating. You and Todd will need a diploma in order to support yourselves and a child. If loving a baby was all it takes, your mother would be caring for you instead of your grandmother. I cannot stress enough the importance of you and Todd completing your education before becoming parents. It will make you better parents. You should also be prepared to stay together until your child is an adult. Isn't that what you would have wanted if your father hadn't died and your mother turned to drugs?

I'm glad you wrote, that you're smart and didn't act

on impulse. Your grandmother is doing her best to raise you, and she already has enough responsibility on her shoulders. Another child might be more than she can physically and emotionally handle.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and have been in a relationship for five months. I know I'm young, but things just happened. I like this boy a lot and he likes me.

Before we went out we were best friends. Back then, we had so much to talk about. But ever since we officially became a couple, there's nothing really to say to each other. We used to talk all day on the phone, and now it's kind of hard to have a normal conversation.

The physical attraction is there, but the mental attraction is sort of going away. He is amazing and listens to all my problems, but when I don't have any problems there is nothing to say. I don't want to end it between us. What should I do? — DISAPPOINTED

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: You and your boyfriend may be spending too much time together and not enough on other activities. If you interact more with other friends, become active in sports or group activities and spend more time apart, then you — and he — will have more to bring to your conversations. Please try it, and encourage him to do the same.

DEAR ABBY: I truly enjoy the "pennies from heaven" letters. I get goose bumps every time I read them. So, I want to go on record and say to everyone in heaven, I'd LOVE to hear from each and every one of you. However, to make it clear your message is intended for ME, please make it 1-ounce gold coins. — WES IN GREENFIELD, IND.

DEAR WES: I'm not sure my column appears in the hereafter, but if it does, be careful what you wish for. If gold keeps inflating, the coins could bounce right back up to heaven.

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Pisces if born before 5:12 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 24, 2012:

This year you often have a driven quality about you. You will do whatever is necessary to meet a goal or to create a certain situation. Many people are taken back by your endurance. Curb a tendency to overspend. If you are single, remember to look around and be aware of others. You could be on more than one person's radar. Come summer 2013, you might meet someone very special. If you are attached, you might not be as open as you have been in the past. Do not push your sweetie away. ARIES brings out your inner child.

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)

★★★★ Follow through on what you feel is a high priority, which could be answering a loved one's demands. You become frustrated easily with this person in general, and today might not be any different. Plan on being with someone you enjoy afterward. Tonight: Say the right thing.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Know that sometimes even the Bull must slow down. Information that keeps coming forward could jolt you. Assimilate what you must on your time. Change plans if need be. You will discover that the situation is totally fluid. Tonight: Follow your instincts with money.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what needs to happen and what you want to have happen. Somehow, you can accomplish both without conflict. A partner or key associate changes his or her stance, which gives you a little leeway. Tonight: Out the door.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Your intuition comes through when dealing with a parent or older person. This person could force a change, at least with your plans. He or she can be so stubborn! Tonight: Touch base with a special friend.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out to someone you respect who

you can get strong feedback from involving perhaps the holidays or an aspect of your domestic life. A call from an expert or distant friend helps you zero in on what needs to go. Tonight: Relax and watch a movie.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might be inadvertently challenged by a partner. Rather than getting an attitude, loosen up and enjoy the moment. Through negotiating together, a better perspective will evolve. Tap into your imagination and creativity. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Reach out to someone, especially if you have not heard from this person in a while. You do not want to stand on ceremony. You might even be surprised by his or her news. Perhaps you need to take another look at this bond. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Whatever the goals are that you have set for yourself, you are fully determined to meet them. Stop. Is this behavior reasonable? You might be putting unnecessary pressure on yourself. Tonight: Do not make your life more complicated than it needs to be.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ A close loved one might be so happy that he or she is behaving like an excited puppy. Enjoy this person's mood, even if it means changing your plans. You value spontaneity; keep doing so, no matter what. Worry less. Tonight: Act like you have no worries at all.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be tired and withdrawn. Your ability to see a situation differently marks a discussion. When you notice that the other party is not very responsive, you might want to pull back. Do what you want. Tonight: Say little, yet be responsive.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

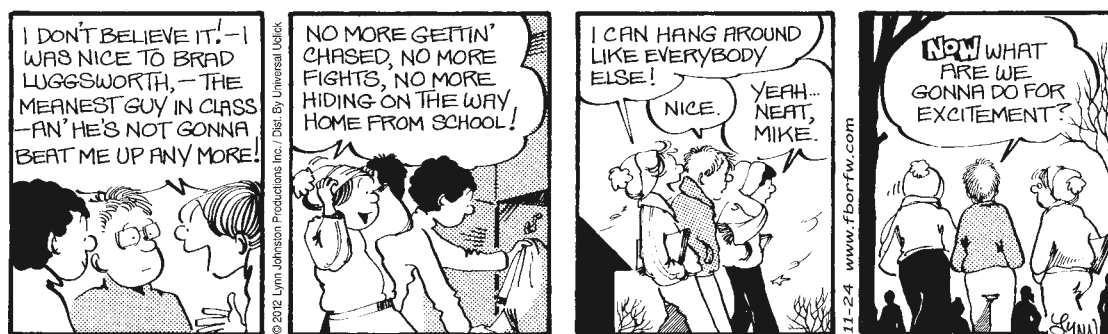
★★★★ Others come toward you with smiles on their faces. Your values might be changing, and a situation could be revitalized as a result. Please note that sitting on your anger could be ruining a relationship. Isn't it time for a talk? Tonight: Favorite person, favorite place.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Use care with your finances and time commitments. Someone might push you very hard to get what he or she wants. You do not have to be elusive. You just need to be clear and open to the process. Take care of some shopping if you can. Tonight: Treat or be treated.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS
