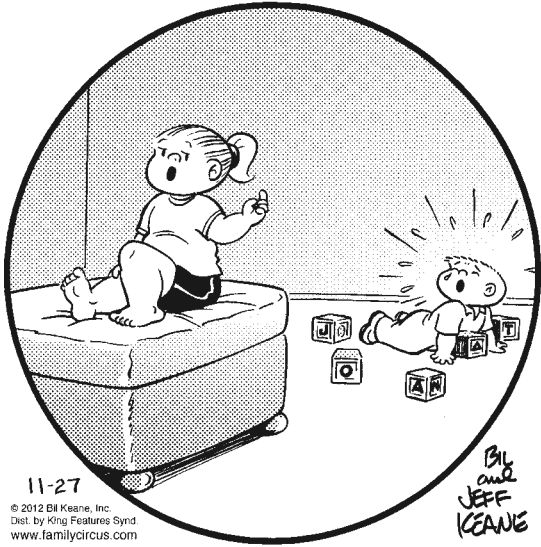
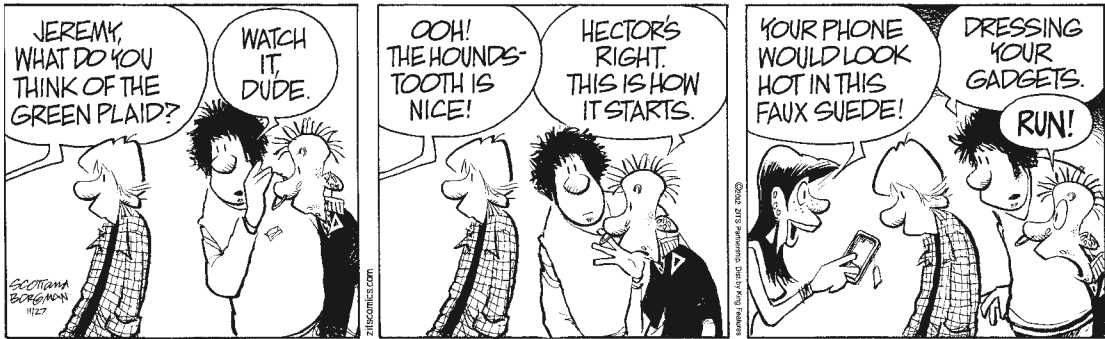


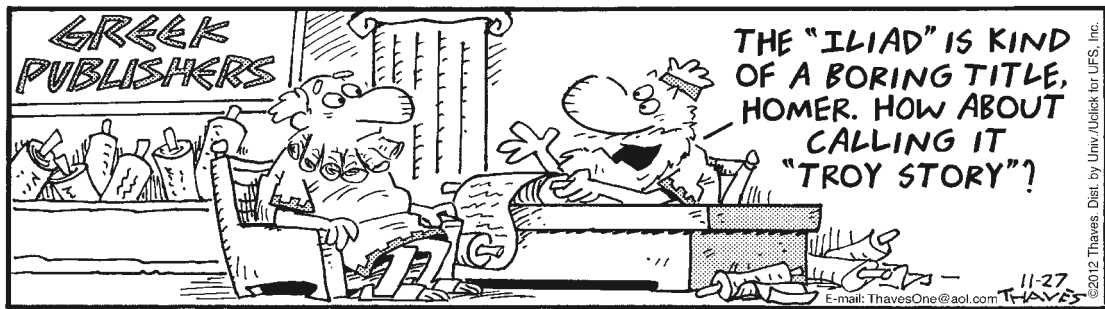
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



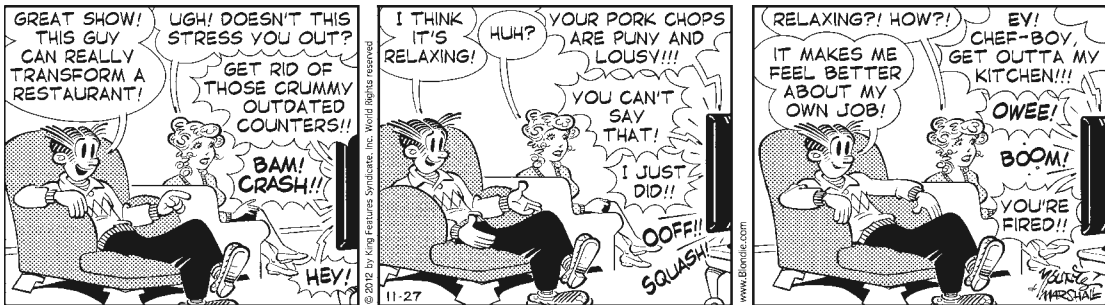
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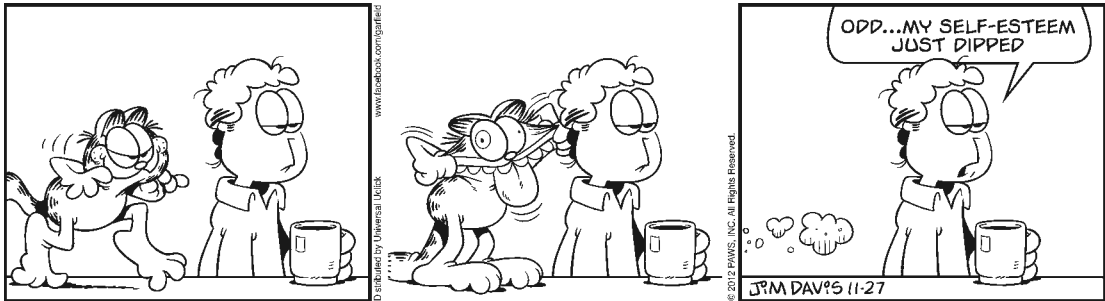
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



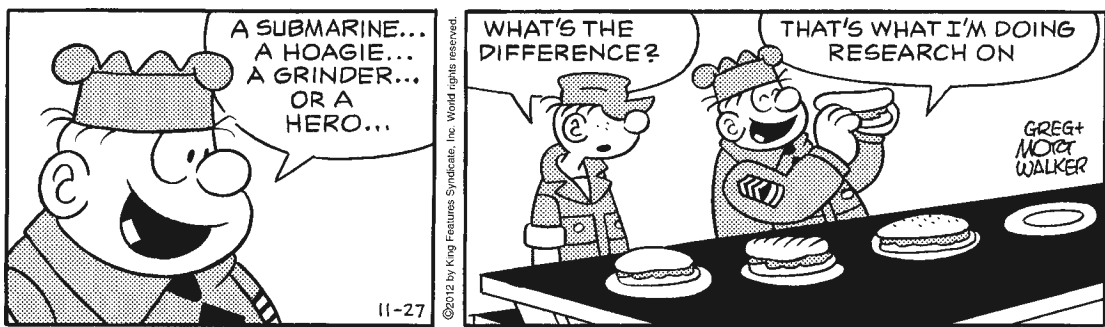
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



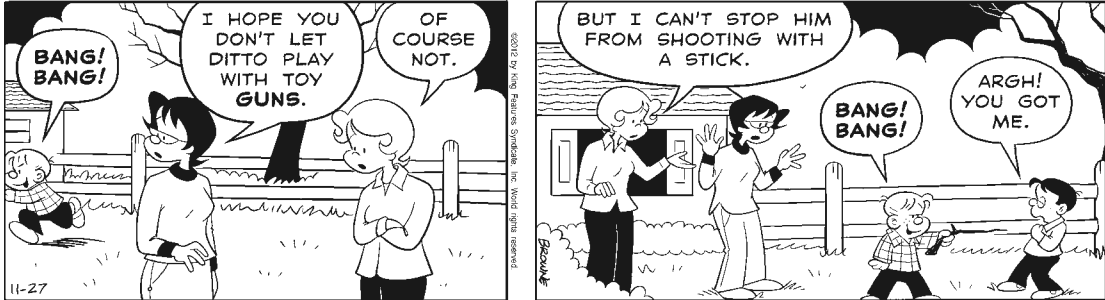
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Little Boy Exposing Himself May Signal He's Being Abused

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to you in response to "Not on My Watch" (Sept. 19), about the little boy who repeatedly exposes himself to other children. While correcting this behavior to protect the other children is something the parents and other concerned adults in this child's life should be doing, there may be more going on here that needs to be addressed. Children who have been victims of sexual abuse can exhibit overtly sexualized behavior that goes beyond typical curiosity or age-appropriate sexual development.

There are several issues happening with this boy that bother me. The repeated exposure of his private parts to others is the first. While this behavior is not unusual in young children and can be a normal part of sexual curiosity, the compulsive continuation and frequency of his behavior raises red flags. He also mentioned keeping a "secret." This is a common tool used by people who abuse children. The manner in which he interacted with "Not on My Watch's" daughter sounds a lot like an interaction between an adult abuser and a child — something he may have been mimicking.

Young children who are sexually abused may not have the developmental or verbal capabilities to disclose what is happening. Often it is through behavioral or emotional signs that we discover the abuse.

While it is important to protect the children this boy interacts with, the more appropriate response to this situation would be to calmly explain to him why his behavior is inappropriate, along with a discussion to find out if he has witnessed this behavior in others or if he has "secrets" with anyone.

If he discloses something during the discussion, it should be immediately reported to the local child protective services and/or police. And if his behavior continues, it would be best to seek professional intervention. — JUDY AT CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

DEAR JUDY: Your letter echoes the sentiments of the majority of responses I received about 5-year-old "Billy." Thank you for articulating it so clearly. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My wife witnessed a similar scenario last year during a play date. A 4-year-old girl was observed putting her hands down the pants of boys her age. Initially we thought it was normal curiosity; then we suspected she might be a victim. The authorities investigated, and it turned out that her male teenage cousin had been abusing her. — CONCERNED DAD

DEAR ABBY: I am a psychiatric nurse who works with children who have suffered various types of abuse. This kind of repeated behavior is a big indication that Billy is being sexually abused himself.

The fact that he wants to keep it "secret" indicates that it is a learned behavior. That his parents are "burying their heads in the sand" may indicate that they know about the abuse or are the abusers themselves.

That boy should be taken to see a doctor for a full evaluation, and a call to social services is in order. The call can be anonymous. It is better to be safe than sorry in this case. — NURSE WHO CARES IN OHIO

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter 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 Taurus if born before 4:56 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 2012:

This year your increased intensity dominates nearly any scene. When you are frustrated, you could become controlling or sarcastic. Be careful, as it might cause you to hurt someone's feelings. If you are single, those traits will not be especially desirable. The next six months could be instrumental to meeting the right person. If you are attached, your sweetie expresses a lot of good will. Do not take advantage of this person's generous nature. Confusion marks your interactions with GEMINI.

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)

★★★★ A strong, self-disciplined effort brings results. If you do not stay focused, you could lose your sense of direction. You easily could become distracted if you are not careful. You might not be able to accomplish as much as you might like or need to. Tonight: Relax with a friend.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by someone's decision, yet you will carry it out if the request comes from a supervisor. You might not see eye-to-eye with this person, but you still understand the chain of authority. Confusion surrounds a friendship. Tonight: Where friends are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★ Let others complain if they wish to do so. You could be on overload and feel exhausted. Decide what is appropriate, and follow through on that. Your understanding allows someone to open up and relax. Sometimes the less said the better. Tonight: Opt for a good night's sleep.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You detect a new tone among friends and a key supporter. These individuals are sick of the status quo and want to support change. You can take the lead. Rest assured that you know what you want. Stay on top of a personal matter. Tonight: Reach out to someone at a distance.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You understand a lot more about how much pressure a key individual can handle. You could be taken

aback by this person's choices. Your ideas might not make much sense to him or her, so perhaps an explanation or two could help clarify your logic. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Know that it might be very important to your well-being to seek a different perspective. How you relay information to a key person might not make a difference, as his or her mind could be traveling to yonder places. Tonight: Could be a late one.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ A partner could be overwhelming. You might need to help this person become more conscious of his or her verbosity through a positive conversation. Revise your thinking. Allow yourself to dig into a project to help ease your mind. Tonight: Let your mind drift to music.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Listen to solutions, and be more forthright about what is happening. A certain individual might need your support more than you realize. You will find a way to build this person's self-confidence, even if you cannot support his or her idea. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might want to do something differently, yet someone in your immediate environment is set in his or her ways. Realize what is happening behind the scenes with a money matter. Be as clear and direct as possible. Tonight: Clear up the confusion surrounding a personal matter.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Tap into your creative side during the day. You will be confident when you decide to act, as you have looked at a situation several different ways and continue to come to the same conclusion. Resolve any vagueness in a discussion. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Stay firm in your dealings. You understand that you will gain if you are persistent, especially if it involves a real-estate or domestic matter. Handle your finances confidently in order to secure the success of a business deal. Tonight: Add "fun" to your repertoire.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Remain open and creative in your dealings. You are likely to have several calls coming in from a relative and/or a close associate. What this person says could be challenging in a sense, and perhaps is the direct result of recent events. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

