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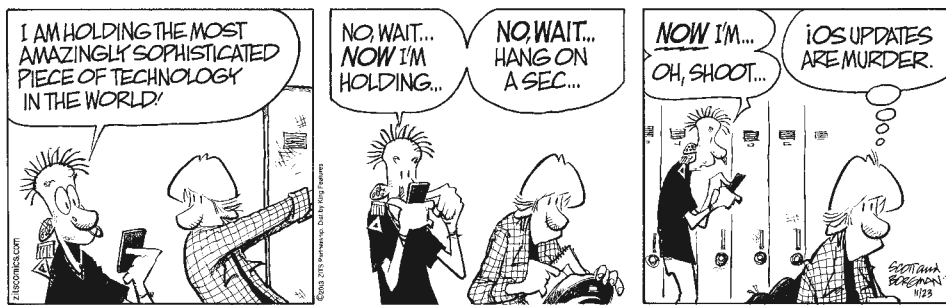
11-23
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'Wow, you made it really clear! Let us know when we can touch it again.'

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



THE JOLLY GREEN GIANT'S WEDDING

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



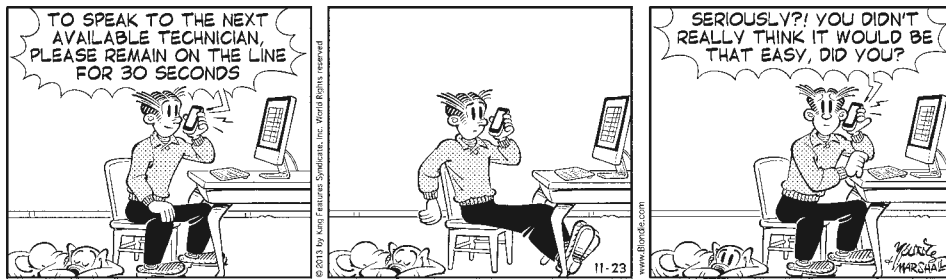
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



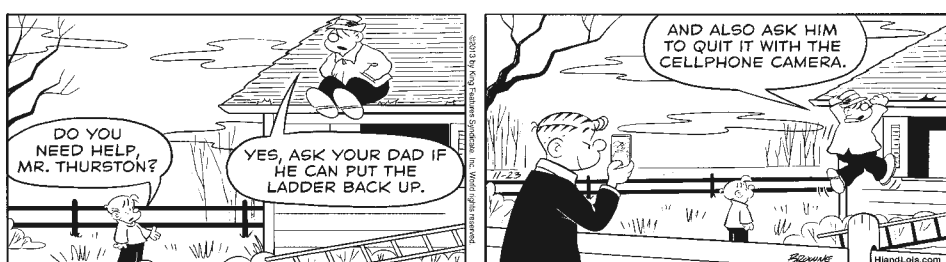
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Teen Knows From Experience That Cutting Won't End Pain

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old girl. Recently I made a new friend, 'Mandy,' and confided to her about my dark past of depression. When I explained how I used to cut myself, she burst into tears and told me she had cut herself the day before. I didn't expect that response.

I know from experience that what Mandy is doing is not a good way to handle things. What stopped me from cutting was getting a permanent scar from it. Although plenty of people told me that cutting was no way to deal with my pain, the only one I listened to in the end was myself.

I really want Mandy to stop. I told her not to do it, but I'm afraid she will anyway. She's an amazing person, and she doesn't deserve the pain she is causing herself. How can I help her? — BEEN THERE IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BEEN THERE: Continue encouraging your friend to stop cutting, but if she's not able to, she may need professional help to quit. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

A counselor at school might be able to help if Mandy is willing to talk to one. But if she isn't, then tell your mother about this so she can let Mandy's mother know what's going on. Cutting can be a sign of serious depression, and secrets of this kind are destructive.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and in college on a scholarship. I have decided to declare an art major. I have found a part-time job that will give me a little extra income — figure modeling for some of the art classes. This would include both clothed and nude modeling.

It isn't the only job I plan on taking, but it will help me out for the time being. Studying the human figure is essential for any art student, and it is something that has been done for centuries. When I told my parents, it was not well-received.

My mother strongly disagreed with my choice and handed the phone to my sister, who told me if I want to take my clothes off I should be a stripper. Abby, this hurt me deeply. My dad is worried that it will ruin my reputation. I find it hypocritical because my mom was an art major and her portfolio con-

tains nude figures she drew.

My school is diligent about the safety and respect of its models, and I trust them. I'd like to take this job for the experience, and it will allow me to make more connections within the department I'll be studying in for the next two years.

I'm not looking for my parents' approval, but I wish they would attempt to understand. What would you suggest? — SERIOUS STUDENT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SERIOUS STUDENT: Having studied figure drawing myself years ago, I can attest to the fact that models of all ages were used — both nude and clothed. There was nothing lurid or sexual about it, and the models were not posed in a suggestive manner or being ogled.

If you wish to display your body in the context of an art class, you shouldn't have to justify it to your parents or your sister. Your mother appears to have a short memory, and your sister's comment was out of line.

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old son still calls me Mommy. My daughter, who is two years older, calls me Mom. I don't want to hurt my son's feelings, but I think at his age he should transition to calling me Mom. What do you think? Should I just give it time, or is there an age limit for calling one's mother Mommy? — JUST MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR JUST MOM: I think you should keep your mouth shut. There is nothing shameful or wrong about a son calling his mother Mommy if that is what he has done all his life. Frankly, it's rather sweet, and it's far more loving than some of the names people have written to me when referring to their mothers.

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 Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 2013:

This year you appear more willing to take risks and step into new territory. You will choose experiences that broaden your mind. You also will let go of a rigid mindset. If you are single, you could meet someone from a different culture. By interacting with this person, you will see a new style of living. If you are attached, the two of you might opt for a special vacation together. You will want more one-on-one time as a couple away from your obligations. The two of you also might consider taking a class or learning a new hobby together. Count on LEO as a 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)

Your presence at a party allows others to relax, because they know it will be a success. Your attendance affects many situations. You are the factor that makes everything flow today! Others feel the difference you make. Tonight: Time to let your hair down.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Listen to news within your immediate circle and decide just how far you want to go with a personal matter. You might decide that you'd be happiest letting sleeping dogs lie for now. Your time will come. Confusion surrounds your finances. Tonight: Invite friends over.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You might not realize how inquisitive you are. Sometimes observing and listening might be more effective. People will relax and speak more freely. Stop by and catch up on a friend's news. You could be overwhelmed by everything you hear. Tonight: Hang out.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You might want to have a discussion that is way overdue, but the other party could shy away. Handle a money matter directly. A parent or older friend could do the unexpected. Check in on this person. Tonight: Having fun does not mean breaking the bank.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Your spontaneity attracts many people. Make plans to get away from the immediate issues in your life. Go to a movie or a museum, or

meet an out-of-town friend halfway. Confusion could surround meeting places and times. Tonight: Whatever you want.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Sometimes taking a day off feels right. You have handled a lot of responsibilities in the past few weeks, and you deserve a break. Kick back and hold off on taking any action for now. You might be overserious and need to lighten up. Tonight: Work on being a couch potato.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could see a personal matter differently after a surprising conversation. An interaction about money could be very intense and might end up in confusion over some minor detail. Postpone this conversation if possible. Tonight: Find your friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You have surprising energy. A conversation could clear the air, or it could cause a problem. Confusion seems to filter through the air right now. Unless you are sure you can establish a strong, clear connection, postpone this talk. Tonight: The spotlight is on you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You will remain even-tempered, even with a loved one acting erratically. You might wonder what to do in face of this person's behavior. Make an important call to someone at a distance. Tonight: Be as clear as possible in order to avoid a misunderstanding. Listen well, too.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You might want to examine what is happening with a loved one and his or her finances. You also might be looking at your own spending habits. A surprise could cost you. Make sure to double-check all expenses and count your change. Tonight: Let someone else pick up the tab.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You could be full of energy, especially after you touch base with a favorite person. Listen to someone's concerns with extra care. You might want to echo what you have heard, as misunderstandings could emerge today. Tonight: Sort through invitations, then decide.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Get into the holiday spirit, whether it be decorating, raking or sharing with a story about Thanksgiving. Others will respond to your enthusiasm. You inadvertently could help someone past some sad feelings with your spirit. Tonight: Take a brisk walk with the dog after dinner.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

