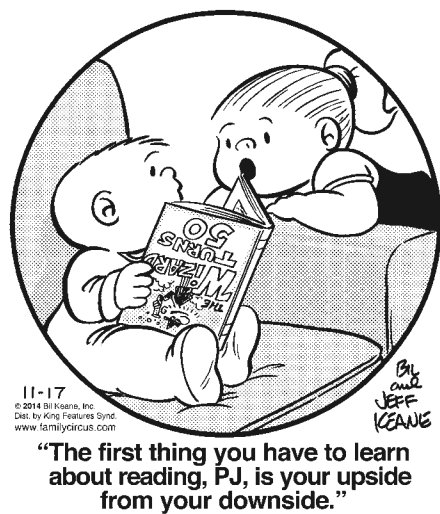


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



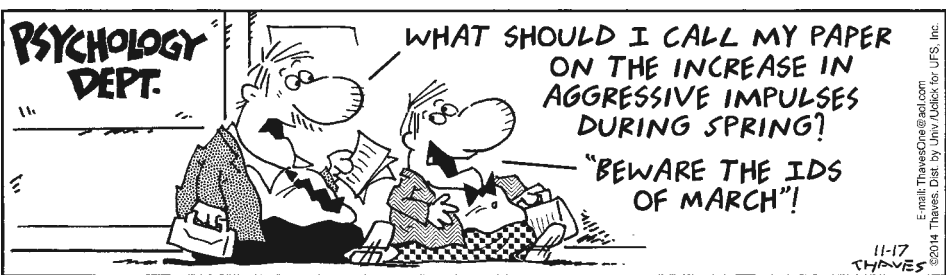
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



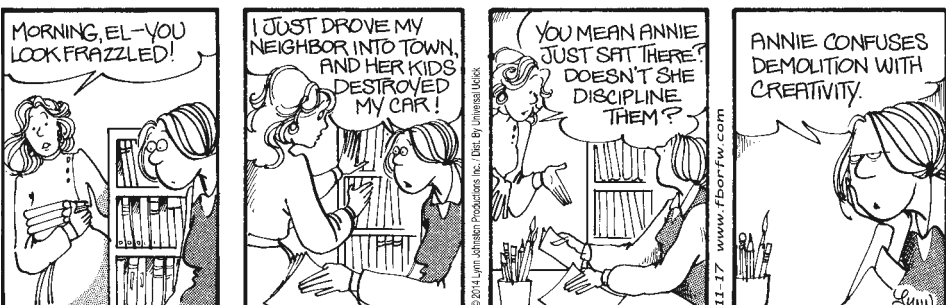
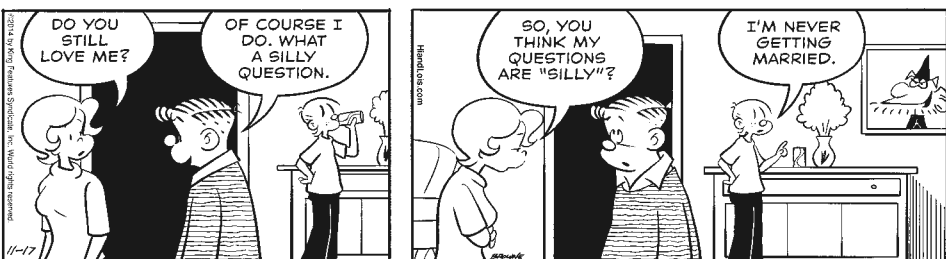
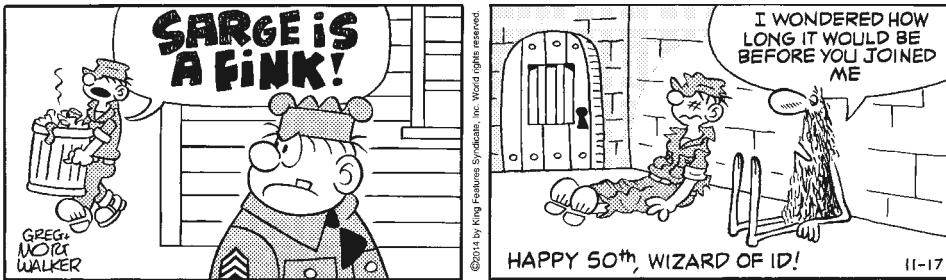
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are pregnant with our first child. We are beyond excited and can't wait for our little one to get here. Our problem: My mother-in-law is getting married two weeks after our baby is supposed to arrive, and she's expecting all of us to go.

While I'm happy she has found someone she wants to spend her life with, I will not be there and neither will our child. I have told my husband this and explained my concerns, but I will support him if he decides to go since it's his mother.

How can I turn her down in a polite way so it doesn't sound like I'm a horrible daughter-in-law? — FIRST-TIME MAMA

DEAR FIRST-TIME MAMA: Unless a woman is having a C-section, babies don't always arrive on the expected due date. Sometimes they can be a week late — or more. If you feel you need time to rest, recuperate and get your child on a regular nursing schedule, tell that to your mother-in-law. As a new mother you are going to have to quickly learn to prioritize, and your child's well-being and your health must come first. Expect her to be disappointed, but make clear that you love her and wish her a lifetime of happiness, but you will be unable to attend.

DEAR ABBY: Is it OK for an older woman to wear fancy, colorful tights? My wife is 5 feet tall and weighs 110. She's in good health and works out at the gym regularly. She wears her tights there, or when she's working in the garden or at the market. She dresses conservatively for work and church.

I overheard some of the local ladies say she shouldn't be wearing leopard tights "at her age." I'm afraid my wife will overhear it one of these days and be hurt. What is your opinion? She still looks wonderful to me. — MARRIED TO A HOTTIE

DEAR MARRIED: As an adult — and in good shape — your wife should wear anything that pleases her, including leopard tights if she wishes. It appears the local women are more jealous kitties than ladies. "Nice" ladies don't make catty comments behind someone's back.

DEAR ABBY: On Oct. 11 you printed my letter about feeling like an overlooked middle child. In the comments on your website was an outpouring of support and friendly tips. I am happy to say I am now involved in extracurricular activities. I'm much happier, and would like to thank all your readers who took the time to give me so much support. — FORMERLY NOWHERE IN INDI-

ANA

DEAR FORMERLY NOWHERE: Thank you for letting us know that you're happier and doing better. Dear Abby readers are the most caring and generous people in the world. I'm glad their comments in response to your letter gave you the boost you needed to get through a difficult time.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Virgo if born before 2:30 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Libra.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, NOV. 17, 2014:

This year you go back and forth between networking and socializing to spending time alone doing some serious intellectualizing. You will find that those in your daily life can be very unpredictable. In a strange way, you'll enjoy the excitement. If you are single, you could meet someone of significance next fall. In the meantime, enjoy dating. If you are attached, the two of you have become great friends. During difficult times, your friendship comes into play. You will benefit from taking weekends away together. LIBRA can be flighty.

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)

★★★★ You might be overthinking a problem that you feel you must handle today. A serious talk with a loved one could result in an effective solution. Tune in to your instincts if you feel someone or an offer is too good to be true. Tonight: Get together with a friend for dinner.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Your creativity dominates the early morning. You might wonder why someone seems so serious. In an attempt to change this person's mood, you might cause a problem. Try to listen to what he or she has to say, and honor his or her feelings. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You seem to have the right words at the right time, only someone might not hear them. This person could be too wrapped up in his or her own issues. The unexpected will occur with a friend or in a meeting. Tonight: Finish up any important work, then decide.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You'll want to initiate a conversation in the morning, yet as the day goes on, you might have mixed feelings. You will gain a new perspective on this matter once you detach from the thought of having the actual talk. Tonight: Buy a favorite dessert on the way home.

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

★★★★ A conversation will let you know that you and a friend are on the same page. A child or loved one could distract you, which is likely to

make it difficult to pay attention to this person. Consider taking part of the day off. Tonight: Make light of the moment.

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

★★★★ Your high energy might be off-putting to those who are experiencing a slow start to the day. Others won't be as positive or as open as you seem to be. By the afternoon, consider getting a head start on holiday shopping — at least make a list. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

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

★★★★ You could be out of sorts in the morning, but by the afternoon, you'll feel a change in energy. Make an important phone call or start an important project. A partner or loved one could act in the most unpredictable manner. Remain nurturing and kind. Tonight: All smiles.

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

★★★★ In the morning, there could be an awkward moment or two with a friend, but you'll still be able to complete whatever you are doing. In the evening, you might be doing a lot of thinking. Do yourself a favor and don't jump to any conclusions yet. Tonight: Play it low-key.

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

★★★ You could be much fussier than you realize, and it is likely to cause a problem. It is important to know when to let go of certain issues, especially when dealing with others, as they could personalize your comments. The afternoon allows a key meeting to go smoothly. Be ready to encounter an awkward moment or two. Tonight: Catch up on weekend news.

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

★★★★ Detach, and try not to get involved in a situation that might be difficult to handle. With a broader perspective, what might have seemed like a big issue suddenly will be irrelevant. It would be smart to let others deal with it in the way they want. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

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

★★★★ Deal with others directly, as you are likely to benefit from having one-on-one conversations. Some of you could be eyeing a major change within a relationship, while others might be about to meet someone new. Tonight: Daydream all you want.

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

★★★★ Allow greater give-and-take between you and others. Have a conversation with someone whom you rarely speak to but who often facilitates your life. One-on-one relating will be highlighted in the afternoon. Tonight: Continue the theme of togetherness.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

