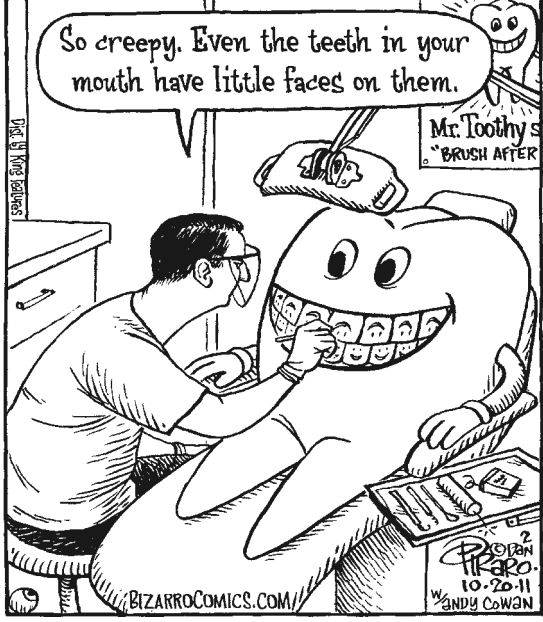


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

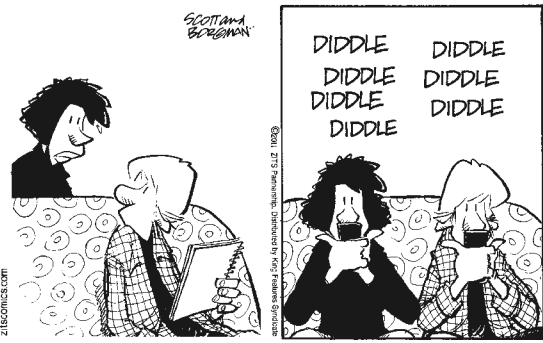
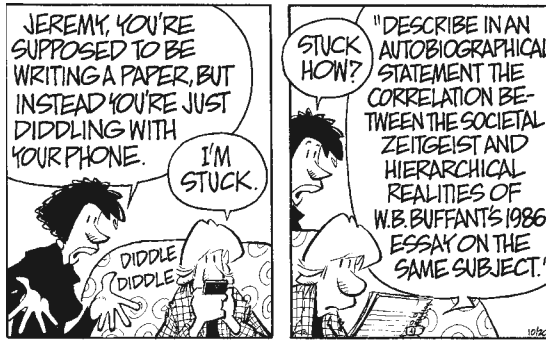


"We're sorry 'bout that, Mommy."

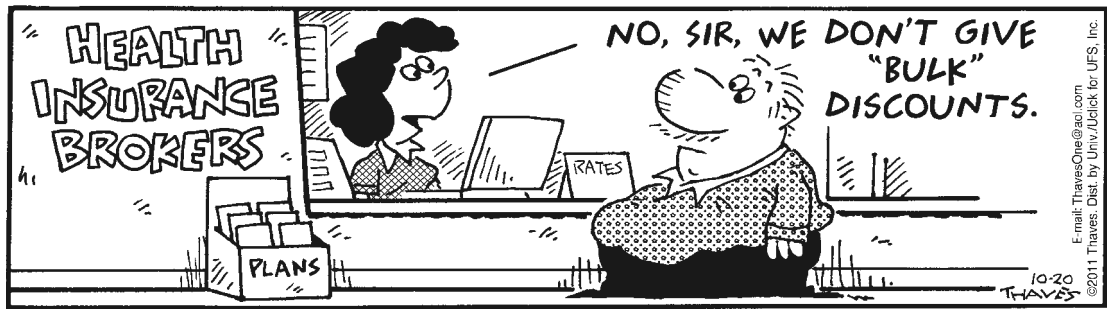
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



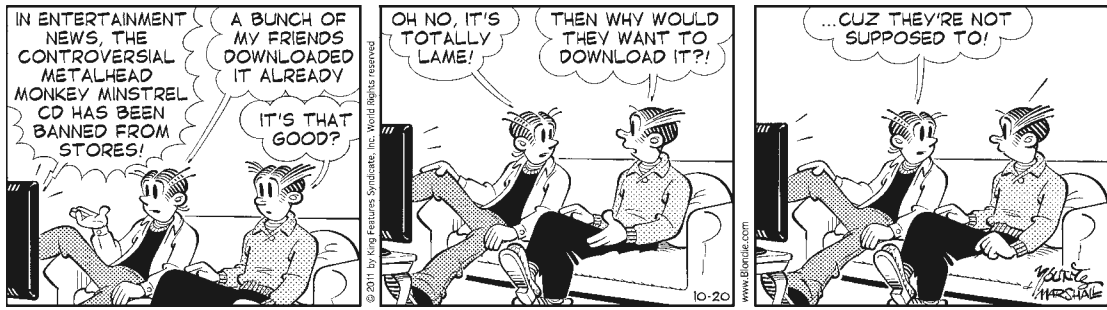
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



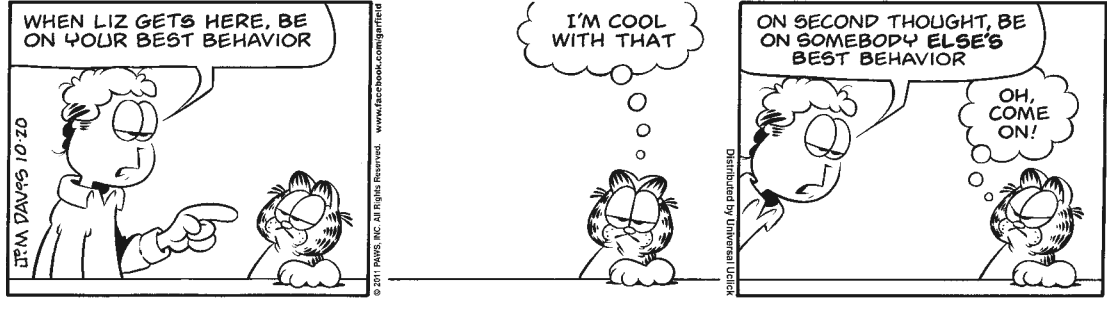
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



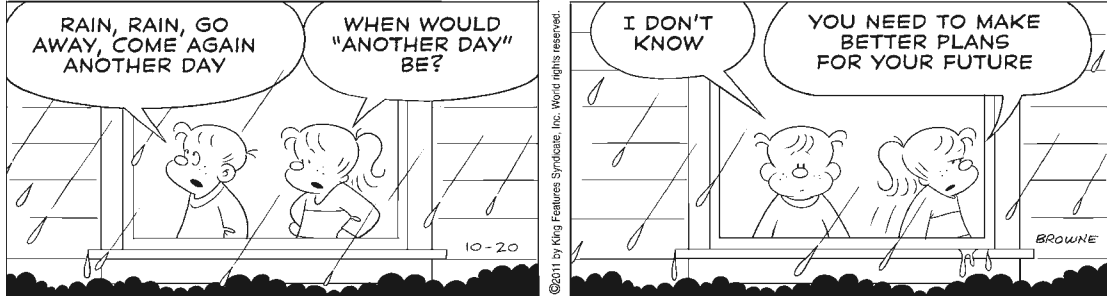
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



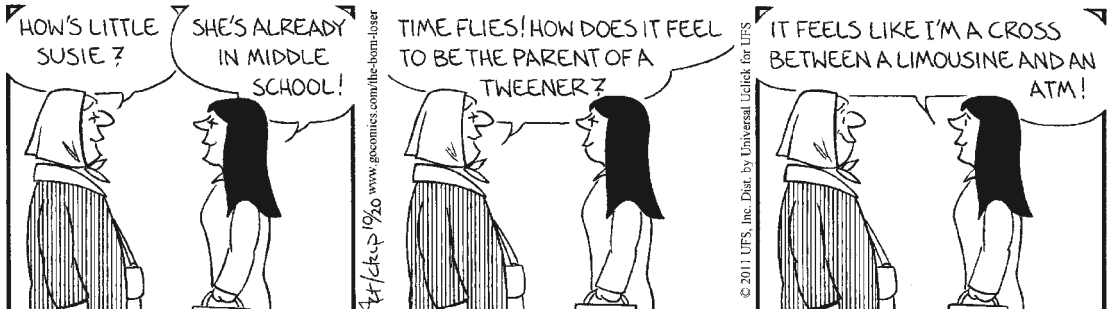
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Woman Struggling To Put Happy Face On Facebook Is Not Alone

DEAR ABBY: "Unsure Out West" (July 26) felt inadequate because she had no upbeat messages to send to her friends on Facebook. Please tell her she's not alone.

I attended a prestigious college, but 35 years later I also find myself with no job, in debt, battling depression and dealing with a host of phobias. I read the school's quarterly magazine and see my peers have great jobs, travel extensively and are happily married.

When my FB friends ask how I am, I reply that it's a difficult question to answer. I then ask about THEM and let them know I'm glad they're doing well.

DEAR "FRIEND": Thank you for writing to support "Unsure." Many people identified with her feelings. My newspaper readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: As a recovering survivor of severe childhood trauma, I can relate to "Unsure's" situation. I have college degrees, am married to a wonderful man and have two grown children.

For years I felt ashamed that I hadn't lived up to my potential, but it takes courage to recover from abuse or addiction. People who understand this view individuals like "Unsure" and me as SUCCESSES in the things that really matter.

She should be honest, and as discreet as she wishes. When I have opened up, others have learned the realities of recovery and seen me as proof that it's possible. Too many suffer in silence. They need to know others have sought help and are healing.

I reconnected with a popular, successful high school friend over the Internet and discovered that her adult path was similar to mine. We have been a

source of support and encouragement to each other ever since. — WENDY IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: While everyone brags about their kids, careers and wonderful lives, don't forget that they too have put a "spin" on things. Nobody's life is perfect. We've all had our share of hardships.

I have been in "Unsure's" shoes for several years (minus the great hubby), but Facebook has given me confidence and enabled me to meet people who share my interests. Accept yourself for who you are. You don't have to hide the truth. Problems with alcohol or depression do not define you. — AMANDA IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: "Unsure" should get rid of her Facebook page. If she doesn't, she'll continue reading about the lives of her old acquaintances and feel bad about hers.

I'm 19 — never had a FB page and never will. Friends have fought over rumors spread there, and I've seen their self-esteem suffer because of the entries and comments of others. Since she has a history of depression, it would be healthier to focus on the positives in her life and eliminate something that makes her feel negatively. — K.V. IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY: I, too, was well-liked, active and graduated with honors. After college I became sick with a debilitating chronic illness that leaves me mostly homebound.

Yesterday I spent the afternoon with a friend I hadn't been in touch with for 17 years until Facebook reunited us. She accepted my limitations and showed incredible compassion and empathy.

— EMILY IN PENNSYLVANIA



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.

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.

A baby born today, Oct. 20, 2011, after 3:06 a.m. (PST) has a Sun in Libra and a Moon in Leo. Prior to that time, the baby has a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY : THURSDAY, OCT. 20, 2011

Key people in your life seem to be the instruments of surprises. You never know what is going to happen next. You discover how flexible you can be and how exciting the unexpected is.

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 creativity and ability to understand others allow greater give-and-take. Tap into your ingenuity. Others delight in your ideas.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

A personal matter could color your day. You will be freer and more direct once you have settled a problem. If you can, work from home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You have the right words. You can be sure of that, considering another person's reaction. Your sense of humor and instincts could change your choices.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Be aware of your need to have more control than what's possible. Power plays could backfire. Try to build up your self-esteem.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You see way beyond the obvious. Trying to let another person have a glimpse of what you think could

be overwhelming. Unpredictability marks a conversation. You could be thrown off for a short while.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You might be a little too much in your head. You also could be overreacting. Opportunities strike from out of left field; be ready to act.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Focus on what you want. Meetings prove to be rewarding and help you draw in a key associate or partner. The unexpected plays a role in your decision-making process.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Take a stand, knowing what you want. You might need to convince others of the rightness of your ways. Are you sure of how on target you are?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Reach out for someone at a distance. You can count on this person to open mental doors. The unexpected occurs with a child or loved one.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Deal with a partner directly. In fact, your exchange will feel quite rewarding and worthwhile. Brainstorm, and explain any hesitation you might have.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Others come forward. A boss or authority figure is in such a good mood you might not be ready for all his or her energy. You gain a sudden insight through a conversation.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Keep conversations moving. Your optimism infuses others, so much so that they keep coming back for more. Use care with your finances.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

