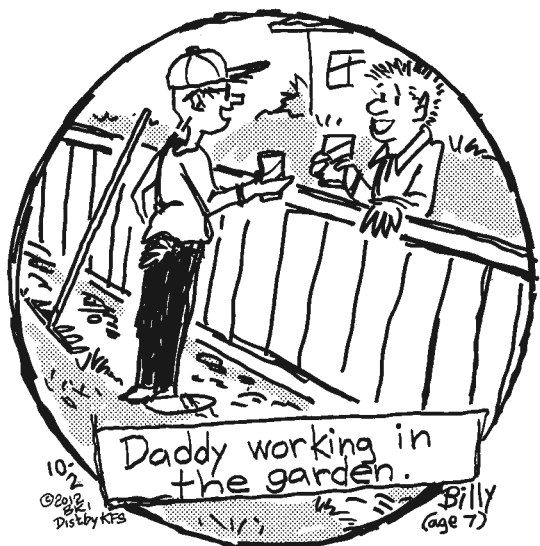


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



Little Billy continues to fill in with his own family observations.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



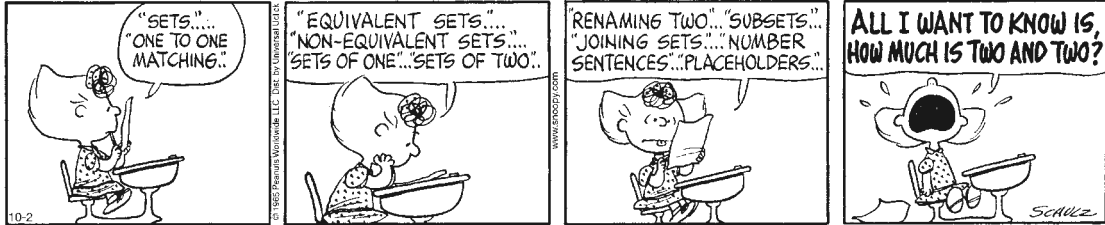
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



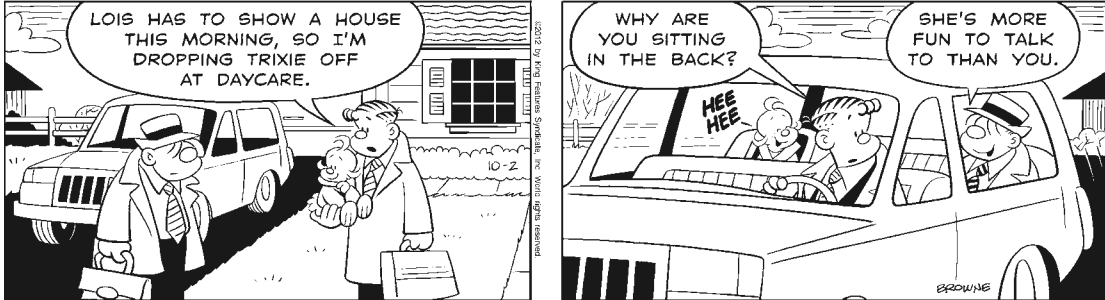
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



If You Care About Our Nation, Be Sure To Register To Vote

DEAR READERS: If you like the way things are going, VOTE. If you don't like the way things are going, VOTE. If you have never voted before, VOTE. (Don't be embarrassed by your ignorance — when you get there, they'll show you how.)

If you're not registered to vote and don't know where to register, contact the League of Women Voters, your county registrar's office or your secretary of state's office for details. All are listed in your phone directory or online. The deadlines for registering vary from state to state.

Don't let anything — or anybody — keep you from voting on Tuesday, Nov. 6. It may be the most important thing you will do all year.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a divorced woman for four years. She said in the beginning that she had very little sexual experience because her former husband "had problems," but decided after the divorce to find out what she was missing. She hasn't discussed this in detail, but once in a while she lets out little snippets of information that lead me to believe she was active.

Do I have a right, now that we're engaged, to know how many partners she had since the divorce? She's being evasive about it. — WONDERING WIDOWER

DEAR WONDERING: No, you do not have that "right," because if she answers the question, your next questions will be what are their names, how many times did she sleep with them and were they better than you are in bed. Sometimes it is wiser to leave the past in the past and simply appreciate the special relationship you have with the person you love.



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.

DEAR ABBY: "Webbed in Columbia, Md." wondered what kind of spider went up the waterspout (July 8). Well, it depends on the location of that spout. Waterspouts in England, Australia (and I'm guessing Canada) attract spiders that are "incy wincy." American waterspouts are climbed by "itsy bitsy" spiders. (And at this time of year we see really big ones.)

Between English-speaking countries there are also slightly different lyrics for "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Ring Around the Rosie." Because my hubby and I are from opposite sides of the Atlantic "pond," our son is learning multiple versions of many things. — SUNKISSED IN HOUSTON

DEAR SUNKISSED: Readers young and old responded to that letter, and you are correct that it depends upon which side of the pond you hail from. In the United States, it's also "teensy weensy" and "itty bitty." In Switzerland, it's "inky dinky." And then there was the following submission:

DEAR ABBY: The confusion may stem from "Webbed's" family members having confused the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" poem (song) with the "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" song. The spider song I learned in school and the bikini song I heard when my dad belted it out. It made us all laugh. Thanks for the memories. — KAREN IN RENO, NEV.

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 Libra and a Moon in Taurus all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 2, 2012:

This year you express an unusual amount of serenity and caring. You will do whatever you need to do in order to keep the peace. You still could have a tendency to be overserious. That, too, will pass. You are willing to adapt and change, especially with family members and roommates. Look at real estate as a possible money source. If you are single, a friendship could play a strong role in your romantic life. If you are attached, your partnerships take a higher priority than in the past, particularly those involved with financial matters. TAURUS seems to connect with you on an unusually deep level.

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)

★★★ Conversation revitalizes you and encourages a different perspective. A partner might be too intimidated to be as proactive as you are. A discussion with someone close results in support and nurturing. Curb a tendency to push your limits in a money matter ... you will get your share. Tonight: Roll with the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You gain new perspectives quickly and see a situation in a different vein, as a result. You demonstrate unusual flexibility. You have a way about you that appeals to associates, friends and family members -- as long as you are just yourself. Be willing to manifest greater security and ease for yourself and others. Tonight: Go for what you want.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Be more visual in your thinking. A conversation with a respected friend helps you grasp more possibilities. Your creativity might not be so strong if you try to force yourself through a problem. Verbalize more of what you are thinking in order to get feedback. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Listen to a partner's or loved one's suggestion. This person tends to put an interesting spin on situations, which helps you identify with others and better understand what is happening. His or her delightful words encourage your mind to wander. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (JULY 23- AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others look to you to take the lead. You natu-

rally enjoy yourself with even the most intense or negative people in your life. It appears that your mood is contagious. A conversation, though serious, has much compassion behind it. A partner or loved one has a vision that affects you. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for new information and different ways of seeing a situation. If you can come up with several different approaches, it could turn out far better than you'd originally thought possible. Use your unusual appeal later today. Tonight: Be willing to dream.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a change in a partner directly. This person has become unusually verbose or relaxed. This could be a good sign; however, it demands that you make an adjustment. Weigh the pros and cons, if you would like. Ultimately, you'll know which way to go. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Others might be unusually difficult and touchy, but your persistence wins the day. Try not to challenge someone or get into a power play. Ultimately, it will not be worth it. Test out an idea on those who could be affected. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Stay level. Understand what has to be accomplished. You might find it difficult to home in on what is happening, as you are deep in thought. Be careful when using mechanical objects and driving cars. An authority figure admires the way you handle yourself. Tonight: Stop what you're doing and take a break.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Your creativity and determination prove to be unfamiliar benefits. Be willing to walk away from your comfort zone and look past restrictions. A more neutral environment with fewer judgments will enhance your relationships on all fronts. Tonight: Don't forget to call a loved one at a distance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ If you have a hankering to stay home, do. If you work, consider working from home if possible. In the long run, it might be a good idea to consider having a home-based business. Express your caring to a loved one -- it always is nice to get a hug. Tonight: The home-bound theme continues.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

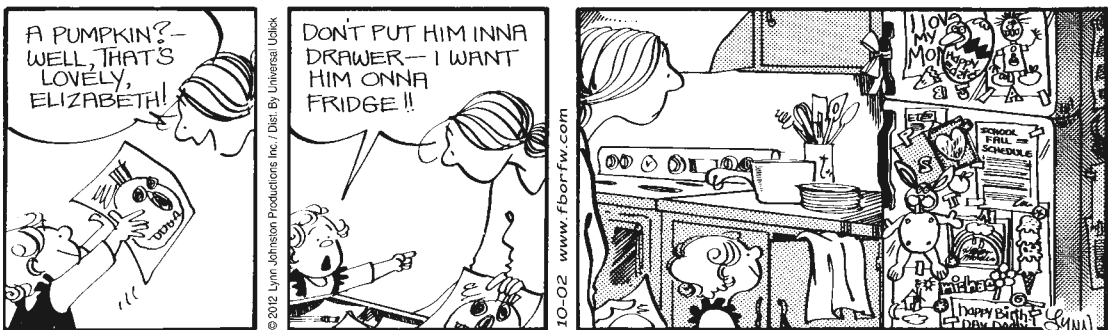
★★★★ You tend to find the right words at the right time; meanwhile, others seem to be grasping when it comes to their own self-expression. Touch base with a neighbor or relative. This tie easily can be neglected, but ultimately it is instrumental to your life. Tonight: Find a pal to hang with.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

