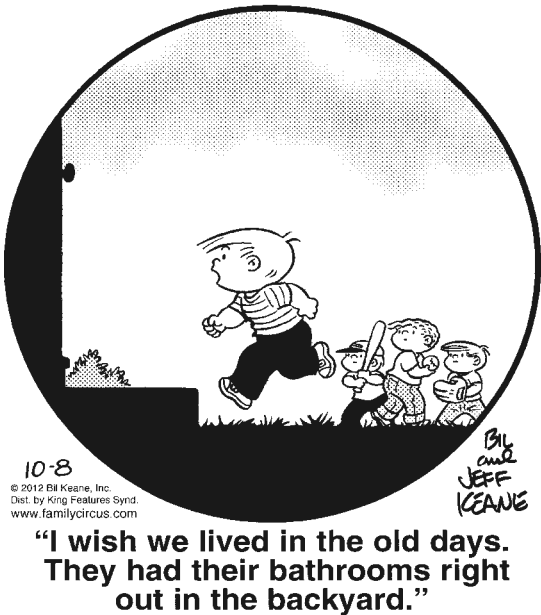
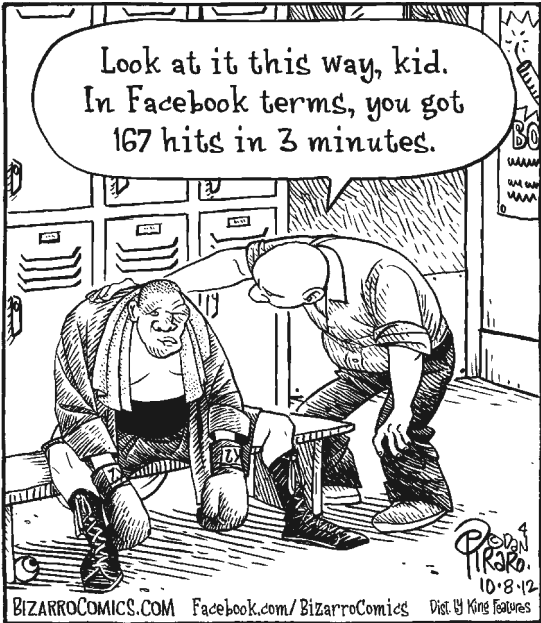


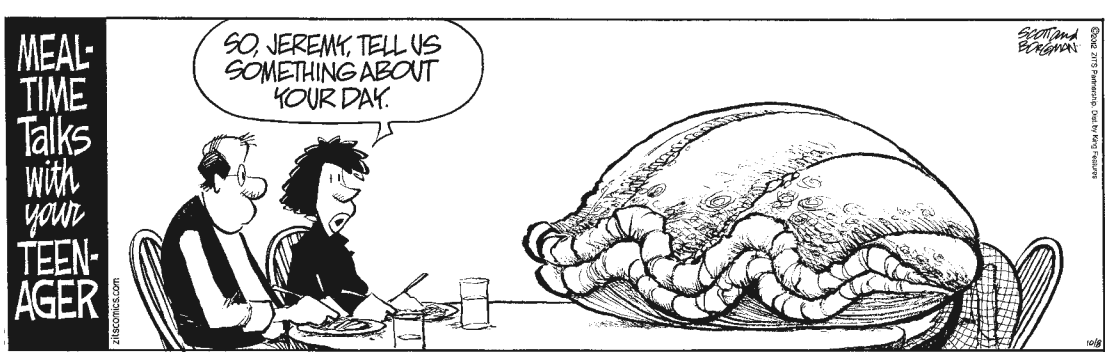
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



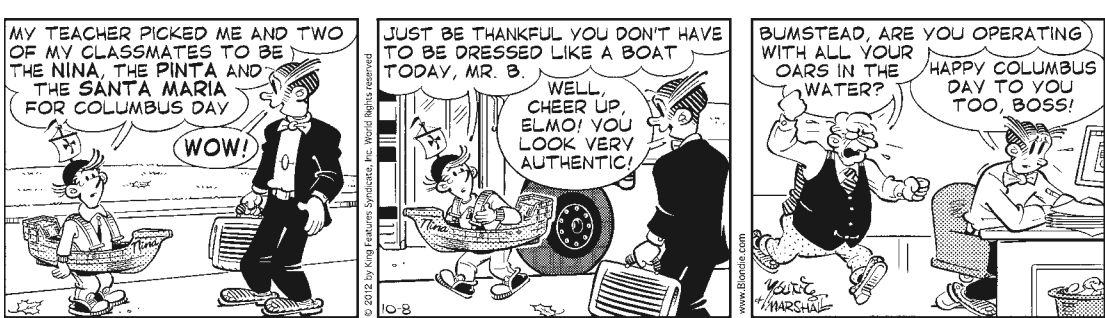
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



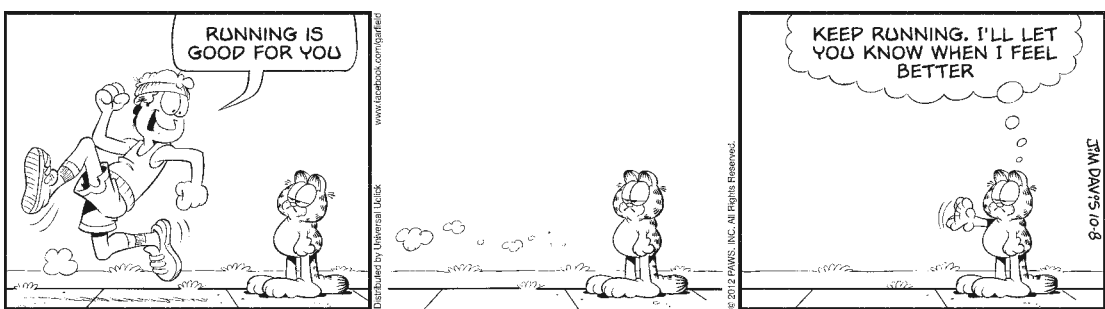
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



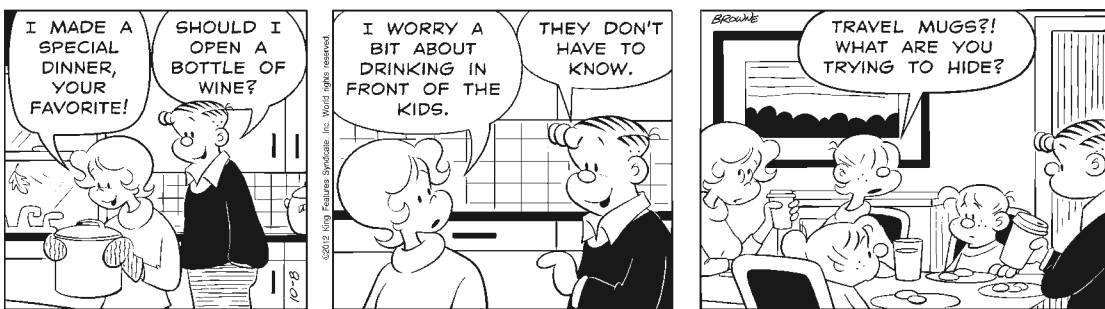
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Woman Hesitates To Commit To Man With Criminal Past

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man, "Jerry," who committed a crime years ago. He and a friend participated in several robberies. Jerry was unarmed and no one was hurt, although the victims were traumatized. Jerry was caught, served time in prison and has completely reformed his life. He finished college, was married for many years, is a devoted father to his children and holds an excellent job for which he is respected.

Despite the way Jerry has lived his life, I am having a hard time getting over his past. Although I know he has done everything humanly possible to redeem himself, I can't help wondering what kind of person he is DEEP DOWN. We are starting to get more serious, and he doesn't know I'm aware of his record. (A mutual friend told me long before Jerry and I began to date.)

I'm concerned that if my children know about what he did, they will never accept him. Although I have never met someone with whom I feel so compatible since my divorce, I wonder if it's worth pursuing. — TORN OVER HIS PAST

DEAR TORN: Let me help you. Jerry is a man who made a very stupid mistake in his youth and who has paid for it. But it didn't stop him from turning his life around and making a success of himself. Many people would respect that. I know I do.

Because you and Jerry are getting serious, he should have mentioned his past to you. The two of you need to have a heart-to-heart talk. If you are truly worried about the kind of person he is "deep down," this is the way to find out. As for your children — once YOU accept him, so will they if you impress upon them how hard he has worked to become the person he is today.

DEAR ABBY: I have been going to a small community building near where I live to sing karaoke. I love going there because no alcohol is served, everyone

acts like family, and I can take my kids and grand-kids. My husband doesn't go because he has other stress relievers and we have different interests. He knows some of the people there and doesn't mind me going with my best friend.

I love my husband very much. I am not "looking for love." However, last month the DJ's wife was waiting for me and said she didn't appreciate my singing with her husband (she never comes, either) and told me to stop leaving comments on his Facebook page.

I tried to explain that I thought he was my friend, but she wasn't having it. She wanted to start trouble and ruin what happiness we all have. I thought about not going back, but I love the singing.

I haven't done anything wrong or said anything inappropriate. My friends at karaoke want me back, and my husband says I should go. I have been so down about this. There's no other place around where they don't serve alcohol. Please help me. — INNOCENT AND HURT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR INNOCENT AND HURT: Although your relationship with the DJ is innocent, it appears he has a troubled marriage. If he doesn't know about the incident with his wife, then you should tell him. The next couple of times you visit the community building to sing, ask your husband to please come with you. And stop leaving messages on the Facebook page.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Cancer all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, OCT. 8, 2012:

This year an innate tension exists between two seemingly opposing interests that are pulling you in different directions. As a result, your juggling skills become critical. Your unusual resourcefulness and creativity emerge and allow many different opportunities to open up. Some of you could become involved in higher education, publishing and/or travel. A foreigner or someone very different might suddenly appear in your life, which could cause you to permanently alter your thinking. If you are single, this person could become more than just an acquaintance. If you are attached, travel could play a very important role in your year; it also might draw the two of you closer together. CANCER is emotional, and you often feel a need to respond.

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 need to depend on someone else, which could make you uncomfortable. You simply cannot be everywhere at once. Consider an option that comes too late this time but perhaps just soon enough for next time. In the meantime, be patient. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Reach out for a key person who has been evasive lately. If this individual continues in this manner, re-vamp your approach or simply choose not to deal with him or her. Your clarity and sense of direction remain assets. Count on change and new developments. Tonight: Share a different perspective about an investment and/or an expenditure.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You offer a lot. Your creativity might be at a standstill, but this will last for only a short period of time. Your optimism flows and helps open up many different options. Your sense of humor carries you through the most difficult moments, and also helps lighten the mood. Tonight: Avoid extremes.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Tension builds. Allow greater give-and-take, and remember to center yourself. Take a risk and trust your sixth sense; you will like the end results. Touch base with a family member, as this person might have some important news. Tonight: Whatever works for you.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Time works in your favor, though impulsiveness might be your initial reaction. Know that an immediate deci-

sion most likely would backfire. Tomorrow, you could get different results. A meeting adds enthusiasm and will be instrumental in getting you to spread your wings. Tonight: Get extra R and R.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You benefit from hearing what people around you have to say. You might not be sure as to what decision or choice to make, so get as much feedback as possible. You need to understand where others are coming from. With more empathy and understanding, you'll head down the right path. Tonight: Catch up with a friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Meet responsibilities head-on. Your willingness to step up to the plate is what identifies you and separates you from others. Your unique perspective and ability to detach play into the situation and are two of your strengths. News from a distance makes you smile. Tonight: Take the first step in making a dream happen.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for experts. Do some research on your own, too, and you will have a greater understanding when speaking to others. One person gives you feedback that hits home. You finally know which way to go. You are lucky with money right now — consider buying lottery tickets. Tonight: Listen to passionate music.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Deal with a key person directly who has an impact on you personally and/or professionally. At times, you might find that your guard goes up when this person shares. A meeting or a friend helps you keep your goals in mind. Many different people come toward you with ideas. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Let others express what they want. You are anchored and know how to deal with various suggestions. By encouraging such exchanges, others will feel more comfortable and be willing to share with you. This is how you build loyalty and support. Also, you'll gain access to many good ideas. Tonight: Go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Focus on accomplishments and getting a project completed. Your creativity surges and might distract you, but if you funnel it into what you're doing, it could help you complete and/or add a little more imagination to that project. A loved one would like more of your time. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

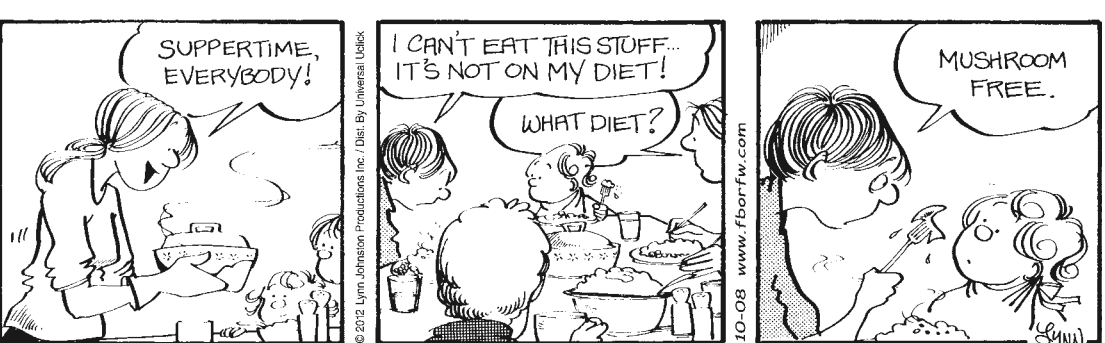
HHHHH Brainstorm and share more with others. At the same time, you do not want to reveal too much about a particular person. Your willingness to be vulnerable is OK, but not if it exposes someone else. A purchase or a matter involving your personal life puts a smile on your face. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

