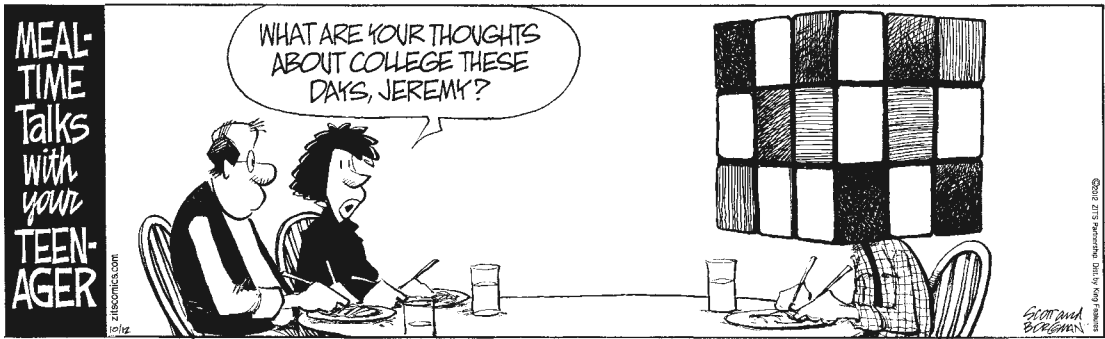


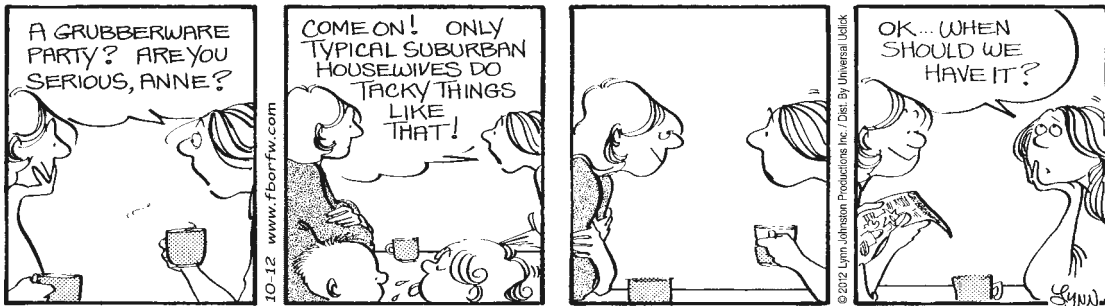
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



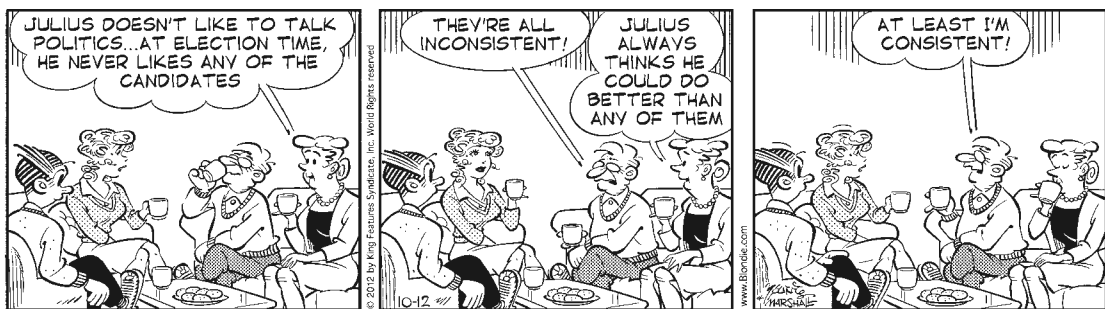
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



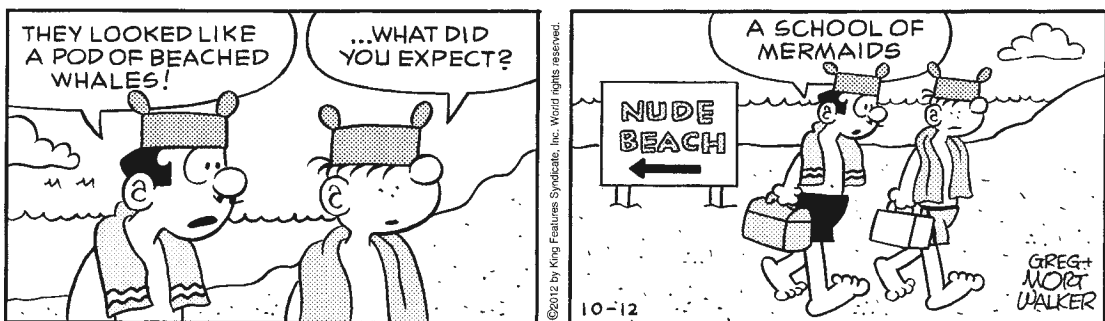
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



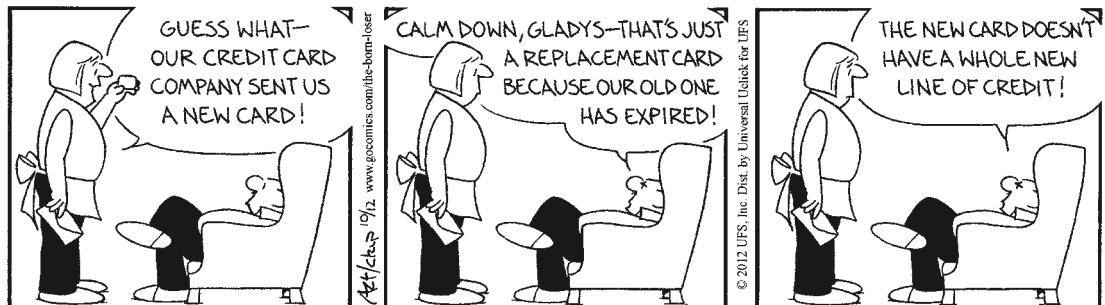
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Woman Feels Guilt Over Two Families She Helped Shatter

DEAR ABBY: Two men have left their wives for me. The relationship I had with the first one ended very badly (his choice). The second started shortly thereafter, and I am still with him.

When the first man found out, he tried to resume seeing me and became verbally abusive and harassed me when I wouldn't. He hasn't returned to his wife and has tried twice to commit suicide.

Both of these men are now divorced, and their ex-wives and children are understandably bitter. Even though they made the decision to leave without me asking them to — or even being aware that they were going to — I feel guilty having a hand in ending two marriages.

I'm sure the last thing either the wives or the children would want from me is an apology or any contact at all. What else can I do to come to terms with and accept what happened? — THE OTHER WOMAN

DEAR OTHER WOMAN: You appear to be carrying a large burden of guilt. And that's a GOOD thing. There is nothing you can do to make amends to the families you have helped ruin because you can't change the past. All you can do is vow that in the future you won't fool around with any more married men. And then STICK to it.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 9, my mother knitted me a small blanket, about the size of a baby's. I lost her to cancer a year later, when I was 10. Since then, I have carried it with me everywhere.

I am 26 now and married. I still have the blanket and carry it with me in my purse. Recently, I mentioned it to my husband and some friends. They were not supportive like I thought they would be. They made fun of me and called me "immature."

I got defensive and told them it was a reminder of my mother. My husband said I should keep a pic-

ture of her instead and throw the blanket away.

Abby, now I feel insecure and childish. Is a security blanket normal for someone my age, or should I just listen to my friends? — MRS. LINUS IN TEXAS

DEAR MRS. LINUS: Your question is not as unusual as you may think. It has appeared in my column before.

Considering the story behind the blanket, I understand why you are so attached to it. Lack of maturity has nothing to do with this. The connection to the mother you lost at such a tender age has everything to do with it.

Your husband and friends appear to have hides of "pure Corinthian leather." Do whatever makes you comfortable and do not apologize for it.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law goes through my mail and any items on my desk at home. She used to do it in secret and would stop when she got caught. Now she does it in front of me, but never when my husband is around.

I don't care why she's doing it; I just want her to stop. How do I relay that to her without offending her? — FRUSTRATED SOMEWHERE IN THE

USA
DEAR FRUSTRATED: Because you can't bring yourself to tell your mother-in-law plainly that what she's doing is rude and nosy, when you know she's coming over, put your papers out of sight.

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 Virgo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 12, 2012:

Is there such a thing as too much good? You will be able to answer that question this year. You often will feel overwhelmed. You might not know which way to go or what choices to make. Stay as level as possible, and be sure to express your authenticity and kindness. By centering yourself, you will make good decisions. If you are single, check out a potential sweetie with care. This person might be withdrawn or emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you will benefit from being more vulnerable and open with each other. You will experience more warmth as a result. VIRGO makes an excellent healer for you.

The Stars Show The Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Sad; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ Communication is active, which presents you with many possibilities. Schedule a lengthy lunch with someone of interest, as you have much to share with this person. Your ability to get past a problem demonstrates once more an innate resilience. Tonight: Out with a couple of friends.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your creativity soars. Though some ideas might seem a little off-the-wall, you'll share them with someone who is open and willing to tell you his or her thoughts. You'll hear from an individual who might be pivotal in the near future. Throughout the day, your softer side emerges. You'll laugh with ease and share a lot. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Be aware that you might be left to your own devices. Invite a friend to join you, or consider making other plans. The pressure you feel to always seem upbeat could become troublesome. Share your feelings more often. Others might think you are a handful, as you'll want to let go and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Let your wild child out.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Express feelings you normally hold back. Be direct with a family member. Your ability to share can only enhance the present situation. Do not worry about what is happening; you will land on your feet. You are like a cat with nine lives. Let your instincts guide you. Tonight: Out and about.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Others gravitate toward you. You could have

mixed feelings about taking a risk with a recent expenditure. A loved one might like to pitch in and help you. Consider whether you can deal with the negative ramifications, then decide. Friends surround you. Tonight: TGIF with the gang.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ The Moon in Virgo highlights you, whether you're dealing with a powerful figure in your life or just being yourself at work or at home. Others find your willingness to be vulnerable appealing. In the near future -- if not today -- you will receive an offer that might be too good to be true. You have earned it. Tonight: Lead the gang into the weekend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might not be comfortable with recent events. You could misinterpret what someone says and take away a different meaning than was intended. You smile, and others are drawn in. Are you willing to open up? Tonight: Do a quick vanishing act.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Picture yourself carrying Aladdin's lamp and being granted three wishes. What would they be? You currently are in the position of manifesting an important desire. You might be surprised by what verbalizing a wish can do for a person. Tonight: A lot to smile about.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Eyes tend to follow you. Are you being admired? Talked about or envied? Be aware that others are more observant than you initially thought, especially a boss. You might want to move forward with a project. This could be the perfect time for it, as long as you don't make it personal or private. Tonight: Go where you want to be.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You want feedback from someone at a distance. Unless you ask, it might not be forthcoming. How you see a situation could change dramatically after detaching and/or once you let other perspectives in. Do not hold back with a friend; share your feelings. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

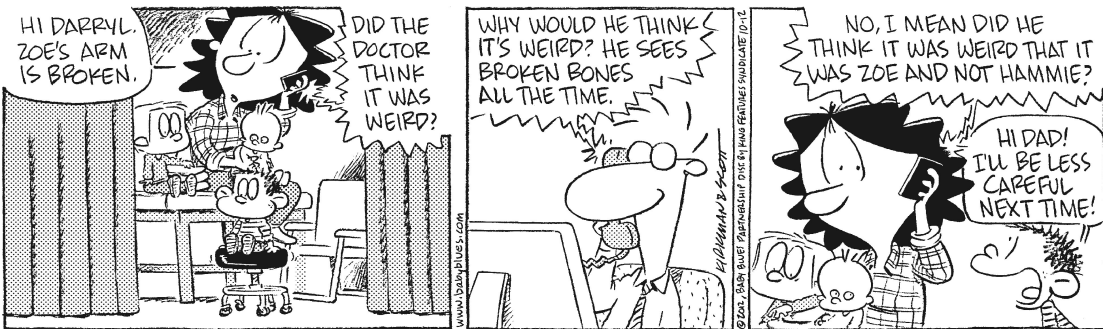
★★★★ Rethink an important relationship in your life. How you handle a personal matter could change. You might not be ready to make a grand announcement just yet, but you will soon enough. Your creativity is on the upswing. Tonight: Your mood is contagious.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

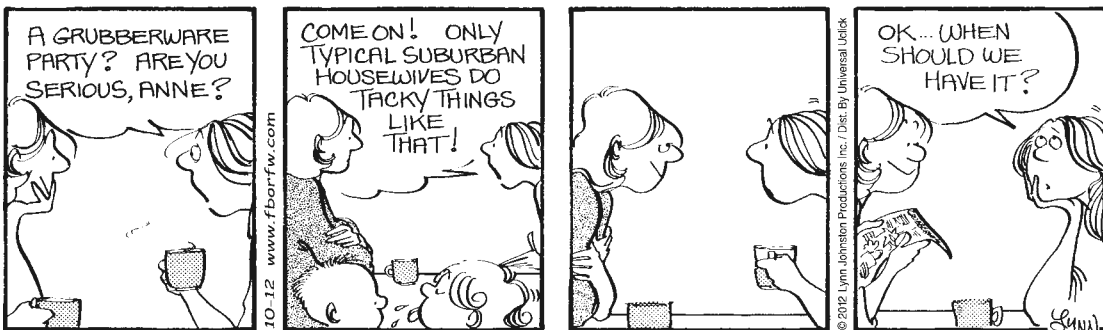
★★★★ You might be unusually tense, as someone makes certain demands of you. Listen to a friend or loved one's feedback, and express your feelings. Do not be intimidated -- stand up for yourself. Your confidence could stop this person in his or her tracks. Tonight: Say "yes."

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

