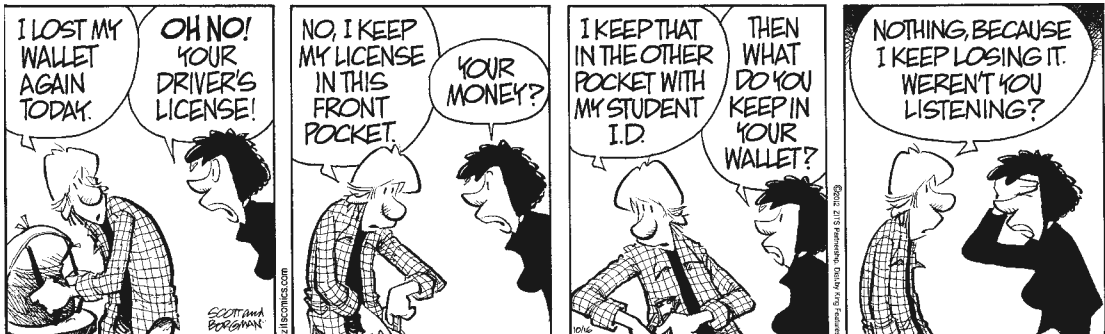


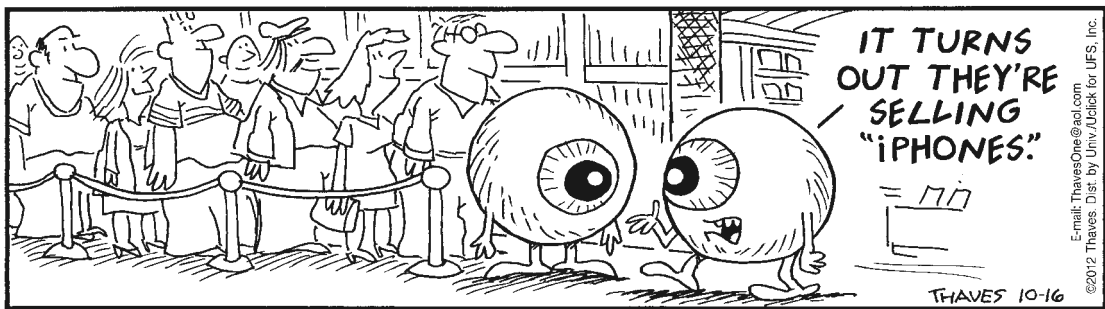
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



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



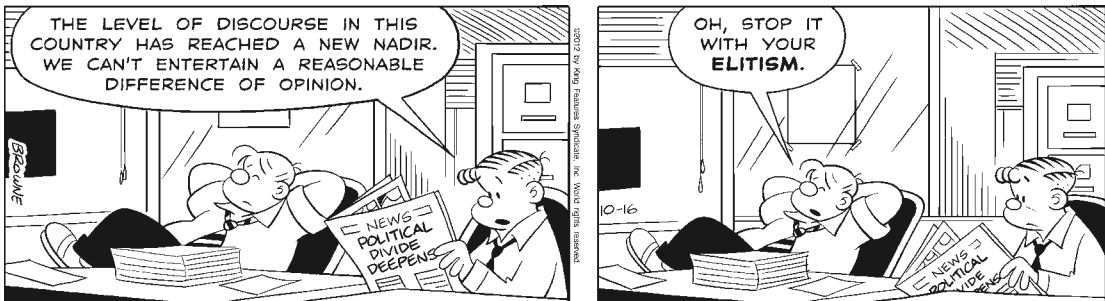
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



Man Hopes Wife Outgrows Drunken Girls' Night Out

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for eight months. She has an occasional habit that makes me wonder whether we got married too young. (She's 23, I'm 27 and we're both in graduate school.)

She likes to go out with a group of her friends from high school or with her sister and her sister's friends, get drunk and stay the night. It doesn't happen all the time — several times a year — and I'm not worried about her cheating on me. I try not to be the controlling husband and say she "can't" go out. But it bothers me that she wants to spend the night with her single friends and get drunk. If I try to talk to her about it, she gets angry and says she doesn't get to see her friends very often.

I don't understand why her socializing always has to involve drinking and staying out all night. Her sister is my age and has a career in education, but still likes hosting these parties. I wonder how long it will take my wife to outgrow this phase. Am I being controlling? What should I do? — GETTING FRUSTRATED IN PONTIAC, MICH.

DEAR GETTING FRUSTRATED: Your wife appears to be trying to hold onto her carefree single days, and it's a shame she can't do that without getting herself soused and staying out all night. On the other hand, if she's in no condition to get behind the wheel, then it's better that she not drive until she sobers up.

I don't think saying what's on your mind is "controlling." I suspect your wife becomes angry because she is defensive.

Her behavior is immature, and how long it will take her to outgrow this "phase" is anybody's guess. I recommend that you both widen your circle of friends so you spend more time with other married couples who are more mature than your wife's sister and high school friends appear to be.

DEAR ABBY: I have reached a crossroad in my life. Just when I thought I had everything, from the house with the white picket fence to the family dog and children, I have learned something about my husband. He had never opened up about himself other than to say he was raised by his father and stepmom who abused him as a child.

As I was cleaning out a closet and getting rid of some things, I came across his old briefcase, which I opened to see if anything of importance was inside before tossing it. To my shock, there were photos and a DVD of what seemed like pornography of himself and other women.

I can respect past relationships, but having done something like this and kept the evidence is very troubling to me. I find myself needing closure, but when I try to talk to him, he brushes me off. I feel betrayed, unsure who I married and lost about what else to do. What do you advise? — CONFUSED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFUSED: How old does your husband appear to be in those photos? If they are recent, then it is important that you get to the bottom of this — and counseling may help you find the answers you're looking for.

However, if they are NOT recent, let the past stay buried. Some women keep old love letters long after the romance is over. And some men keep old pictures like the ones you found.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Scorpio all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 16, 2012:

This year you could be unusually self-indulgent, and you'll love every moment. A sweet tooth, as well as partying, could be the source of some weight gain. If you are single, you will delight in the "dating game." You even might give thought to playing the field. Know that it will take a very special person to get any commitment from you. If you are attached, add more playful moments into your bond. Curb a need to possess and/or control each other, as these traits could hurt any good bond. SCORPIO draws you out.

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)

★★★★ What could be complicated becomes significantly less so because of a discussion. When you state your feelings, others also are more likely to open up. You could be doing a lot of questioning right now. Sorting through a lot of information takes time and determination. Tonight: Hook up with a key person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Defer to someone who might be eminently more capable and who has the ability to look at situations quite differently from you. This person's mind is always active. He or she understands you and the situation well and will be able to come up with an effective solution. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Your patience and ability to gain clarity — even in the most difficult situations — opens many doors. Additionally, your optimism helps others sometimes get past their issues. Remember, at this point in time, you are like a cat with nine lives; go for what you want! Tonight: Do not push yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Your libido energies are high. Remember, it is your choice as to how you direct them. You are far more upbeat than in the past, and this affects a project, a difficult interaction or even a budding relationship. Just avoid not doing anything with this special energy. Tonight: Not to be found.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You are most comfortable in a homey environment. If you are working, you could leave early and bring more work home or, if you can, take the day to work entirely from

home. Some of you even might consider starting a home-based business. Express your feelings directly and compassionately. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You continue to express your feelings in a way others can relate to. Your willingness to verbalize your emotions is substantially increased. Avoid embellishing or elaborating details when dealing with someone who often doesn't have the ability to focus for any length of time. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Become more aware of yourself and what you offer to others. You do not want to pull back, but giving too much has its liabilities. Try to detach from situations that might appear difficult or impossible to resolve. A little detachment goes a long way. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Beam in what you want, as others are flexible. Someone appreciates your verbal and direct communication. A partner lets you know how much your thoughtfulness and caring means to him or her. You will have a long-overdue heart-to-heart talk with this person as a result. Tonight: With a special person.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★ Assume a low profile, especially if you do not want to maintain the lead in a key situation. Genuinely try to understand your liabilities, yet know when to accept an offer. Your words blend together with your feelings, both negative and positive. You will have a lot to think about. Tonight: Do for you.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Meetings are far more important than you might realize. You are in sync with others, and this causes opportunities to knock on your door. You might feel excessive in your emotions and/or your finances. Those around you will open up as a result of your being less-than-perfect. Tonight: Where the fun is.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward. Others respond to your efforts and admire your willingness to take the lead and accept responsibility. You might be quite playful and full of fun; however, you will want to suppress that side when dealing with authority figures. Tonight: Split town as soon as you can.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You could be pushing the envelope. You also might want to do necessary research and create your own alternatives. Change the time of a meeting or be willing to miss it. Once you start exploring ideas and making calls to experts, you will not want to be distracted. Tonight: Listen to a great piece of music.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

