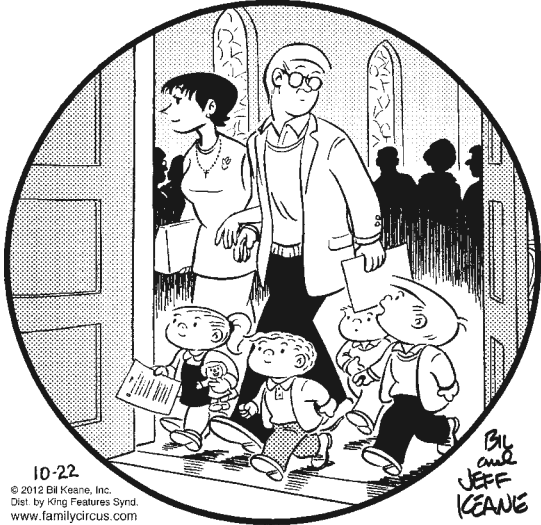
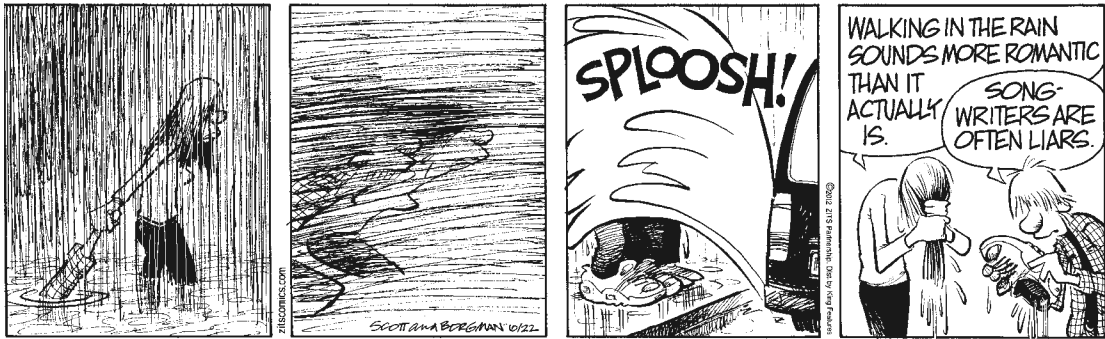


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



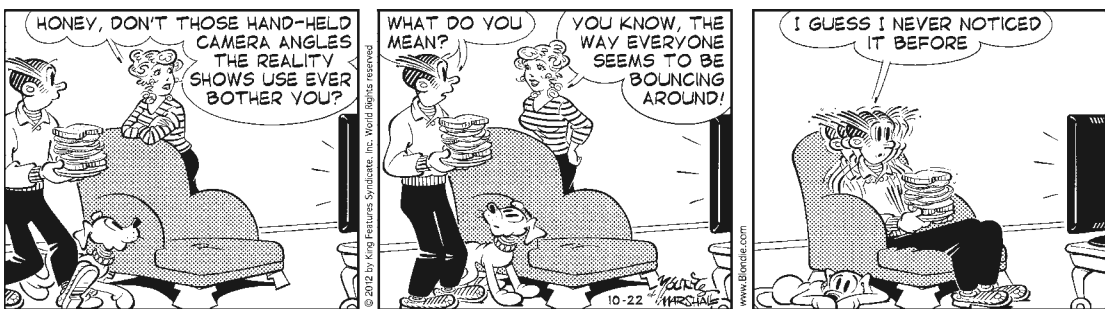
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



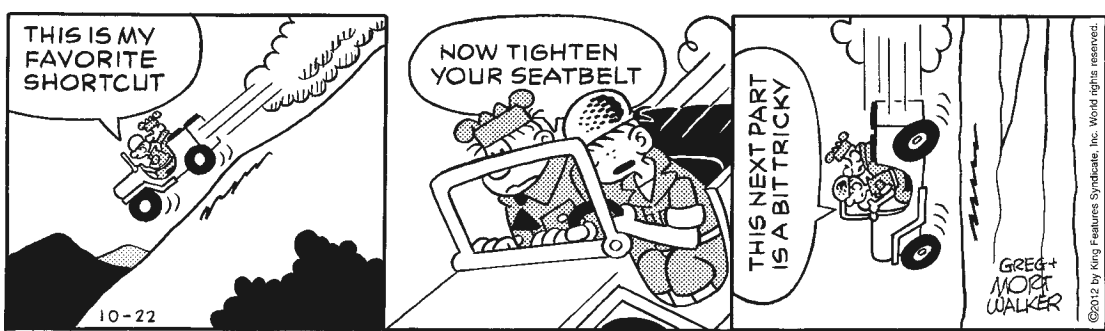
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



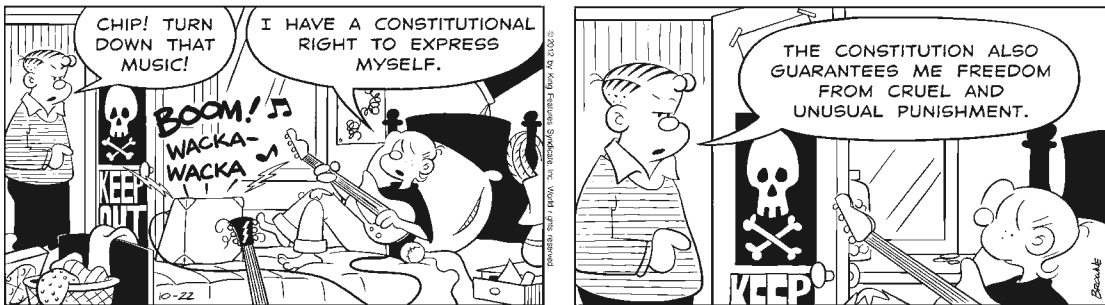
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I married, I thought I had hit the jackpot in mothers-in-law. We were becoming friends, going shopping together, etc. Boy, was I wrong. Now, five years later, I can't stand her. Just 15 minutes with her sends me over the edge. She's rude, judgmental, and gossips like a teenager about everyone.

She put together a cookbook for me filled with my husband's favorite recipes. Guess what? After trying half a dozen of them and failing at every one, I realized she had changed and added or omitted certain ingredients in every single one. When I asked about it, she told me she just wanted her son to prefer her cooking over mine.

Then there was the time she was baby-sitting and took our son to see Santa Claus for the very first time without asking or telling us. That's an event parents want to be part of. I found out about it months later when I looked through her scrapbook.

I'm not sure of her motives, but she has something against me. My husband is on my side 100 percent when it comes to his mother. He can't stand to be around her either. What is the appropriate way to handle her? She makes us want to move away. — READY TO PACK IN OHIO

DEAR READY TO PACK: It isn't necessary to move away to distance yourselves from people like your mother-in-law. Limit the time you spend with her. When you must see her, be careful not to say anything negative about anyone or give her sensitive information you don't want shared. If you want to prepare a special food for your husband, go online and find recipes that haven't been "doctored." You'll find plenty of them. Then let him rave about your cooking. As for the incident with Santa, remember that your son was so young he probably has no memory of it. Many little children are frightened by big strangers in red suits, which is why smart parents don't force the

exposure. And now that you know what poor judgment your mother-in-law has, make other arrangements for a sitter when you need one.

But don't cut her off. However she managed it, she created the wonderful husband with whom you are blessed.



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.

I'm looking for a very attractive woman to accompany me through life. Most single men I know also put a premium on a woman's appearance. Why don't women understand this? Where would you suggest finding a suitable partner for someone in my situation? — MR. PARTICULAR IN TUCSON

DEAR MR. PARTICULAR: Start at the nearest gym. If that doesn't net you what you're trolling for, another place to look would be the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles. He throws large parties there, many of which are charity fundraisers. Who knows? For a generous donation you might meet a woman who meets your high standards — providing you have enough assets of your own to merit her interest.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 if born before 5:14 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Scorpio. The Moon is in Aquarius all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, OCT. 22, 2012:

This year you might feel pushed to the limit at times. Know that you can overcome any challenge, as long as you use others as resources and for brainstorming. Curb excessive spending, and find a less costly path to the same end. If you are single, you meet people with ease, even at home and in odd circumstances. A trip or a foreigner could play a significant role come July. If you are attached, schedule that special trip this year; it will strengthen the bond between you. AQUARIUS knows how to test your limits!

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)

HHHH If you are looking for a key associate to agree with you, look elsewhere. You will be dealing with this associate in the next month. The unexpected marks your actions and encourages a different avenue of thought. Look at the big picture now. Tonight: Find your friends.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

HHH Others make demands, and you produce results. There is someone you cannot please, no matter what you do. Today emphasizes that fact. You could take this person's behavior personally or slowly pull back and see what is ailing him or her. A loved one puts in his or her two cents. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

HHHH Reach out for others' opinions. Someone might have off-the-wall ideas, but do not shut them down. This person's provocative thinking allows you to break past current restrictions. A friend surprises you with an unexpected visit. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

HHHH Deal with an irritable boss or a partner who might seem somewhat unstable. Emphasize your libido's energy. Some of you might decide to indulge a romantic fantasy rather than deal with what seems impossible. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

HHHH Know when it's time to loosen the reins and allow others to take a more dominant role. Certainly, you don't al-

ways have the answers. An expert on the topic of the day lets you know that fact unintentionally. Maintain tight communication with a family member. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

HHH Your smooth style makes a difference to those who are around you on a regular basis. They count on your accuracy and precision. Nevertheless, a key person in your life jolts you once more by doing the unexpected. Your reaction could be quite dynamic. Tonight: Your normal routine.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

HHHH You have a lot on your plate, and you feel strapped in some manner. Count on the unexpected to occur; you might start liking these surprising twists in your life. Laughter marks a special relationship, though the other party could be quite serious at this point. Tonight: Forget that it's Monday.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

HHH You might find that your mood, like a current, is constantly changing. The Sun moves into your sign today, which increases your energy. You are full of vigor in the evening, and for many of you, optimism returns. Try to avoid a potential spending spree. Tonight: Celebrate good times!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

HHHH Zero in on necessities. Realize when you have had enough and also when you would like to be more frivolous. Part of you allows greater give-and-take with others. You like someone's unpredictability and might indulge in the same way. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

HHH Be aware of what is happening within a friendship. You might need to refresh your perspective and move through some preconceived and possibly rigid thinking. A meeting proves to be important. In fact, you will use this type of get-together more often in the near future. Tonight: Buy that item you have been eyeing.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

HHHH You feel as if you have a tiger by the tail. Use your high energy and growing self-confidence to forge ahead in a particular area of your life. A friend might have strong sentiments about what you are doing. Listening to this person does not mean that you are agreeing. Tonight: Do your thing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

HHH Maintain a low profile, and listen to what is being said without butting in. Your observations could draw some very steady and important insights. You could be unpredictable, for better or worse, with your funds. Be aware of this trait. Tonight: Do something just for you.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

