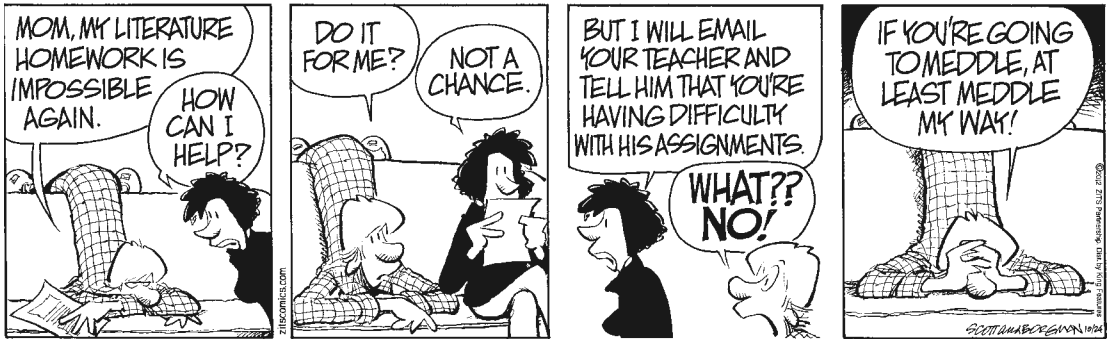


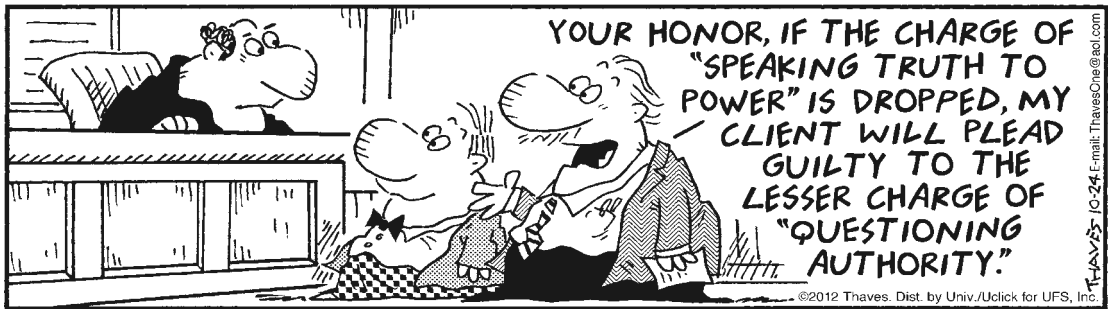
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



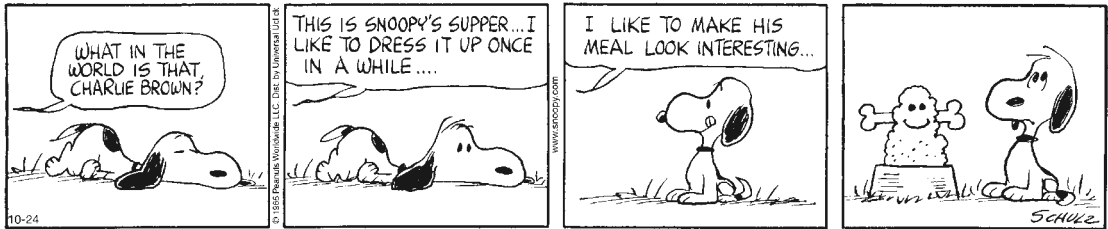
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



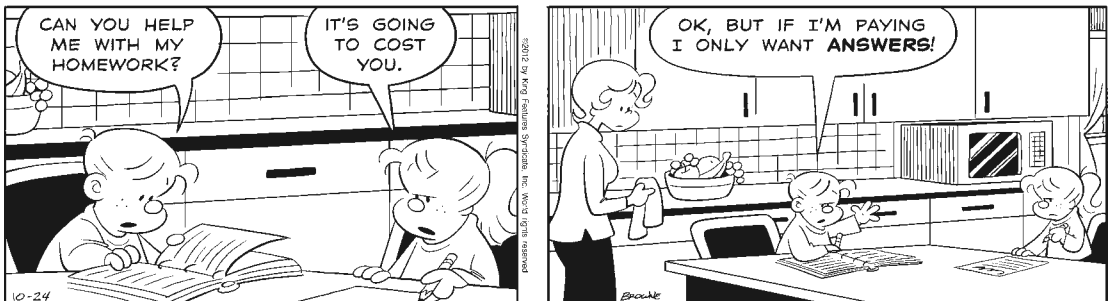
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Teenage Girl Grieves Alone After Her Secret Miscarriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15. I have dated since I was 12 but never told my parents and sort of went out of my way to hide it from them. I had sex when I was 13, but was always careful about using birth control. I'm on the pill and always use condoms.

I got pregnant anyway, five months ago. I always had irregular periods so I didn't realize it until two months ago. The doctor told me I was having a girl. I was scared out of my mind, but I was planning to tell the father and my parents. Then early last month I got a terrible pain. I went to the clinic and had a miscarriage.

It will be a long time before I'm completely ready to deal with this, but I don't know how to move on. I only told a couple of people, and none of them can ever know how I'm feeling. I can't tell my parents, and I have no idea how to tell the father. Please help me. — LOST AND ALONE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR LOST AND ALONE: Please accept my sympathy. A miscarriage can cause a mix of emotions, among which are disappointment, despair, shock, guilt, grief — and relief. All are NORMAL. I urge you to talk to a trusted adult who can listen and support you, because going through all of this alone is doubly hard.

Remember that grief is a natural response to a miscarriage. Don't make light of it or deny the feelings. The length of time it takes to process them is different for everyone, but you should feel better as time passes. If that doesn't happen, talk with your health care provider because there may be additional ways to support you and help you feel better.

If you decide to tell the father, understand that he may need to grieve, too. He may not be able to express his emotions the same way you do. But communicating your feelings and supporting each other may help both of you to cope.

Because the birth control you were using didn't prevent your pregnancy, you should ask a health care provider for advice about avoiding another unplanned

pregnancy in the future. A staff member at your local Planned Parenthood health center or other clinic, or your own physician, can discuss all of your options and help you get the birth control you need.



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: I'm the mother of two adult daughters. Their father and I were divorced when they were 6 and 10. He was an attentive father, and I encouraged and nurtured their relationship with him and always told them how much he loved them.

Five years after our divorce, he remarried. His new wife didn't care for the girls and made no secret of it. Our youngest daughter gave birth to our only grandchild. When the child was 4, my daughters were told by their father that they were no longer welcome in his home. They then revealed to me that during the 30 years since the divorce, their dad had never had a good thing to say about me and told them many lies. He died nine months ago, without patching up the problems between them.

Now my daughters want to be close to his wife! Please help me understand. I have strong emotions about this, especially concerning the grandchild. — MISERABLE IN MISSOURI

DEAR MISERABLE: It may not be rational, but it's possible that your daughters want a relationship with their father's wife because they perceive it as the one last link to their father, however weak a link that may be.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 Scorpio and a Moon in Aquarius if born before 4 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24, 2012:

This year others often find you to be inspiring, yet in your own mind, you might feel confused. If you follow your gut, you will land well. Some of you prefer a more logical approach, which could become an issue. If you are single, you possess a magnetic yet elusive aura that draws many toward you. You will have many admirers. If you are attached, the two of you connect on a deeper and more caring level, especially if you open up to your feelings more often. PISCES is as emotional as you.

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 be unusually quiet, as you are very much in your head. Strong feelings tend to permeate your day and drive your actions. You might feel a need to sort through the financial benefits of making one decision over another. You need to handle a boss directly. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want while timing is working in your favor. A friend or a meeting inspires you to be more open about making a dream a reality. You have a quality that encourages people to trust you. A partner or close associate will open up, given some time. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Take a stand. Be as clear as possible about what is driving you, and know full well what feels right. A key person in your life demands your time and attention. The quality of your day-to-day life is up for examination. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You have emotional resonance, and if you follow your intuition, things will work out in the way you want them to. Reach out for someone at a distance who might feel a bit strange at times. A partner or loved one is transforming, slowly but surely. Tonight: Wish upon a star.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ Relate to an instrumental person in your life directly. This individual is imaginative and creative, but often not realistic. You might not want to have him or her

as an active financial partner, as you could be setting the stage for trouble. Tonight: Visit over dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Continue to allow others to steal the spotlight. In your reticence, you will be noticed. You might want to take some personal time. Others are only too delighted to fill in; they also will have a better sense of what you have to handle every day. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You have an idea that might be difficult to explain in a way that others can understand. You just might need to go off and do it. Know that the expense or cost might be an issue. If so, look for a partner who understands your vision. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Use your imagination, and funnel your creativity into a fun Halloween project. Though sometimes your thoughts could be twisted or strange, they tend to pique others' interest. A discussion allows you to see yet another path. Tonight: Ever creative.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ When you think about your domestic life, tension courses through your body. As a result, you could experience a low-level depression. Try a relaxation technique, because you do need to deal with the situation sooner rather than later. Tonight: Follow your instincts with a purchase.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are likely to say what you think, and you'll expect someone else to understand the whole concept. Know that this might not be the case. Use your intuition when dealing with a relative or neighbor. You know what this person will say even before he or she speaks. Tonight: Change your mood. Go out.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You are not a sign that is dominated by a need for material items. You do, however, realize the need for money in the society in which you live. Inevitably, money slides through your fingers. Carefully count your change, but if you have a hunch about the lottery, go for it. Tonight: Do some price comparison.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

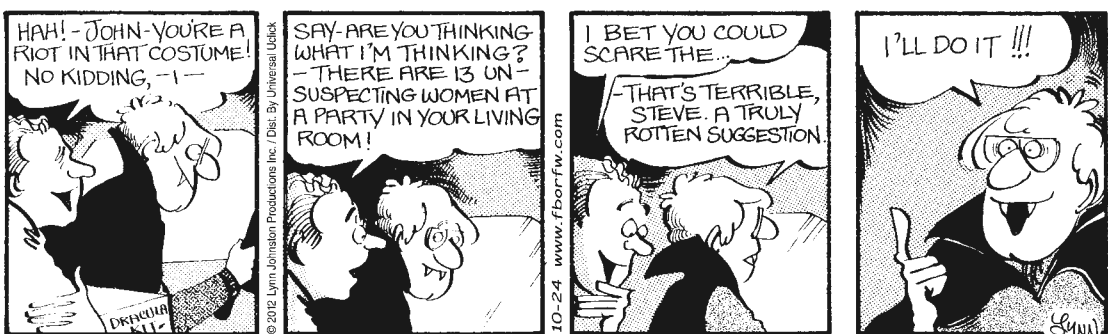
★★★★★ You beam and attract others, like honey attracts a bear. You might be taken aback by all the doors that open up for you. Follow your emotional sense in deciding what to do. Please note that some of the options available now could be closed off very soon. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

