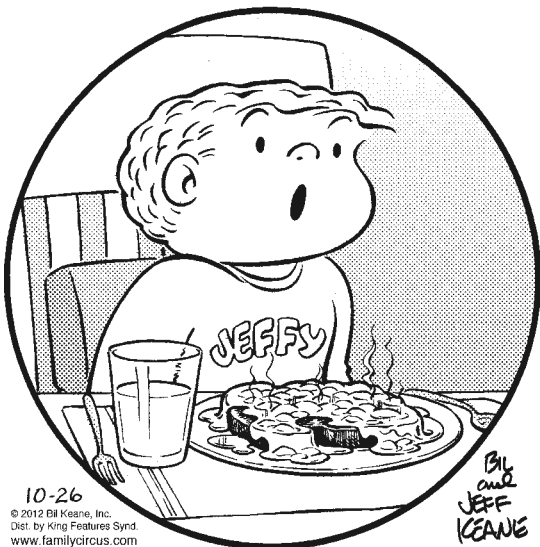


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

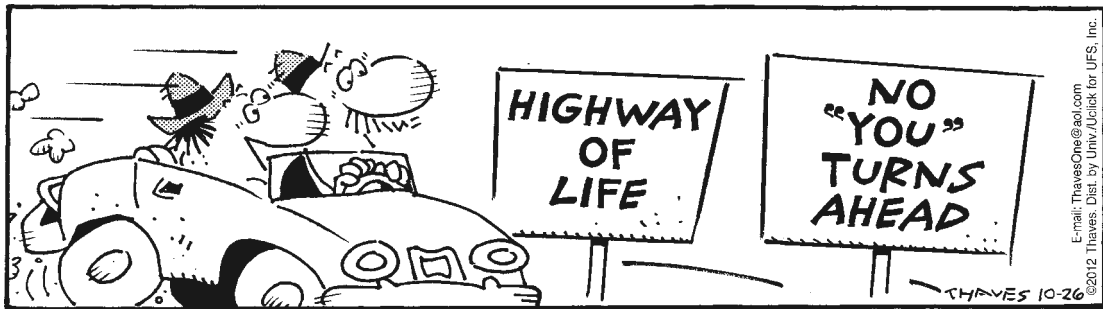


10-26
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



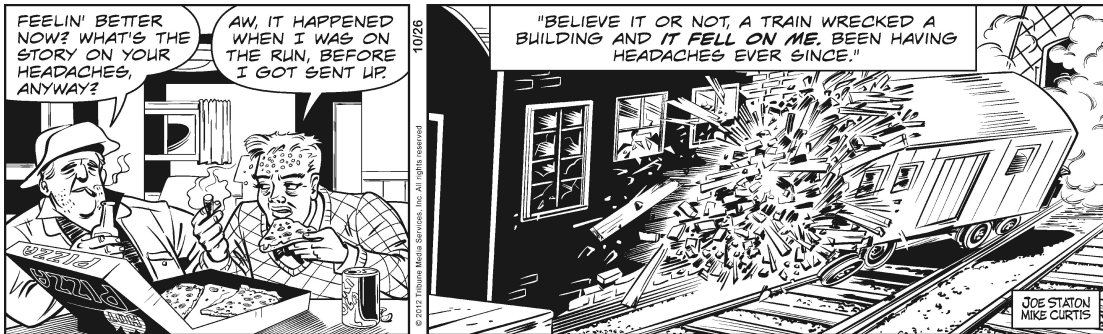
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



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



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Fiance's Rare Drunken Bouts Could Become More Frequent

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating the greatest man I've ever met in my life for three years. "Jared" has wonderful kids and a successful career. He's handsome and is kind to me, my kids and my family. We enjoy each other immensely, and we are now engaged.

We are social drinkers, but about once a year Jared gets incredibly intoxicated and changes into the most horrible person I have ever seen. It's all verbal yelling — nothing physical — but it's still inexcusable. After an "episode" he is guilt-ridden and apologetic for weeks. I believe he's sincere, but it has made me rethink our engagement. He had an episode a week ago — the third during the time we've been together.

Our kids are close and care about each other. I love Jared, but if I have to endure another instance of this I don't think I can go through with the marriage. I'm still angry about the last bout, and he's still guilt-ridden. How do I approach this? — CONFLICTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR CONFLICTED: The first thing to do is make it your business to attend some Al-Anon meetings. When you do, you'll soon realize that the behavior Jared is exhibiting can escalate.

While Jared may be able to handle his liquor 364 days a year (now), what happens on that 365th is a deal-breaker. Unless you want to spend your life worrying every time Jared picks up a glass who he will be when he puts the glass down, draw the line now. Tell him the person he becomes during these "episodes" is a stranger you have no desire to have anything to do with — ever — and if he can't GUARANTEE that you will never see that person again, the marriage is off. Of course, this will mean the end of his social drinking and probably yours. If what you have together is as special as you say, it is only a small sacrifice.

Be prepared, because he will probably deny he has a problem. Unless you want to become a miserable nervous wreck, you must not relent. The explosion, the guilt, the "honeymoon" period afterward are similar to the cycle of domestic violence, so be aware of that.

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful son died five years ago. He chose his death by hanging — suicide. He had suffered for years, and all our love couldn't help him. He once told me, "Mom, I don't want to live like this anymore. I want to be with Jesus."

We know we will see him again. Still, I find it hard to tell people how he died. I know I don't have to, but it still haunts me sometimes. I'd like to know how others who have been through the same thing feel about this. Thank you for your support. — MOM IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR MOM: I'm sorry about the death of your son, who suffered from severe chronic depression. When there is a suicide, the family can experience a range of emotions — including anger, sadness and guilt. When a child commits suicide there can also be feelings of self-recrimination. If that's the case with you, please seek counseling.

I'm sure that when your letter is published, I'll hear from readers who will share their experiences. If you will visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website, www.afsp.org, you can search for a suicide survivor support group in your area, because talking with others who have experienced this can be helpful.

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.

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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 Pisces if born before 12:31 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 2012:

This year you swing from being wildly emotional to being peacefully calm. No one knows what to expect from you, which, on some level, you do not mind. You find that this keeps things interesting. If you are single, you could meet someone during the summer months or afterward. This bond will be deep and emotional. If you are attached, try to be less intellectual with your sweetie; instead, let your feelings flow. ARIES is more explosive than you ever could be.

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)

★★★★ Make it OK to drag your heels in the morning. You will hear some news that might energize you and get you out of this lethargic mood. You blossom in the afternoon. Make choices and plans for the weekend based on your current charisma. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ Use the morning for whatever is important to you. By midafternoon, you might slow down and think about taking a nap. You could hear some news that might stop you in your tracks. Follow your instincts with a money decision. Test out a risk on someone. Tonight: Not to be found.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Clear out some last-minute errands and return calls in the morning. You will take care of these tasks quickly and allow yourself some more free time. Zero in on what you want to do in the afternoon. Your friends are likely to be involved. Tonight: Only where the action is.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your mind drifts to others who are not in your immediate environment. You might want to make a call or two. Make plans to take off ASAP. Being the good sport you are, you might be left holding the bag once more. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You could be hard to find, except by certain people. In the afternoon, you might become available, but

you could have difficulty staying in the moment. Your mind is anywhere but where you are. Why not just follow your mind out the door? Tonight: Let go and enjoy.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Others make all sorts of demands. Your immediate reaction is to say "no." You have stretched yourself so thin for others that you might be fed up. Spend the afternoon with those you value or need to spend time with. Do for you. Tonight: Note a tendency to go overboard.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You work very hard. You are focused in the morning, but plan to spend the remainder of the day networking or socializing. Your people skills emerge once more. You will tend to go to extremes in some form, and you will love every moment. Tonight: Say "yes."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You could be a bit tired and worn out by someone's high energy. Get creative and unleash this person, at least for a while. Own your day, and make plans that suit you. A secret admirer comes forward; the attention is quite flattering. Tonight: Get some exercise, too.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Once you get going, you will be full of energy. By midafternoon, you'll know what you want to do, and you'll have every intention of doing just that. Let your concerns fall to the wayside for now, and get into the next few days. Tonight: Aren't you wild?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You have a lot on your plate before you even wake up. Handle as much as you can early in the day. Do not allow someone to take up more time than you wish. Schedule some private or personal time in the evening. Tonight: Happiest at home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

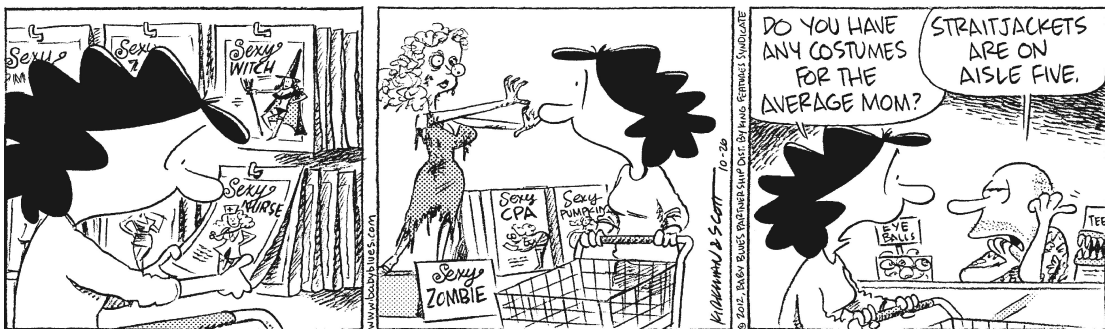
★★★ Curb spending, if possible. You might feel cornered by a stressful money situation, and there only seems to be one way out. Trust that you will find a different path with your ingenuity and imagination. Make an important phone call before the day is through. Tonight: Speak your mind.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You illuminate a conversation, a room and/or someone's day. Communication flows with someone at a distance. Use some caution with a purchase, and be reasonable as to how much you spend. There are other ways of showing your feelings. Tonight: Fun does not need to cost.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

