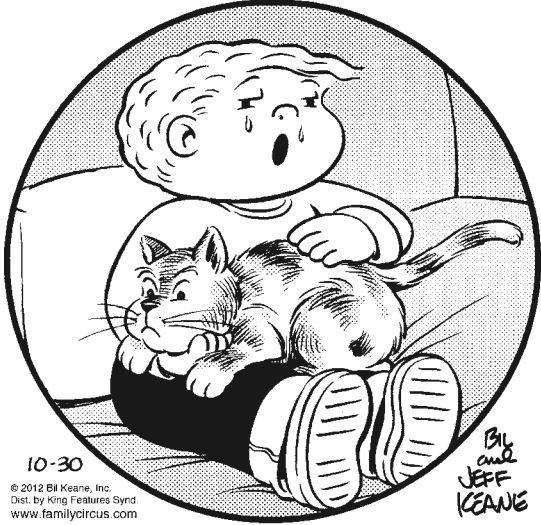
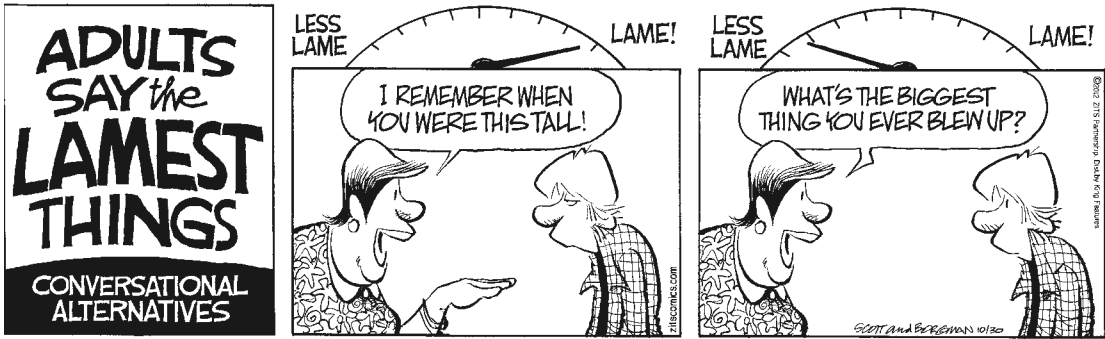


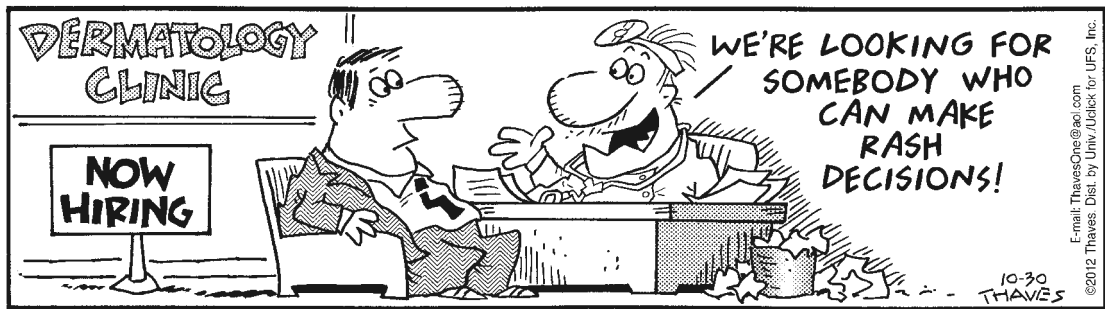
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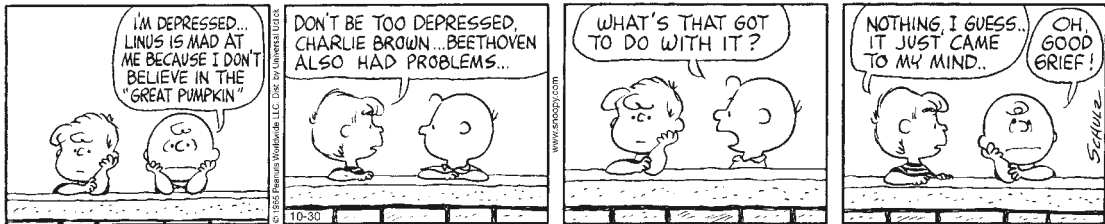
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



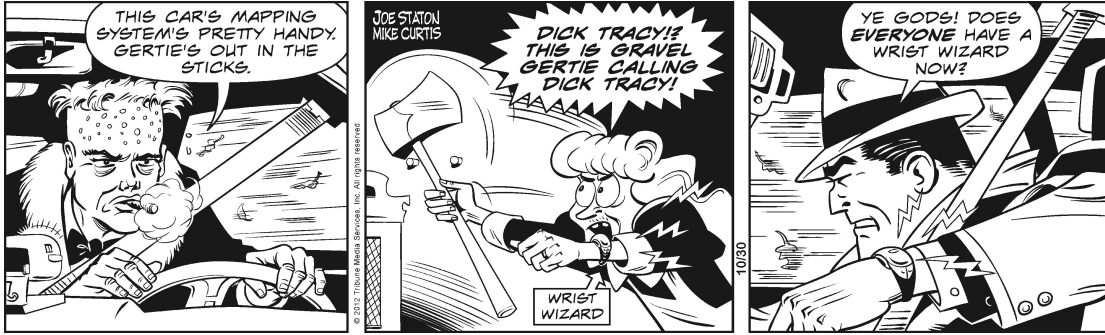
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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



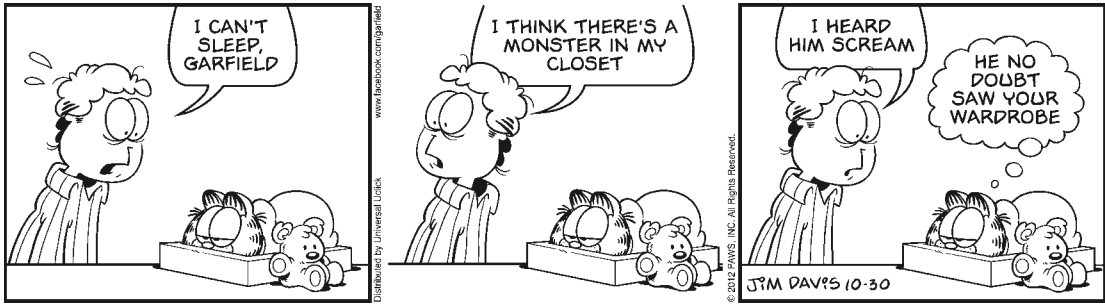
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BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



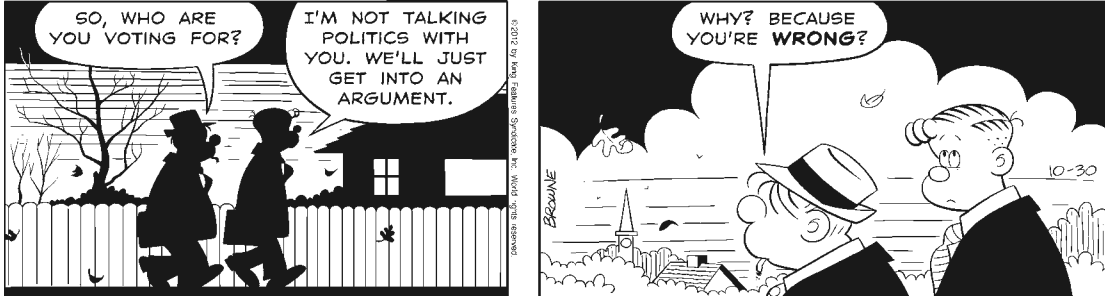
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BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Teachers Have Enough To Do Without Having To Do It All

DEAR ABBY: "Chaplin, Conn., Reader" (Aug. 16) suggested that teachers should be sharing life lessons with children. Unfortunately, many people in our society believe it — including parents. Students come to us with ever-increasing deficits in many non-curricular areas. But it is NOT the job of public educators to teach them the importance of families, helping grandparents, caring for house-hold pets, etc.

If these things come up in the course of the day and there is a need to address them, we try to clarify any misconceptions. But taking time to prepare and teach a lesson on any of these small but important subjects is no longer an option. The demands placed on teachers today are vast and complex. Just getting parents to follow through at home on school responsibilities is a job in itself. Many of them don't seem to think they need to help their kids be successful in school. — SEEN IT ALL IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SEEN IT ALL: Thank you for your comments. The letter from "Chaplin, Conn. Reader" brought a HUGE number of responses on this issue, primarily from teachers:

DEAR ABBY: I have worked in an elementary school for nine years. A teacher is a counselor, doctor, social worker and behavioral specialist all in one. Kids come to class dirty, hungry, tired, with no manners or clue about the alphabet or counting. Teachers have halted lessons because a child is in a meltdown. Some kids have never held a pencil or scissors, and don't know how to share or take directions from an adult. It's sad to hear them say they have no crayons at home or books to read. As for testing, unless the parents do THEIR job, we will see little improvement in scores. And no, I don't work in a big-city school district — this is a nice suburban area. — STILL LOVE MY JOB

DEAR ABBY: I spend half my teaching time on behavioral issues, social skills, bullying, how to work in a

group and just trying to hold kids' attention. Many children today are so used to constant stimulation from TV, video games, texting, etc., that their attention spans max out at 30 seconds. I practically have to sing and dance to reach them or they tune out. I suggest "Chaplin" go to a school, volunteer, and try to become a part of the solution instead of adding to the burden of already overworked teachers.

— TEACHING IN TACOMA  
DEAR ABBY: You said parents should be the ones teaching the kinds of things the Connecticut reader wrote about. Then you asked where the parents are. Let me tell you! They're too busy on their smartphones talking to or fighting with their latest boy- or girlfriend, playing electronic games, out drinking and partying so much they don't know or care where their kids are. Parents who actually spend time with their children and give them undivided attention are sadly in the minority. Those who help to teach them are even fewer in number. — KANSAS READER

DEAR ABBY: You are correct that teachers are overwhelmed by many curricular, legislative and administrative demands. However, educators can continually instill many of these life lessons into students by acting as positive role models who consistently demon-

strate core values such as integrity, respect and determination. Students tend to do and learn what they see even more than what they are told — by parents AND teachers. — ANNE IN NEVADA

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired physical education teacher. One day during a health class, a mother of one of my students came to school and told me I should teach "morals and manners" to her daughter. My response: "Ma'am, if you couldn't do that in 14 years, I can't do it in 40 minutes a day." — REMEMBERS IT WELL

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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 Taurus all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 2012:

Life events this year will encourage you to transform and grow in new ways. When change emanates from the person as his or her choice, it is far easier to adapt to than when it is forced. Others will like the results, though at times they might be reactive to the process. Your style of communication also will change and be more effective. If you are single, you will attract many admirers. Until you are with someone for a year, do not consider the relationship long term. If you are attached, your relationship evolves, which is a reflection of the transformation happening within yourself. TAURUS understands 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 will want to deal with an authority figure, especially if your interactions with this person involve your funds. An associate might be more successful than you in handling this issue, so let him or her take the lead. Tonight: Time for a little more fun and a good meal.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might want to have a situation go your way. This might seem like an excellent idea, but be aware that there will be ramifications if you become too demanding. Others appear to have the cards stacked in their favor, ultimately. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. Step back and observe. By using what you learn, you will be able to handle an uncomfortable situation involving a financial matter. You find that a partner changes quickly in your interactions. Give this person space by being less judgmental. Tonight: Not to be found.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, with the knowledge that you have an excellent opportunity to accomplish a lot. Others seem to be changing in front of your eyes. Know that how they are now might not be the way they will be in the future. Just watch the process rather than react to it. Tonight: Where the gang is.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You are in the limelight, whether you like it or not.

You might decide to make an adjustment to your schedule as you become more aware of others observing your style. Postpone some personal errands for a different day. Tonight: Stay on top of your work.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. You could feel like you're being stretched a little thin, and you might need to make an adjustment. Your ingenuity comes to the rescue and allows you to relax as you discover the correct path for you. Just go with the moment. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to get to the bottom of an issue that involves your funds and/or a partner. A change involving your domestic life becomes possible, finally. Are you having second thoughts? Know that you do not need to make a decision now. Tonight: Chat with a dear friend.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Defer to others, and allow greater give-and-take. You are full of energy and want to share more of your ideas. Perhaps you might be more successful if you tried a different approach. Friends and loved ones seek you out; make choices accordingly. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Be more open to compromise in your daily life. Let go of structure and rigid ideas. You also might be holding back some information regarding an important personal matter. Follow your sixth sense with this and a separate matter involving your finances. Tonight: Get some exercise.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Express your creativity with openness and a willingness to listen to feedback. Others enjoy being with you when you are like this. Whether you are brainstorming or simply making plans, you enjoy all the advice. Tonight: Forget tomorrow. Live it up now.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

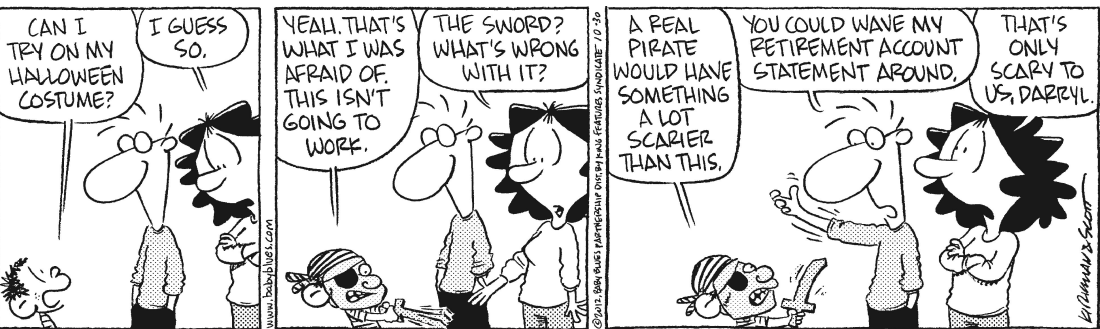
★★★★ You might feel saddled with more responsibilities, and could be in the mood to rebel. Your instincts come through for you with an investment or a financial decision. Listen to your inner voice, and follow through on what you are hearing. Tonight: Head home.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You have a lot to say, and there is a lot on your mind. Stop, and do more listening. The answers to questions you might have are within your grasp. A friend appears to be changing right in front of you. Make no judgments yet. Don't close down, either, even if you want to. Tonight: Out and about.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

