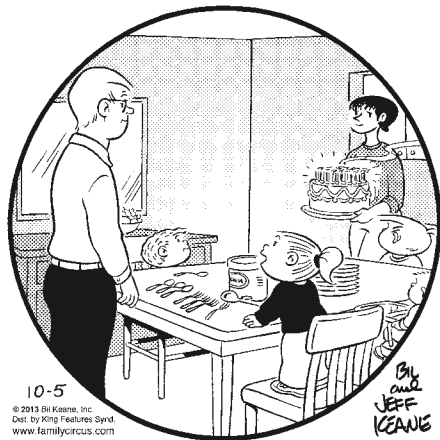


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



10-5
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www.familycircus.com
"You get to be 28 and a half this year, Daddy. That's all the candles we had in the drawer."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



10-5-13
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"ROACH HELL"
Not a morsel of food in the entire place.

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



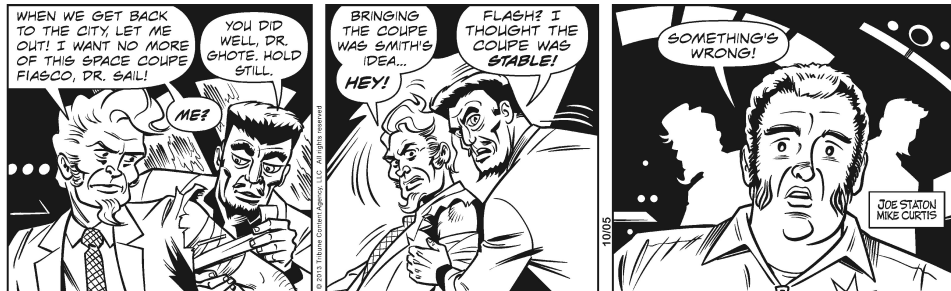
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



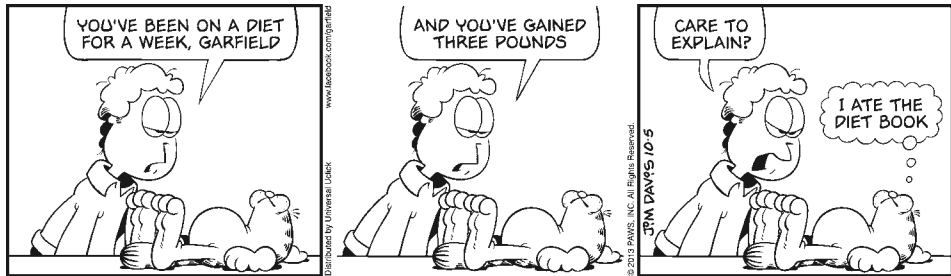
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



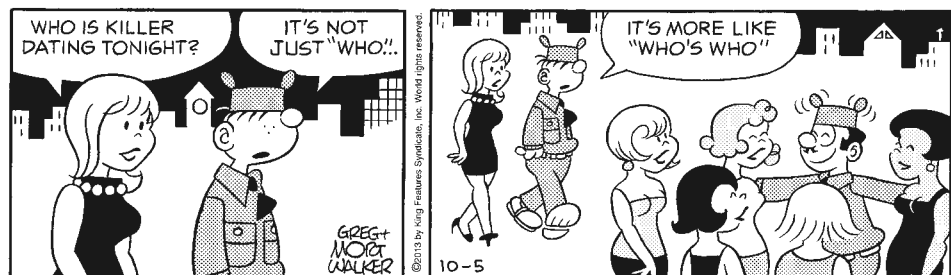
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



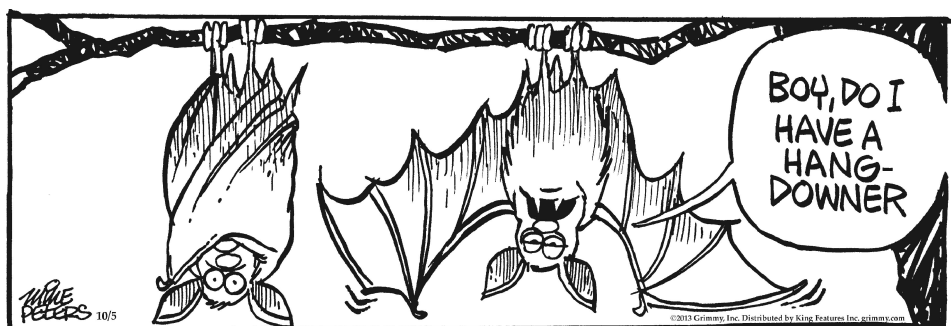
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Mom Counts Lucky Stars That Long-Distance Romance Fizzled

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mother. My two sons are practically grown and out of the house. I haven't dated much over the years, but there was one man I did bond with and cared very much for at one point.

He lived across the country, and the long-distance relationship was difficult. I was reluctant to move my kids across the country for someone I barely knew, so the relationship ended. Thank God, I followed my instinct on that one!

Feeling sentimental one evening, I went online and searched for his name. Up popped a mug shot of him posted on a Megan's Law website, identifying him as a deviant offender. The police code indicated he was someone who had intercourse with a person under the age of 13. I couldn't believe my eyes.

Now I can't stop thinking about what might have happened had I not followed my instincts. I'm afraid to date anyone for fear I'll find another creep. Is there a way to "screen" prospective mates without them knowing — like a background check for daters, perhaps?

— STILL SHOCKED IN TEXAS
DEAR STILL SHOCKED: The way to screen someone for a criminal conviction would be to go online and search in the state the person lives in or came from. That, however, is no guarantee you won't meet another creep.

Finding Mr. Right is a process that involves trial and error. In many cases, a lot of error. That's why it is better to meet men through personal introductions, volunteer groups or because you have mutual interests — and even then, take your time getting to know them.

DEAR ABBY: May I tell you about an incident that happened last Halloween? I took my daughters, ages 12 and 6, and a co-worker's 4-year-old son trick-or-treating. My 12-year-old is becoming a young woman and appears older. When we came to one house, the homeowner promptly gave the smaller children candy and had a conversation with them, but completely ignored my older daughter. She was very hurt, and it cast a pall on the evening. I was stunned.

I'm the kind of person who doesn't care how

old you are — if you're dressed up for Halloween, you can come knocking and you'll get a treat. I'd rather give someone candy than have him or her feel the way my daughter did.

How should I have handled this? Is there an age limit for trick-or-treaters? — FESTIVE MOM IN KANSAS

DEAR FESTIVE MOM: If you refrained from challenging the homeowner, you handled it correctly. Halloween is a holiday during which all of those who participate celebrate their inner child. As my dear mother once said to me, there were times when the doorbell would ring and she wasn't sure whether to offer the trick-or-treater candy or a martini. And I think THAT'S where I'd draw the line.



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 10 and I have a sister who copies everything I do. For example, I was known for my good cooking until she made "amazing" banana bread. Now nobody thinks I'm the best cook in the house anymore.

My sister tags along with whatever I do. I sell dog treats; she sells dog treats. My mom thinks it's cute and says I should be flattered. All I want is to be unique, but it's hard with my sister who steals the show. Please help! — FRUSTRATED IN BEND, ORE.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Talk to your mother again about this. While I agree that your sister's desire to do what you do is cute, it can also create a cutthroat competition between siblings. Your mother could avoid this if she would encourage your sister to develop interests or talents of her own and help you become involved in after-school activities that do not include your sister. Sports or a church group come to mind.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Angel 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 and Moon in Libra all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 2013:

This year you head in a new direction, and you make the most of a sudden opportunity. You also might deal with more than your fair share of strong-willed people. You often might tell yourself that you need a break — and you do! If you are single, you might want to date rather than commit to one person. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy making public appearances together, but make sure you have plenty of one-on-one time, too. A fellow LIBRA understands you very well.

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)

★★★★ If you really want to enjoy your Saturday, defer to someone who has even bigger control needs than you. Putting an ongoing issue to rest will allow greater give-and-take between you and someone else. Opportunities will open up left and right. Tonight: Strut your stuff.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You understand what must be taken care of, but that doesn't mean that others won't come to you with invitations, news or just a desire to be in your company. Know that you can't push someone — he or she will have to make a decision for him- or herself. Tonight: Get some rest.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Your sense of what works could be distorted because of your playful mood. You could go way overboard in an attempt to enjoy the good life. When you get back from this wild ride, make sure that you have not done any permanent damage. Tonight: Use your imagination.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You'll be as playful as ever. Your laughter and sense of humor help take some of the stress off a very touchy situation. Be willing to push someone to his or her limit. Be aware of your budget, and remember that you must stay within your budget. Tonight: At a favorite place.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You have fun and adventure on your side. You are willing to plug that energy into whatever is important to you. Don't forget to relax a little and have a good time. If you head in a new direc-

tion, maintain your natural optimism. Tonight: You do not have to go far to find fun.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You have a way about you that attracts many people. Use care, especially if you enjoy spending money. You could be less than delighted to see the damage this creates. Understand what is happening with a friend. Tonight: Having a good time does not need to break the bank.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be full of fun and high energy. Nearly any contact feels good to you right now, as you are in such an upbeat mood. Nevertheless, a friend could be quite angry or frustrated. Listen to what this person has to share. Think before you react. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Remain sensitive to an older friend or relative who seems to be quite upset. This person might choose to express his or her feelings as anger. Recognize how different this individual's experience of life is from yours and be sympathetic. Tonight: Keep it quiet. No crowds, please.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You gravitate toward your friends, and they toward you. As a group, you might decide that it is time to have some fun. Consider going to a ballgame or out to the movies. You naturally tend to beam in fun. Just be yourself. Tonight: Buy something that you really want.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might not be as together as you might have thought you were. You could consider trying a new approach or handling a situation with a boss a bit differently. You will get nowhere fast if you don't give this person the respect he or she deserves. Tonight: Out to the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You'll be all smiles as you look at a situation with a great deal of maturity. You might wonder what would be the best way to handle a problem. Until you are sure of yourself, do not act. A loved one suddenly could become demanding. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will want to defer more often to a partner, especially when it comes to your finances. You could witness an element of the unexpected. Realize that nothing you do at this point will change that situation. Use care with an angry associate. Tonight: Just do not be alone.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

