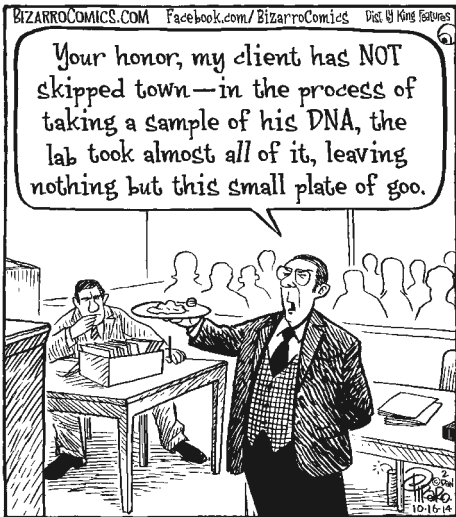


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Mommy, do you think we could teach PJ to purr?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

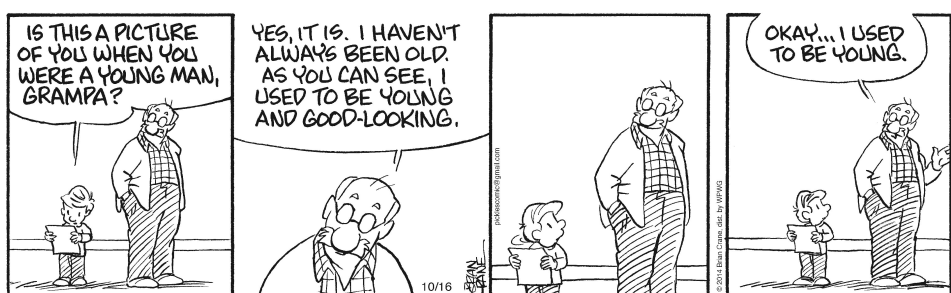


Your honor, my client has NOT skipped town—in the process of taking a sample of his DNA, the lab took almost all of it, leaving nothing but this small plate of goo.

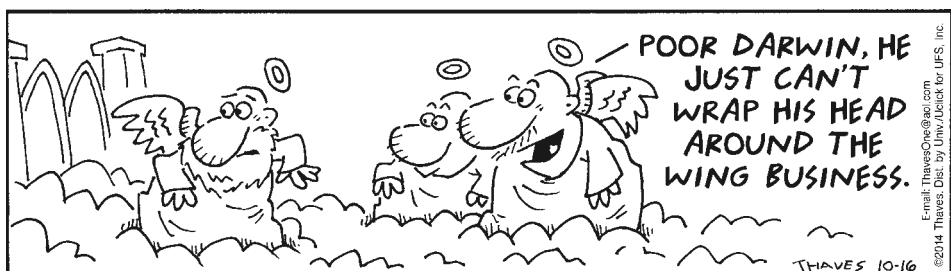
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



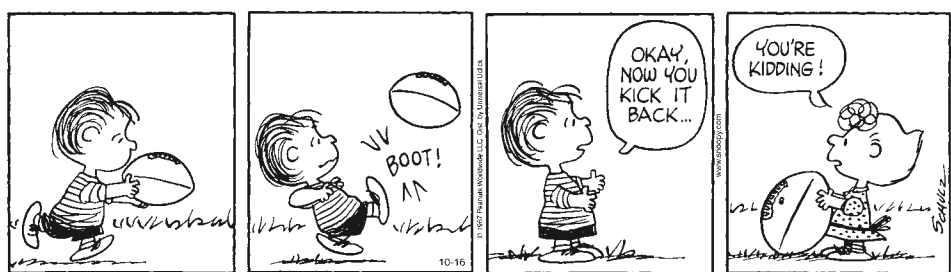
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



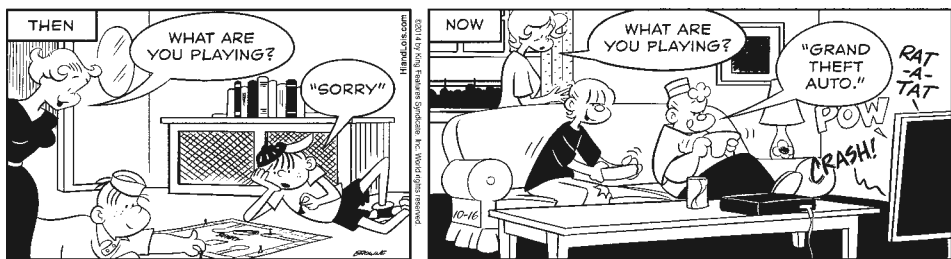
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Woman's First Marriage Is Over, But Thoughts Of Her Ex Linger

DEAR ABBY: I have a serious problem that's consuming my life. I know people say you never really get over your first love, but I don't know why after six years I still think about my ex on a daily basis.

Abby, I am happily married. My husband is the perfect man for me — understanding, sweet and patient. My ex, "Chad," cheated on me with other women and recently married the one who effectively ended our relationship.

I thought I had moved on, but I can't seem to stop thinking about him. My ex and I had a strong chemistry — not just a physical one — that my husband and I don't. Somehow I wonder if, while my husband is the man of my dreams, Chad was my true soul mate.

I don't want to jeopardize my marriage because of a lurking shadow from my past. How do I get over this and move on? — DESPERATE FOR ADVICE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DESPERATE: Old habits are hard to break, and sometimes memories do linger to the point of being intrusive. While it can be frustrating, this is not an indication that someone who cheated on you multiple times was your "soul mate."

What you may miss is tension, drama, uncertainty and pain, and that's not love. The sooner you quit idealizing your ex, the more clearly you will recognize this. And if the unwanted thoughts persist, consult a therapist because your problem is not unique.

DEAR ABBY: While I was growing up, my parents taught me and my siblings to always keep a year's salary (pre-taxes) in a savings account that one never touches.

The problem is my bride and I feel that

we're ready to buy a home, although we don't have enough in our joint savings to make a down payment. She feels I should use my savings to make the down payment.

I don't feel right about it because this savings technique has saved me twice in my life. Once when I was a child and my parents lost their jobs, and again when I lost my job in the recession. Am I selfish for wanting to keep my savings off limits? — MR. SAVINGS

DEAR MR. SAVINGS: No, I happen to agree with your fiscally conservative philosophy. You learned from experience how important an emergency fund can be. Because buying a home is not an emergency, wait until you and your wife have saved enough for the down payment. Also, because the money in that savings account was yours before marriage, it may not be a joint asset, and it could save you a third time if you don't spend it.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter, age 18, has recently begun to send her father text messages while we are in the same room, rather than speak to him. It's as if she doesn't want me in on the conversation. I find her behavior rude.

If they need to speak privately, so be it — she can wait until I'm out of the room or request to speak to him elsewhere. But I find it impolite of her to send him texts. They are nothing confidential in nature, just general conversation.

What are your thoughts on this? — BY-STANDER IN NEW YORK

DEAR BYSTANDER: What your stepdaughter is doing is as rude as when two people whisper to each other in front of a third person. My thought is that your husband, out of consideration for your feelings, should either tell her — or text her — to cut it out.

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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 and a Moon in Cancer if born before 6:28 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 16, 2014:

This year you seem to be naturally popular and lucky. You will be able to create what you want if you are clear about what that is. You will network and add to your professional contacts. You also will witness a similar effect in your personal circle.

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)

Your intuition will kick in and allow you to bring out the best in a loved one. You could get an earful, but make sure you share your feelings, too. Put on some music if you're doing anything involving writing or deep thinking.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Tension builds around your home or family. You don't need to make a situation any more difficult than it already is, so stay positive. Encourage feedback, and you might be surprised at how easily you can complete what you must do.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You will be more expressive than you have been in a while. You also might deter others from expressing their concerns, as they seem to be very impressed with your ideas. Your energy levels could be working against you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You could be more direct with a loved one about a risk. Make a point to weigh the pros and cons of a change in your home. Have a conversation about these matters, even if you feel somewhat awkward.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You'll wake up finally feeling more in control of your life. Your ability to help others create

their desires also will come into play. Deal with someone who seems rather unrealistic but dares to dream. Verbalize more of what you want.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Allow yourself some personal time to daydream. You are likely to touch base with a different part of your consciousness as a result. Do not overthink a purchase or an investment, as the timing might be off right now.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You might need to rethink a commitment involving a friend. Only you can know for sure how you will feel. It will behoove you to do some reflecting on this matter.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You could be pushed beyond your limits. Recognize how important someone's approval is to you. You seem to do whatever you can to get this person's attention.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Consider finding another opinion, perhaps that of an expert. You easily could make a mistake unless you are well-grounded. You will see the situation much differently given some time and space.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Someone you trust, but who also has a very different perspective, could prove to be challenging. You might not even have requested help or feedback, but this person has a need to be closer to you and feel more in control.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Others will come toward you, and you might need to screen calls and interactions in general if you want to accomplish anything. You will enjoy touching base with different people in your life.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

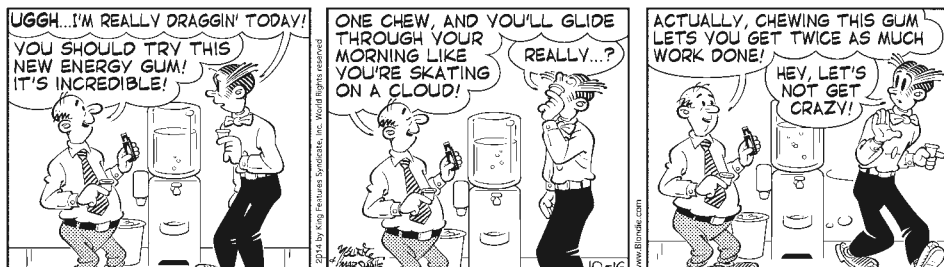
You could be busy and need to get past a hiccup in your daily life. Your perspective might help you breeze through this problem. Just don't get too caught up in the situation.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

