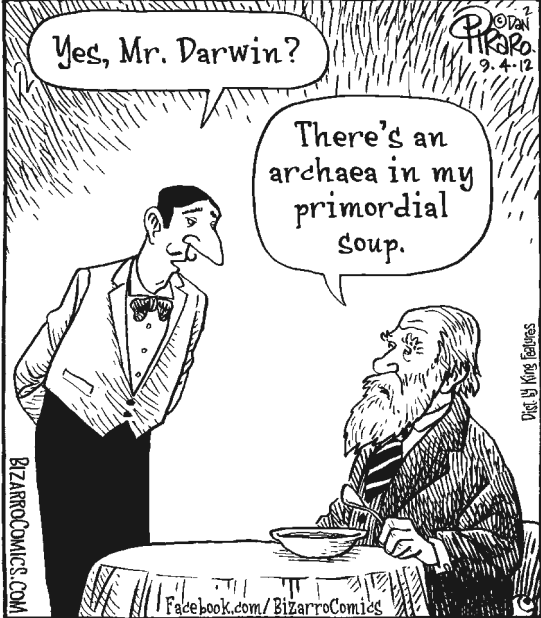


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



9-4
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
"The hardest part about goin' back to school is getting my voice to whisper again."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

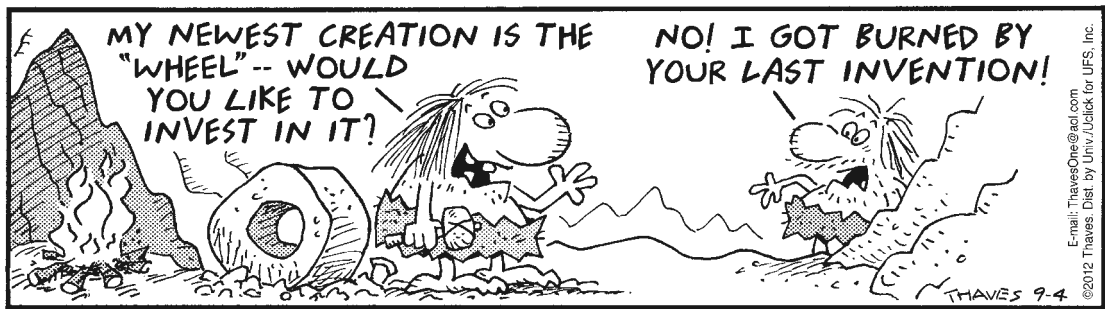


Facebook.com/BizarroComics

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



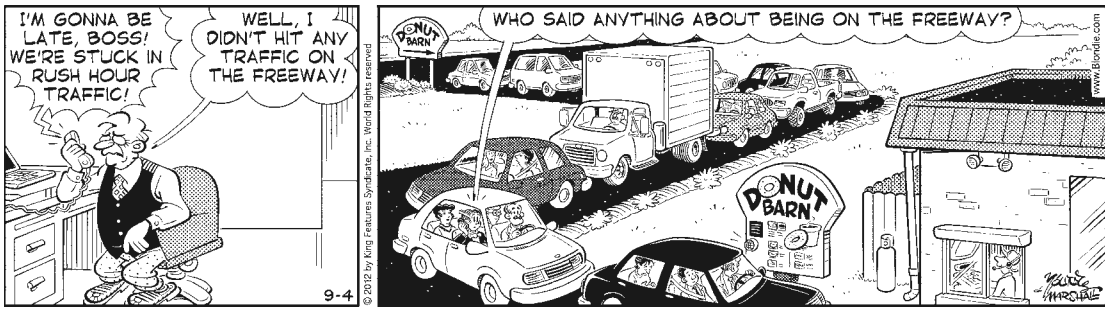
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



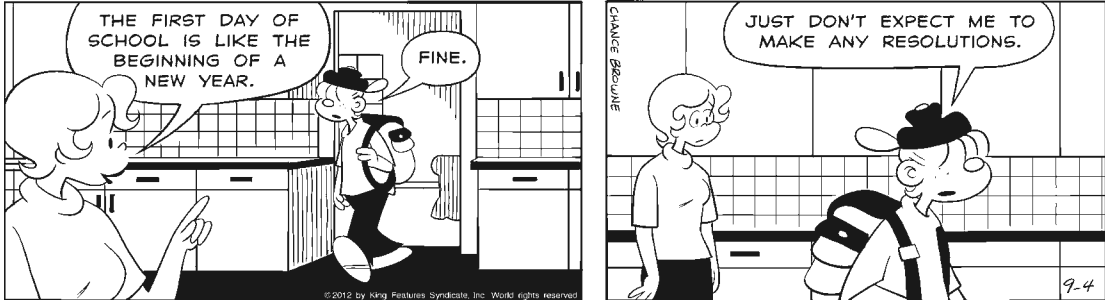
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



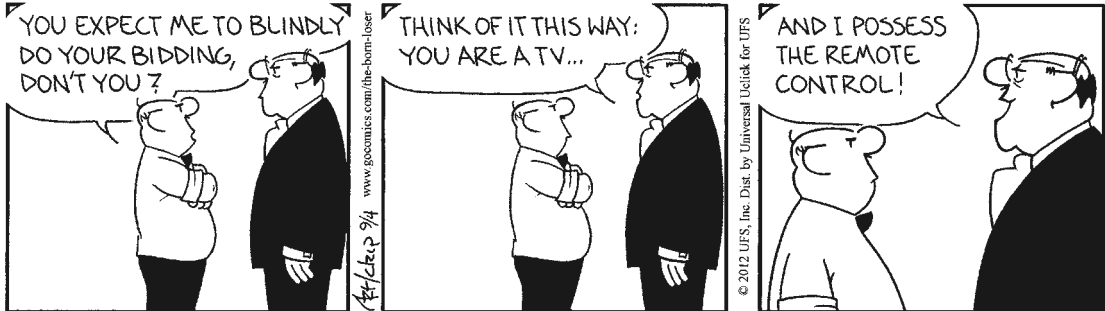
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Gay Man Pressured To Date Wants Co-Workers To Back Off

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old gay man. In my community, coming out at work isn't an option. I really like my job and want to keep it. However, a female colleague is not only trying to persuade me that the two of us would make a good pair, but she has gotten all of our co-workers involved. I'm constantly pressured by my supervisor to "just go out with her and give her a chance."

I have already told everyone, including her, that I'm not interested in mixing my personal life with my professional one, and I want to come to work only to work — not upgrade my marital status. However, because of my unwillingness to do what they "recommend," the pressure from everyone has gotten worse. I dread coming to the office.

Would it be unethical to hire a "girlfriend" to stop by the office next week to bring me my lunch? Maybe if I kiss and hug her as I say goodbye, my co-workers will finally back off. If not this, can you recommend something else? — CAN'T COME OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR CAN'T COME OUT: You have described a classic example of sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. Your co-workers and supervisor may consider themselves to be "Cupid's helpers," but their actions could be the basis for a lawsuit. That you are gay has nothing to do with it. If you were straight and preferred not to involve yourself in an office romance that could turn out badly, or felt no chemistry with your aggressor, what is being done to you is intolerable. It's embarrassing and distracts you from your job.

Document everything. Go to your supervisor's boss if necessary and state plainly that you need help to put a stop to this. You do not have to explain why you're not attracted to this desperate woman. If it isn't stopped, talk with an attorney.

I do NOT recommend hiring anyone to pose as a girlfriend, or you may have to put her under long-term contract, which could be expensive in more ways than one.



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 have a problem that I don't know how to deal with and I'm hoping you can come up with a solution. I'm undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer. I'm happy to say that I'm doing well. I have a chemo session every two weeks, and afterward there is a bag I wear for two more days that pumps additional medicine into me. I do what I can to keep the bag out of sight, but it isn't easy. Sometimes the tubing works itself loose and hangs down a bit.

My problem is people seem to feel free to ask me what it's for, and it's really embarrassing. I don't know these people, and for heaven's sake, why would they feel they have the right to ask such a personal question? Some of them have approached me and asked loudly, "Hey! What's that for?" Then they stand there waiting for me to answer the question.

Going through chemo is hard enough physically and psychologically. I don't need some ignorant clod asking me about something so personal. Some won't take no for an answer. Do you have any ideas on how to deal with this? Every time it happens I feel depressed and upset. — TRYING TO COPE

DEAR TRYING TO COPE: Say, "I'm being treated for a medical condition." And if the person then asks what it is, say, "It's personal. And if it was any of your business, you'd already know the answer to that question."

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

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 Virgo and a Moon in Aries if born before 8:41 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 4, 2012:

This year you often feel as though you cannot get certain elements of your life under control. You won't want to leave anything to chance. By learning to detach, you will gain many new insights that could make a big difference in the choices you make. If you are single, the romance you think you are attracting could be very different in reality. Your ability to grow and transform within a relationship will be tested. Ultimately, that skill is needed in all relationships. If you are attached, you will have control of your finances. You will display considerable talent in that area. Curb a tendency to be possessive around TAURUS.

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 find it difficult to move forward in the morning. Perhaps you have pushed yourself beyond your limit. As the day goes on, you'll become more verbal and upbeat. Your logic appeals to someone. If you work together, you can implement changes. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You beam, and others respond. You might not be up for following a routine; instead, you could want to indulge in more spontaneity. Once in a while, taking some time off helps re-energize you. News from afar starts you thinking in a different direction. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your day improves as time goes on. You know what someone wants because you have the ability to zero in on his or her needs. Unfortunately, your ability to respond often leaves this person thinking he or she has control of you. No such luck. You are your own person. Tonight: Do for you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Assume a low-key attitude, and refuse to push yourself as hard as usual. You are able to change gears and do something differently, if you pull back. Your attitude toward a special friend or loved one might be changing. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You initially could feel quite pressured by cer-

tain events and by what is going on around you. You naturally will loosen up and open up to new beginnings. Success comes out of your willingness to head in a new direction. Tonight: With friends.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to do something in a very different manner from how you have done it in the past. Detachment helps you see the big picture. Take in as much as possible. A child or new friend continues to change right in front of your very eyes. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a partner first thing in the morning. You could be taken aback by what is happening around you. Try not to trigger a reaction from anyone, and stay centered. View a key situation from an outside perspective, and trust that you will know what to do. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Spend quality time with a child or loved one. You could be withdrawn or wondering exactly how to handle a difficult situation. You decide to talk to a key person directly. You know what to do and what to expect. Tonight: Dinner for two!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You might have organized a very tight schedule, but you will watch it unravel quickly during the day. Do not try to fight city hall. Go with the flow, and you will appreciate the fun and light mood. Tonight: Be aware of your spending habits.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You wake up in the mood to hang out with the one you love, but clearly you have much to do. If you decide to change direction, there could be repercussions in other areas of your life. Be aware of this before taking action. Tonight: Could be late.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

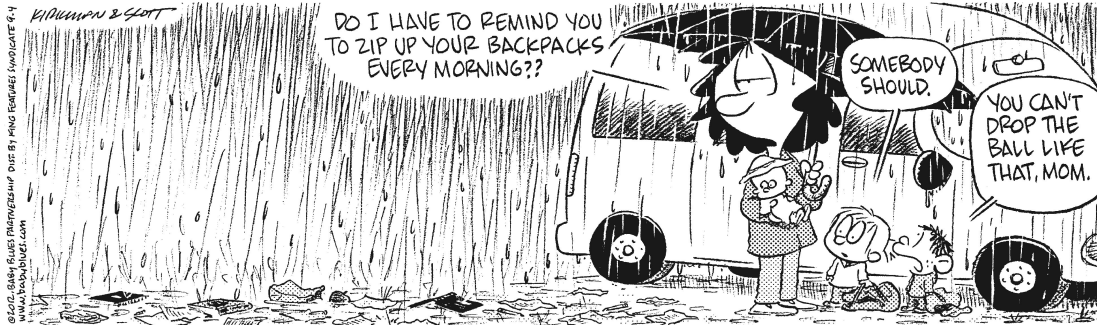
★★★★ Getting going could be a major effort for you, yet one that is worthwhile. Tap into your innate creativity, and you'll discover solutions to what is seemingly impossible to resolve. Note the costs of taking a new course of action. Tonight: Let your hair down.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Move on a key matter early in the day, when you will be most open to communication. Tension builds throughout the day. You might want to clear the air, but perhaps you would be best off staying away for now. Tonight: At home.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

