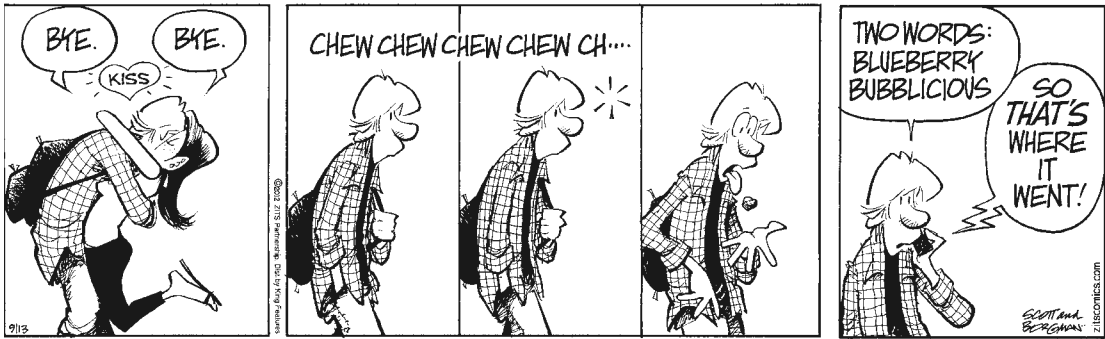


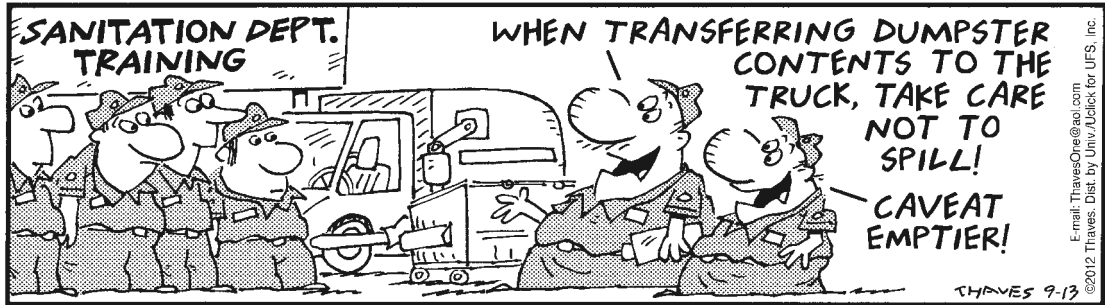
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



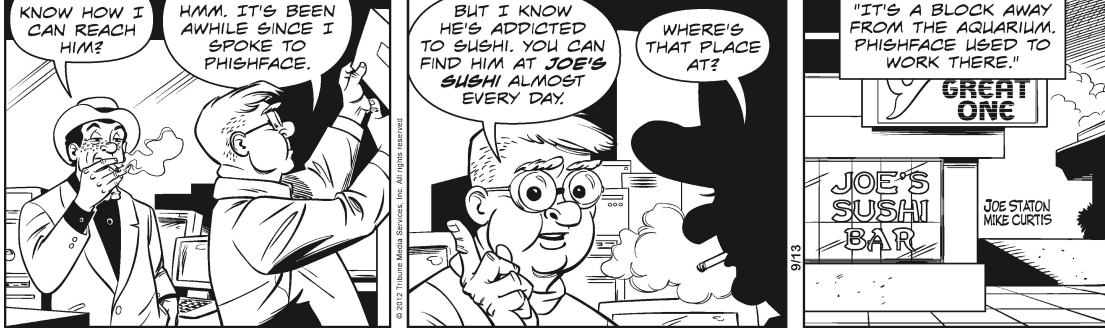
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



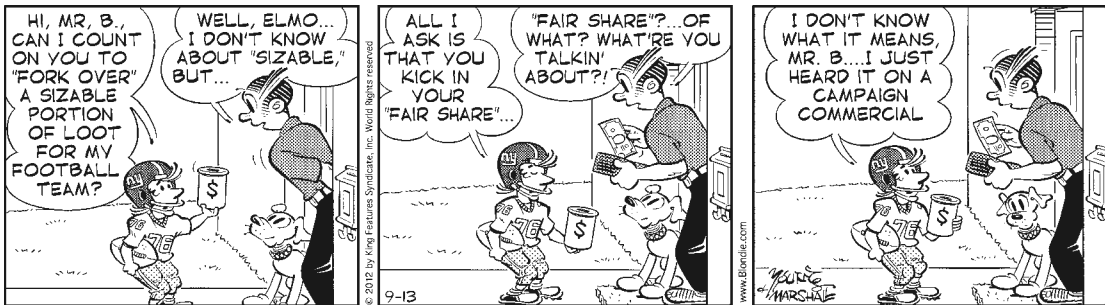
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



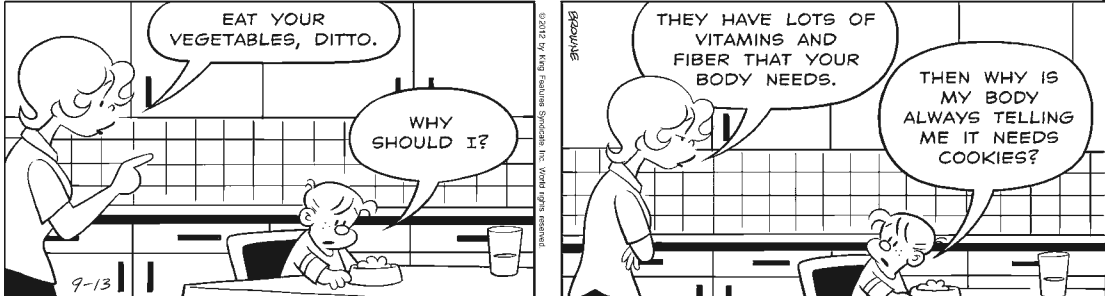
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Siblings Blinded By Father's Money Turn Away From Mom

DEAR ABBY: My father left my mother after 32 years of marriage. To say Mom was devastated would be putting it mildly. She tried to keep things cordial for the sake of her four kids, but Dad spurned her efforts.

My three brothers and I are now married with children of our own. Only recently have I been able to express how ashamed I am of myself and my siblings for the despicable way we have treated our mother for the past 17 years.

Dad was always arrogant, but he became even worse when he came into money. In our lives, Dad became No. 1. The reason? You guessed it — the money. We put our mother down every chance we got, and our spouses chimed right in. We visited her only once or twice a year and never repaid the money she lent us. She knew she wasn't wanted or respected. Dad is clueless to the fact that we hang around only because of what we can get (and have gotten) from him. This is still true of my brothers, but I no longer want any part of this charade.

Mom is gone now. No, she hasn't passed away. She quietly moved out of our lives and I don't know where she is. I don't blame her for leaving. The abuse she took from us shouldn't happen to a dog. When I look back, I remember a mother who held a full-time job, kept a marvelous home, was a great cook and had a wonderful laugh and sensitivity. She didn't smoke, drink or cheat on Dad. Was she perfect? Of course not; none of us is.

All she wanted after the divorce was to be loved by her kids and spend time with her grandkids. Now the grandkids are growing up without knowing this wonderful woman.

Mom, if you see this letter, I LOVE YOU DEARLY.

I hope you can someday forgive me for all the years of hateful remarks and unkind deeds. The pain you must have suffered is something I'll have to live with the rest of my life. You are a class act, and I'm going to live the rest of my life trying to emulate your values and quiet dignity. — MISSING MY MOM IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR MISSING: If you're truly sorry, it's time to tell your mother personally and ask her forgiveness. Do whatever it takes to locate her, including hiring a private detective if necessary. It may be expensive, but use some of the money you got from Dear Old Dad.



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 am an 81-year-old grandmother who blindly trusted that my annual Pap smear exam would provide early detection for any type of uterine cancer.

It took a diagnosis of uterine cancer that resulted in a subsequent hysterectomy for me to discover that this test is not enough. Although the Pap test should be part of a regular checkup, it only checks for cervical cancer. Except when hormone therapy is being taken, any bleeding, spotting or abnormal discharge following

menopause is NOT normal and should be reported at once to your doctor. — GEORGIA GRAND-MOTHER

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: I'm pleased that your cancer was caught in time. However, whether a woman is pre- or post-menopausal — and whether or not she is on hormone therapy — she should IMMEDIATELY alert her doctor to any abnormal bleeding, spotting or discharge. These symptoms are not just warning signs of cancer. They could also indicate a polyp that needs removal, or a sexually transmitted disease.

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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 Virgo and a Moon in Leo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 2012:

This year the unexpected has become a theme in your life, especially as a partner or loved one tends to express an unpredictable energy. You often feel like you have to start over at square one and crawl your way back up to the top. This struggle is more symbolic than realistic. Bosses and higher-ups let you know how much they value your work. If you are single, you could meet someone very special through your work. Let it happen. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy making public appearances together. Socializing is right up your alley. A fellow LEO understands you even better than you do.

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 very playful style attracts quite a few people. Your creativity comes out when you relax and are yourself. Opportunity soars because of your ingenuity. Others respond to your ideas; you simply need to communicate them. Tonight: Love the moment.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Your principles work. You are able to sustain a great amount of change, even when it is unexpected. You prove this time and time again. Try not to place too much value on money, as it comes and goes. Tonight: Home really is your castle.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Keep talking and sharing your feelings. Others might surprise you by their actions and/or responses. The good news is that you have the ability to respond appropriately and with flexibility. You attract people through your openness. Tonight: Say what you mean, and mean what you say.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Unexpected developments force your hand. You'll see life through new eyes as a result, and humor helps you flow through what could be difficult moments. Use your intuition with your finances. Tonight: Go buy yourself that item you love.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You greet life with a smile and a willingness

to jump through hoops. How you see a personal situation could change drastically as associates come in with noteworthy ideas. Anything is possible; make it so. Tonight: Allow your Leo charm to do its magic.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Know when to pull back and say little. The less said, the greater the flexibility you'll have. Someone who makes an impact takes an unusual stance while you work overtime to catch up and understand what went through his or her mind. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Look at what is going on around you. People seek you out. If you're trying to concentrate or be studious, you can forget it. The ethers are declaring that it is time for you to socialize more. Opportunities head your way. Tonight: Follow the music.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You cannot get around a certain responsibility that looks like it will have certain aspects that you will need time to figure out. You are not a free spirit. Honor your life's demands, and you will be well-rewarded. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You must detach or else everything that's happening around you could get jumbled. You will feel as if your mind is a maze. The more mental distance you gain, the better your choices will be. Someone close seems to share too much. Tonight: Why work when you can play?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Someone comes to you with an unexpected proposition. Listen well, though know that you might block out some details, as you are a bit taken aback. See how you can work this idea into your life. You could be thrilled by the results. Tonight: One-on-one relating.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Defer to others with the full knowledge as to what you need. You see key people around you being extremely domineering. Let them be — you cannot change them. Let them see the results of their actions. Use the freedom well. Tonight: Say "yes."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

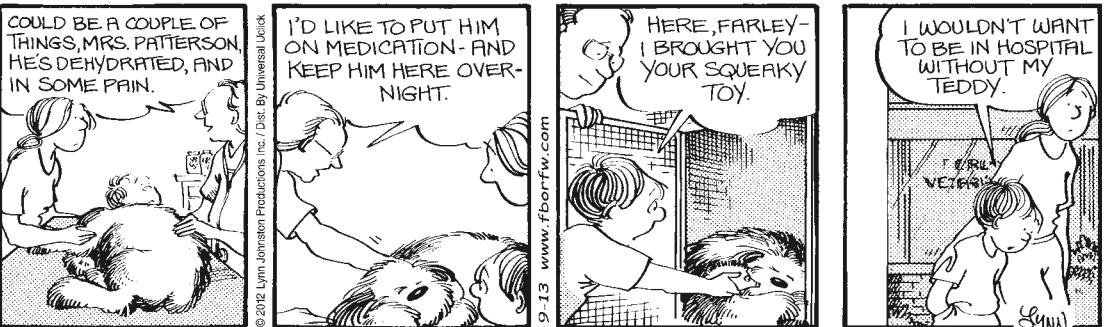
★★★★★ An even pace works, despite your tendency to change topics or actions and head in different directions. You might have to discipline yourself in order to achieve your day's goals. Postpone spontaneity. Tonight: The time is now.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

