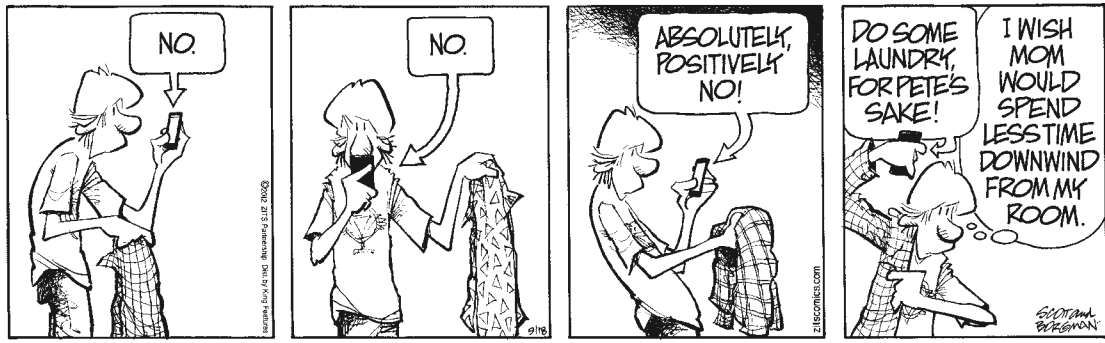


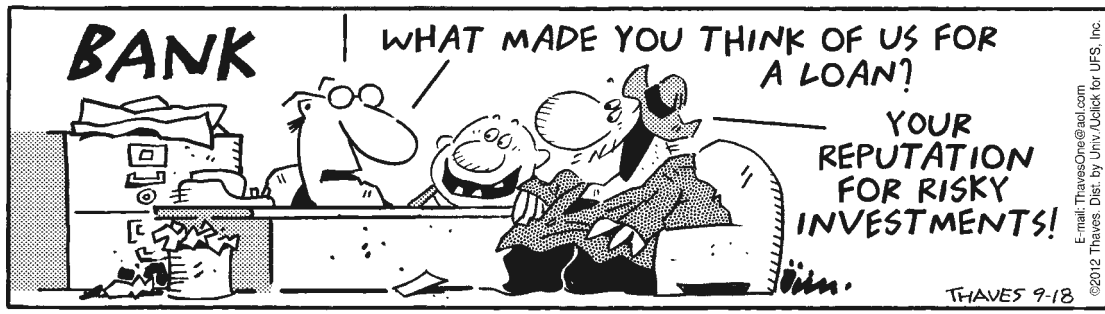
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



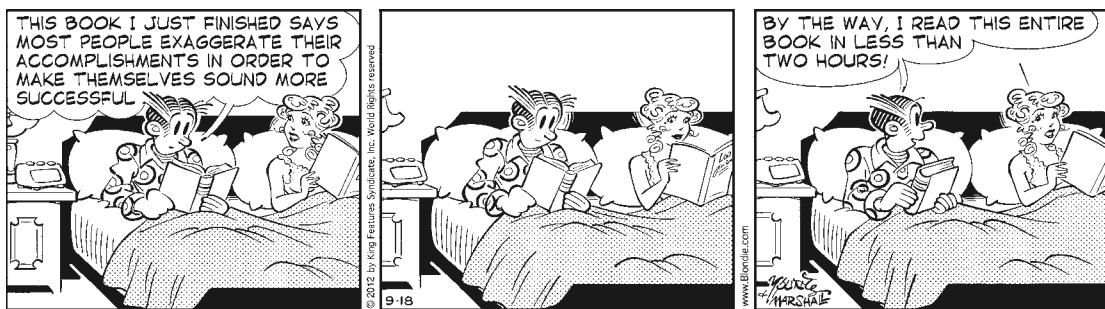
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



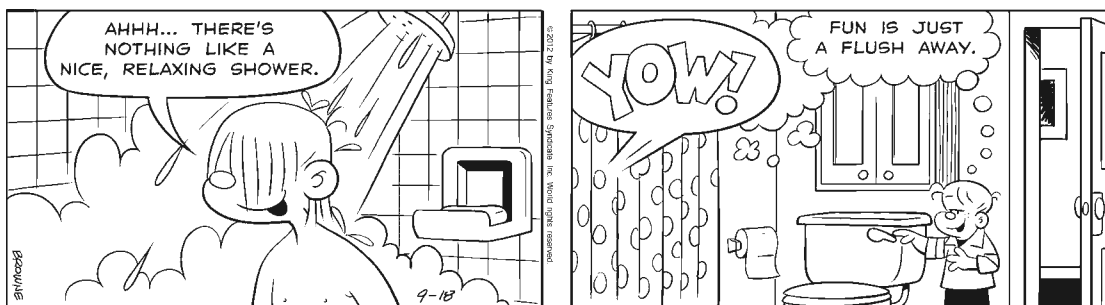
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Woman's Golfing Companion Has Knocked Her Into The Rough

DEAR ABBY: I thought "Arlene" was a close friend until I heard that she and another "friend" had arranged a trip to the theater. Several other women were also invited, but I wasn't. I should point out that when Arlene and I attended shows in the past, I was always the one buying the tickets.

I paid for her golf dues last October because she was a little short, and she still owes me about \$1,000. I provided her transportation to the golf club for the last four years because she doesn't have a car. Arlene and I have shared many shopping trips together, and I have always picked up the tab for lunch.

What's your take on this? I'm crushed! — LEFT OUT

DEAR LEFT OUT: If this was a one-time event, then it's time to straighten up and "uncrush" yourself because, regardless of how much money you have invested in your relationship with Arlene, you don't "own" her. My take on this is that in your zeal to be a good friend you have gone overboard.

If being excluded is an ongoing problem, then you and this woman are not as close as you assumed, or she has decided to take a breather. In that case, my advice is to work out a payment plan for the golf dues you are owed and widen your circle of friends.

someone's personal calendar and ask these kinds of questions? I must leave the calendar where it can be seen or my husband doesn't remember medical appointments, etc. — CALENDAR GIRL

DEAR CALENDAR GIRL: Of course it's rude to read someone's personal calendar. (It's called snooping.) Before the next houseguests come to visit, relocate the calendar to a private area. Then remind your husband about his appointments. That way he will know the schedule, and there will be nothing to arouse anyone's curiosity.



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: Why can't bakeries slice English muffins and bagels completely through? Nobody eats either one without toasting them and slicing them first.

Along the same line: Why do loaves of bread have "ends"? Everybody throws them away and they are wasted. — MINA IN KELSÖ, WASH.

DEAR MINA: English muffins aren't meant to be sliced. To prepare them at their best, they should be purchased whole and the perimeter perforated using a fork so the muffin can then be torn apart before toasting. This leaves lots of irregular nooks and crannies so when they are buttered, they are even more succulent.

As to the ends of bread loaves (called "heels"), not everyone throws them away, just as not everyone cuts the crusts off. Some people enjoy the heels because they make for a chewier sandwich.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 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 Libra if born before 7:48 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 2012:

This year you often are an instrument of change for others, but as a result, you will have to transform yourself as well. Sometimes you might wish that this cycle would end. You express yourself with clarity and charm. If you are single, you might see with many suitors tend to flock toward you. The person you choose today might not work so well in several months. Avoid making any quick commitments. If you are attached, as a couple you enjoy each other's company even more than in the past. SCORPIO often plays devil's advocate.

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)

Others seem to be out of control. You will note that considerable tension builds before a meeting. Be aware that your innate judgments might be the source. In the end, the reality is not so bad. Try to see each situation for what it has to offer. Tonight: Deal with someone directly.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Your focus tends to be on what some call networking and others refer to as socializing. The words you use to describe the activity can vary -- it just depends on your station in life. You could be taken aback by others' ideas and perspectives. Tonight: Make time for a friend or loved one.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Let your creativity funnel into efficiency. You'll need a lot of it, as you have a lot of ground to cover. You could be taken aback by a key person's response, which does not make sense to you. A partner or close associate has a different perspective. Tonight: Keep your eye on the big picture.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You have been withdrawn, but you'll give up that role today. A loved one draws you out. Your sense of humor allows you to open up and be more present. Someone around you has been off lately. This person is in the midst of a transformation and is feeling the pressure. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You might want to take a hard look at your

daily schedule. A change might be in order, or perhaps you are doing something that no longer serves you. Consolidate, and make room for more of what you want from life. Tonight: Make it an early night.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Listen to news before following through on an important project. You could be overzealous about funds. You will see a change in how you view your finances, as a result. Someone has more dynamic but risky ideas and suggestions. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Be aware of how much you are spending, before you have a problem. You could opt to change your home or revamp it in some manner. You might not be sure of the details now, but you will. You need to express your creativity more often. Tonight: Treat yourself to that special item.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Your magnetism and energy become obvious, yet within, you might be working through an issue. Your imagination allows you to express a more positive outlook and draw others closer. A child or loved one appears to be charmed by you. Tonight: You cannot lose; just be yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Kick back and do some thinking about your goals. You will consciously need to dedicate time to this process. Affirm what you want, and you will be able to create just that. We often outgrow our goals and needs, so be sure to check in with yourself more often. Tonight: Visit with a long-trusted friend.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Much goes on around a meeting or a group of friends. A suggestion might feel difficult to implement, but you can do it. Be spontaneous, yet follow through on what is important to you. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You will have to bend to someone's will, especially if this person has authority behind his or her requests. You might feel the need to spend a little on your image in order to impress someone. Be very careful if it is a necessary expenditure, as you could see funds stream out of your account. Tonight: Up late. You decide the reason.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You could feel as if someone you counted on has changed his or her tune. You might be disappointed or confused, but at the same time, you'll sense a new opportunity on the horizon. Detach, and choose not to give in to a knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: Relax your mind and listen to music.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

