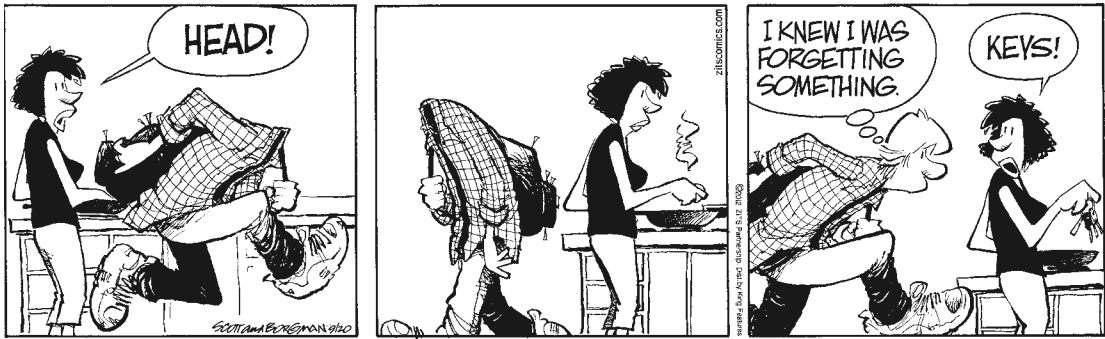


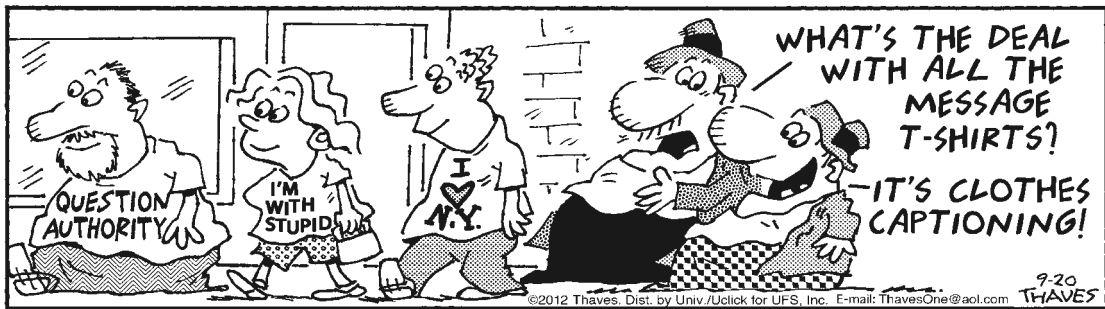
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



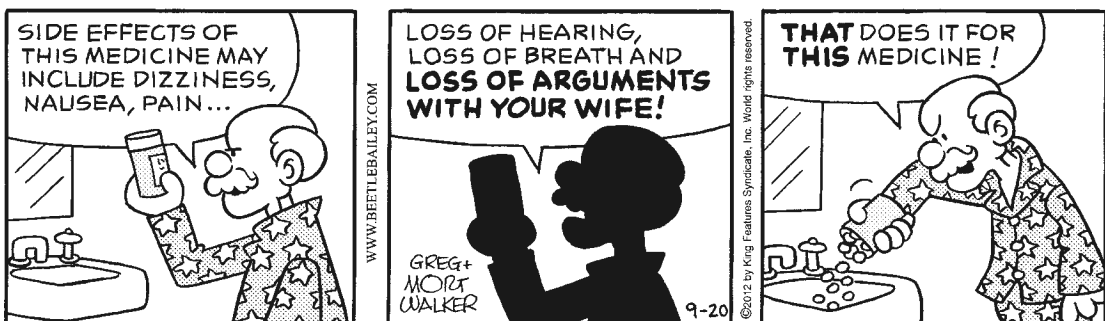
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



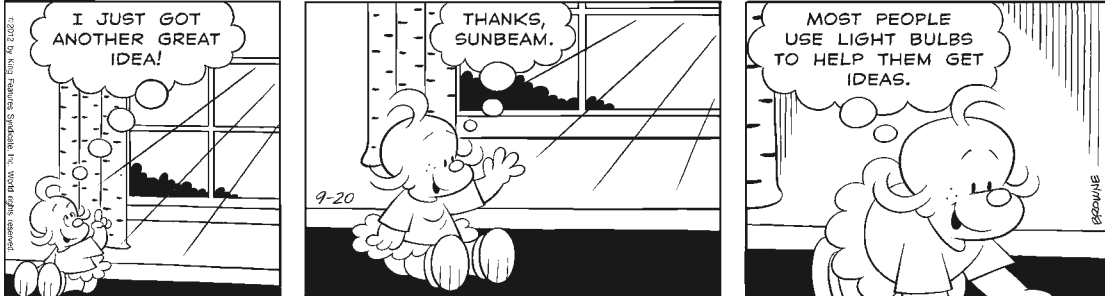
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Daughter's Texts From School Help Mom Endure Empty Nest

DEAR ABBY: I have to respond to your reply to “Tammi’s Mom in N.J.” (June 21), whose daughter won’t answer her texts at college. Our daughter, “Jill,” attended college 12 hours from home. She would text me almost every day — short, sweet messages always ending with “Luv U, XOXO.” I looked forward to those texts because they were a lifeline to my daughter.

Tammi’s Mom is coping with empty nest syndrome, which no child can understand until she experiences it one day herself. Thankfully, Jill knew how much her texts meant to me. They got me through four long years without her. I hope Tammi sees this and appreciates that she has a mom who isn’t smothering her, but who loves and cares about her. — REMEMBERING IN JOHNSTOWN, PA.

DEAR REMEMBERING: Thank you for sharing. I stressed to Tammi’s Mom that her daughter is growing up and trying to establish independence. However, readers were quick to point out that Tammi still owes her mother the courtesy of keeping in touch:

DEAR ABBY: When I was away at college, many students expected their parents to pay their tuition and living expenses, but stay out of their lives. Tammi’s Mom said she’d be happy with a call or text every two or three days. I don’t think that is unreasonable.

I have lived several hundred miles away from my family for 10 years now. I enjoy a great deal of independence, but I know it worries my parents to have me so far away. I call them every day or two. These quick phone calls (usually only five minutes) help them see that I’m safe and happy, and also allow me to remain emotionally close to my family, even though I’m not geographically close.

Abby, asking for a quick text, which takes only a few moments, is NOT “helicopter parenting.” — INDEPENDENT GIRL IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: To Tammi’s Mom, I say — it’s time to get a life! Do things now that you’ve always wanted to

do. If you’re married, find things in common again. Sometimes when we raise our kids, we can become consumed with their wants and needs, and our marriages suffer.

Take up a new hobby and let your baby bird spread her wings. She’ll thank you for it and will WANT to call you when you stop calling or texting every day. If you get yourself busy, you’ll spend less time sitting by the phone. — KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE

DEAR ABBY: Until recently, I had two children in college — one close to home, the other several hours away. Unfortunately, there is so much violence everywhere today and kids are vulnerable to it, especially around many colleges and universities.

Kids send hundreds of text messages a day to their friends. I don’t think it’s too much to ask for an occasional text from your child to make sure he or she is indeed safe. — BILL IN BLOOMSBURY, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter left for college, I told her I was not going to call her because I didn’t want to intrude on her new life, but that I would be happy to talk to her anytime she called me. Doing this empowered my somewhat rebellious girl by putting HER in charge. As a result, she would call me several times a week and our relationship was

strengthened. — WISE PARENT IN COLORADO

DEAR ABBY: While I was away at college, my dad was like Tammi’s Mom, and it drove me nuts. So we compromised. Every Sunday morning at 9, Dad and I would talk on the phone. That way he could catch up on my week and know I was OK. Mom needs to give her daughter space. — COLLEGE GRAD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: If Tammi’s Mom is paying for her daughter’s phone, the girl should answer when Mom calls. I told my daughter if she ever ignored my calls or texts again, I would have her phone turned off. We chat a lot now. — DAD WHO PAYS IN GEORGIA

© 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 Scorpio if born before 9:34 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, 2012:

This year you will waver between different approaches. You could scrutinize a situation carefully, but the determining factor for whether or not you will take action depends on your willingness to take a risk. Confusion often hinders you. In a sense, you might be trying too hard. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Decide what type of relationship you want, and keep that in mind while dating. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy time together, even if it’s just to chat. You will love your nights alone at home. SAGITTARIUS infuses energy into nearly any situation. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You’ll Have: 5-Dyn-amic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★ Do not sit on the same situation for too long. In fact, it would be smart to act before something else happens. Initiate interactions, and demonstrate a deep understanding of the forces at work. Confirm meeting times in order to avoid a misunderstanding. Tonight: Break patterns.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Reach out for a key person in your life. You might not be ready for some changes involving someone at a distance or potential plans for travel and/or education. An unexpected insight requires you to ask for some clarification. Tonight: Someone presents offers.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Know what to do. Make an effort to come to terms with a key person. What you want comes to you from out of left field. You might have to make an adjustment, but make it your pleasure to do so. Your positive attitude attracts more of what you want. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Pace yourself and listen to what others share. A boss or higher-up could cost you time and energy because of his or her uncanny unpredictability. Your imagination helps you gain a new perspective, and you become less triggered as a result. Tonight: Pace yourself.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Allow more fun to emerge, even if you are in

the office. The unexpected occurs with communication. You might wonder which way you want to head with a routine matter. A meeting inspires you to change directions. Tonight: Consider starting your weekend early.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Though you might feel like you have been quite expressive as of late, to many people, it will seem as if you have become withdrawn. You have had a lot to digest. You are trying to integrate new information and might not be willing to share. Tonight: Happily at home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes the best course of action is to participate in communication and attempt to home in on someone’s ideas. You might be surprised by what you hear. A loved one at a distance could be touched by your efforts. Tonight: Spend time with a friend.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Eye your finances with care. You might need to have a conversation with a sibling or neighbor about a recent expenditure. Your innate creativity will help you find the right solutions. A partner or associate is instrumental in this process. Tonight: Spend time with a close friend or loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You are more energized than usual and could experience an adrenaline surge at an unexpected event. Your perspective might be more helpful than you realize. A family member or roommate finally understands where you are coming from. Tonight: As you like.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You are very aware of undercurrents, and you sense quite a few of them when dealing with others. Listen to news and be open. A person in your day-to-day life whom you are not necessarily close to puts a smile on your face. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Emphasize what is important, especially in a meeting. You will have greater influence in that situation. You might want to give a jolt to someone in order to have his or her defenses drop; however, by doing so, could you be creating stronger defenses? Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Tension builds. You might see stress build as a result of an unexpected financial glitch. You also might feel pulled between two different interests. Stay as neutral as possible and ride the moment, as a surfer would a wave. The end result will be better. Tonight: Put your feet up.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

