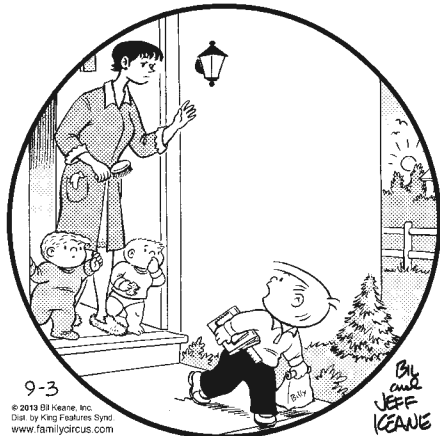
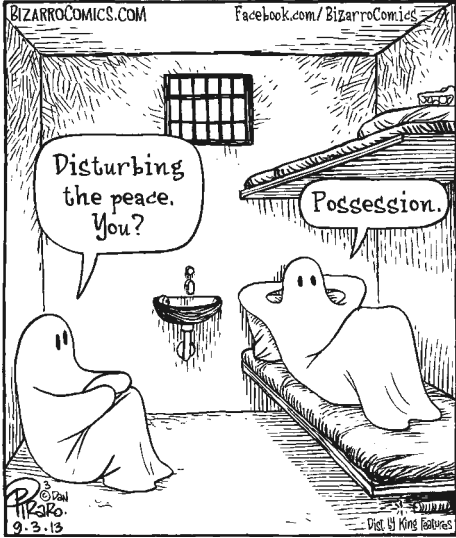


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



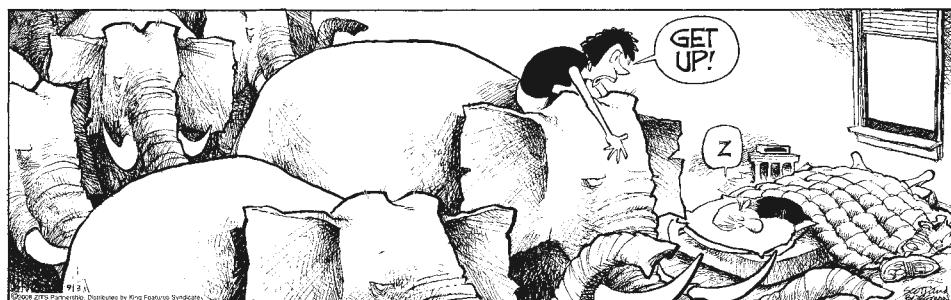
9-3
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"Does anybody know how many days it is till Christmas vacation?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



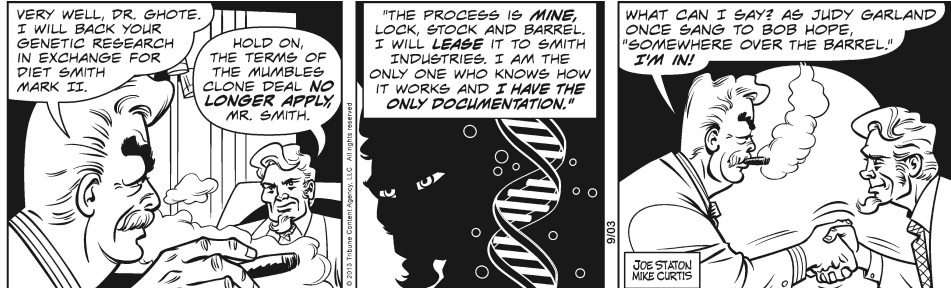
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



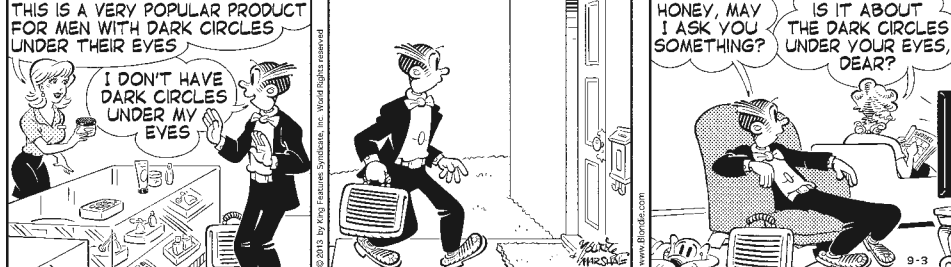
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Opportunities For Kindness
Are Waiting All Around Us

DEAR ABBY: Congratulations to "Trying to Be Nice" (June 6) for her random acts of kindness. The world needs more of it. Let me point out, however, that being nice isn't just about doing specific charitable tasks. It is something that applies every moment of every day, and as the axiom says, "Charity begins at home."

It can mean paying a compliment to a family member or friend, refraining from a hurtful comment at work or in school, smiling to a stranger on the street, willingly doing a chore at home (even if it's "not my job"), or something as simple as cleaning up one's own mess after lunch. To quote another axiom: Little things mean a lot. — RHEAL IN OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR RHEAL: I agree. Sometimes they can be the simplest things, opportunities we take for granted that are right in front of us. I was touched by the responses I received from readers suggesting other acts of kindness: DEAR ABBY: Animal shelters often need volunteers to walk dogs. Rescue organizations could use foster families for pets, or even pet food donations or supplies. Veterans organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project welcome volunteers to help with events, or mentor or assist vets in writing a resume.

If you sign up with Volunteers of America, they can match you with organizations that suit your skills — reading to the elderly in nursing homes, etc. Youth shelters can sometimes use volunteers to help teens learn basic life skills such as balancing a checkbook, smart grocery shopping or meal planning.

Around the holidays, my husband and I visit the cemetery and clean/maintain headstones that look neglected, especially those of veterans. — LYNN IN BOTHELL, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: As an avid teenage volunteer, I have some suggestions! Donating your hair to Locks of Love is one of my favorite acts of kindness. Your hair will help make wigs for

women with cancer. Donating blood is another great way to help strangers.

If you prefer to give your time instead, nursing homes are always looking for people to play bingo with patients. Shelters for women and children need volunteers to come and play with the children, so the moms have time to talk with counselors. — SARA IN SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: "Trying" could join a neighborhood watch or help with Meals on Wheels, take the newspaper to an elderly person's front porch, or start a recycling program in her neighborhood. — LUCY IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR ABBY: I decided, after a self-imposed seclusion (my daughter passed away at a young age), to go back out in the world and spread the joy of flowers. I contacted a local supermarket and asked them to save me their wilted flowers that would have been thrown out. I took the best, arranged them in vases, and distributed them to local nursing homes, memory-care facilities and hospice. In this way I have brightened people's last days on Earth with something that would have otherwise been discarded.

My "mission" has expanded now and includes another store and a shelter for abused women and children. — KATHY IN NAPLES, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: Volunteer to drive people to vote on Election Day. And the easiest — call the aging members of your family regularly and let them talk your ear off! — MARY IN EAST HARTFORD, CONN.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



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.

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 TUESDAY, SEPT. 3, 2013:

This year you might internalize more, yet you will be less critical. Others easily pick up on your compassion, which is clear and expressive. Be careful about how you handle your internalized feelings; they need to be released in some form for your own sake. If you are single, you will attract several people. The person who comes forward might be emotionally unavailable. Check him or her out carefully. If you are attached, schedule several weekends away as a couple and see what that does for your relationship. Have more old-fashioned dates together. LEO understands you very well and tends to look at you in a positive light.

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 will find that a sense of calmness takes over. Getting a project off the ground will be a snap compared to your other recent efforts. Others might be more willing to express their feelings. Don't forget to buy a card for a loved one! Tonight: Don't feel restricted by the day.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Pressure has been high, and it will continue to be so. Someone's efforts might touch you so deeply that you will want to express your appreciation. Choose an action rather than a thank-you card to get your message across. Touch base with a family member. Tonight: Relax.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You tend to be very playful in general, and today it might be difficult to contain yourself. Use some of your spontaneity and creativity in a brainstorming session. A loved one will let you know how much he or she appreciates your efforts. Tonight: So what if it is Tuesday night?

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Curb a tendency to be possessive. It seems as if you will do everything you can in order to draw someone toward you. In a sense, that person might feel manipulated by you. Recognize that you can't control anyone. Perhaps the best bet is to let go. Tonight: Happiest at home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to try a new approach or do something differently. You might be

able to make a difference, as you feel much better about yourself than you have in a while. Lighten up. A gesture will mean a lot, both to the receiver and to the giver. Tonight: All smiles.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to pull back and take a closer look at what is going on with your feelings and with someone else's response. You could discover that a situation is far more intense than you originally might have thought. Take on the role of the observer. Tonight: Kick back.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ You can't help but smile as you observe friends and loved ones, and see how committed and concerned they are about someone's problem. You recognize and appreciate that quality in others. Make an effort to let them know how you feel. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You know what you want, and you know what you need. At this point, you might be holding a lot back. Someone's cold response could justify your reservations. Keep in mind that you were the one who initiated the interaction. Tonight: In the limelight. Others will follow!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out for more information. If need be, find an expert to clear up some confusion that surrounds a professional matter. Remember that this person's opinion is just that — an opinion. It would be wise to get feedback from others, too. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You make a good impression, no matter where you are. Others admire your dignity and strong sense of direction. A partner might share much more than he or she normally does. Encourage this type of vulnerability, and listen to what he or she says. Tonight: Dinner out.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might want to listen to the feedback you'll be getting from loved ones. You could be more involved than you realize. Others demand center stage. While your opinions are valued, it might not be to the extent that you would like. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ Continue the intense schedule you have created for yourself, and complete as much as you can — you will be a lot happier as a result. Weigh the pros and cons of a situation. A partner or an associate might try to distract you. Give in. You will enjoy the break. Tonight: Stay calm.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

