

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



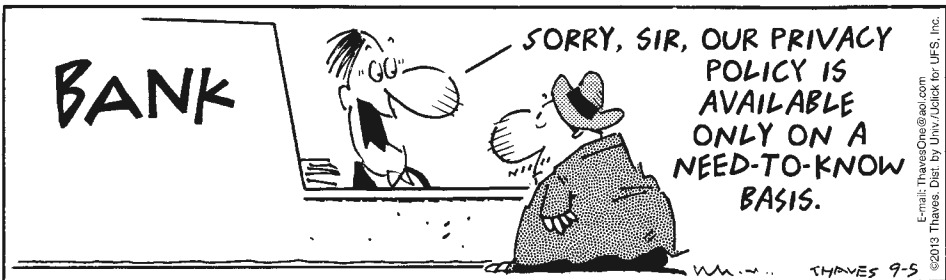
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



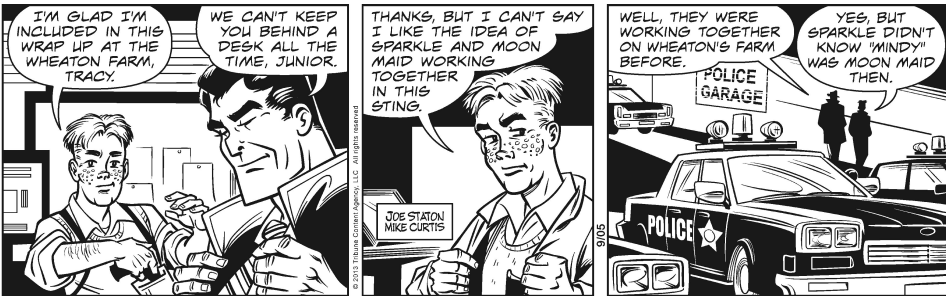
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



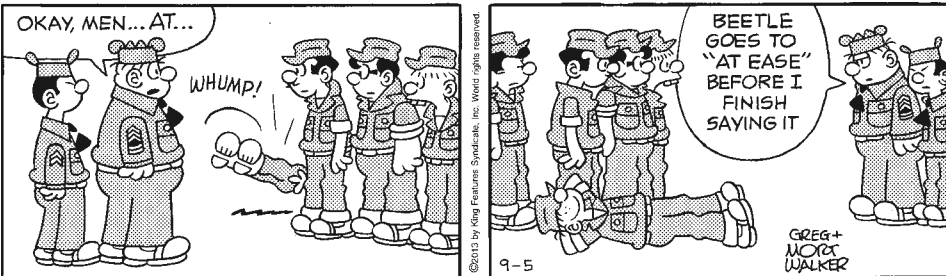
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Single Mom Rips Older Workers For Staying On The Job Too Long

DEAR ABBY: I am appalled at older workers who hang onto their jobs so they can live lavish lifestyles, while young workers trying to support families are left with lack of advancement or even laid off because they don't have tenure.

I am a single mom, and when my sons are out of college I plan to take a less stressful job (and thus less pay), so a younger person can have my job to support a family. I am so tired of the ME ME ME attitude of our society now. In the past, there was more of a sense of social responsibility. Now it's every man for himself and hang everyone else! — DISGUSTED IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR DISGUSTED: While your altruism is laudable, please try to be less judgmental. Many older people work longer these days not to live lavish lifestyles, but to survive.

Unless you have a crystal ball that enables you to see what seniors have in the bank, it's presumptuous to say someone should retire. Many seniors are unprepared financially to do so through no fault of their own. And while you may think now that you'll take a reduction in pay when your sons are out of college, it remains to be seen if that will be feasible for you when the time comes.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin died a short time ago at a very young age and in an unnatural and devastating way. As soon as people outside the family started finding out, they began asking what happened. Many of these questions were posted on my relatives' Facebook pages.

Is it just me or isn't that a very insensitive thing to do? It's not just that they are asking questions of a grieving family who lost their son only hours before, but that they did it through Facebook. — MOURNING IN THE MID-WEST

DEAR MOURNING: Please accept my sympathy for your family's tragic loss. We live in an age in which respect for privacy has nearly disappeared, and folks routinely bare intimate

and sensitive details about their lives on the Internet. Of course questions like the ones your relatives are being asked are tasteless — whether in person or via electronic media. If a person wishes to convey this kind of information, it is usually done VOLUNTARILY, and certainly not when feelings are raw.

DEAR ABBY: Too often we hear horrifying stories in the news about prescription drug addiction and overdoses. I'd like to offer hope to addicts who are still using.

There IS life after drugs. For 10 years I was addicted to pain pills. My poor mother tried everything. She offered me trips or help in buying a new car if I would just go to rehab. I refused because I wasn't ready. I finally hit rock bottom and went into rehab when I realized my daughter was pulling away from me. I had been spending our rent money on pills I'd buy on the streets.

After I was sober for a few days, I realized I liked the feeling. After the sixth day, I was "me" again, and I loved it. I have been sober for two years and am now entering school to become a patient tech. It's exciting because I will be helping others. I believe this is what I was meant to do in life.

Everyone keeps saying I should tell my story, but to be honest, my story isn't finished yet. Thank you for letting me share. — ENJOYING SOBRIETY IN FLORIDA

DEAR ENJOYING SOBRIETY: You're welcome. You're right that your story isn't over yet, but from where I'm sitting it looks like the next chapter will be a happy and constructive one. I wish you success in your journey.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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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 and Moon in Virgo all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 5, 2013:

This year your creativity and intellect merge to create new opportunities. Others quickly discover this interesting blend, and often find you when they need solutions. You will expand your circle of friends and professional associates, and you'll feel good about this growth. If you are single, you could meet someone through a friend whom you would like to get to know. If you are attached, the two of you will find that your relationship is more upbeat and supportive than in the past. Enjoy it. A fellow VIRGO adds different ideas to your life.

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)

★★★★★ If you are in the mindset to start a diet, clean your office or approach a situation differently, then this is the time to resolve to do just that. If you make that resolution, you will find it is easier to head down a new path. Tonight: Start by sharing your decision with a friend.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You finally will be able to straighten out a problem with a child or loved one and start on better footing. You might see quite a difference as a result. When approaching a project, toss yourself completely into it, as it could be more fun than you think. Tonight: Spread your wings.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ If you decide to turn around an annoying situation or domestic matter, you will be more likely to succeed if you start today. Financial opportunities are heading your way, and you might choose to head in a new direction as a result. Tonight: Treat a friend or two to munchies.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You might need to update your software, get a new security system or change the oil in your car. Your main concern needs to be communication, though, and it will be crucial to have equipment that works. You even might opt to buy a new computer. Tonight: Hang out at home.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Listen to news with an open mind. A new beginning might become possible in the realm of your finances. In your mind's eye, consider what

could happen and decide what you want. Laughter surrounds you. Good news also might come forward. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Your magnetism draws others toward you. If you could have more smoothly flowing interactions, would you want that? If the answer is "yes," decide to create more of that energy in your life. You will have an easy time instrumenting that change. Tonight: All smiles.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Spend some time reviewing what you feel is important to you, and consider enhancing the areas that bring you the most happiness. Use the day to make a personal assessment of your daily life; you will see only positive results. Tonight: Take some much-needed private time.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You might realize that you are on the verge of completing an unfinished project or pursuing an unmet goal. You'll need to gain a new perspective, and, depending on the issue, possibly even speak with an expert or someone whom you respect. Tonight: Where friends are.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You have responded to others' needs, so congratulate yourself on stepping up to the plate. Ask yourself if this is a pattern you would like to repeat. If not, step back gracefully and let others have the opportunity to assume some responsibility. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Keep searching for the pot of gold over the rainbow. Whatever it is that you want, now is the time to act. Don't leave this desire to good luck. Allow your determination to push you. A partner could prove to be beneficial in your pursuit. Tonight: Read between the lines.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ A key relationship involving finances will push you toward change and possibly even some type of renewal. You often discuss personal matters with this person, and you trust and need his or her feedback, even if you don't always see eye to eye. Tonight: Easy works.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ Continue to let a loved one play a dominant role. You might question what is going on within your immediate circle and wonder what might be best for both of you. Make suggestions, but do not make the final decision alone. Tonight: A vibrant, meaningful discussion is possible.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

