

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



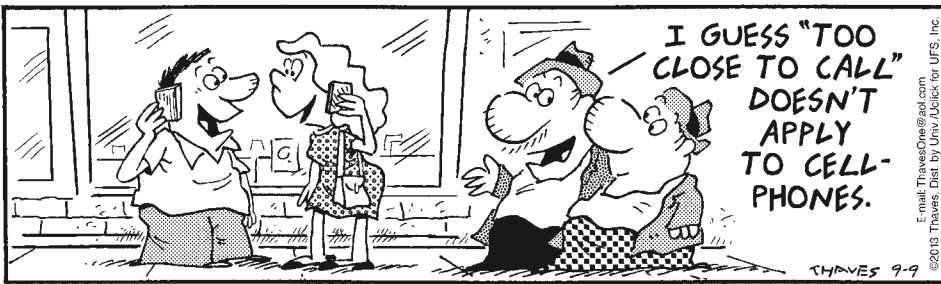
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



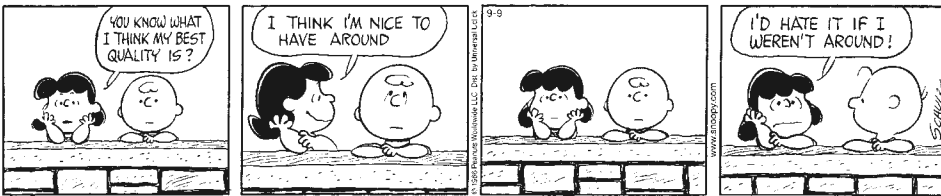
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



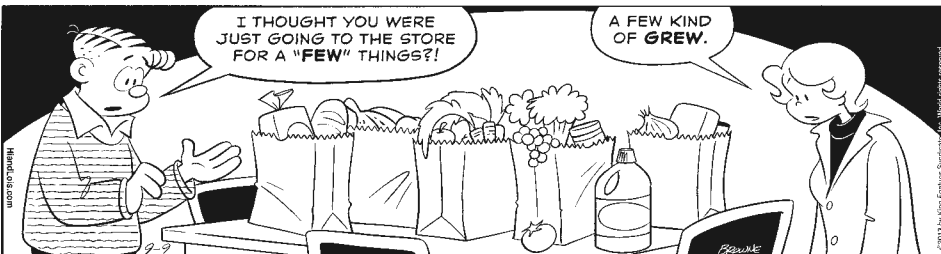
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Family's Ailing Nanny Should Be Given The Chance To Heal

DEAR ABBY: Our nanny, who is 58, was diagnosed with breast cancer just before I delivered baby No. 2. The boys are now 15 months and 4 weeks old.

"Nora" has started chemotherapy after having surgery. I completely understand that she has to attend to her needs right now and focus on her health, but she wanted to continue working without it being an issue. Nora has had to take off several days already in addition to being — as I expected — tired and unable to keep up with my active toddler.

I start back to work soon and my job is a demanding one. My husband and I have discussed options and feel it would be best to mandate that Nora take this time off. We will have to make other arrangements for child care, and I can't guarantee Nora's job when she feels better.

She has taken such good care of our first son it kills me to have to let her go, especially while she's dealing with cancer. But I must return to work and do what's best for my kids. Any advice? — MOMMY OF TWO IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR MOMMY: Have a meeting with Nora and explain your concerns. Ask if she knows someone reliable who could watch the children on those days when she is too weak to do so. Or contact a household staffing agency about getting a temporary fill-in. It would be far more humane than firing her.

For Nora's sake, please try it. If my suggestions don't work, revisit letting her go at a later time.

DEAR ABBY: My 61-year-old father was arrested recently for 30 counts of possession of child pornography. He has had a rough past — he cheated on my mother and has had multiple stints in rehab for alcohol abuse. During my teenage years he verbally abused me. My mother is in denial about the entire situation and the fact that he is facing time in prison for his actions.

Nine months ago, my husband and I were blessed with the birth of our beautiful baby girl.

I feel I must protect her from my parents and my father in particular. Some of my family agree with my decision, others disagree because I am my parents' only child. Am I wrong for not wanting my father and possibly my mother any longer in my life? — TOUGH LOVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR TOUGH LOVE: No. And as for the reaction of your relatives, remember that you can't please everyone, and the well-being of your child must come first.

DEAR ABBY: How do I keep a co-worker from borrowing money from me? I have my paycheck direct-deposited, which means the money is available a day earlier than "Anita's."

She asked me yesterday if I would lend her money for cigarettes, and I told her I didn't have any cash on me. When I went on break to buy lunch with my ATM card, Anita came waltzing over and immediately told the cashier to ring up the cigarettes on my ATM card! She said she'd pay me back more than the amount charged to my card.

In the future, how can I handle this if it happens again? I needed the money for my own use, and now I must wait until next week for her to pay me back. — BUCK

STOPS HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR BUCK: One way to handle it would be to be proactive and tell Anita that what she did was rude and you didn't like it. Another would be to inform the cashier that what Anita wanted was NOT OK with you, and to never do it again. Whichever you decide, don't be afraid of hurting Anita's feelings because she has a hide of steel.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 in Virgo and a Moon in Scorpio all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 9, 2013:

This year you will want to communicate more, but you often might feel as if something is holding you back. A sibling or someone in your daily environment could be difficult. Many of you will be increasing your education, and you'll be focused. This pursuit will be time-consuming. If you are single, you do not need to look for anyone. You will meet someone naturally in your daily travels. If you are attached, the two of you seem inclined to break past some of your barriers. SCORPIO cares, but sometimes is cold.

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)

★★★ Work with a partner directly, and eliminate any in-between people; otherwise, your frustration level could soar. You will find a way to resolve conflicts even before they begin. Look at the existing problem rather than waiting for a new one to arise. Tonight: Be a duo.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Defer to others, especially as they seem to be vested in the outcome of a certain situation. You tend to be more neutral. Your concern might be whether you'll be treated properly. Try to change your boundaries or establish your limits differently. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Mellow out if you can. At some point during the day, you'll note a substantial change in your mood. You might feel as if you are on the warpath; donning war paint might not be the best idea. A partner could be changing before your eyes. Tonight: Make sure you get some exercise.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ While others might be difficult, you will find a way to work through the issues at hand. The way you speak to someone could change his or her outlook. Give this person time to rethink his or her position. Tonight: Greet a loved one as if you're seeing him or her for the first time.

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

★★★ You might choose to work from home rather than head out the door. You might need some time to yourself. You also seem to have a low

frustration point, and your temper could be close to the surface. It would be best to stay away from crowds for a while. Tonight: All smiles.

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

★★★★ Your ability to start a conversation and keep it going will come into play. As you will discover, you have a lot of anger bubbling up. You might feel as if you can discuss what is going on with you at this point in time. Tonight: Go out and let off some steam with a friend.

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

★★★ Observe what is going on behind the scenes. You might be more possessive than you realize. Vulnerability could be at the root of this behavior. You are likely to push someone away and regret it later. Deal with your feelings instead. Tonight: Take some time to yourself.

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

★★★★ You are in your element, and others naturally follow your lead. You know what is needed ... or so you think. Someone could let you know otherwise. A conflict could arise, or a lot of attitude could be exchanged. Tonight: Consider how you might seem controlling to others.

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

★★★ Continue to lie low. You will enjoy interacting less with others and perhaps fitting in some time for a novel you have wanted to read. A family member at a distance might display some anger or resentment. Understand where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

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

★★★★ Look beyond the obvious, and you will be able to note what is not being said. You might be confused about how to approach a difficult situation involving a friend or loved one. Apparently, this person feels as though it is a touchy matter. Tonight: Read between the lines.

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

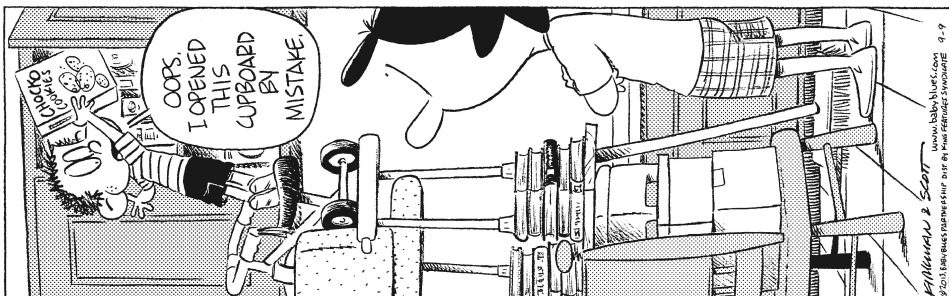
★★★★ Pressure builds. Your plans might not go up in smoke, but don't be surprised if someone else's do. You could be unsure about how to handle this situation. Do what you know has worked before in order to avoid a crisis. Tonight: Stay up later than you usually do.

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

★★★★ If you're feeling frustrated, work on completing a project; you will find that you feel a lot better as a result. Detach, and you will be able to see what is really bothering you. It would be wise to step back and avoid starting a fight for no reason. Tonight: Watch a favorite TV show.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

