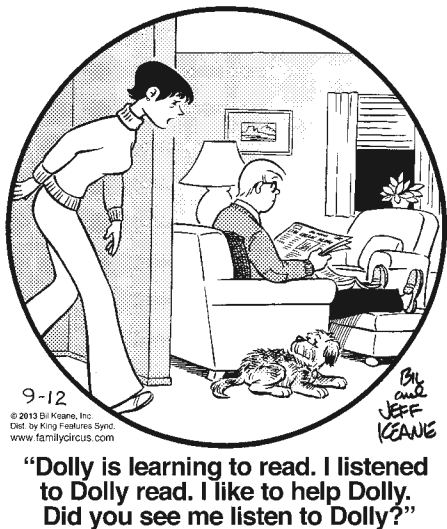
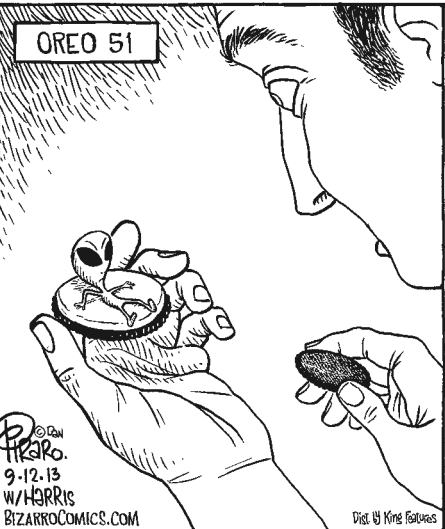


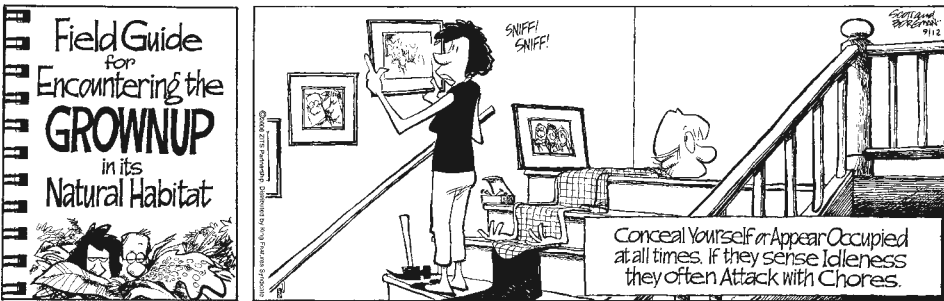
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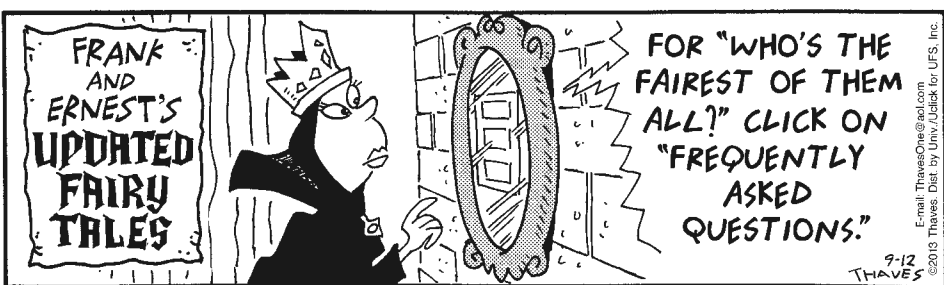
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



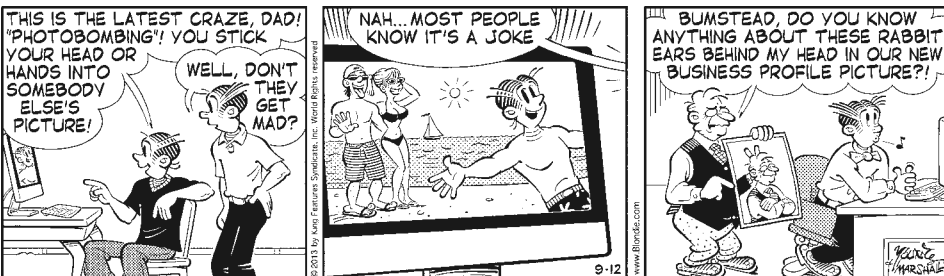
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



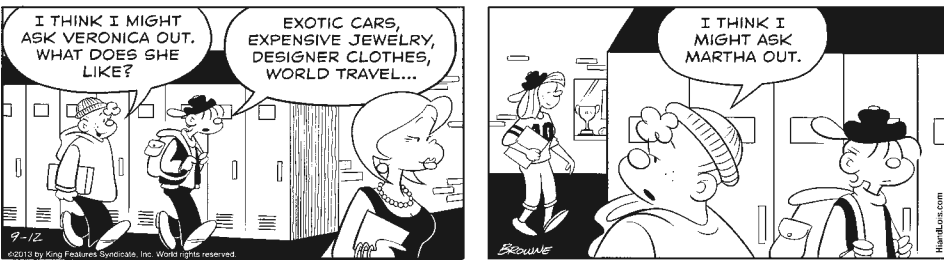
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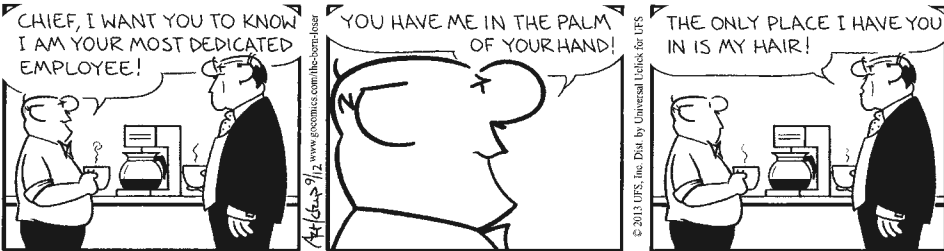
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Family's Feuding Complicates Woman's Plans For Her Funeral

DEAR ABBY: I have four siblings. We get along fine as long as we're apart.

During Mom's and Dad's funerals, I was dismayed at the degree of tension and bickering among us. I am now dealing with an incurable illness that will shorten my life considerably. I have no desire to put my husband through a funeral hosting a family who never liked him. I prefer to be cremated, and a handwritten letter be sent to each of my siblings after the fact.

Is this selfish? I don't want people saying things they don't sincerely mean. I didn't have a happy childhood, and my siblings contributed to that. My letter will not be accusatory, nor will it rake up long-ago hurts. I just want them to know that my husband has carried out my wishes and they should not blame him for doing so. Any thoughts? — KEEPING IT SIMPLE

DEAR KEEPING IT SIMPLE: I don't think your wishes are selfish. You're entitled to exit the stage of life in the manner you choose. Because you prefer to bid your siblings goodbye in handwritten letters, go ahead and do it.

If I have any advice to offer it is that your husband should continue to maintain a healthy distance from your siblings after your death. You can't prevent them from having whatever reaction they choose, considering the level of dysfunction in your family. It's not unusual for survivors to react with anger after a death, and your husband should not take it personally if they do.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter rents a second-floor apartment with her two little girls. The tenant on the first floor is on oxygen and smokes cigarettes. I am concerned about the risk of an explosion that could injure my family upstairs.

My daughter would like to move, but her lease won't be up until January. What should we do? I don't believe she can afford a lawyer

unless legal aid is available to her. I find the situation scary. — WORRIED IN OHIO

DEAR WORRIED: I find it scary, too. Has your daughter discussed this with the manager of the building? If she hasn't, she should, and the conversation should be documented. An explosion could harm more neighbors than just her and her children. The smoker is a danger to everyone.

If the manager can't compel the smoker to stop, then your daughter should move because, in a sense, the tenant downstairs is a ticking time bomb, and her children's safety is paramount.

DEAR ABBY: My aunt "Stacey" has what they call salt-and-pepper-colored hair. We have suggested many times that she dye it, but she doesn't want to have to keep up with it. Recently, someone asked her 14-year-old daughter if that was her grandmother!

Aunt Stacey will be coming for a visit soon and we want to surprise her with a hair dye. How should we go about it? — KRISTY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR KRISTY: Don't do it, or the people who get surprised could be you and whoever else has concocted this hair-brained scheme. Not all women want to color their hair. Some would prefer to avoid the expense, and others become allergic to the hair dye. My advice is to appreciate your aunt for the person she is and forget about trying to change her image.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 Sagittarius all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 12, 2013:

This year you seem to flow like a wave over any obstacles in your life path. Your ability to avoid having many impediments in general could be a source of envy for others. If you are single, the determining factor won't be others' physical desirability, but rather who you would choose for a good time and a deep, meaningful friendship. Perhaps you will be able to have it all. If you are attached, you might integrate more "couple time" into your lives. SAGITTARIUS is very different from you.

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)

★★★★ Pressure builds, and you could be overwhelmed. Follow your instincts with someone at a distance. You might be slowed down by a situation that demands a different approach. You will find it -- just think outside the box. Tonight: Treat yourself to a ticket to an upcoming event.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your mind needs to focus on a creative project, whether you choose to stay at your desk or at home. Otherwise, your need to wander off with a close loved one will take a higher priority. Make that OK, as you don't often respond to impulsiveness. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Interactions with a partner will focus on your priorities. Learn from these exchanges, as they could teach you how to be more effective in integrating the different facets of your life. Make a point of avoiding black-and-white thinking. Tonight: Catch up on emails, phone calls, etc.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Say what you need to say, but don't carry around a grievance about someone or his or her actions. Let it go; otherwise, a problem might develop. Communication might be cold and unemotional, yet it's effective with others who are aware of the situation. Tonight: Hang out with your best friend.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ When you decide to kick back and have a good time, several responses will come forward from your friends who have the ability to let go. Those who hang back might have prior obligations.

tions. Be nice to them, as they probably are envious! Tonight: The party goes on.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You would like to be as free as a bird and have everyone else follow you. Unfortunately, a domestic situation might stand in your way. Deal with this personal matter directly, but try not to tear down an emotional foundation. Tonight: Make a to-do list for tomorrow.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You have a choice of whether to hold yourself back or reveal more of what you keep hidden. Very few people are comfortable expressing their vulnerabilities, but it might be important for you to do so at this juncture. Tonight: Continue a conversation over a long dinner.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You can be driven, and at times even obsessive. Your focus today appears to be on a money matter, which could involve changing banks, evaluating a risk or following your intuition. Evaluate the risks seriously. Tonight: If your intuitive side tells you to buy ice cream, do so!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign is akin to you playing a trumpet and announcing your arrival. You can't avoid being noticed today! Someone who has clout in your life easily could become resentful and cause a hassle. Try to be more subtle around this person. Tonight: With friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might be in a position where you need to back away and be more of an observer. Know that by tomorrow morning, you no longer will need to hold back. Don't forget to check in with an expert, as travel in the near future becomes possible. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ Friends always surround you, but right now there seems to be more of them. The issue will be trying to juggle a private matter while still wanting to be carefree and available at the same time. Don't worry -- you will figure it out. Tonight: Be where the action is.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Understand that others see you as a stronger force and leader than you might believe yourself to be. Perhaps that perception is partly responsible for so many calls, requests and your ongoing popularity. Say "yes" to an invitation. Tonight: A quiet chat with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

