

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



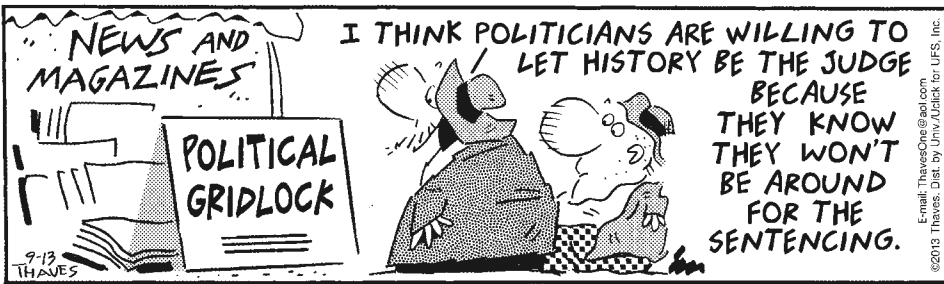
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



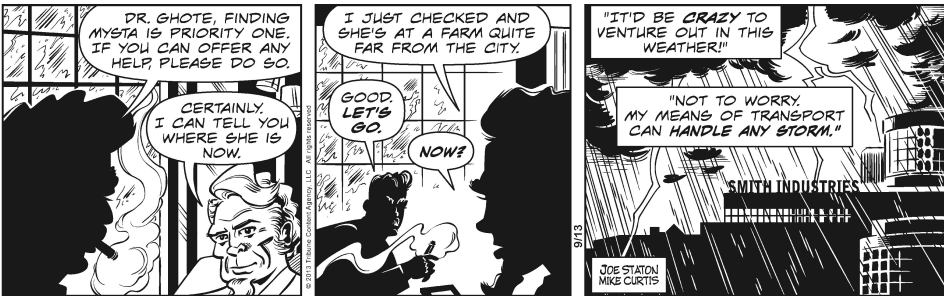
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



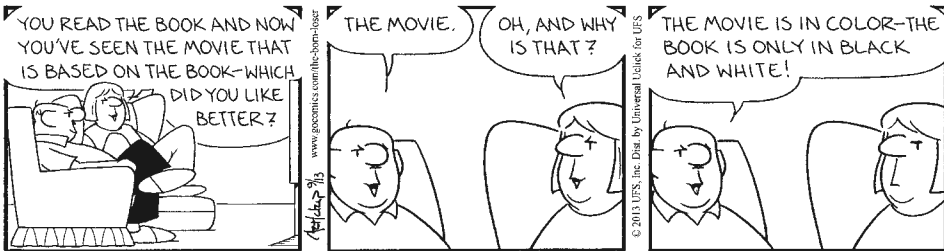
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Safe Cycling Practices Get Short Shift From Bike Riders

DEAR ABBY: Now that California law prohibits drivers from using cellphones and texting while driving, an additional issue needs to be addressed and acted upon. Bicyclists are supposed to abide by the vehicle codes, too, but they rarely do — and that includes not wearing protective gear.

I'm now seeing people on bikes texting, talking while riding and routinely ignoring stop signs. Disappointingly, I have never seen a single rider pulled over or ticketed for doing this. How many lives must be destroyed or lost before the police start enforcing penalties for the danger these people cause to others? — CARING READER, SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

DEAR CARING READER: You're asking something I have been asking myself for some time. I understand that teenagers may think they're immortal as they whiz along the streets, but the adults I see weaving in and out and ignoring stop signs are old enough to know better.

Many cities promote bicycling as a way to mitigate traffic congestion and encourage a healthier, more active lifestyle. Police may ignore the infractions because they have more serious crimes to attend to. Or perhaps they have been instructed to do so. (If members of law enforcement would like to address this, I'd love to hear from you.)

While I'm on the subject of cyclists, I should mention my own concern about riders who wear dark clothing and ride after dark. Not all neighborhoods are well lit, and I have seen near misses because of it.

Although dark colors are fashionable, wouldn't it make sense for people who ride at night to wear jackets with reversible linings in a lighter color? (I have seen a few with fluorescent trim, but there haven't been many.) And if drivers are pulled over for broken or missing headlights or taillights, shouldn't the same be true for bicyclists?

DEAR ABBY: My son serves on a ship in the Navy in an area known for terrorism. People who know this tell me how safe his ship is, how strong the U.S. military is, etc.

PLEASE, people, when I (or anyone else who has a family member in the military) ask for prayers or express concern, do NOT offer these platitudes. Understand that our fears are real, and so are our tears.

Offer a hug, a hand-squeeze, say you will pray for us — but understand that until our loved ones are back on U.S. soil, our fears and tension won't lessen. Unless you have been in our shoes, you can't know how we feel when we watch the news because we have no true idea of what is going on. Our military family members can't tell us, and often we have no (or limited) contact with them. I cry alone often.

I am proud of my son for his service and even encouraged it, but this is a rough time for me and others who are in this situation. — MILITARY MOTHER

DEAR MILITARY MOTHER: Thank you for writing. Many people are uncomfortable when they encounter an emotional situation and don't know what to say. Their impulse is to "make it better," not realizing that sometimes a gesture is more eloquent than words can be. I agree with you that when a loved one is in harm's way, it is an emotional roller-coaster ride for all concerned — the parents, the siblings, the spouses and the children of our servicemen and -women.

TO MY JEWISH READERS. Tonight at sundown, Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement begins. For observant Jewish people, this is a time to fast, to reflect, to pray and formally repent for any sins that might have been committed during the previous Hebrew year. To all of you, may your fast be an easy one.



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 if born before 2:56 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 2013:

This year you move forward and create more of what you desire. Your creativity and intellect work together, which opens one door after another. The unexpected occurs several times this year when you least expect it, and it forces you to rethink your relationships. If you are single, you might not realize how desirable you are. You have choices. If you are attached, your sweetie develops a new dimension to his or her personality that is very unpredictable. Go with the flow, and accept that you can't change this person. CAPRICORN often provokes mischievous thoughts.

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)

★★★★ Confusion surrounds your immediate plans. Many last-minute changes could emerge, but you will handle them well. The unexpected will occur in your daily life. Enjoy it rather than fight it. You also might want to rethink a project you've been working on. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Take news with a grain of salt, and consider the source of the information. You might want to do some fact-checking and speak with the parties involved. As a result, you will see the situation differently from how your source does. Tonight: If you can, take off for the weekend.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You finally will be able to make headway with a key person in your life. Seize the moment, and have the conversation that you feel is necessary. If you eliminate the theatrics, this person might surprise you with his or her response. Tonight: Relax with the one you love.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Someone who wants to dominate will emerge. If you are tired of this trend, walk away and refuse to respond to his or her power plays. Otherwise, you could be enmeshed in this situation for quite a while. Note that a boss or parent continues to be unpredictable. Tonight: TGIF!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to do something very differently. Fortunately, the prevailing winds of

fate will encourage you on this path. Whether you are reorganizing your daily routine or adding a new element, you will feel more fulfilled. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons of a situation.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You like excitement, and you like to express your creativity. Revise your thoughts about a child or new person in your life. You might want to get a broader perspective. You could feel shaky or a little off in how you deal with this matter. Tonight: Get into the moment.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Evaluate a problem that involves a personal matter. Confusion could make a decision harder to make. Listen to your inner voice before heading in any direction. Know what you need and want. Negotiate from that point, and don't settle. Tonight: Relax in a familiar place.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You tend to deal with others in a unique way. Sometimes your self-discipline comes across as a stern attitude. You might want to loosen up a bit with your close friends and loved ones. People in general are unpredictable, including you. Tonight: Hang out with a special someone.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Splurging happens easily with you, so make an effort to rein in your natural inclinations. A situation could develop that might shock you. If you can, stay conservative and do not push a matter any further. Trust something is going on. Tonight: Treat a loved one to dinner.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Reach out to a friend or loved one at a distance. You might want to make special plans to visit this person. Keep paperwork and calls moving in an efficient manner, because you won't want to deal with any last-minute snafus during the weekend. Tonight: Do what you want.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ The less said the better. You might want to discuss a situation privately with someone before bringing it up with others who are involved. Clear your mind of details, and home in on what is needed. Open up to a trusted friend or two. Tonight: Have an important talk.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You have the capacity to excite and inspire many people. Listen carefully to your peers in a meeting. You might wonder why they are proceeding as they are. Perhaps you'll want to seek out some clarification. Ask a question rather than give a lecture. Tonight: Find your friends.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

