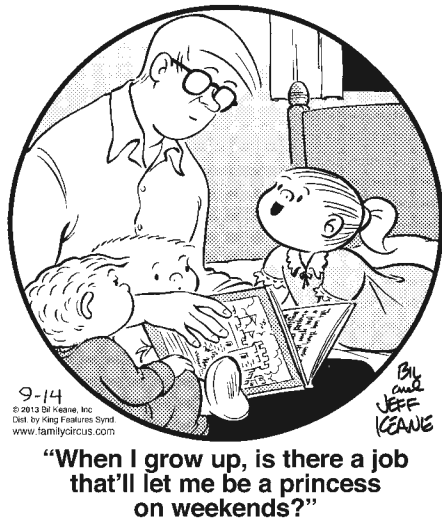
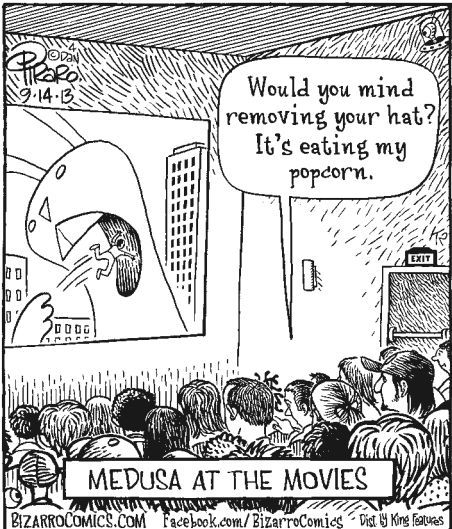


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



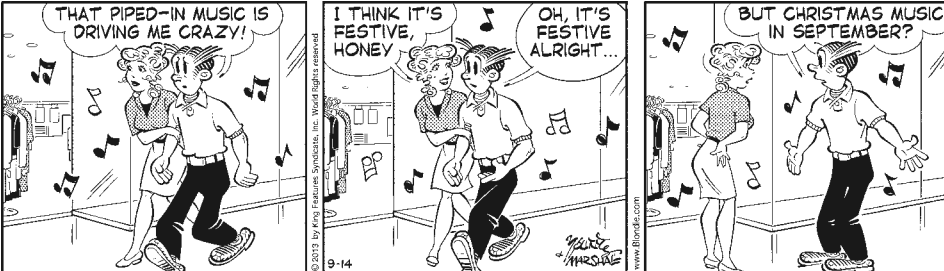
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



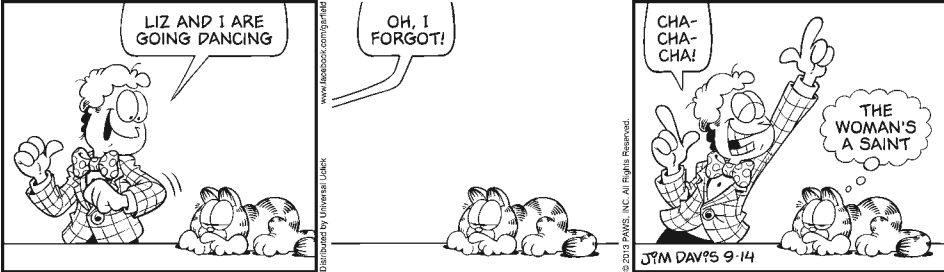
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



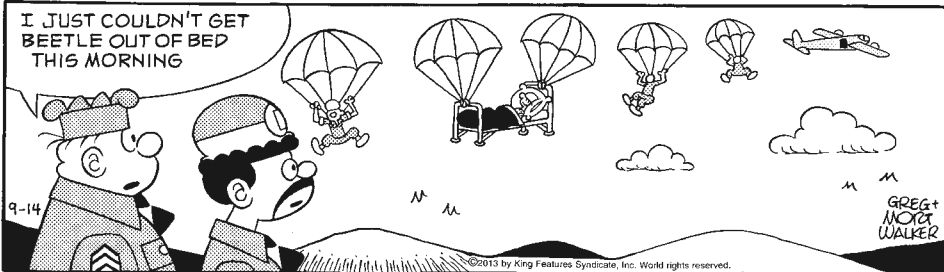
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



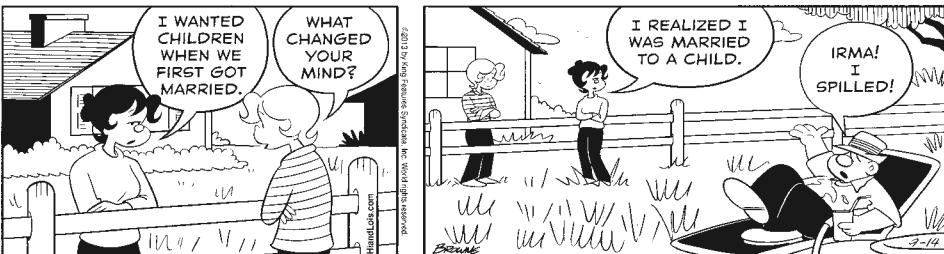
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Second-Grader Is All Alone Facing Schoolyard Bullies

DEAR ABBY: I'm 8 years old and in second grade. I'm writing because I'm being bullied at school. I'm really smart, and at my school that's a really bad thing. I try hard to be nice, but here that's worse than being smart.

The teachers didn't help me with the bullies, so I stopped telling them. My mom told everyone she could about the bullies, but nobody helps. It keeps getting worse over time. Every day someone picks on me, pushes me or makes fun of me. Please help me. — FEELING TORN IN TEXAS

DEAR FEELING TORN: Because you haven't told your teachers that the bullying hasn't stopped, they may think that it's no longer going on. Tell them again what you are experiencing, and be sure your mother knows. She should discuss this with your teacher. If things don't get better, she needs to talk to the principal and, if necessary, the school board. Many schools offer programs that discourage bullying and train students who can help.

As a last resort, your mother should consult a lawyer. You have a right to an education that's free from this kind of pressure. Lawsuits have been filed and won because school districts didn't give it the attention they should have. Be sure to show this to your mother and tell her you wrote it.

DEAR ABBY: I am agoraphobic. Although I have managed to make accommodations for special occasions like birthday parties and dinners with my family, I am not comfortable at extremely large gatherings.

My parents understand this, but my sister and brother-in-law think that if I'd just "try harder," everything would work out. Abby, I must take a mild tranquilizer to go to small gatherings, and I have told them this. Would people tell someone who is allergic to something to just "try harder"? How can I explain

this better? — AFRAID IN TAYLORSVILLE, UTAH

DEAR AFRAID: I'm sorry to say this, but individuals have been known to give people with severe food allergies items containing their "trigger foods" because they are convinced "just a little" won't hurt them — or worse, that the problem is imaginary.

Your sister and brother-in-law do not understand phobias. A medical professional might be able to explain it to them, but until they're ready to consult one and really listen, it would be healthier for you to ignore them and limit your time with them.



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.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree about when and where it is acceptable to yawn. I believe a public yawn during dinner or conversation is not appropriate. She sees no reason why a natural human trait such as yawning should be stifled.

Again, my assertion is that yawning denotes boredom or lack of interest in what people are conversing about or doing. What are your thoughts? — NOT A YAWNER IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ.

DEAR NOT A YAWNER: My thoughts are similar to an observation made by English writer G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), who said, "A yawn is a silent shout." I have never seen anyone who is intensely interested in something yawn, and to do it in the presence of others implies that the yawner is tired, bored or otherwise not fully engaged.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 in Virgo and a Moon in Capricorn all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 2013:

This year you feel unusually fortunate, and you'll manifest what you want. Your desires might not arrive in the form that you think they should, but it will happen nonetheless. Be careful what you wish for, as you are likely to receive it. If you are single, you will meet someone through your friends, or a friendship could become more. If you are attached, the two of you will experience a lot of romance, but don't forget to work on your friendship as well. CAPRICORN could be very attracted to you. Proceed with care.

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)

★★★★ Others look to you for their plans. Be ready for a lot of changes and good times. You flex well and know how to adjust. Someone will become very contrary. Your creativity could help loosen up others — especially this person. Tonight: Watch a spontaneous party begin.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Make calls early in the day. You will want to readjust your schedule, so make that OK. Conversations could evoke many different thoughts. Listen to someone's words, and you will gain more insight into what is happening in his or her mind. Tonight: Choose a movie.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You will be happiest dealing with one person at a time. You usually feel good around a close loved one, though he or she can be rigid at times. Your flexibility might be needed in order to help this person process his or her feelings. Tonight: Visit over dinner at a new restaurant.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might want to see a situation differently, but you could experience difficulty getting to the bottom of the matter. Someone you care about might put up a wall that you can't seem to break down. If you give this person some space, he or she probably will come forward. Tonight: Out and about.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Get into a favorite game. Exercise will reduce tension levels. A dear loved one might start discussing something that he or she always has

wanted to have happen. You will be inclined to manifest this desire. The two of you will become much closer as a result. Tonight: Pace yourself.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Your imagination speaks. Others respond in kind and share their thoughts as well. A loved one might surprise you with a choice involving a goal that might not be totally grounded in reality. You have the gift of practicality. Can you make it happen? Tonight: Hang loose.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Stay close to home. You have much to do, like convincing a family member of the rightness of an idea that could influence both of your personal lives. A male friend could push you hard to go along with his idea. Don't be afraid to say "enough." Tonight: Settle in. Make it easy.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Listen to what is going on behind the scenes. You know what is acceptable, and you know your limits. The wise move at this time would be to not push too hard and to let matters fall as they may. Do not interfere with a child or loved one. Tonight: Head to a favorite haunt.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Curb a tendency to overindulge, regardless of how difficult it might be. Look at the ramifications, then decide. You could be missing a major point concerning a financial decision. Do not make any commitments at this present moment. Tonight: Pick up the tab for dinner.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Others seem to be very enthusiastic, no matter what idea you throw out. You could be exhausted by everything that is going on. Remain sure of yourself, yet process new information. A misunderstanding could happen far too easily. Be careful. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Sometimes you enjoy vanishing and letting the chips fall as they may. You want and need privacy more than most other signs do. Try not to worry about what others think. Get into a major project where you can burn off some excess energy. Tonight: Do only what you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Surround yourself with friends, whether you're at a sports event or off at your favorite haunt. Somehow you'll feel far more upbeat as a result. News from an important loved one could toss you into an ambivalent moment. Worry about this later. Tonight: You are the party.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

