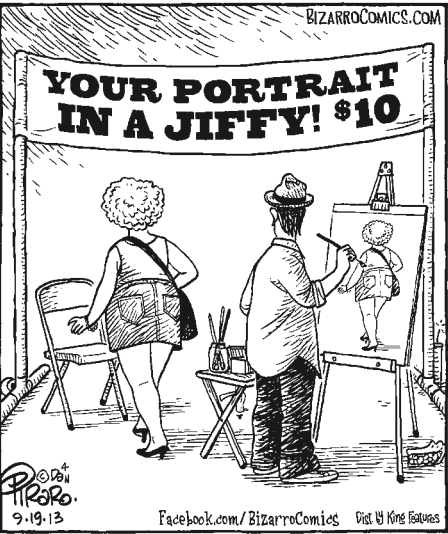


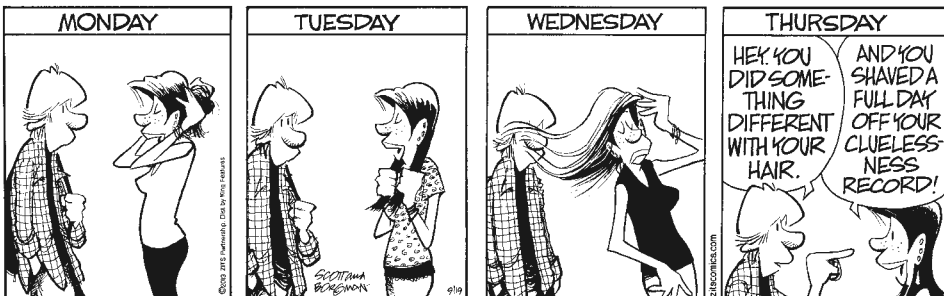
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



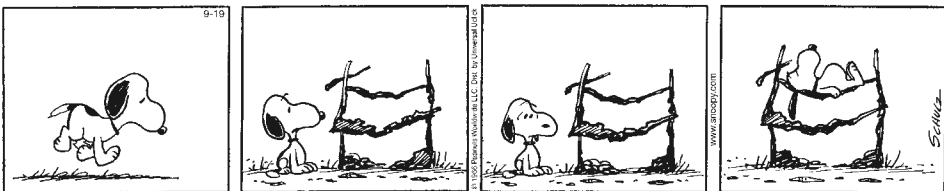
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



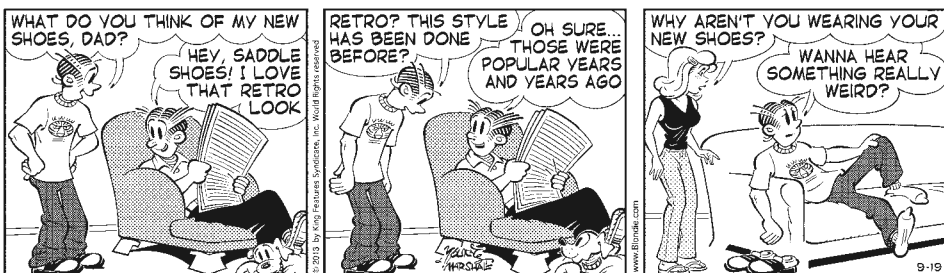
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



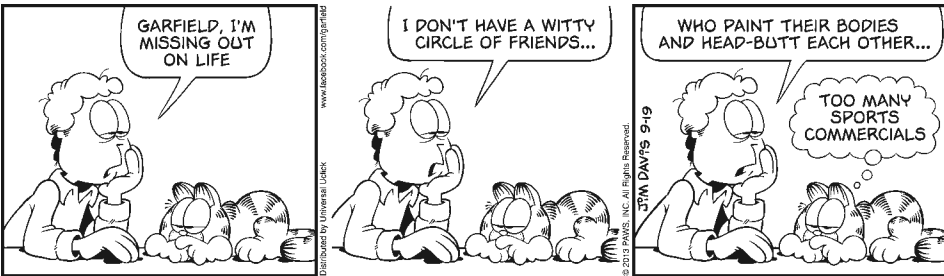
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



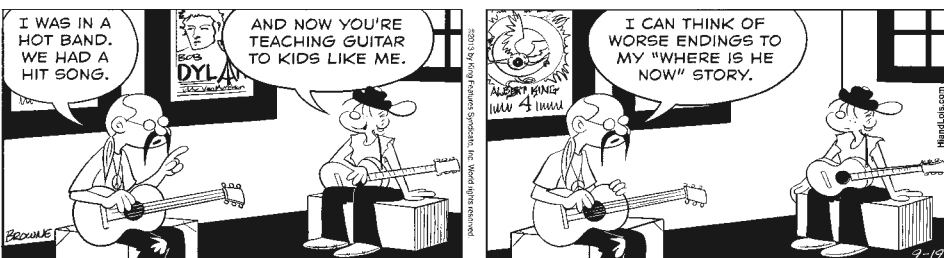
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Friends Moving Into Retirement Together Get Plenty Of Advice

DEAR ABBY: In response to "Contemplating Change in Rhode Island" (June 23), who is considering retiring with a friend to a city with a warmer climate, I would offer the same advice we have given our friends. She should know that she'll need to be proactive in developing a social network in her new location.

My wife and I also moved far south when we retired. We wanted neighbors with a variety of ages so we could hear children play nearby from time to time. We purchased a house in a "normal" neighborhood instead of a retirement community. But we soon realized that, unlike us, our neighbors had jobs, family responsibilities and little time for us. More disconcerting was going grocery shopping and no longer seeing the three or four acquaintances we would see back home.

Without jobs to occupy our time and give us a framework for social contact, we found ourselves isolated. To solve that problem we joined organizations and did volunteer work to meet new friends. Our story has a happy ending, but it took some effort to make it happen. "Contemplating" should be prepared to do the same. — MIKE IN SPARKS, NEV.

DEAR MIKE: "Contemplating Change" asked if readers had experience moving far away at her age (late 60s). You, and many others, wrote to share overwhelmingly positive feedback. Thank you for it:

DEAR ABBY: For the women planning to buy a retirement home together, please tell them there are wonderful places everywhere. I have moved 15 times since the age of 70 and at 91 am moving again. (No, I am not trying to stay ahead of the sheriff.) I have sought more pleasant climates as well as the company of ambitious writers. For the last move, I am going to a retirement community where I don't have to cook, wash dishes or clean house because it'll be done for me. — LIFETIME WRITER IN SEDONA, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: I want to encourage your

Rhode Island reader. Renting first is excellent advice. Research what you want in your new destination. Make sure it's a growing community where transplants will be welcome.

Be outgoing. Join a church, community center or other place to meet people. No one will beat a path to your door or care about your former home. Don't make negative comparisons to locals, and don't cling to your old friend.

If all goes well, consider buying a twin home/duplex where you can be close but have your own space. I'm glad I moved. I now have more diverse friends than ever before. — RETIREE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: Yes — rent first to check housemate compatibility. As to a new social community, check out nearby colleges or universities. Many offer programs for creative learning in retirement or something similar. One can make friends with shared interests through classes. Also, find a local "newcomers club." — NANCY IN ASHEVILLE, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: You're never too old to make new friends. My suggestion to the ladies would be to consider buying what is referred to as a park model (manufactured home) in an RV park. They could even try renting one in a few different parks to get a feel for the park and location. These parks have all kinds of activities going on from morning 'til night. — MICHIGAN SNOWBIRD

DEAR ABBY: Moving into an over-55 community was the perfect solution when we relocated. There was instant community with loads of activities and opportunities to make new friends.

When you buy, make sure you own the land as well as the house. Public libraries, churches, schools and nursing homes will welcome you as volunteers, and you can become as immersed in the new community as you want. We LOVE being "relocated." — MARJORIE IN LONGMONT, COLO.



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 Pisces if born before 9:58 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 19, 2013:

This year you often feel pulled in different directions. You can identify with others' problems, so you'll tend to be nurturing and sympathetic. You might want to be a crusader and fix all the problems you see, but keep in mind that you are just one person. If you are single, you will open up to different types of people. Date as much as you want, but take your time committing. If you are attached, the two of you will be more in sync, especially after your sweetie gets the swing of your moods! ARIES can be pushy.

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)

★★★★ Don't push so hard to get your way. Others might feel overworked, and it won't take much to trigger them. Stay focused on making an important phone call to a friend. An offer might feel too good to be true, so be careful. Tonight: You have a lot of information to process.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Today's Full Moon points to new possibilities, as long as you tap into your creativity. Romance also might factor into the day's events. Screen calls if you need to get stuff done. People seem to want you all at once. Tonight: Meet a friend or two at your favorite haunt.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Tension could be quite high in the morning; you might want to seek out a friend to commiserate with by lunchtime. You certainly will have your hands full. Schedule a meeting, and delegate any projects or errands that you can. Tonight: Swap tales of the day with friends.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Others might challenge what you thought was a well-thought-out project. Make a note of areas where you might need to make changes and/or tie up loose ends. Meanwhile, take the lead and get as much done as you possibly can. Tonight: Possibly at work till the wee hours.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ New information comes in and forces you to question your prior decisions. Let a trusted friend play devil's advocate, and you might

gain strong answers as a result. Once you open up, you'll have so many choices, you could be overwhelmed. Tonight: Make an important call.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Pressure will build throughout the day, and then suddenly it will be gone. You might be left wondering what happened. Perhaps you were able to change your view about a judgment you had made, and it eased some of the tension. Relax. Tonight: Run some errands on the way home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Events will happen quickly, and therefore, others' moods also will change quickly. You might feel much better than you have in a while. Someone could overwhelm you with his or her "great idea" or new approach regarding a project. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Get up early, as you might have an important matter to handle. The earlier you can get started, the better; it will make a difference in the outcome. An event or a conversation keeps floating around in your head midafternoon. Tonight: Make it an early night, if possible.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could come up with a doozy of an idea that might involve changing directions or adding more spice to a project or to your life. Be sure that you can handle the potential ramifications of a situation like that. Tonight: Allow yourself to be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might find that your words tend to stir up a lot of strong feelings in others. You will wonder why, but realize that it simply could be the timing. You can't help what has happened, so relax; otherwise, you'll be really stressed out, with no solution. Tonight: Stay close to home.

AQUARIUS (JAN.29-FEB. 18)

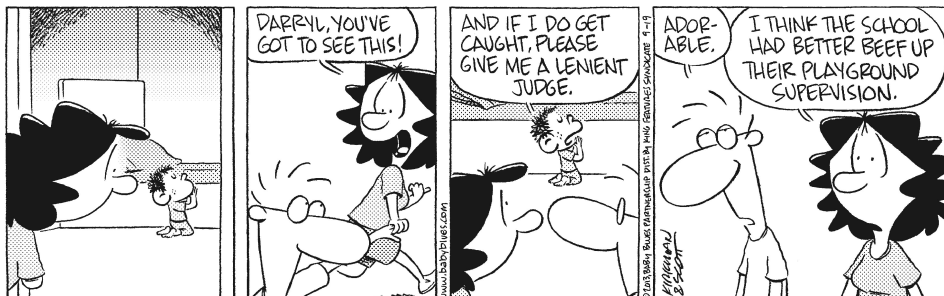
★★★★ Use caution in the morning when dealing with your finances. Later in the day, your communication will excel. You might be shocked by everything that you hear. You have choices, so weigh them carefully. Tonight: All smiles, no matter where you are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ There will be an unusual intensity to the morning. You might not be able to see a situation as clearly as you might like; besides, more information is forthcoming. Lighten up about a personal matter. Everything could change quickly. Tonight: Add more fun into the mix.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

