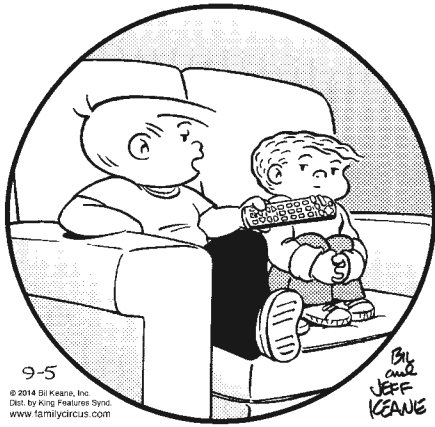


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"When Grandma was little, her remote only had three buttons ... and it clicked."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



"I'm afraid I have some bad news. If it's about the playoffs, don't tell me! I'm taping it!"

Animal Lover Forced To Choose Between Boyfriend And Pets

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Chris" for almost five years. He's my high school sweetheart. We still live with our parents, but we feel we're ready to move out and start our lives together.

The issue is I have a cat ("Silky") and a dog named "Chips"; Chris can't stand them. He has said he doesn't want Silky to live in our home and he would make her an outdoor cat. He also doesn't want Chips to come with us because Chips can be whiny and vocal.

I feel it's my responsibility to take my pets with me when I move out. I don't want to abandon them and leave them with my parents, and I absolutely refuse to put them up for adoption. I feel if I decide to bring them with me, Chris will make them feel miserable. Silky is afraid of him, and Chris doesn't like Chips getting close to him.

I love my boyfriend, but I love my pets, too. Please tell me what to do! — STUCK IN THE MIDDLE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STUCK: Wake up! You are an animal lover; your boyfriend clearly has an antipathy toward them. Your cat is afraid of Chris because she knows he doesn't like her or he did something that scared her. If he makes Silky become an outdoor cat (or she gets loose "by accident"), she may be at serious risk. And your dog will be miserable on the receiving end of constant rejection.

It is very important that you learn to live independently. Because Chris is your high school sweetheart and you haven't dated many others, it's important that you take some time and date other people before deciding to move in with ANYONE. You and Chris may care about each other, but your compatibility is in question because, face it, you two have differences.

DEAR ABBY: I'm not sure if this has been mentioned in your column before, but I would like to make your readers aware of something while they travel. When staying at a hotel, it is important never to reveal personal or financial information over the in-room phone, even if the caller claims to be an employee of the hotel.

Sometimes scammers will call the front desk of a hotel and provide a generic name or room number. Unsuspecting desk agents may transfer the call to that room, and the scammer will then pose as a desk agent. He or she will say something plausible to get the guest to provide credit information over the phone, and in a flash, the guest is a victim of theft.

If such a thing happens, guests should immediately dial the front desk and ask the agent if a call for that reason was intentionally placed to the room. Very likely, it will not have been. — JOHN IN OGDEN, UTAH

DEAR JOHN: Whoa! Travelers can never be too careful. Thank you for the wake-up call.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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.)

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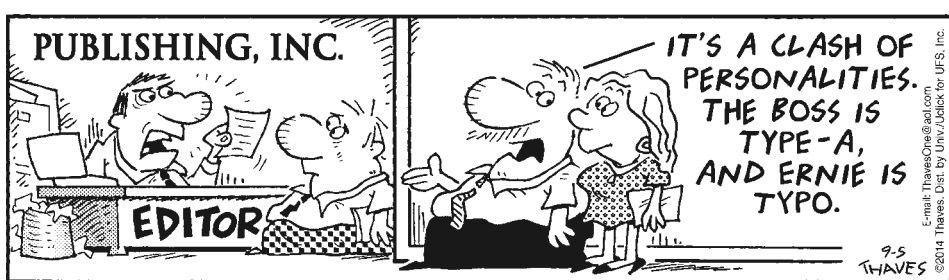
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



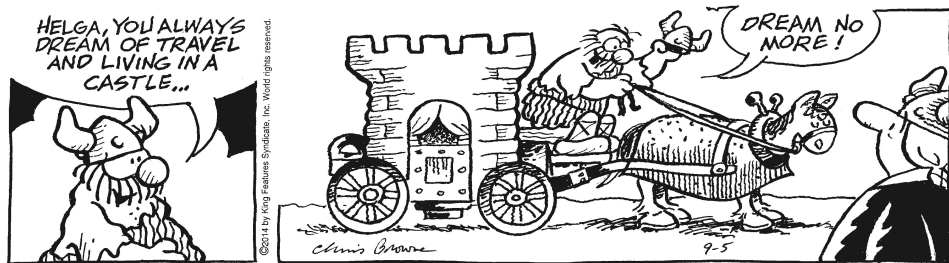
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HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



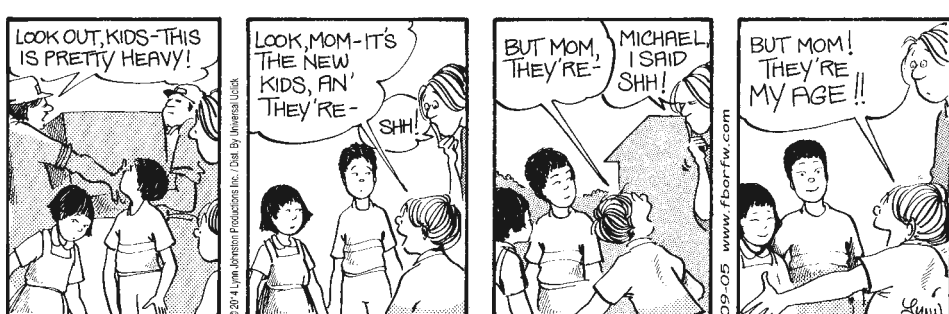
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



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 if born before 7:56 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 2014:

This year you will experience a new beginning in your life that is likely to occur in late summer. If you are single, use caution when meeting new people, especially if you are interested in them romantically. The issue that surrounds your love life is a tendency to choose emotionally unavailable suitors. Be a realist with love, and everything will work out. If you are attached, you will develop a deeper and closer bond between you. Know that this is a very powerful year for you as a couple. AQUARIUS often shakes up the status quo.

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)

Assume your natural role as leader of the gang in your immediate circle. A conversation will open up a door. The tone you use, as well as your expressions, will tell the whole story. Be aware of a partner's needs. Don't lose your focus. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You might be looking past the obvious in order to gain a better perspective of what is going on. You could be missing an important detail as a result. You are still in need of more detachment. A loved one will delight you. Let your feelings out. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Complete what must be done in order to relax and get into weekend mode; otherwise, you could be fussy and demanding. Learn to detach and let go of the day's aggravation. Use your self-discipline, and you will be happy with the outcome. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Your popularity will soar because of your flexibility. Many people are likely to seek you out in both your personal and professional lives. What is clear is that people trust your judgment. Be gentle with your choice of words. Tonight: Respond appropriately.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Emphasize the moment, and know what must be accomplished. The need to carry out a lot

of pending errands will become more and more dominant. Start your weekend with a clean slate. Your popularity soars. Tonight: The matter of who, where and when remains unknown.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You just might want to relax at home. Make that OK, as everyone needs a day off from time to time. Venus moves into your sign, which adds an alluring element to your day. You could feel awkward in a normally easy situation. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Take care of what absolutely must be done. Fatigue marks your day, which could leave you wondering whether you need to cancel tonight's plans. The answer will come forward in the early evening. Nothing is going to stop you. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Say what you really think, and don't sell out or change topics. Communication will remain active, but you might not want to say "yes" to everyone. Let your plans form by allowing your heart to make the final choice. Tonight: Consider making this an early night.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Be sensitive to an ongoing financial matter that could rear its ugly head today. Self-discipline will go a long way if you choose to use it. Your cavalier attitude might cause you more trouble than you realize. Tonight: Flirt the night away, especially with the right person.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Be spontaneous and natural, and you can't go wrong. You understand boundaries well. Do not allow yourself to continue with self-imposed limitations. The time has come to break free. Discipline a tendency to go to excess. Tonight: The party could go on and on.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

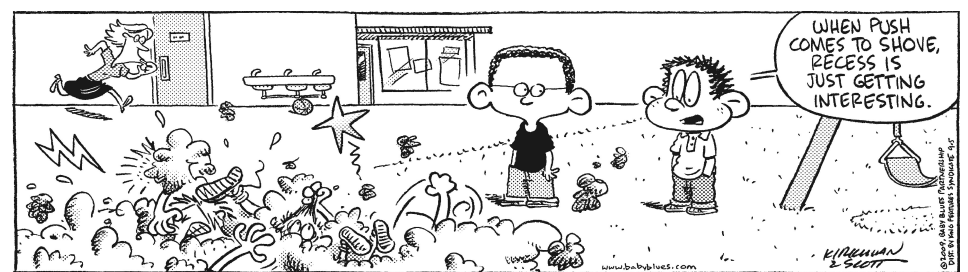
Use the daylight hours to recuperate from recent events and situations, as you have been going full-throttle for quite some time. A partner entices you to follow his or her lead. Tonight: Be open to walking through a new door or two.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Focus on friends, and facilitate a situation that could bring you a lot of happiness. You might find the Friday nature of the day promotes a fun, late lunch. Listen to what various friends would like to share. Tonight: Make it OK to vanish.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

