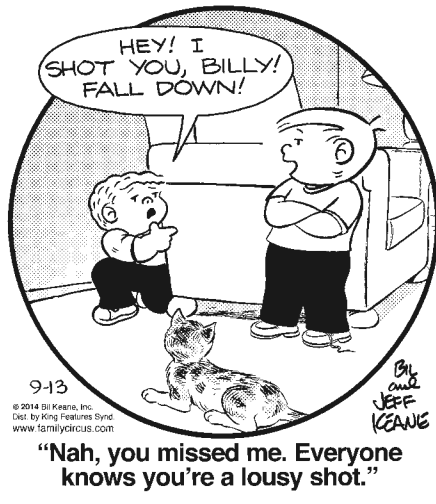


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



9-13
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"Nah, you missed me. Everyone knows you're a lousy shot."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



9-13-14
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Written Thank-Yous For Gifts Show Heartfelt Appreciation

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 14 and had a small party with relatives to celebrate it. A few days later my mom bought me thank-you cards and said I should send them out.

I told the people "thank you" for the gifts in person. I don't think thank-you cards are necessary for something as small as birthdays. Shouldn't they be reserved for things like weddings and baby showers?

Mom and I are anxious to see your answer. — NO THANK-YOU DEAR NO THANK-YOU: Listen to your mother because she's trying to tell you something important. When people do something nice for you — such as give you a birthday or Christmas gift — their thoughtfulness and generosity should be acknowledged with a written thank-you. It's not a waste of your time.

People are inclined to be more generous to those who show their appreciation, as you will learn in many situations as time passes.

DEAR ABBY: My sister has a 1-year-old baby boy we all adore. He is a cute little guy. My sister is understandably proud, but sometimes I feel it goes too far.

She sends pictures of him with captions like, "Cutest Baby Ever," or "He's the BEST!" She dresses him in shirts that say, "FAVORITE" or "The Greatest."

I feel it is rude to other parents and insensitive to other kids because it implies that other people's children don't measure up. Also, there are some adorable little cousins living in the same household as the "perfect" baby.

We ALL have attractive children, but not all of us feel the need to put others down in order to compliment our offspring. Am I

overly sensitive, or is my sister tactless? — IDAHO AUNTIE

DEAR IDAHO AUNTIE: Your sister is over-the-moon about her baby boy. Shirts like this for toddlers are very common. The children in that household are probably too young to read what's printed on the T-shirts and feel slighted, so simmer down and don't take it personally.

DEAR ABBY: Some time ago we were given a very expensive dining room set by relatives. No one else in the family wanted it, and we took it because our dining room pieces were old.

Now we would like to sell this set and buy something less formal and more comfortable. Do we have any obligation to the original owners? — NEEDS ADVICE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: If the dining room set was "lent" to you by the relatives, you should consult them. However, if it was GIVEN to you, then you have no obligation to do so and you may dispose of it as you wish.

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

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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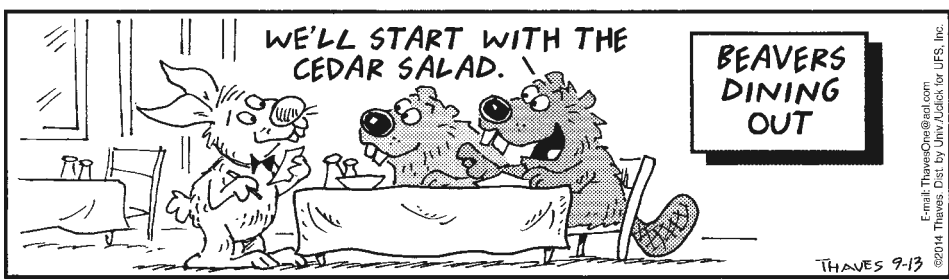
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PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



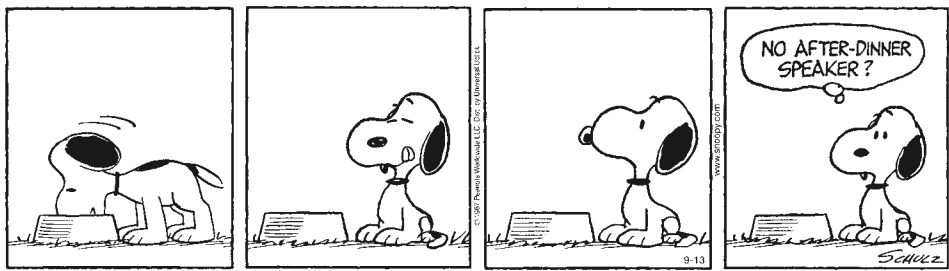
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



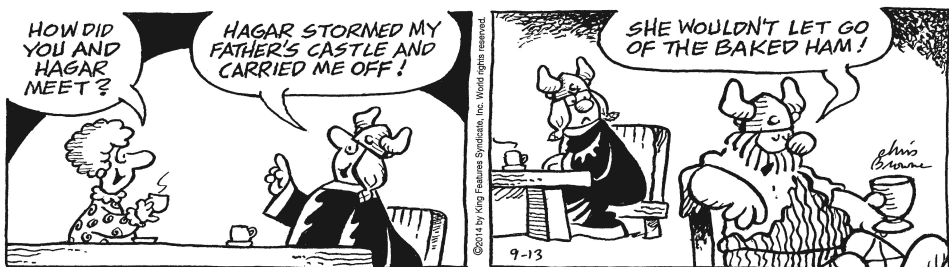
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



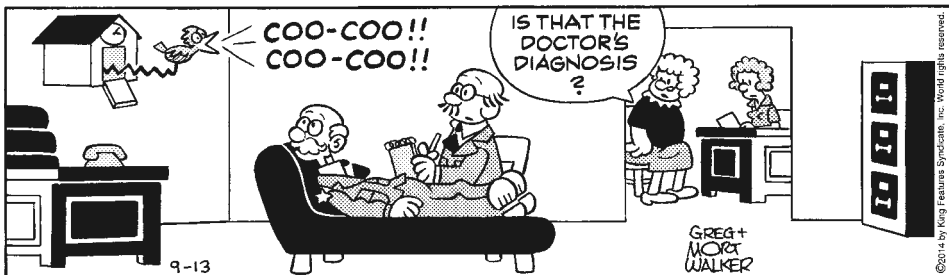
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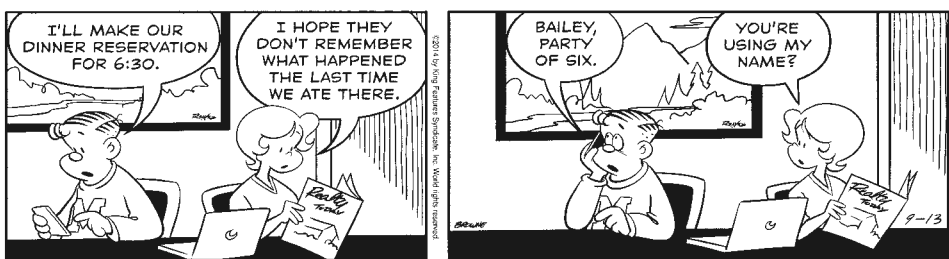
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



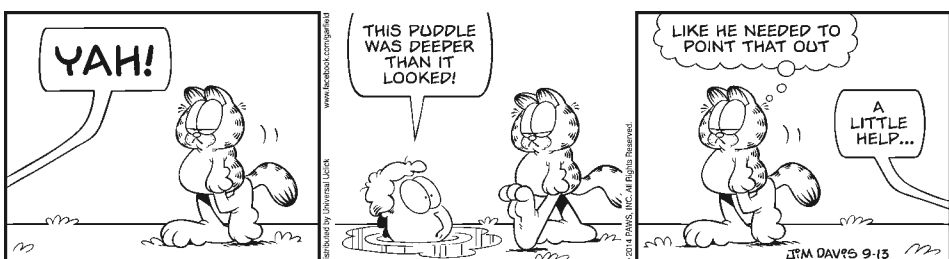
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



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 Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2014:

This year you complete a 12-year luck cycle. You might want to identify what works in your life and what doesn't; it is important to enter the new 12-year luck cycle with only what is valid in your life. Start looking at your life from a different perspective. If you are single, be aware that you could choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. Be careful. If you are attached, your creativity will soar, and it will spice up your relationship. Schedule a special trip you often discuss together. TAURUS helps you understand different cultures and styles.

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 tend to see you as being full of surprises. You could witness a conflict occur between your desires and someone else's wishes. Be careful, as this person could become unruly. Reach out to a friend you see in a daily setting. Tonight: Make it your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You'll achieve exactly what you want, but a key friend or loved one might let you know how off base he or she feels you are. Your imagination is likely to take over, which will allow more fun into your day. A romance could be blossoming. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Think about what was said in a discussion. Though you can be a Chatty Cathy, right now you'll need to be in deep thought. Be more in tune with what is going on around you. You suddenly might understand why a loved one seems so angry. Tonight: Play it low-key.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Focus on what is happening within your immediate circle. A loved one could be closed off right now. You might try to pry this person open to no avail. Go off and enjoy yourself, and soon you will discover that he or she just needs some space. Tonight: Do what you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You could be more in the limelight than you have been in the recent past. Be more forth-

right about your plans when trying to squeeze in everything you want to do. A child might try to draw you in to a fun happening. Tonight: Choose a favorite stressbuster.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You could be wondering what plans would be the most fun to pursue. Opt to head in your chosen direction or go for a drive. Listen to news more openly. Put greater emphasis on trying a new type of adventure that involves some travel. Tonight: Follow the music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Plan on getting together with others later in the day. You also might want to deal with a loved one directly. Schedule some quality one-on-one time with this person. Your instincts tend to work well with this person, so be sure to follow them. Tonight: How about a friendly dinner?

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You'll accomplish what you want despite a morning tiff or two. Your irritable mood might have pushed others away, so make a point of clearing that up. Friends and loved ones will appreciate your company at a get-together. Tonight: And the party goes on.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might be overly concerned with certain details that need handling. You will get a lot done, especially with Mars dropping into your sign today. Your social side will demand self-expression, no matter what is going on. Tonight: Don't push others as hard as you usually do.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You might want to touch base with a loved one or indulge your sweetie. What is stopping you? Understand your limits, and fulfill your obligations first. A friend could be disappointed, as he or she might have been looking forward to spending time with you. Tonight: Where the fun is.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You might be stuck in a certain routine more than you realize. One-on-one relating could prove to be most rewarding. You have a way of combining romance with friendship that is unbeatable. Tonight: You could be surprised by how plans fall into place.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You'll discover that everything will fall into place if you just relax and go with the flow. News from a friend could put an obstacle in your path. Others are likely to come forward and let you know how important you are to them. Be spontaneous. Tonight: Flirt the night away.

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BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

