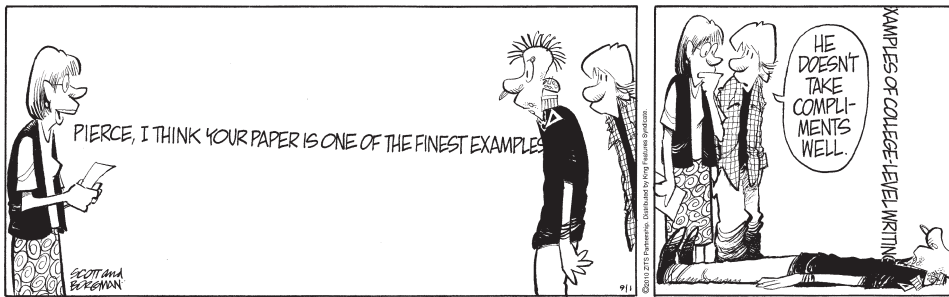


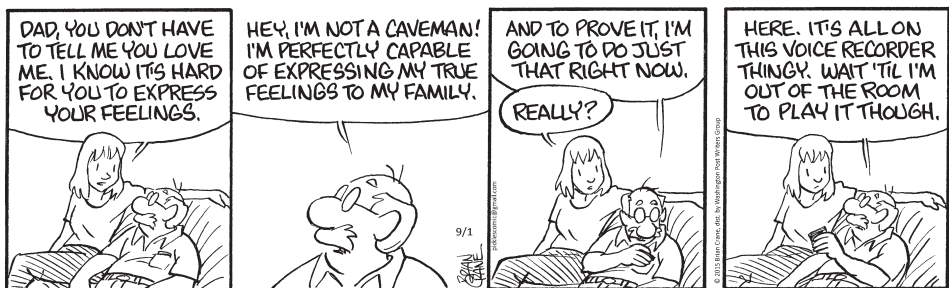
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



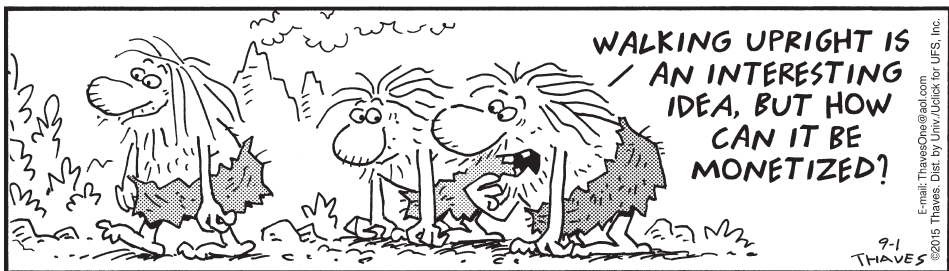
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



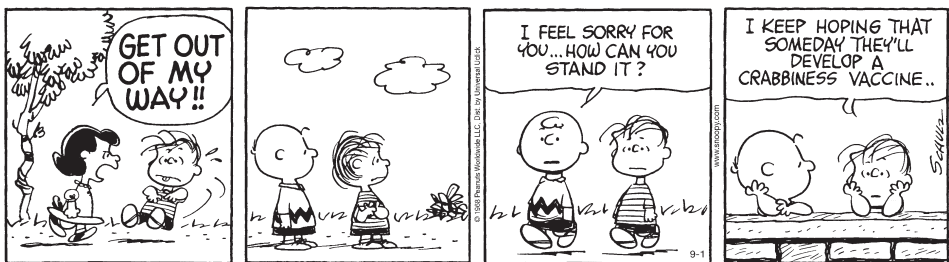
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



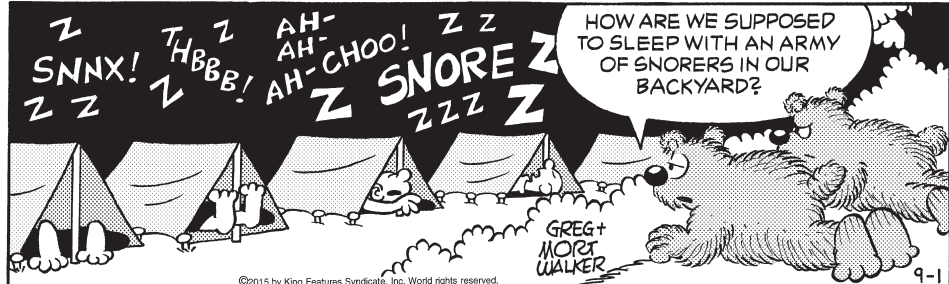
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



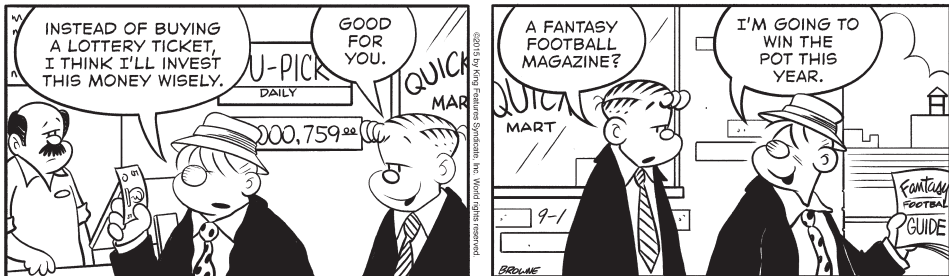
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



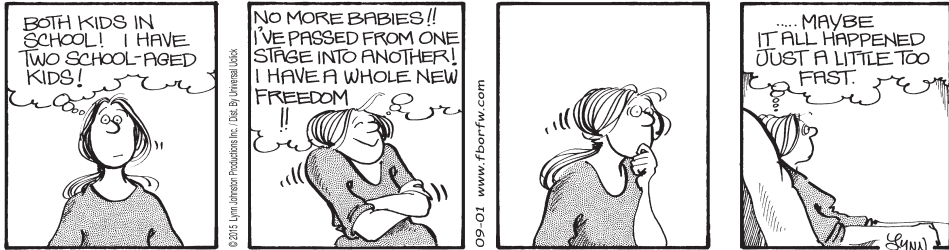
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



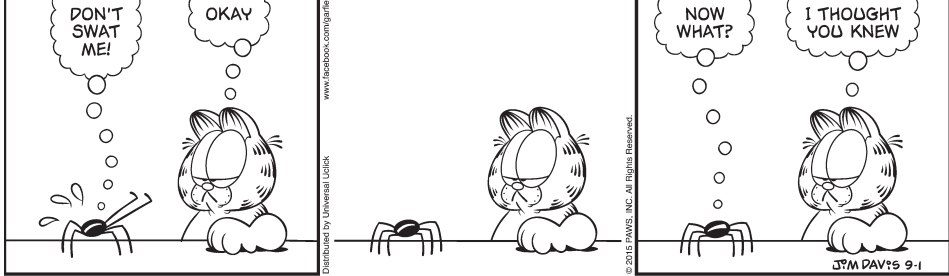
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Woman Becoming Nun Needs Friend's Interest, Not Concern

DEAR ABBY: I was best friends with "Joanne" after we met in middle school. She comes from a conservative Christian family and has three successful siblings. This has made her quirky, media-driven pursuits and city life a disappointment to her family. When we were teens and she learned that I was a straight ally for gay rights, she came out to me as a lesbian, but for years only I and a few close friends knew.

Once she was an adult and her family found out, they practically disowned her and made their disapproval and "shame" very clear. Unfortunately, due to some family problems of my own, I moved away, and we communicated only periodically for the last couple of years until recently. I was shocked when she informed me that she is going to become a nun.

Abby, I have no problem with her faith (I attend an LGBT-friendly church), but I'm afraid Joanne is doing it for all the wrong reasons. For the 15 years I have known her, she has been an open-minded, culture-loving social butterfly, and she doesn't seem to have changed much personality-wise. Naturally, her family is thrilled with her decision because it means she will never date another woman or be a part of "that lifestyle."

I know Joanne is an adult and these choices are hers to make, but I'm afraid she is being guilty into a life she will ultimately regret. How do I express my concerns to her without being offensive? - KATHY IN NEW YORK

DEAR KATHY: Before you "express your concerns," I think you should have enough respect for your friend's intelligence to ask her what has prompted this life-changing decision, and what it will entail.

Will she be joining an order that wears a habit? (Not all nuns do anymore.) Will she be taking a vow of silence and shutting herself off from the world for a life of prayer and

contemplation, or will she be working to help underprivileged communities? Does she plan to remain in the United States, or join an order like Mother Teresa's in some other country?

If you show an interest rather than "concern," I'm sure she will be glad to answer any questions you may have without becoming offended.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have recently been invited to my sister's baby shower. The problem is I am a man. My mother and sister think I am sexist for not wanting to go. I always thought this kind of thing was a women's event. Are my mother and sister right? Am I being sexist? - NATHAN IN INDIANA

DEAR NATHAN: You're not necessarily sexist, but you are behind the times. Baby showers are no longer solely women's events. In fact, because men are so much more actively involved in their little ones' care than they used to be, it is becoming common for the showers to be co-ed affairs. (They're called "Jack and Jill" showers.) I hope you won't skip the celebration because I think you'd enjoy it.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 1, 2015:

This year you seem to be walking around with a magic wand. What you wish for often becomes reality. Know that if you focus on a certain area of your life, you will achieve positive results. If you are single, your charisma speaks. You could get involved in a life-altering relationship, which could point to a major lifestyle change. If you are attached, you will start acting like newlyweds. Your romantic ways draw in your significant other even closer. ARIES has a hot temper, but he or she becomes cold and analytical with you.

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)

★★★★ Your success will be defined by your ability to connect on an individual level. You might have strong feelings about a situation, but be careful about how you verbalize your thoughts. You will surprise yourself with the outcome of a discussion. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You will gain more information by saying little and observing more. A family member or loved one keeps seeking you out, as he or she might have a surprise for you. This person seems to be wearing his or her feelings on his or her sleeve today. Tonight: Go for the unknown.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ A meeting will have a caring tone. What you see happening will be what you wished for. Be imaginative in your choices when communicating with a special person. You'll find a receptive audience, no matter which direction you head in. Tonight: Add fun to the moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be in the position of making a radical change. Your ability to handle problems will emerge nearly immediately. You tune in well to various factors and people in difficult situations. Your innate sensitivity allows you to make choices that work. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your happiness around travel, a foreigner or a new adventures radiates off you.

Though you might not be ready to discuss what has happened, the people around you will sense a change. An unexpected call or conversation lights up your day even more. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Someone's overture invites a strong response, though you might choose not to share it. This person will keep tapping on your door until you respond. Doing nothing is not appropriate here, even if it feels like the right move. Make an extra effort. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Respond positively to someone's efforts toward you. This person is much stronger than you might realize; he or she is capable of adapting, changing and support him- or herself all at once. Observe him or her more carefully. Tonight: Say "yes" to a special invitation.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Run errands and clear out as much as you can. You have the ability to make many projects seem easy. When others try to follow in your footsteps, they often are overwhelmed. A person who has been in that position openly admires your ability. Tonight: Join a pal for dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You have a strong sense of self. When you decide to go off and do your own thing, as you will today, expect a strong response. You see others as being unpredictable, while they tend to see you in the same light. Enjoy the different perceptions. Tonight: Think "weekend."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be at the point where you would like others to either not comment or take over what you are doing and run it the way they want. This feeling indicates that you need a few days off. Look at your calendar and schedule a getaway. Tonight: Unexpected developments.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might be taken aback by an offer from someone who cares a lot about you. You could be overwhelmed and have difficulty responding. Think carefully about your options before you speak up. A spontaneous event will lead to new friendships. Tonight: Hang out.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

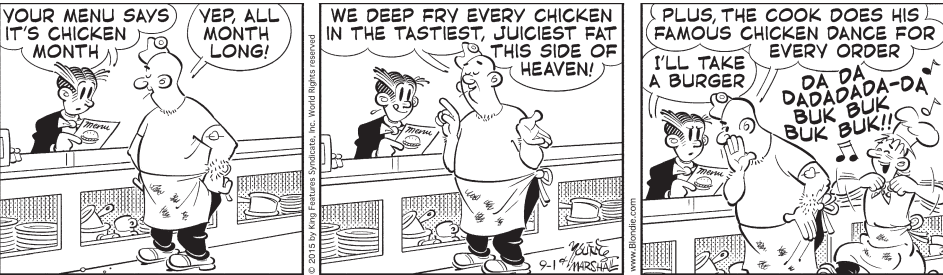
★★★ You might be more concerned about a financial matter than many of your associates are. You could have some difficulty explaining a feeling and making it logical. Be aware of your idea, but don't share them with those who are cynical. Tonight: Treat yourself to a favorite food.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

