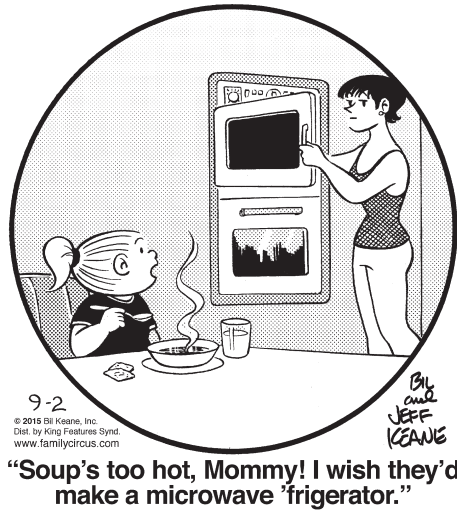
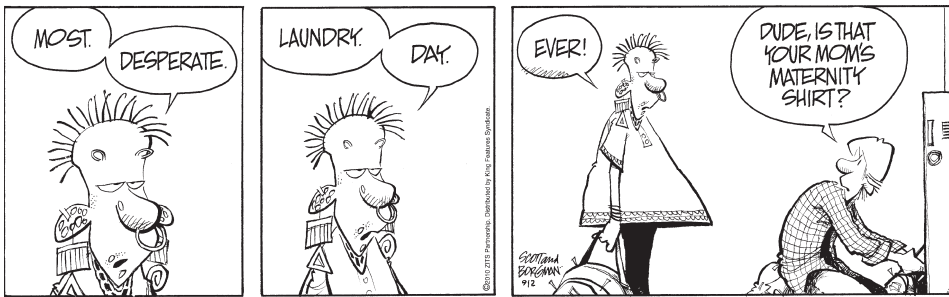


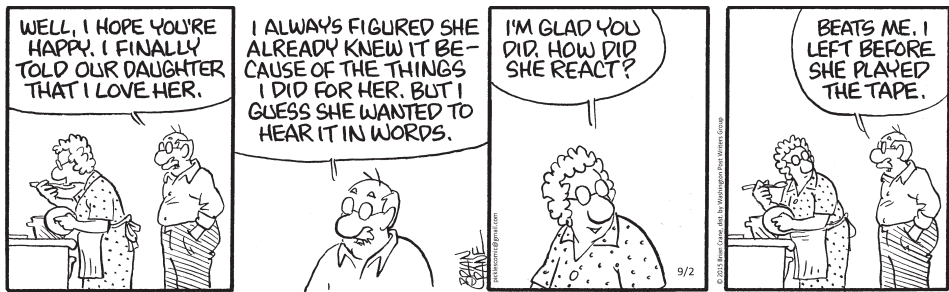
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



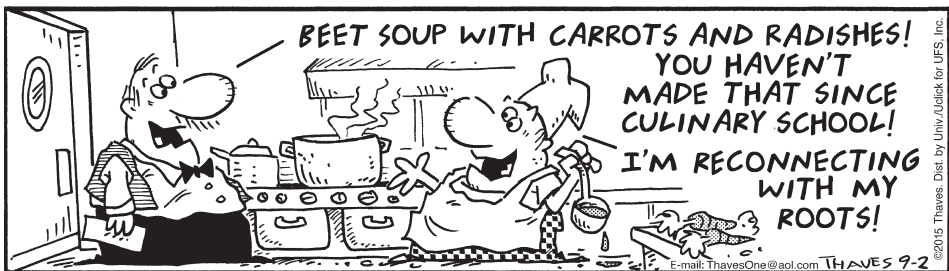
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



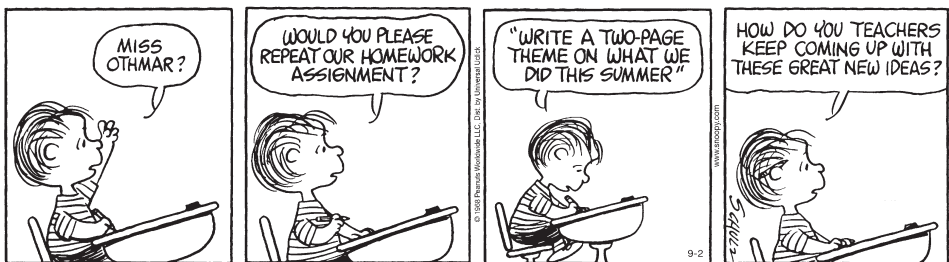
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



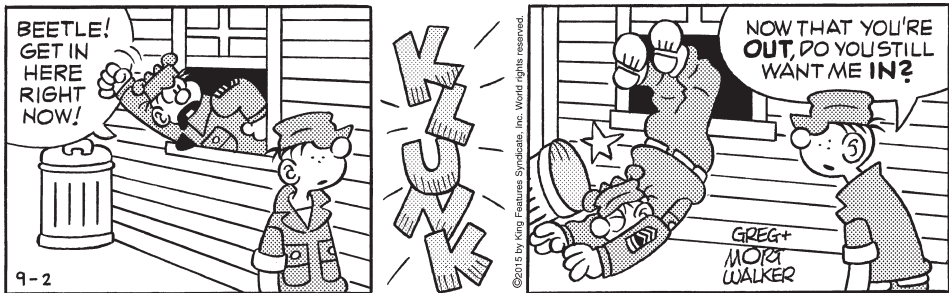
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



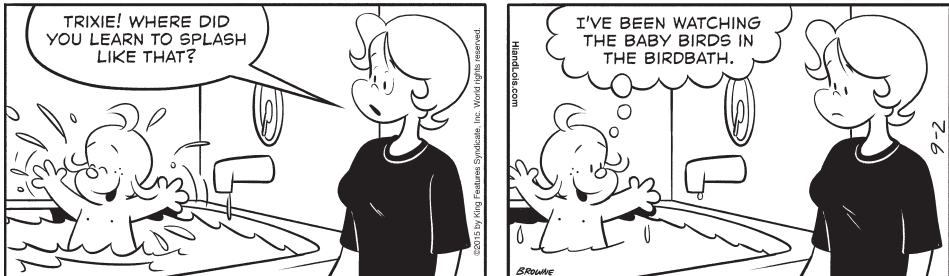
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Scammers Are On Dating Sites Hoping To Lure Trusting Marks

DEAR ABBY: I was recently the target of a romance scam on a popular singles website. After being a divorcee for 15 years, I decided to try online dating. Minutes after I went online, someone asked to chat.

He said he was a widower with an adult daughter and a jeweler by trade, living near me but returning to Florida the next day with ultimate plans to relocate to my area. He mentioned he was originally from Germany and had an accent. We chatted on Google Hangouts, and he sent me sweet emails every morning saying how much he loved meeting me and that it was "our time to have a second chance."

After three weeks of chatting but only a short, garbled phone conversation, he asked for a favor. He was attending a jewelry show and needed me to send his diamond supplier money to pay for a shipment. He made it sound urgent and gave me a name and address in Ghana where he could get the best quality diamonds at the best price.

All along I had kept my guard up, but his request confirmed for me that it was a scam. When I Googled the Ghana name and address, it came back "Ghana Scammer." Abby, these people even provided photos of the person they pretended to be, along with a cellphone and address that actually were under the name of the person they were impersonating.

A couple of telltale signs people should be aware of: First, if you don't talk to them or their cellphone seems to have a very bad connection, it's likely they aren't in the country. Second: If you can't meet in person, it's likely they're pretending to be someone else. He told me that his email had been hacked, and then someone tried to have a conversation from his email asking me personal questions about my retirement funds.

Please help me warn others about these types of scams. — LOVELESS IN WASHINGTON
DEAR LOVELESS: Gladly! Thank you for writing about your near-miss, because many trusting people have been victimized in this way. Phone and online scams have more than

proliferated this year; they appear to have metastasized.

No less than five individuals I know have been approached by scammers trying to lure them into money-losing "propositions." Two of them were told they were having problems with their tax returns. (Not true.) Two others got the "Grandma, please don't tell my parents, but I'm in jail and need bail money" phone calls. One of the women is childless; the other told the caller, "That's funny. You didn't mention it when I talked to you two hours ago." (The caller hung up on her.)

It takes courage and trust to open oneself up to a stranger you hope could become the love of your life. Romance scammers know this can make people vulnerable. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), this particular type of scammer typically tries to lure potential victims away from a dating website and communicate privately by email or instant messages. They tend to profess their love very quickly, and spin elaborate tales about business ventures, overseas travel or family problems that end in requests for money or favors from their mark. According to a recent FBI report, romance scams made up more than 10 percent of the \$800 million in Internet crimes committed against Americans last year.

Readers, as much as you might want to believe the impassioned appeals, guard your hearts and your bank accounts from these scammers. Report them to your dating website and to FTC.gov. Protect yourselves by visiting USA.gov/scams-and-frauds and learning how dozens of these scams work and where to report it if you have been victimized.

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.

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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 if born before 3:02 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 2015:

This year is one of the most positive ones you will have experienced in a while. You will be lucky, yet you also will have a tendency to overindulge. Understand your limits, and make adjustments that you feel are important. If you are single, you might meet someone who encourages you to broaden your horizons. This person could play a significant role in this year, and possibly many more. If you are attached, the two of you will decide to initiate a new phase in your relationship. You could become more re-oriented, so make sure to give equal attention to your significant other. TAURUS is much more stubborn than you are.

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 determination emerges. You'll dive into an issue, professionally or personally, that could have ramifications involved. An idea that has been hovering in your mind just might work. You'll want to make sure everything goes as you would like it to. Tonight: Tell it like it is.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You don't have to agree with the group, but it would be wise to keep your thoughts to yourself at this point. Others come to you for creative brainstorming. At that point, you might be able to offer your suggestions. Tonight: You smile, and others come toward you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You will attract more of what you want if you can look at a situation and decide how reasonable it is to continue on your present path. Make no decisions just yet. Given a few days, you will know exactly what to do. Open up to new possibilities. Tonight: Honor a fast change.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You gain a different perspective when surrounded by others. However, some of you might decide to argue each point being presented. If you feel your perspective is that important, then the differences between you and others are worth looking at. Tonight: Hang out.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Don't get too set in your ways. Stubborn-

ness does nothing to improve a difficult situation. In fact, power plays need to be avoided right now. Try not to get into the details of a disagreement, especially if you can stay out of the matter altogether. Tonight: Pace yourself.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Lady Luck will be with you, as long as you don't decide to do anything too far-out. Your smile will express confidence and could take you a long way. Brainstorm your way through a problem. Once you gain a better perspective, you'll come up with a solution. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be on your way to taking a grand leap into the unknown, but you might not even realize it. Note whether you are an emotional thinker. If you see that tendency, be more aware of your feelings, but opt for logic. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Your imagination gives you the ability to move forward and make strong decisions. Others see the role your intuitive side plays in your life. Many of them would like to access that same side themselves. Help them do just that. Tonight: Defer to a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Actions count. Do what you must, but also clear out errands and calls that you have been postponing. Tap into your resourcefulness once you complete these tasks. Spend time with a close friend, even if it is on the phone. Tonight: Make sure you are getting enough exercise.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Reach out to a child or new friend. A quality about this person makes you laugh and relax, and his or her presence in your life remains positive. As a result, you will gain a new perspective. Open up to a more spontaneous way of living. Tonight: Be more childlike.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

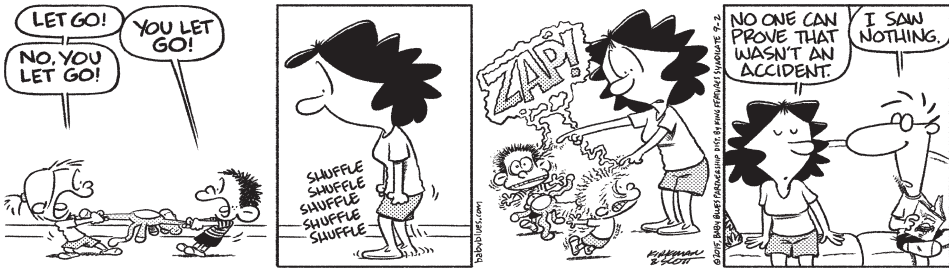
★★★★ Remain content, even if a situation around your personal life is not going well or as you would like it to. You can't have control over this matter, because one or more people are involved. No one has the right to control someone else. Tonight: At home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

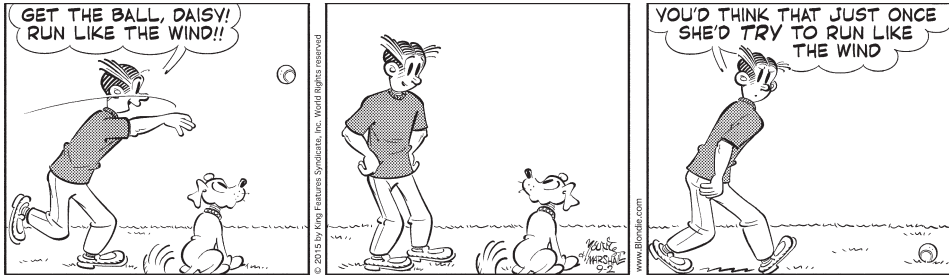
★★★★ Speak your mind, and remain sure of yourself. You could be challenged by others. You will want to respond to questions positively, as this will help you to re-examine your ideas. You'll want to make sure your position is as strong as possible. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

