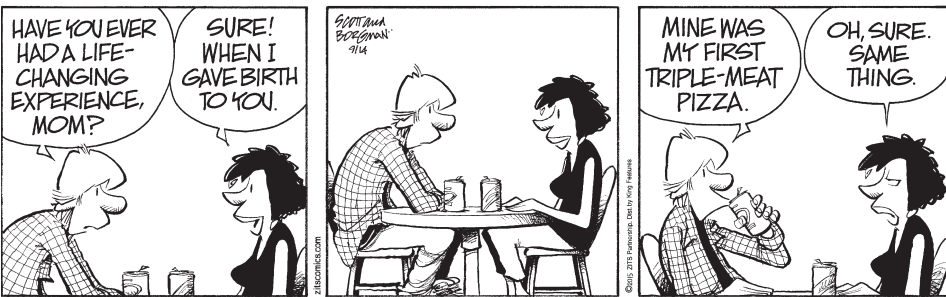


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



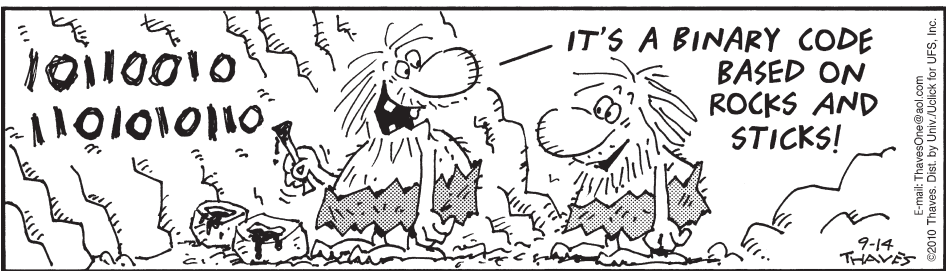
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



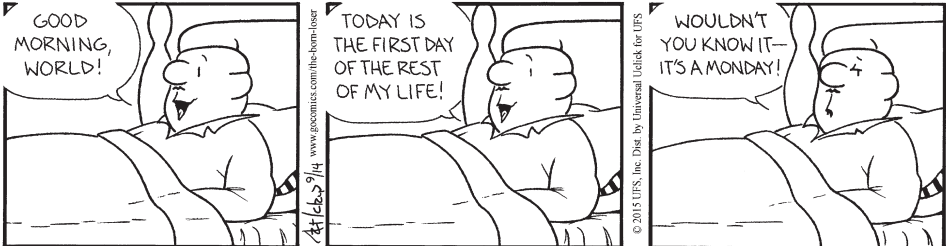
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



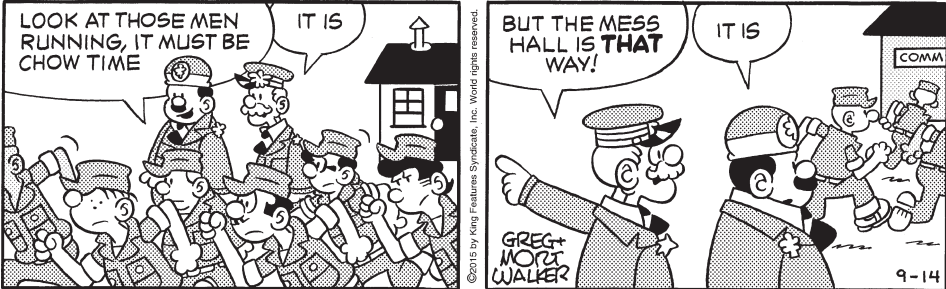
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



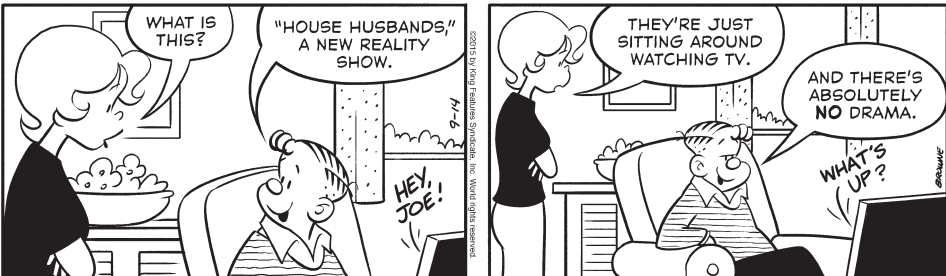
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



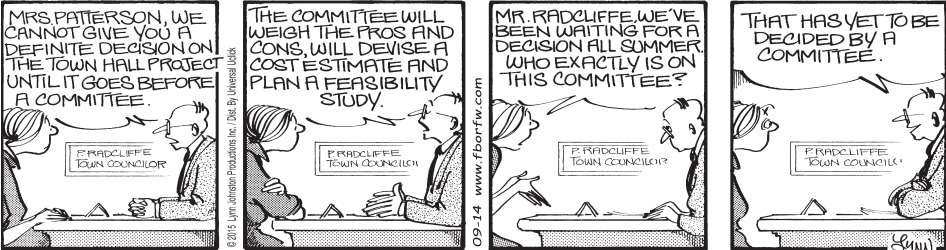
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



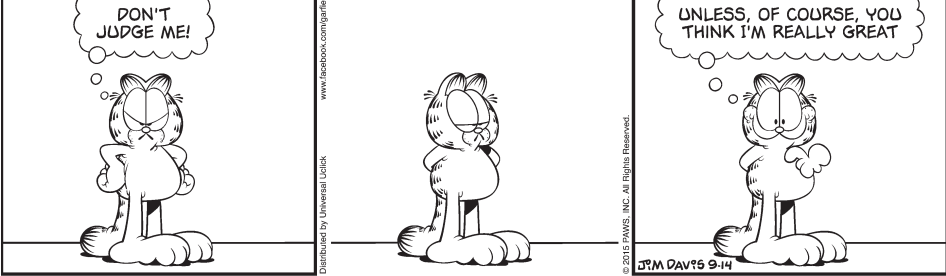
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Girlfriend Turning Down Travel May Be Turned Out As Well

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Ashley," and I have been dating for three years. Every year I ask her to go on a trip with me to St. Louis where my parents live. It's a weekend trip my parents sponsor for our entire family, and it involves a Cardinals baseball game. Every year she refuses to go.

When she invites me on her family fishing trip to New Mexico, I go. When I ask why she won't do the same for my family trips, she makes excuses like she doesn't want to get up early. Most people in my family are early risers. Ashley is not. I tell her she can sleep as long as she likes; no one will care.

I believe there is something else that Ashley isn't telling me. I have expressed my unhappiness about this, but it does no good. I am to the point of just ending this relationship. I don't understand her reluctance. I really want her to come with me and spend more time with my family. What can I do? – MYSTIFIED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Has Ashley met your family? If the answer is no, she may be afraid she won't fit in or that they won't like her for some reason. Unless you can get her to open up and tell you exactly why she won't go, you will never be able to convince her.

Because this has become such a sore point, you need to tell your girlfriend that her inflexibility has become a deal-breaker. But if you do, you may have to be prepared to follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for eight years, and my husband is a wonderful spouse when it comes to almost everything. My complaint may seem shallow, but please hear me out.

A couple of years back, he started buying me potted plants rather than cut flowers because "you get more for your money." He buys me plants three or four times a year,

and after receiving the third one I asked him to please go back to cut flowers. I neither like house plants nor do I want something I must find a place for in our yard. Despite this, he continues to buy me potted plants every time. Each time he says he "forgot" I don't want them.

I don't want to seem ungrateful, but I am really frustrated. Today I received my 10th one. I suppose I seem like a jerk, but I really don't understand why he keeps buying me the one thing I asked him not to buy. Your thoughts? – KATHY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR KATHY: You appear to have married a man who is not only practical, but also unimaginative when it comes to gift-buying. That he would continue to buy you something you have repeatedly told him you would prefer not to have seems the opposite of considerate to me. (On the other hand, many women would be glad that their spouse remembered any special occasion.)

Suggestion: The next time it happens, put HIM in charge of watering, replanting and caring for the plant, and things may change.

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](http://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 Libra.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2015:

This year you feel as though your luck has changed, and you will try to funnel more positive energy into your finances. You will see the results of a decision you have made to enhance your fiscal security. If you are single, the world is your oyster. Just pick whomever you want to be your sweetie. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy hanging out together even more than in the past. You could become quite egotistical if you are not careful. Remember, your relationship is a two-way street. LIBRA knows how to spend your money!

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)

★★★★ Reassess a professional relationship. Ask yourself how hard you really are trying to please a parent or higher-up. In hindsight, you might feel as if you have deferred too much. Go forward, not backward. Be willing to state your limits. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Focus on your daily life, and refuse to engage in heavy discussions. Don't forget to schedule an appointment for a checkup, a massage or maybe a new haircut. Decide to take a trip or perhaps a workshop that exposes you to new concepts. Tonight: Use your imagination.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might opt to stay home today. Try discussing a long-term desire with those who can give meaningful advice. It could be a good time to launch into action in order to achieve this goal or any matter that involves property and/or your domestic life. Tonight: Hang close to home.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ There could be a miscommunication between you and someone you care a lot about. Fortunately, you both have a great sense of humor. A partner will step up to the plate if you flounder. This person understands the pressure that surrounds you. Tonight: Return calls.

#### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You will have a lot to say. Communicate clearly so others understand exactly what

you mean. Unfortunately, you still might run into a problem. Prepare to explain an idea or a thought more thoroughly. Have patience with friends and loved ones. Tonight: Hang out late.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Allow more creativity to flow. You can tap into your imagination without taking unreasonable risks. Test out your ideas on someone who has sound financial judgment. Be aware that he or she could nix what you think is an excellent idea. Tonight: Be near good music.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You feel empowered. When you are at your best, you have a profound impact on others and how they feel. You might misread what someone says and not even realize it. Don't worry; this person will understand that you are coming from a good place. Tonight: In the limelight.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Let others pitch in, even if you feel you could do a better job. Remain open and listen to someone else's ideas. Accept different styles. Get past a problem with promptness. Someone might be upset about your decision, and you'll hear about it. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ A meeting with a group of friends could evoke a strong response. Your emotions are likely to come out in a discussion. Recognize how others might hear your words. You'll want to make a major change with fiscal spending and expectations. Tonight: Follow someone else's lead.

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might feel as if you have no choice but to act. However, you do have a choice. Back off until you are more secure with the different elements you are handling. Someone else might have a stronger sense of direction than you do. Tonight: Out and about.

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You are more than capable of distancing yourself and seeing a situation for what it is. Don't push so hard to have others think like you. Listen to your sixth sense, but don't depend on it alone. You need to think intellectually and make decisions. Tonight: Let your mind drift.

#### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

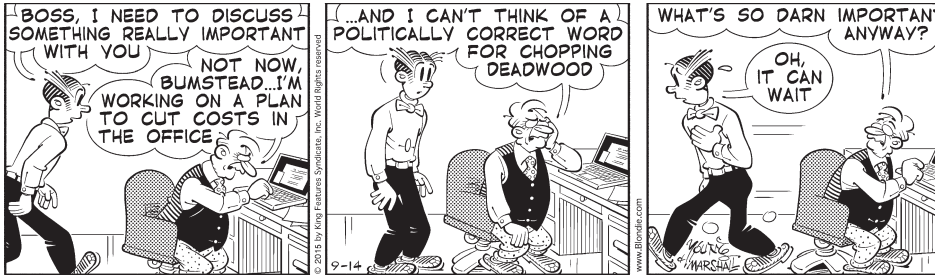
★★★★ Your emotions might spin out of control. You'll wonder what is going on. Listen to a friend, but count on a partner being more realistic and coming from an anchored space. You also have more common interests on this matter. Tonight: Spend quality time with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

