

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



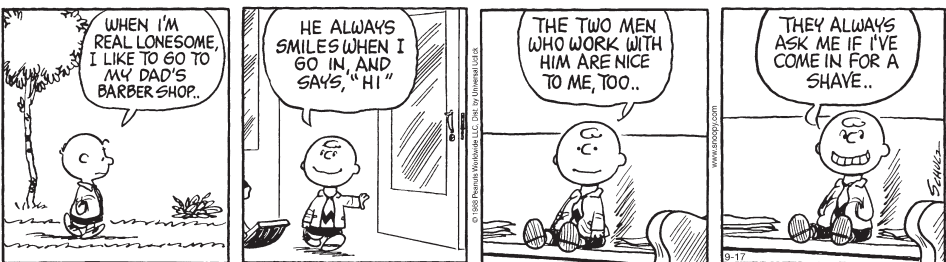
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



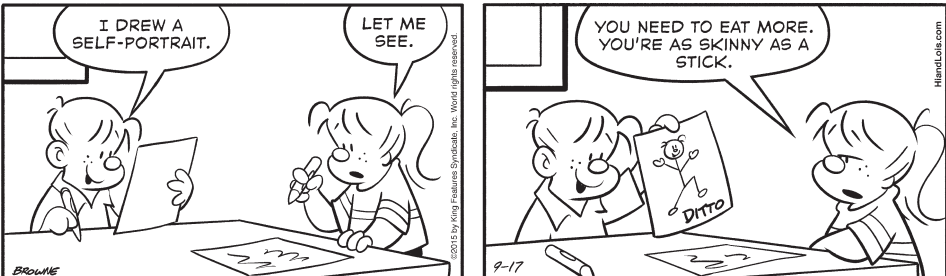
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



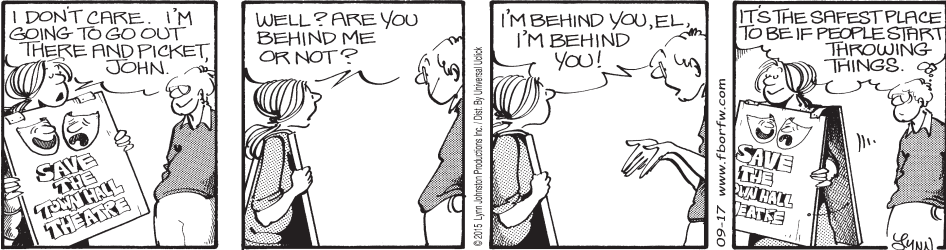
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



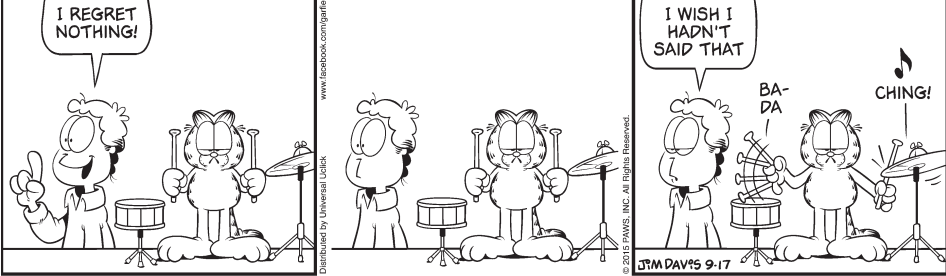
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Sapphires Pass As Diamonds In Case Of Mistaken Identity

DEAR ABBY: Last year I gave my new (at that time) girlfriend, "Alyssa," a pair of earrings for her birthday. They were in a box from a department store marked "fine jewelry." She loved them and became emotional in expressing her gratitude. I thought it was because it was the first piece of jewelry I had ever bought for her.

When she opened the box I explained that they were her birthstone – sapphires – but WHITE sapphires. In her excitement she must have missed that part.

The earrings are large – maybe one carat apiece. Yesterday I overheard my granddaughter ask Alyssa if they were real diamonds, and Alyssa told her yes!

I kept my mouth shut when she said it, but now I understand why she was so excited when she first saw them. She cherishes the earrings and has told me numerous times she will never take them off.

I want to make this right, but I'm afraid she'll feel embarrassed because she must have told her girlfriends and family I gave her diamond earrings – which I didn't. Abby, what do I do? – LOVING BOYFRIEND IN VIRGINIA

DEAR BOYFRIEND: You should straighten this out with your girlfriend, but do it privately. After that, let her disclose the fact that her diamond earrings are really sapphires at her discretion – or not.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's daughter and her husband are in their early 40s. When they invite us to visit them, there is never any preparation or advance planning. They provide no clean sheets or towels. If they order out, they expect us to pay.

When they visit us, they leave beer cans in the bookcases, devour all snacks without asking, etc. Their house smells strongly of pet odors. If we opt to stay in a hotel, they are offended.

Every occasion revolves around drinking

alcohol, and lots of it. I'll have one drink, so they won't say I am uptight and feel uncomfortable around me. My husband is intimidated by his strong-willed daughter, and wishes this just would all go away.

There have been many, many more incidents and overall generally narcissistic and rude behavior. My husband wants a relationship with his daughter. What to do? – JUST WANTS TO RELAX

DEAR JUST WANTS: You either grin and bear it – and that includes laundering your own sheets and towels when you visit – or send your husband to visit his daughter alone.

DEAR ABBY: A very good friend of mine had a facelift. I'm out of the country, so I have only seen pictures of her. I don't think it looks good at all. It looks fake and, in my opinion, has ruined her looks.

What should I say when I see her or when she asks me directly what I think of it? I hate to lie, but I don't want to hurt her feelings. – HONEST FRIEND

DEAR HONEST: Sometimes people can be "too" honest, so be diplomatic if you are asked directly. Tell her you always thought she was beautiful – inside and out – and thought she looked great before, but if she's happy with the result, that's what's important.

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 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2015:

This year you could feel held back at times. You have the energy, luck and knowledge to push any project to success. Someone around you frequently puts you down or makes mincemeat of your ideas. You will need to learn to move past this person's criticism. If you are single, you could be overwhelmed by the amount of people around you who would like to have more than a friendship. You might want to date for a while. If you are attached, you often come home somewhat deflated, but your significant other is there for you. Your relationship becomes increasingly more important. SAGITTARIUS can rain on your parade.

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)

★★★★ Be aware of your limitations when dealing with someone at a distance. The two of you are not on the same page when you have distance separating you. Others around you might have the expectation that your bond is the same all the time. Tonight: Act on an odd feeling.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your feelings regarding many people seeking you out are likely to emerge. You could feel popular or annoyed, but either way you might need to make an adjustment to your schedule. Opportunities seem to pop up from out of the blue. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Pace yourself -- you have a lot of ground to cover. Open up to a swift change in someone's mood. Be willing to jump on an opportunity that suddenly arises. You might notice that a partner starts acting differently. Find out what is going on. Tonight: Choose something just for you!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be disappointed by someone in the morning, but you'll manage to soar right above it later in the day. Your imagination could be a little wild. These flights of fancy will be a fun distraction, but they also might set you up to be let down. Tonight: Out late.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Focus more on your home and person-

al life. A partner might be standoffish. Given some time, however, he or she will see your authenticity and come in closer once more. A conversation could take a serious tone. Step back some. Tonight: Your pad is where it's at.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You'll respond from an authentic point of view, which could create somewhat of a ruckus. Be aware of what you are asking of someone. This person might have a strong reaction. Give the situation low priority if you do not want an argument. Tonight: Hang out at home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might not be in touch with your feelings right now. You'll want to be appreciated by certain people, but be careful about showing off or making more of a particular happening than exists. Be realistic. Tonight: Let others make it their treat.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might find yourself in a comfortable spot and feel as if you have been in the very same place before. Use caution with any money agreements made today and in the next few months; they could become burdensome. Tonight: There you are, having a great time!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll sense that you are entering a challenging period. Don't worry -- you have the wherewithal to handle what is coming. Make sure that communication keeps flowing. Don't allow a disagreement to progress too far today or in the next few weeks. Tonight: Vanish, if you can.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Assess what is happening in a meeting. You might need some supporters easing your way to continue on the path you have decided to pursue. A loved one's compassion for you is likely to come through in a big way. Tonight: Make sure you have all your ducks in a row.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

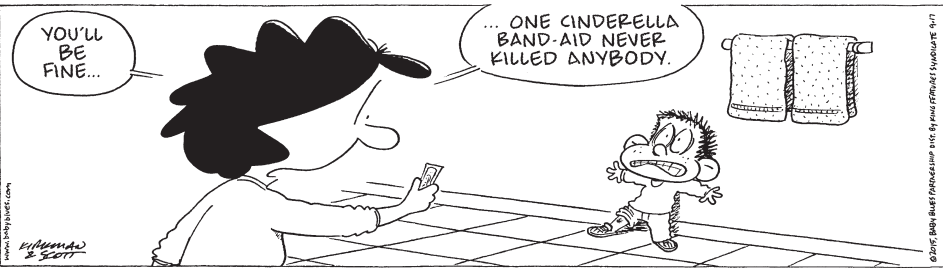
★★★ You might need to fill in where others have backed off. You have the strength and the drive to do just that. You could encounter a hassle with a friend that results from a change of plans. Go with the flow, and others will relax soon enough. Tonight: Allow the leader in you to emerge.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

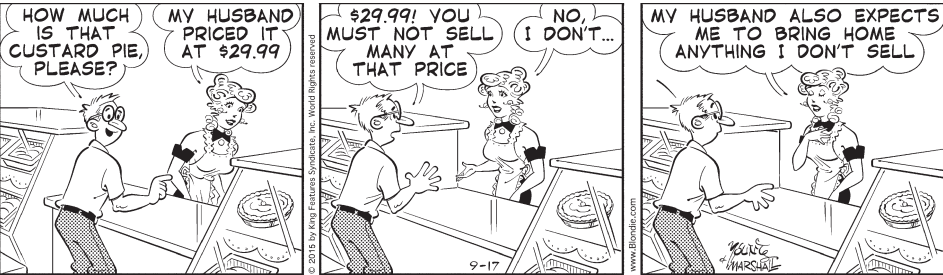
★★★★ Let your imagination flourish as you hit a problem. You'll sleuth right through it, as long as you can get past conventional thinking. A boss could be very cold; perhaps he or she feels challenged by your abilities. Move past this person's attitude. Tonight: Be around great music.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

