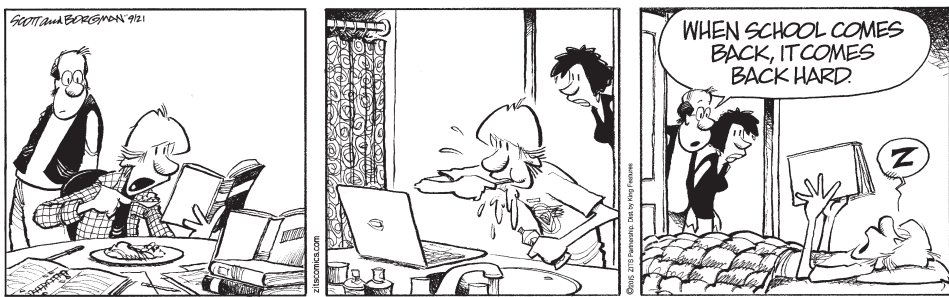


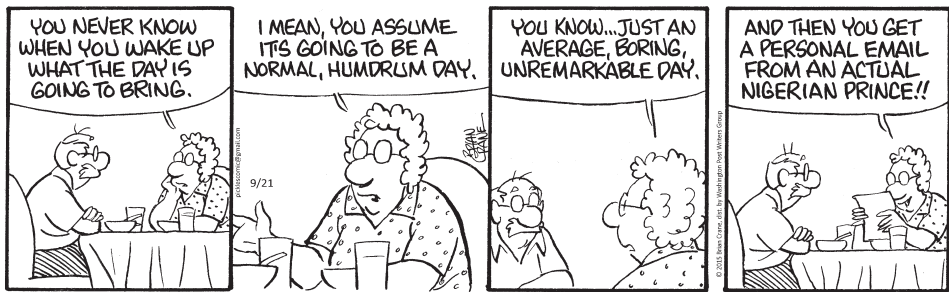
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



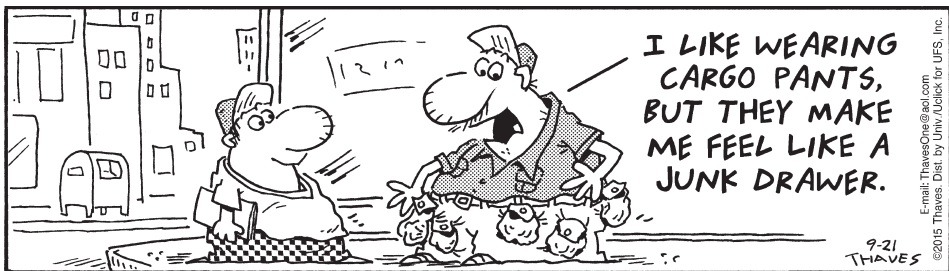
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



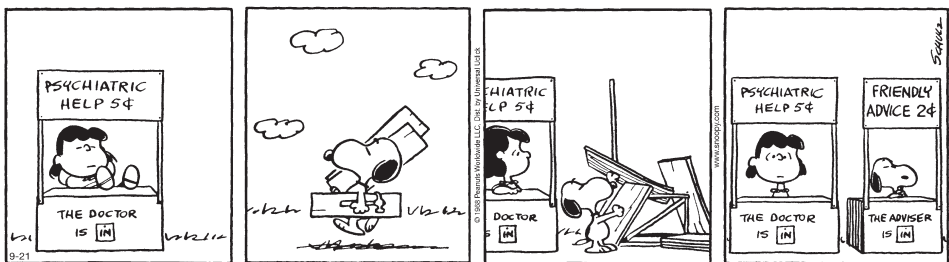
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



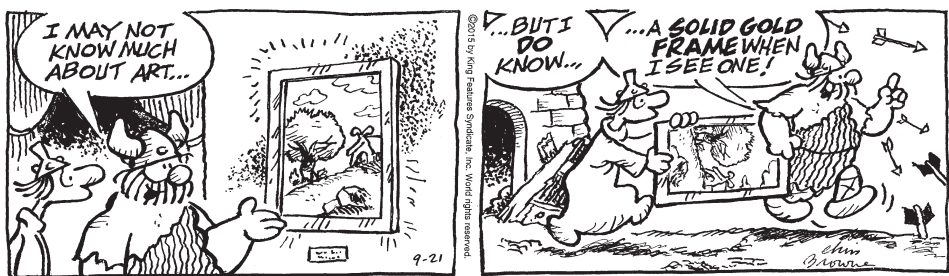
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



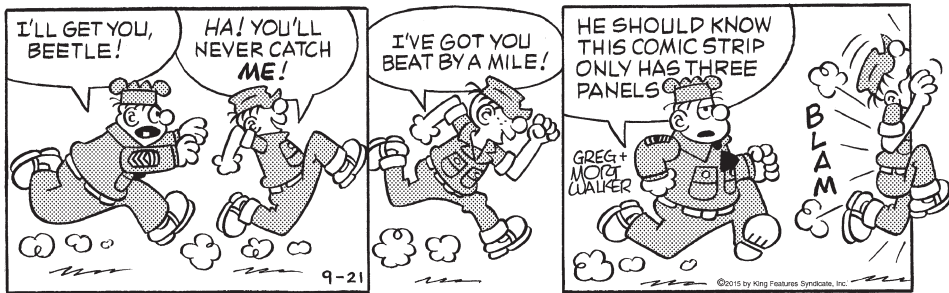
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



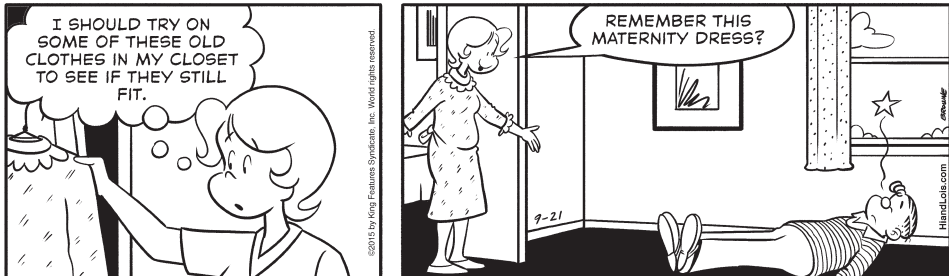
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Couple's Adoption Of Foster Child Causes Family Rift

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jeff," and I are fostering a 17-year-old girl we plan to adopt. Jeff's mother grew up in foster care, and after learning about her life and hardship, I felt we should help out in this way.

I am a stay-at-home mother with three other children (6, 8 and 14), and we are a very tight-knit family, spending most of our time together. We love our foster daughter and look forward to many good times together.

The problem is my sister. She's very opinionated and has made it obvious that she is against our adopting another child. She feels the decision should have been made by our entire family, including her and my parents. My husband and I disagree, as do our kids.

My relationship with my sister has been strained for most of our lives, so her behavior does not come as a surprise. We would love to hear your opinion about what she said. — JUST LOOKING TO GIVE BACK

DEAR JUST LOOKING: Since you asked, I think your sister must be living in some kind of alternate reality. If you and your husband want to enlarge your family, it's nobody else's business, and for her to say something like what she did is the height of gall.

DEAR ABBY: After a 12-year struggle with depression, my father committed suicide in 2011. My three sons (ages 11, 7 and 6) occasionally ask how their grandfather died. I usually tell them a generic, "Poppa just got sick." I am not ashamed of my father or what he did, and I want to tell my sons the whole truth sooner rather than later. What is the appropriate age to tell my children their grandfather took his own life? Any recommendations on how to phrase it? — NO SECRETS IN MINNESOTA

DEAR NO SECRETS: When to tell them will depend upon the level of maturity of each of your sons. Depression is an illness (as you know) that can run in families, so they definitely have to be told, but because of the dif-

ference in their ages, it shouldn't be a blanket announcement.

A way to start the conversation would be to say something like: "I have told you your grandfather died because he got sick. But what I didn't tell you, because you were so young, is that the illness he suffered from was clinical depression, which he had tried to fight for 12 years. When it finally became too much for him, he took his own life.

"If you go online and research clinical depression — as I know you probably will — you will see what the symptoms are and that there are treatments for it. Many times those treatments are successful. But sadly, in the case of Poppa, they weren't."

At that point let them ask you any questions they have, and assure them that you will discuss any concerns they may have — and anything else — any time they wish.

DEAR ABBY: Can you tell me how to select a good marriage counselor? Asking a friend for a referral is not an option. — DAN IN FLORIDA

DEAR DAN: If you have a physician you like and trust, you could ask that person for a referral. Or, if you prefer, contact licensed marriage counselors in your area. Then interview some of them to see which one you feel comfortable confiding in.

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.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, 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 Sagittarius if born before 8:33 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 21, 2015:

This year you will be starting a new life and luck cycle. You will feel as if you are on a roll come summer 2016. You expand your immediate circle and enjoy your day-to-day life far more. You also learn not to get involved in power plays. If you are single, the kind of person you choose might be very atypical for you. This bond could be long-term. If you are attached, the two of you will want to clear up a disagreement. You will become a lot closer in 2016, and this issue will seem irrelevant. CAPRICORN entices 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)

★★ Follow through on what you have planned for today. You might be more visible than you would like to be. A discussion with someone in the know will help you consider other options. Use your instincts in choosing the best one. Tonight: Could go later than anticipated.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll express a willingness to blaze a new trail, as long as it will help you to manifest a long-term desire. A meeting with a colleague will give you a sense of being supported in your present choices. Allow your imagination to roam free. Tonight: Have fun.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Deal with key people directly. In fact, they are likely to seek you out before you even try to connect with them. Listen to what they have to say. You might question how grounded each person is before you decide to accept what is being shared. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Act in a direct way, and others will respond to your clarity. As a result, you finally will be able to grasp the big picture and see where you fit in. You have the ability to energize others and encourage them. Your communication skills excel. Tonight: Run errands first.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Your effectiveness and organization

might be put to the test. A partner is likely to contribute a lot of ideas and playfulness to whatever you share with him or her. Consider buying a gift for a friend or loved one. Tonight: Allow your true personality to emerge.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Where others seem to encounter hassles, your ingenuity emerges to find solutions to potential problems. A partner or friend will add fun to your day. You might decide to go out for lunch with this person. Show him or her your appreciation. Tonight: Add some naughtiness.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Don't get yourself into a tizzy over a problem. Know that the situation could effectively be handled in a different way. You might not see eye to eye with the other party involved. Funnel some of your creativity into your plans. Tonight: Home is where your heart is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You'll be coming from a solid perspective, whether you're speaking about a heartfelt interest or allowing your imagination to tackle a difficult problem for a close friend or loved one. Make a call to someone at a distance later today. Tonight: Hang out at home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Money dominates whatever you do right now. Use caution when handling financial matters, even if you're just counting your change. If you can delay any financial matters and decisions, do. In a few days, you will have a better sense of what will work. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You seem to wake up with high energy. Follow your intuition in a discussion. Listen to what others share. Don't dismiss someone else's point of view simply because it is not relevant to you; it is relevant to that individual. Tonight: Go for what you want.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

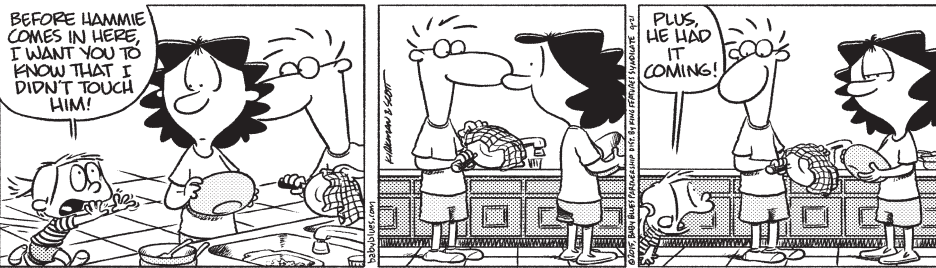
★★ You might need some downtime away from the people who punctuate your day-to-day life. You could be dealing with a personal issue, and would prefer not to share what is going on with others. A partner or loved one will give you positive feedback. Tonight: Togetherness.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You might be giving a problem more thought than you had in the past. A discussion with a special friend will shed a different light on a situation. You might feel as if this friend is a gift in many ways, as he or she always seems to be there for you. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

