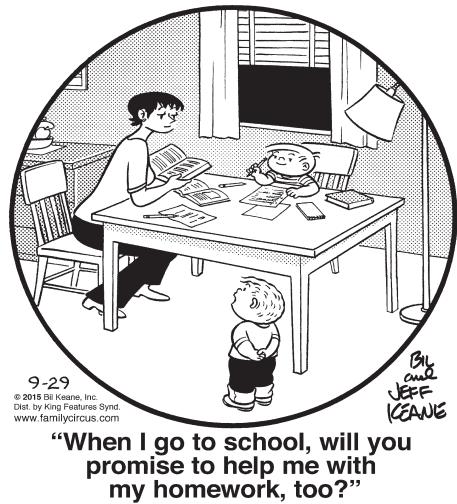


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



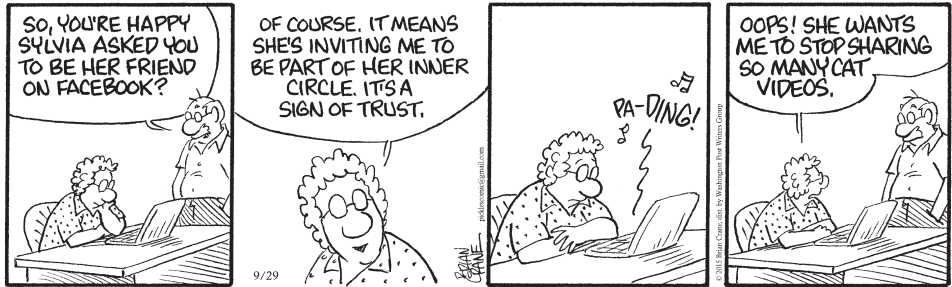
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



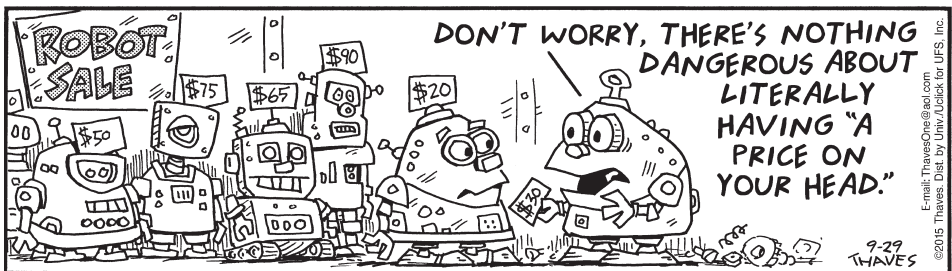
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



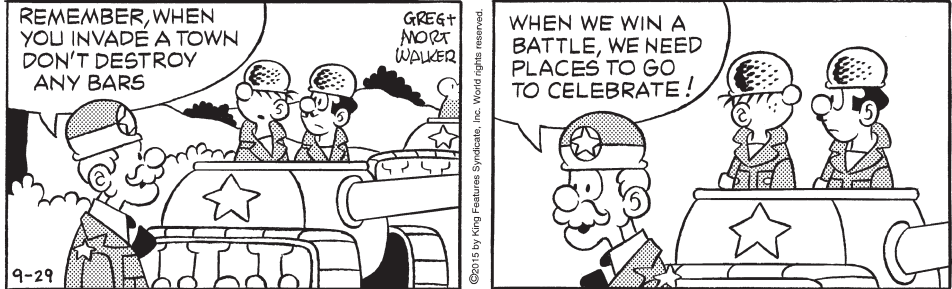
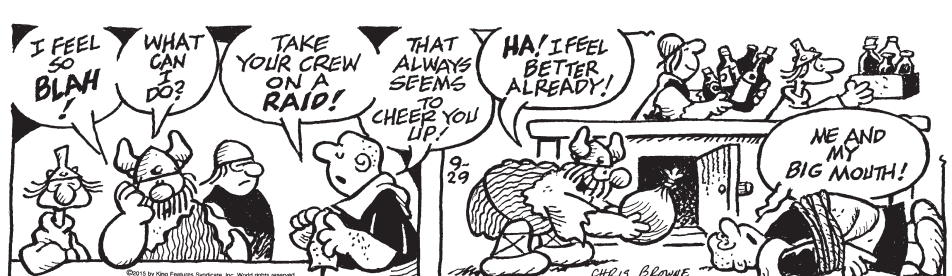
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



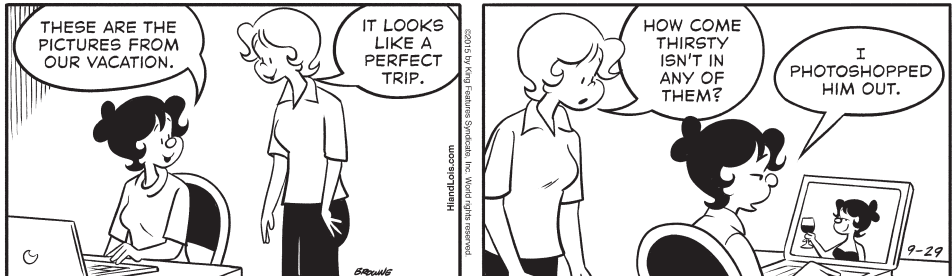
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



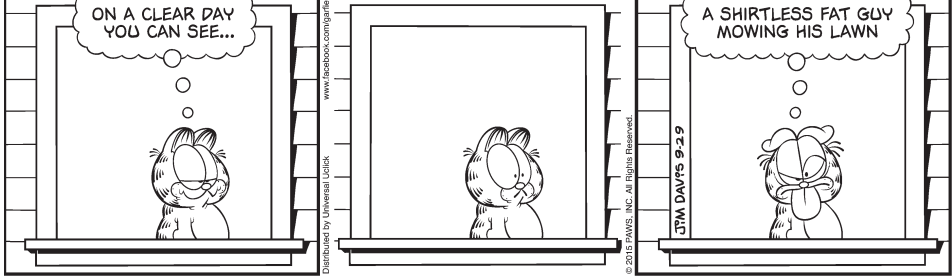
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



People Who Ask About Accent Are Being Friendly, Not Rude

DEAR ABBY: I have lived in the United States for 40 years. My first 32 years were spent in Puerto Rico, so I speak with an accent. My problem is almost everyone I meet asks me where I'm from. I usually try to disguise my discomfort by jokingly asking them to guess.

The truth is, I feel singled out as being different and not belonging. My friends and family tell me I'm being too sensitive, that people are just curious. I say it's rude to ask such a personal question of a total stranger. Would it be impolite for me to point out that they're asking for very personal information? Am I being too sensitive? – ACCENTED IN GEORGIA

DEAR ACCENTED: I think so. People are often curious when someone has an accent that is different from theirs. I have a strong Midwestern accent, and people ask me where I'm from. They aren't asking because they are nosy; they're trying to be friendly. Many people in this country come from other places, and the more people who come here, the more often that question will be raised.

DEAR ABBY: My four wonderful kids want to give their father and me a 50th wedding anniversary celebration next year. The problem is, everyone knows I'm an introvert who does not like going to parties. The thought of being the main focus of a big gathering fills me with dread.

My husband, who is outgoing, says I should let them do it for us if it will make them happy. He would probably enjoy it, but for me it will just be something to suffer through. I'd rather do something with just the two of us – like see a Broadway show. What do you think? Do I have to do this, even though I don't want to? – ROSE OF TEXAS

DEAR ROSE: I don't think you should have to suffer, but a compromise might be the solution to your problem. Instead of a large

gathering, why not have a family celebration with your children, their spouses and your grandchildren? And then, because you would like to see a Broadway show – go to New York for a "second honeymoon."

DEAR ABBY: I recently began dating a man who is kind, intelligent and fun. The only drawback I can see is that he keeps his fingernails long. I feel superficial confessing that something so seemingly petty is off-putting, but it is.

Is it OK to make a request of a man regarding his physical appearance? If so, how do I broach the conversation? And if not, what can I do so it won't bother me? – PUT OFF IN DELAWARE

DEAR PUT OFF: Could this man be a guitarist and need the nails for strumming? If not, I don't think it would be rude to casually ask him why he keeps his fingernails long. You might also suggest that the next time you go for a manicure he come along, and then suggest to him that men often get them and offer to treat him to one. If he has never experienced this, it might be a life-changing revelation. (That's what I'd do.)

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.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity 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 Libra and a Moon in Aries if born before 2:57 p.m. (EDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 29, 2015:

This year you open up and take a closer look at your life. Is there anything you would like to change or improve? This is the year to free yourself up, as something better is coming down the path. You are preparing to enter a new love and luck cycle this year. If you are single, be a skeptic and get to know any new person well before you get too involved. If you are attached, the two of you will benefit from spending more time together as a couple. These periods will keep the ties between you warm and loving. TAURUS loves to be around 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)

★★★★ Focus on completion. A money matter could arise from out of the blue and force you to adjust your plans at the last minute. You will be driven to resolve the issue, but you might not have all the facts. Start making inquiries. Tonight: Be conservative with your spending.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Postpone discussions until midafternoon, when you'll have more of an edge and your creativity is likely to soar. You could make a decision that you originally had not anticipated. Be flexible, and avoid getting stuck in an uncomfortable situation. Tonight: Ever playful.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be in a position where you feel as if you simply can't win. No matter which way you turn, liabilities appear. Rather than act, decide to hold off and see what comes up. You could be surprised by what occurs if you do. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You will take the lead, even if it means taking on more responsibility. Observe others' reactions, and you will see how they feel about this. Be willing to flex and seek out others. Schedule a doctor's appointment. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Open up to new possibilities that surround a situation you have been fussing over.

Take charge, but be careful how much time you spend resolving the issue. You might be resistant to do what is really needed here. If this is the case, be honest about it. Tonight: As you like it.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. Be careful with your tone and word choice. You could be more assertive or irritated than you realize. Know that this attitude will work against you. Use your high energy to make a big difference. Tonight: Ask for feedback.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others. You might opt to be a recluse and say little for now. Do what you do well and stay out of others' gossip. The more distance you keep, the better off you will be. Your imagination will take you to a new level of productivity. Tonight: Catch some zzz's.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You will be sorry if you are not careful in your financial dealings with others. It might seem as though someone is on a tear and is unable to be stopped. You might have to join this person in order to stop him or her. Tonight: Hang out with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be in the position of having to do something differently, but you might not feel as if you want to take the risk. Don't cut off your nose to spite your face. Be willing to drop a defensive stance, and the situation will transform. Tonight: Choose a relaxing activity.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Someone will want to distract you, so you'll have to decide what to do about this person's intrusion. Some of you might decide to go off and join him or her, while others will opt to keep their distance. Know the ramifications involved in both choices. Tonight: Where the party is!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

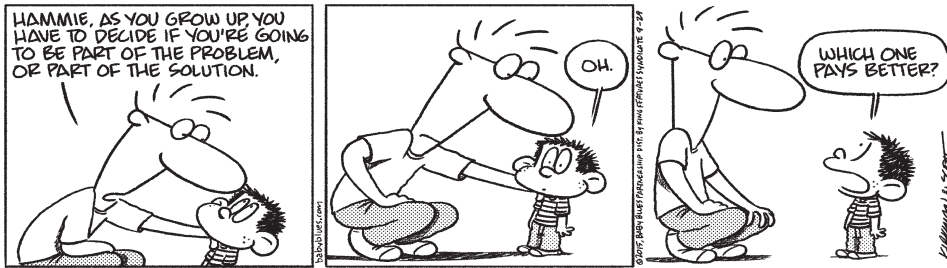
★★★★ You could be sorry that you got into a situation that seems to be pushing you in a direction you would prefer not to go. You might need to be a bit more stubborn and put your foot down. Be prepared, as you are likely to receive unexpected reactions. Tonight: Mosey on home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Keep conversations moving, but don't get in the way of someone else's stream of consciousness. You will want to know what is being shared by another party. Use your imagination in an awkward conversation. Tonight: Munchies at a favorite spot.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE

