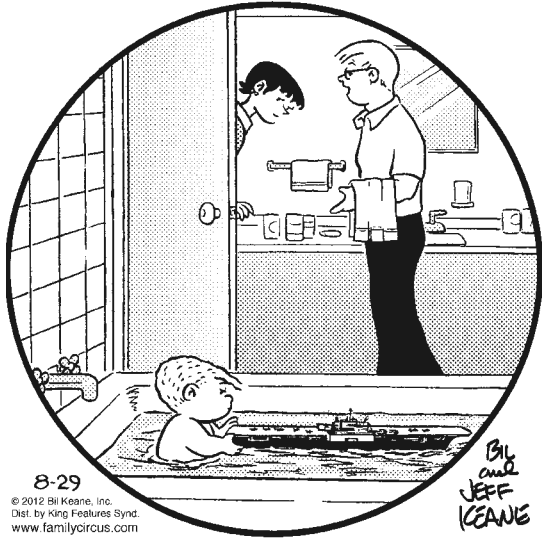


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



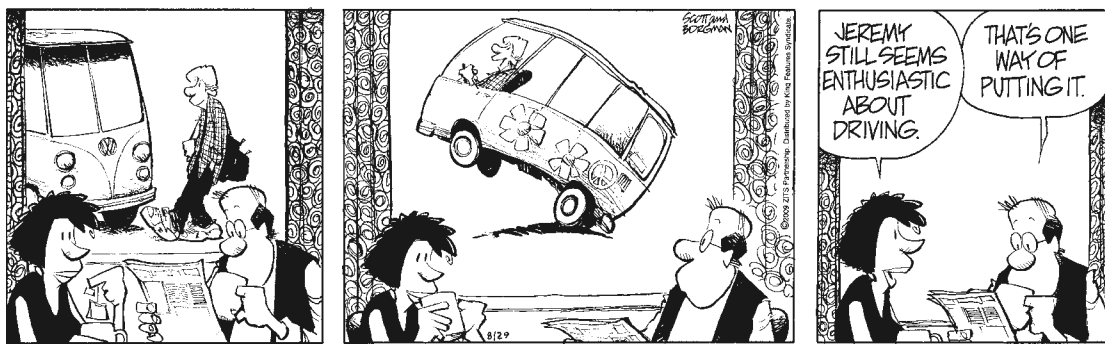
8-29
"I guess his rubber duck must've been decommissioned."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

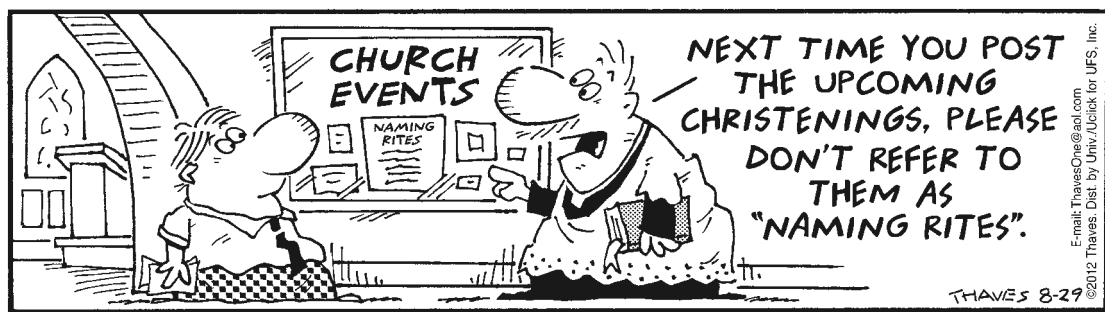


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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



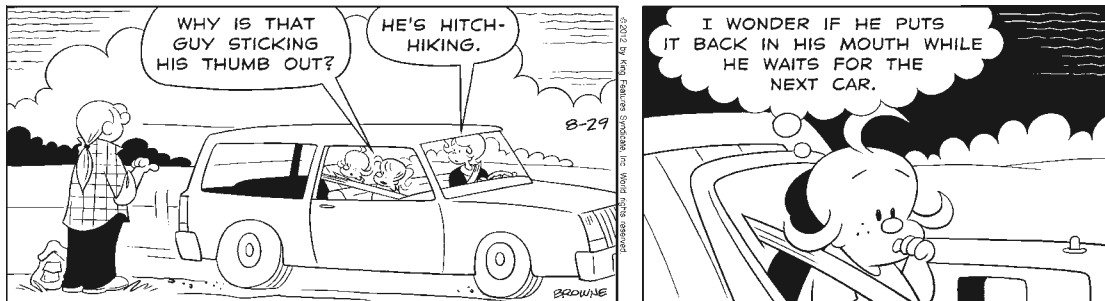
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Transgender Woman Must Deal With New, Unforeseen Change

DEAR ABBY: I am a confused transwoman. I have been in a committed relationship for years with a woman who knew me before "the change." I have lied to myself for a long time about what gender I have been attracted to, and now it's coming back to haunt me.

As I have gone through several years changing, my confidence and emotional depth have grown. I successfully transitioned two years ago, and live and work as a woman. This means when I go to clubs and bars with other girlfriends, I attract male attention in a positive way. (I'm attractive and pass well.)

The problem is, my attraction to women is fading and men are now much more appealing. My pulse races at the idea of spending time in the company of men, but no longer with women, who are now more like sisters than anything else.

My relationship with my current female spouse has become that of a housemate or female family member. She was there for me during my changes, and now I feel I am evolving away from her. This upsets me, and I know it upsets her because we have talked about the possibility that this might occur. Now I'm worried about breaking her heart, but feel if I don't move on, I will have cheated myself out of living.

What should I do? Should I swallow my feelings and stay with her, or admit that in order to feel like a heterosexual woman I must leave and be in a relationship with a man? Help! — LOST ANGEL

DEAR LOST: I discussed your letter with Denise Leclair, the executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), who tells me that what you're experiencing is not unusual. Transgender people can be so consumed with gender issues that they are sometimes unfocused on whom they are really attracted to.

While I can't make this decision for you, you can get some helpful input from IFGE. Founded in 1987, it offers support and educational services for and about

gender-variant persons — including referrals to medical and psychological professionals. You can email IFGE at info@ifge.org.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Thanks for the wonderful letters and sage advice over the years. I can't tell you how many columns I have clipped and shared.

Some years ago when I was teaching in Massachusetts, a dear friend, Pat, told me about something she did that impressed me. Every year on her birthday, she sent flowers to her parents with a note thanking them for their love and support. I adopted her idea.

We have a Mother's Day and a Father's Day, but isn't Pat's idea wonderful? Many parents would be thrilled to receive flowers from their child on his or her birthday, especially when a note accompanies the bouquet. After all, the parents gave the children life and nurturing. It seems only right that children should show their appreciation at that special time. Please share this idea with your readers. — FORMER TEACHER IN ATHENS, GA.

DEAR TEACHER: Thank you for sharing your friend's tradition. It's not the first time I've heard this, but I'm pleased to share her terrific idea with those who are receptive.

P.S. If flowers aren't in the budget, a handwritten note of appreciation costs nothing and would be treasured for a lifetime.

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 Aquarius all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29, 2012

This year you acquire a new ability to visualize and create. Tap into your dynamic imagination more often, and you'll achieve long-desired results. In the same vein, take risks only if they are grounded. Trust yourself the way others trust you. Pace yourself, as much is on your plate. Question what you must eliminate. If you are single, you could meet The One. Keep your distance from anyone who seems to be controlling. If you are attached, your significant other at times could be jealous or insecure. Do what you need to eliminate discomfort here. AQUARIUS seems contrary to your ideas.

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)

Communication excels. You might not be able to meet everyone's requests or needs. You also might not be able to respond to all the activity going on around you. Look at your priorities, and decide whether you should put order to the chaos or just go with the flow. Tonight: Don't be too serious.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Stay on top of a situation, and know full well that you might be making a decision for someone else. Don't worry — others trust your judgment. Expect the unexpected. Excitement marks a financial matter. Drive a steady course. Tonight: Up late.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You tend to see all sides of an issue. You are unusually serious and dedicated when looking at a creative venture. Be open to more innovative thinking; be willing to break a barrier. Listen to an associate's feedback. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You sense that what a partner needs is way beyond what you originally thought. You might want to go beyond the obvious and deal with the basics. Make a decision as to how committed you need or want to be; let decisions stem from there. Tonight: Be a duo.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Defer to others. Unexpected news comes for-

ward that might force you to regroup. Knowing what you want could make a big difference in your decision-making process. Let go, and try not to worry about a serious situation. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

VRIGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Your even pace helps you follow through when others let go and do the unexpected. You might find everything that is going on to be a bit humorous on some level. Be smart and keep this perspective to yourself. Be direct. Tonight: Time for you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Allow more playfulness into your day. Detach, and look at the big picture. You'll gain much more understanding, which will allow your creativity to mount. You know what works; do not settle for anything less than that. Tonight: Finally, time to party away.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Make sure to stay on top of your obligations. Listen to news with enthusiasm, and make this information work for you in your day-to-day life. You make a unique impression on others without having to reveal all of your thoughts. Tonight: Head home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might want to debate the pros and cons of a situation. Others could be slightly more impulsive than you might have imagined. Try to hold back some, as you could be concerned about a potential error. Tonight: You know what works; follow that path.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Order might be nice in the face of the unpredictable. Your grounded nature allows you to accept a lot, but there is a point at which you can take no more. Efforts to stabilize your finances and a domestic issue will not happen with ease. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

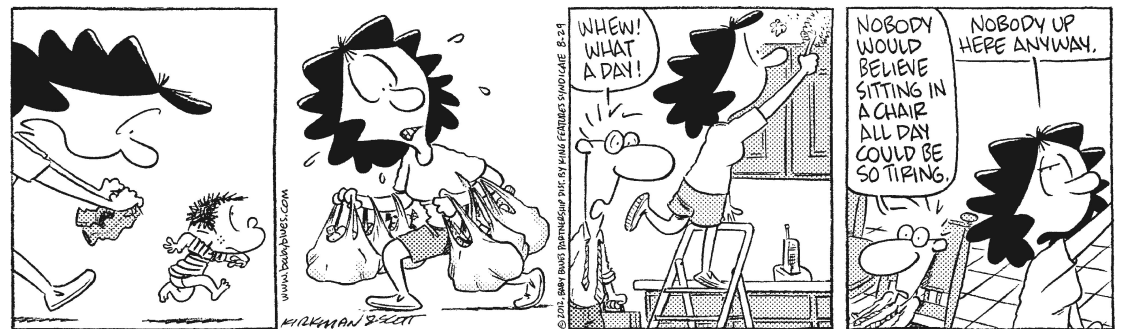
You can't help but smile at the excitement that occurs when you open up to others. You'll see choices being made far more easily than in the past. You're always spontaneous, and you often blaze a new trail. Tonight: Whatever suits you.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

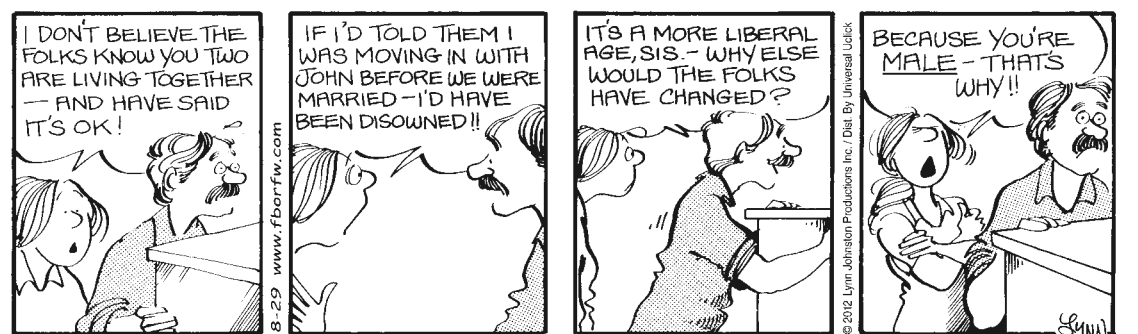
You might want to revamp your plans more than once. You could be overwhelmed by a personal matter, as positive as it might be. A partner supports you and gives you a lot of feedback. Listening to this person's ideas does not mean you have to use them. Tonight: Vanish early!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

