

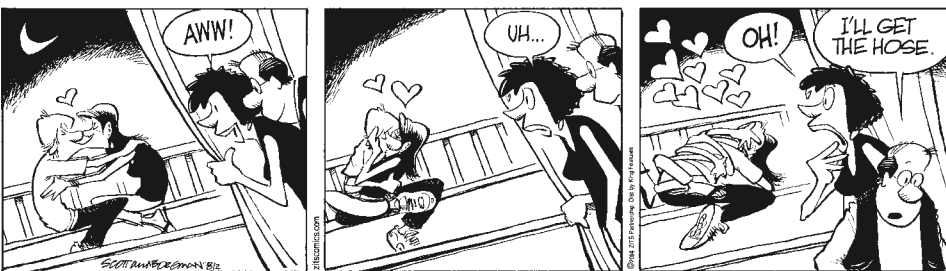
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



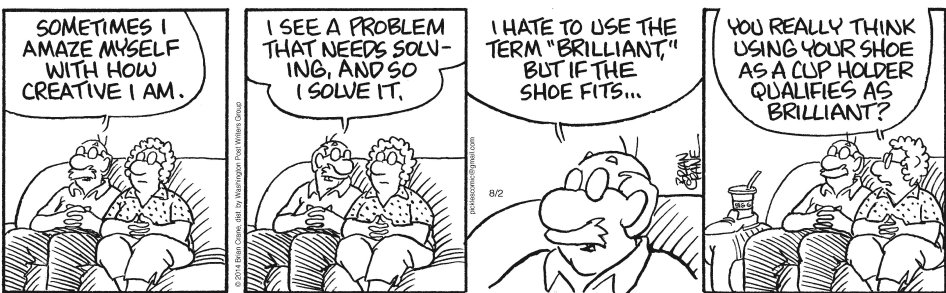
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



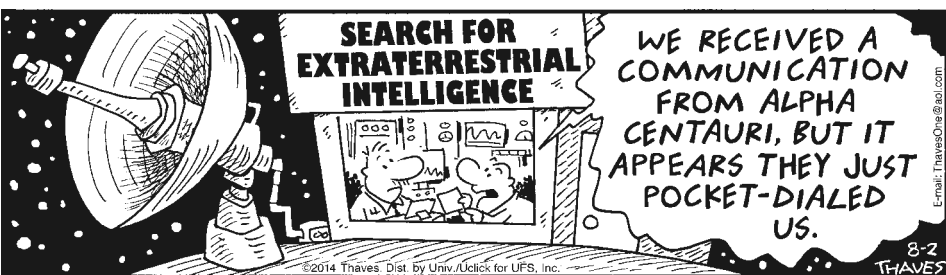
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



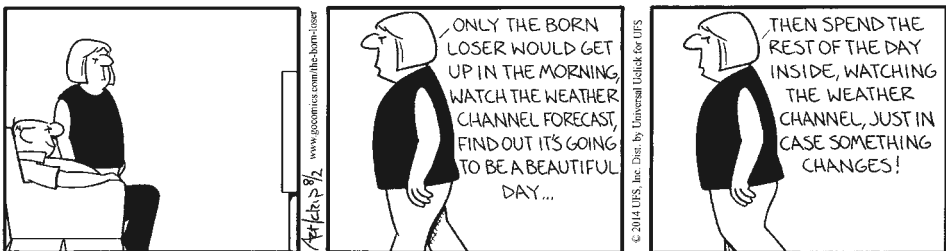
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



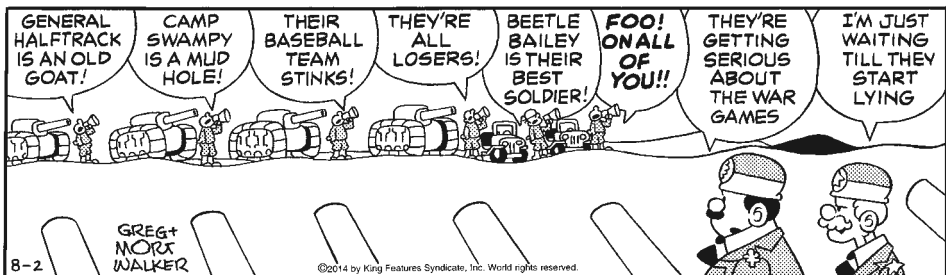
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



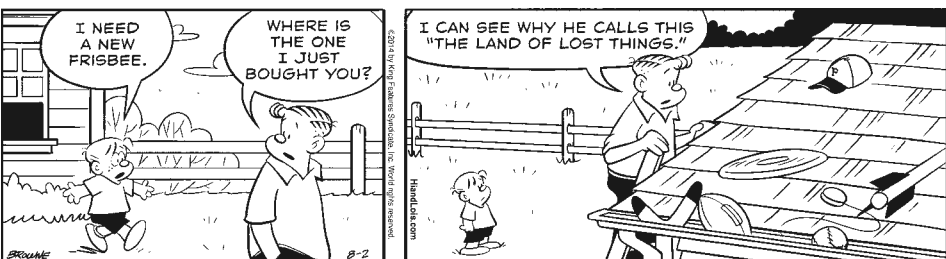
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



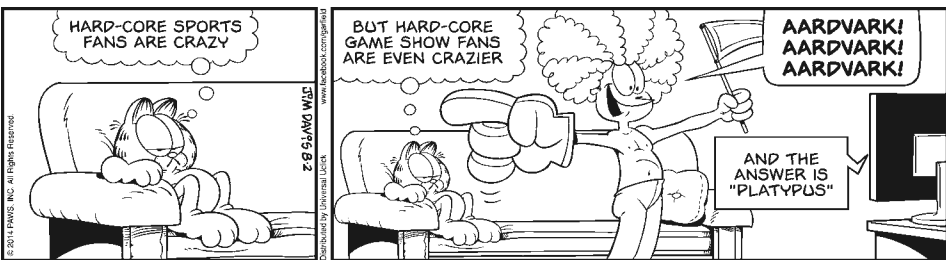
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Teen Chafes Under Mom's Prohibition Against Dating

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and so is my boyfriend. He's wonderful. We're very much in love and intend to be together for the rest of our lives, but my mother is causing major problems in our relationship. We're not allowed to see each other outside of school. Neither of us has a driver's license, and we're not getting them anytime soon.

Even if someone will be watching us the whole time, Mom says she's afraid we're going to "make out." We won't, and it's very distressing. She says she trusts me, but clearly she doesn't. She also says she approves of my boyfriend, but obviously that's not the case, either.

What can I do to convince her that we are trustworthy? — DISTRESSED TEEN IN TEXAS

DEAR DISTRESSED TEEN: Not knowing your mother, it's hard to say what will ease her worries. However, at 16, you are at an age when you should be starting to date. Many teens start by going out in groups, which lessens the opportunity for "make-out" situations.

The problem with overprotecting a teenage girl is that it can prevent her from acquiring the necessary social skills she will need later to make mature judgments. It's important that your mother realize this, and please tell her I said so.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree on whether it is OK for me to have a secret I do not wish to share with her. It doesn't affect her. It pertains to a situation 40 years ago, long before we met. After we got into an argument about it, I eventually told her what it was about.

There was a popular movie about the same situation. Whenever it came on TV and I watched it, I would get teary-eyed, and my

wife would ask me what was wrong. I would say I didn't know because I wanted to keep the reason to myself.

Now I'm accused of having lied to her about it. My wife is adamant that spouses should have no secrets whatsoever from each other. The issue was something significant and private to me. We would appreciate your comments. — DISAGREEING IN MARYLAND

DEAR DISAGREEING: Would your wife have felt better if, when she saw you tear up and asked what was wrong, you had responded honestly and told her it was something personal, painful and none of her business?

What you did wasn't lying; it was protecting yourself from having to discuss something you weren't ready to reveal. And when you did, instead of being sympathetic, she attacked you. Well, now that you have shared your secret and are being punished for it, are you more comfortable with the idea of telling her "all"? (I doubt it.)

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Leo and a Moon in Libra if born before 10:37 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 2, 2014:

This year you naturally seem to enjoy yourself. You love to get into heavy discussions, but you also relish a healthy flirtation. You are quick-witted, and you nearly always have a response. If you are single, you attract people who are younger than you. You are in the first year of a 12-year luck cycle. The first year generally is the most fortunate. If you are attached, you love exchanging ideas with your significant other. Your communication will be pivotal this year, as you both are likely to make some important life decisions. SCORPIO can drag you down.

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)

★★★★ Your loved ones naturally seem to gravitate toward you. A child will be very excited to be with you, and he or she might want to play a game. Expect to do a lot of explaining. Someone might be more sensitive than you realize. Tonight: Let the good times continue.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You understand a lot more than you might want to share. Keep your feelings to yourself for now. On the other hand, if holding in your feelings turns you into a powder keg, make a point to share in a way that the other party will hear you. Tonight: Do not push too hard.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your imagination is likely to go on wild flights of fancy at a mere suggestion. Might you be too distracted? Try to stay grounded when doing anything important. Once more, you seem to have too much energy for your own good. Tonight: Make hay while the sun shines.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Try a new approach. Do something very differently regarding your home and family, as variety is always appreciated. Curb a tendency to get too aggravated by an unexpected demand or request. You will find a way to handle this issue. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might be more forthright than you

realize. If someone seems to have an adverse reaction to something you say, you might want to think twice about the words you chose. A family member will let you know what he or she thinks. Tonight: Visit with friends over dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Keep track of your expenses, so that you have no surprises. Don't decide to do more than you have already agreed to do. A disagreement could ensue with a neighbor or sibling. You both tend to argue to let off steam and tension. Tonight: Curb a tendency to go to extremes.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You are easygoing, and you have a tendency to smile a lot as a result. A money disagreement or a problem with plans could cause a momentary upset. You might wonder how to come to an agreement in a particularly charged atmosphere. Tonight: Treat time.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ If you want to spend the afternoon just lounging around, do. If you want to go shopping, why not indulge yourself? Remember to remain reasonable with regard to how far overboard you go. Make time for a nap to recharge your batteries. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Find your friends and join them. You can't go wrong hanging with good company. Recognize that you might be hearing too much about a certain situation and could be closing down as a result. Tonight: Know when to agree to disagree with someone.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Not surprisingly, you naturally will assume the lead with a project. Even if you have decided to throw a spontaneous party, your signature style and efforts will be seen. A friend might be unusually irritating. Tonight: Not until late will you start to enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

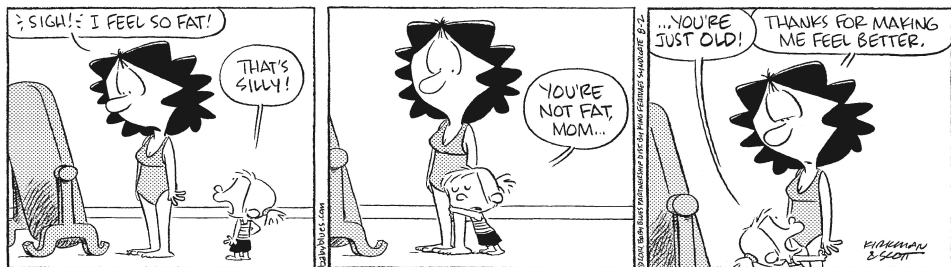
★★★★ Wherever you are, you'll march to a different beat. Friends or loved ones often follow you, because you seem to be having such a good time. Curb the need to argue with someone to whom you must answer. Know when you have had enough. Tonight: Opt for a new experience.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

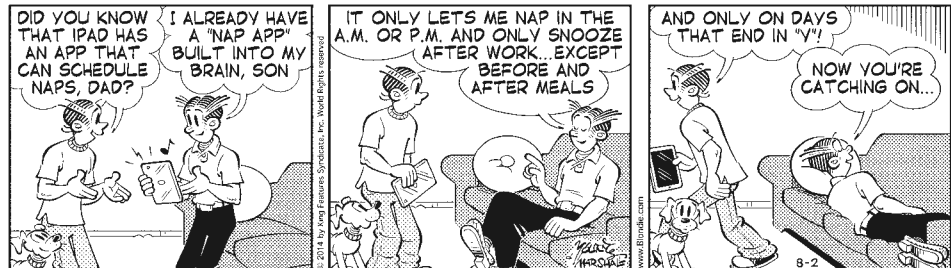
★★★★ A loved one can't seem to get close enough to you. You might have plans to take off on a mini day-trip. You will have to make your excuses if you do not want this person to join you. Be careful not to cause hurt feelings. Tonight: Enjoy a slow, easy dinner with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

