

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



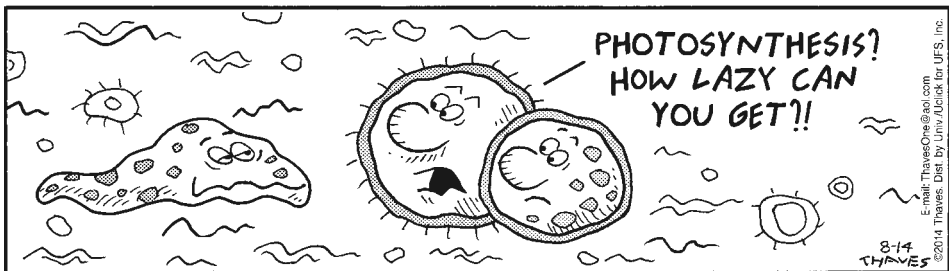
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



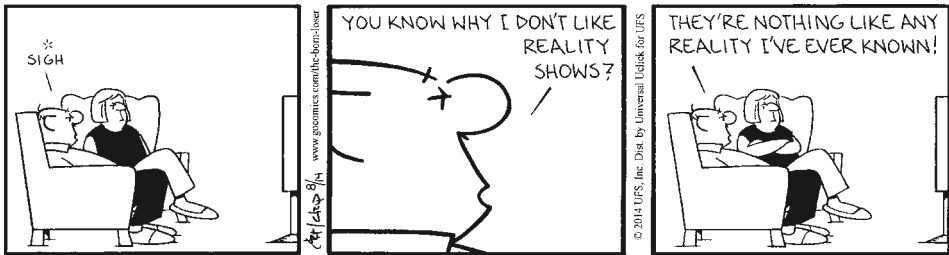
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



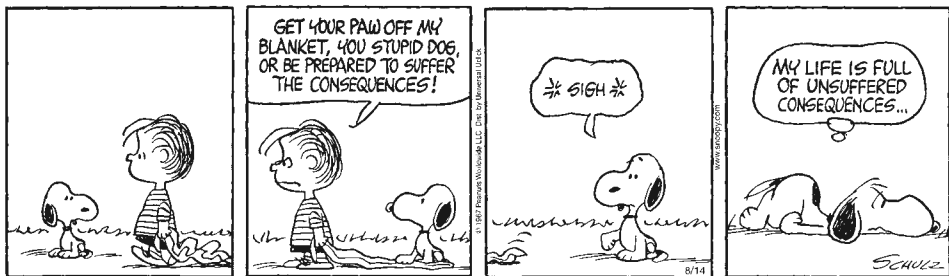
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



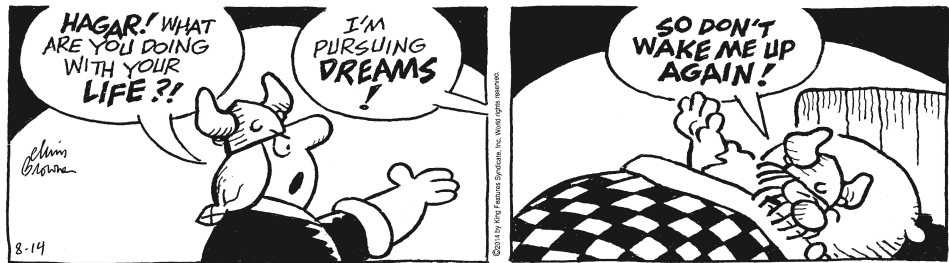
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



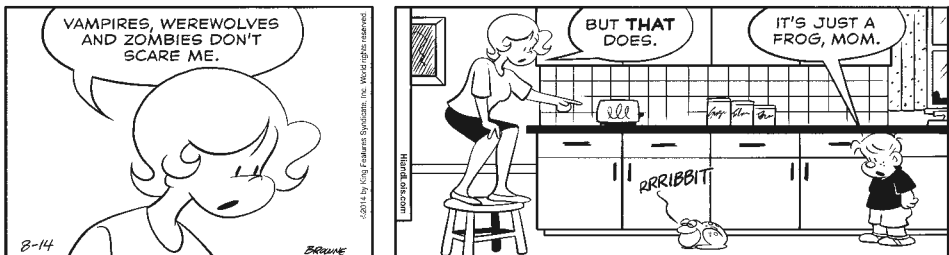
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Drinking Becomes A Problem For Wife Pressured To Imbibe

DEAR ABBY: I'm not much of a drinker. I have nothing against drinking or those who do. I just do not like the taste of alcohol. Worse, I have a very low tolerance for it. After only half a glass of wine, I become so sleepy I can barely keep my eyes open. It makes me feel physically awful.

My husband takes offense to the fact that I don't want to drink. When we're out with friends, he'll have three or four beers and pressure me to the point of embarrassment in front of them until I finally give in and order a glass of wine. Of course, I then spend the rest of the evening feeling terrible. When we get home, he'll want to be intimate, but I just want to go to sleep, which aggravates him further.

I have tried for several years to discuss this with him, but he can't explain why he does this. What can I do? — JUST WATER, PLEASE

DEAR JUST WATER: Your husband is a drinker. He may be self-conscious about the amount he imbibes and feels less so if he has a drinking buddy (that's you), willing or not. To say the least, his behavior is inconsiderate — and I mean ALL of it.

When someone is involved with a problem drinker, and from your description of his behavior your husband is one, the place to start looking for answers is Al-Anon. To find a meeting close to you, go online to al-anon.org. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Cecily," has just come out to me as being a lesbian. We are both 15. I have tried my best to make her feel accepted and comfortable. But whenever she wants something from me and I refuse, she says I'm "treating her badly because she's gay."

I let it go the first couple of times, but now

she does this every time she wants something. When I finally confronted her about it, she went to her mother and said I was bullying her because of her being gay. Her mother yelled at me and told me to "get my act together or get out of her life." Her mother is like a second mother to me.

Other than this, Cecily has been a great friend. This has gotten way out of hand. Abby, I have tried everything. What do I do? — WAY OUT OF HAND IN NEW YORK

DEAR WAY OUT OF HAND: Cecily may react this way because she's newly out and hypersensitive to being discriminated against for being gay. (For too many gay teens, this is a sad reality.)

Consider asking your mother to talk to Cecily's mother and explain that you're not homophobic but feel her daughter is being manipulative. If the woman hears it from another adult, she may talk to her daughter about it. However, if that doesn't work, you may have to decide if it's worth it to continue the relationship under these circumstances.

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 Leo and a Moon in Aries.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 2014:

This year is the first year of a new 12-year luck cycle. Focus on your goals, and you will be able to manifest them more easily. If you are single and romance and being in a committed relationship are your desires, it is more than likely to happen. There will be many different potential suitors as you zero in on finding Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, the two of you demonstrate a newfound closeness and a silliness that remind others of young love. You enjoy the energy that ARIES has, but you won't want him or her to influence you too frequently.

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)

★★★★ You might notice that others are shielding themselves from you. Some people even might become exhausted after speaking with you! Be your spontaneous self, and reach out to those who enjoy your high-voltage ways. Tonight: You are top dog. Go for what you want.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You seem to be maintaining a low-key position and a laid-back attitude around others. You might not expect any uproar, but you do see the possibility of a lot of sudden change. You could gain unusual insight into someone you care about. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You'll zero in on what you want. A meeting could allow greater give-and-take between you and someone else. You might be on the same page, but an unexpected twist could arise. Be aware of this person's perceptions. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Take a deep breath before starting an important conversation. Be careful if it involves someone whom you feel you have to answer to. Don't let a situation become too difficult; otherwise, you could be on the receiving end of a strong reaction. Tonight: Play it low-key.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You'll be more than willing to try out a new idea or take a vacation to some strange land.

You understand the value of offbeat situations opening up your mind. For now, all you might be able to do is find a restaurant with unusual cuisine. Tonight: Have a one-on-one chat.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You are very sure of a partner, and you feel extremely stable. Your confidence could be a result of your ability to tolerate whatever heads your way. Think about this when someone brings an unusual dynamic into your life. Tonight: Do your own thing.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Others continue to dominate your plans, regardless of what you might have decided your priorities would be. You work well with others, but know what will happen if this becomes a pattern: You could become resentful. Be careful. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You will want to move through a problem more quickly than is possible. Relax with a slower pace. An element of disruption could surround your day. Understand that the unexpected might prove to be more exciting. Tonight: Release stress through some exercise.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll come up with one good idea after another. Your creativity seems to flow in many different directions. A loved one will delight in your imaginative flights of fancy. Make some delightful plans in the near future. Tonight: Act like the weekend is already here.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Stay centered and close to home, if possible. You even might consider working from home or taking a personal day. You are likely to have a lot of events coming down the pike. Zero in on your needs once more. Deal with one person directly. Tonight: Follow the music.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Make calls and listen to what others share. You will need to unravel some personal issues or a grudge. A loved one is a source of excellent advice, and he or she is likely to pitch in and help. Don't let anyone rain on your parade. Tonight: Meet up with a favorite person.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

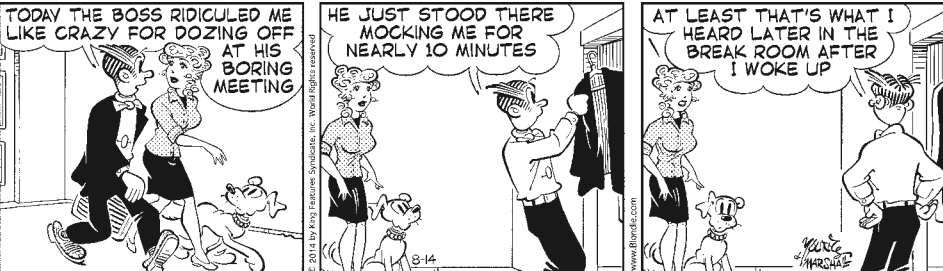
★★★★ A daily issue keeps arising, and you'll need to clear it out. Don't forget to make an appointment for a checkup with your doctor. You might feel frustrated by the lack of returned calls from a certain someone. Tonight: Treat yourself to a new wardrobe item.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

