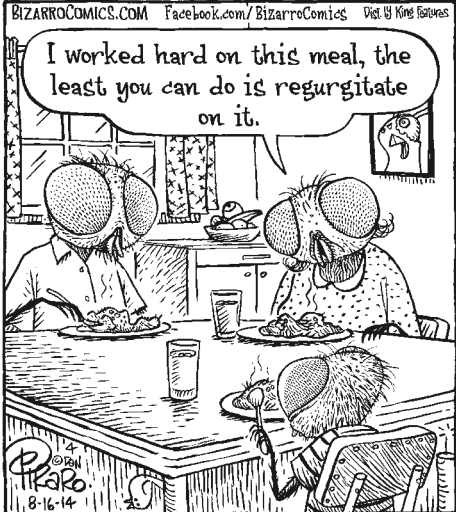


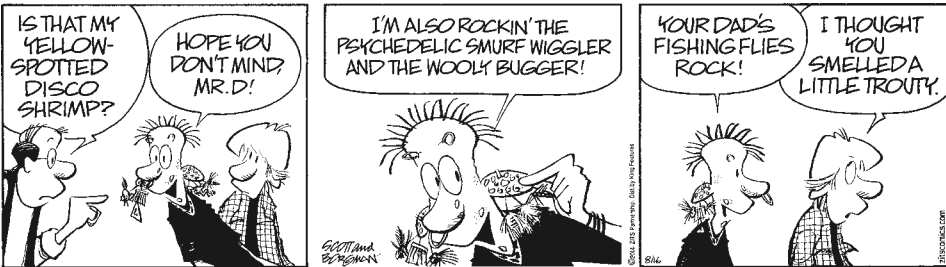
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



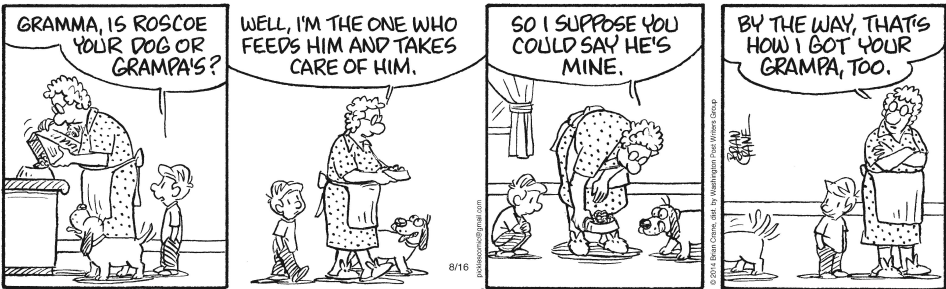
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



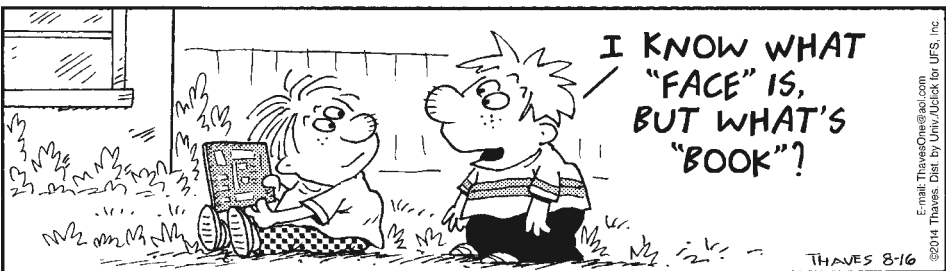
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



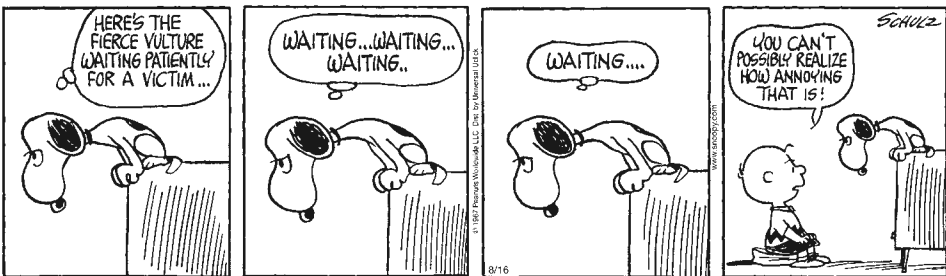
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



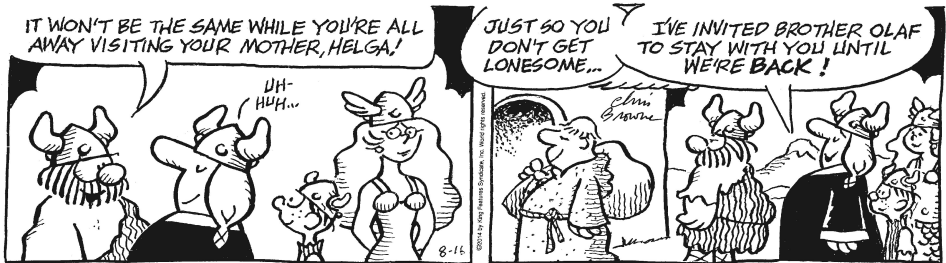
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



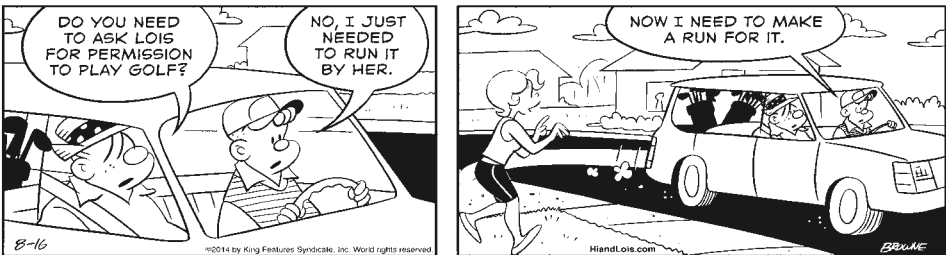
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Head-Over-Heels Romantics Should Come Back To Earth

DEAR ABBY: I have been single for a couple of years. I have always been levelheaded when it comes to romance, but I'm finding myself unable to control my feelings about the new man I'm seeing.

"Brent" is smart, intelligent, sweet and loving. We have been dating for a little over a week and he has already given me keys to his place. (I have a roommate, or I would have given him my keys, too!)

I love him. He loves me. I am so happy. I feel calm and confident about how we're progressing. This is a first for me. I know it's unusually fast, but my parents got married six weeks after they met, and they're still happy together after 37 years.

Love at first sight is rare, but I think this is it. Your thoughts? — WOWED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR WOWED: I'm glad for your parents, but because they married six weeks after they met does not mean you must repeat history. Right now, you and Brent appear to be caught up in a whirl of endorphins and adrenaline. Because you asked for my thoughts I'll share them: Slow down until both of you have your feet back on the ground because that is how solid relationships are built. Your folks were an exception to the rule. If you don't believe me, ask them.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 62-year-old male. My problem is I have never been married, and when I go on dates, women always want to know why I'm still single.

The reasons are financial and also that I'm allergic to cats. (A lot of women own cats.) I have never made much money, and I live with my mother. I can't afford to move out, and even when I had a place of my own, it didn't make much difference. I'd like to be married, but this has become a catch-22. No one wants to marry me because I have never

been married.

I have looked this issue up online and it is a huge problem; women definitely discriminate against never-married men. Sometimes I wonder if I should lie and say I'm a widower. What can I say to women who interrogate me about this? — SEARCHING FOR A MATE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SEARCHING: If you lie about the fact that you're a lifelong bachelor, at some point the truth will come out and your credibility will be shot. That's why I'm advising you to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Your marital status is nothing to be ashamed of. Not everyone is meant to be married. You say you are 62 and live with your mother be-

cause you can't afford to live on your own. Has it occurred to you that you might not be able to afford being married?

Also, marriage is a big adjustment for anyone — male or female. There is no guarantee that a person who has become set in his or her ways can successfully make that transition. This is not to say that you shouldn't have companionship, but you don't need a wife for that. A good friend — or several — could provide 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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 16, 2014:

This year you often say one thing yet do another, which sends conflicting messages. You are beginning a new luck and life cycle, and the first year is considered to be the most fortunate. If you are single, you could meet your match this year. Until you are sure you are with the right person, do not commit. If you are attached, your sweetie will call attention to your mixed messages, and this will give you the opportunity to eliminate this trait. Consider making a mutual goal a reality. Your happiness will be contagious. TAURUS can be a stick in the mud.

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)

★★★ Be serious about what is important to an older relative or friend. You might opt to spend time with this person only to regret it later, as he or she could prove to be difficult. Don't be surprised if someone else in your life is being challenging as well. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You might hit an obstacle or two on the path to where you want to go. Know that you will be able to bypass the problem. A partner or loved one could be challenging, as this person's mood seems to be less than great. Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Take your time. You might run into someone who is very difficult and wonder why you are interacting with him or her. It easily could be that this person is your sweetie. In that case, his or her behavior will change. Do not react. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Return calls, and make plans accordingly. You will be happiest with several friends, and this group will have a good influence on you. Stay light-hearted, even if a loved one seems to be touchy. Don't take this person's remarks personally. Tonight: With favorite people.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You are likely to feel pressured by an older person who wants your attention. You might come into the situation with a positive outlook, but

dealing with this person could make you irritable. Try to be gentle with your response. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ If you have a desire to drive out to the countryside, follow it. Nothing will be as good for you as a change of scenery. Even if you seem to be fussing about a certain someone or a touchy situation, you will change your tune once you get home. Tonight: Try something new.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. This person might feel good, but he or she could be upset about a money matter. Try to root out the real issues. A change to your budget might seem inevitable, but ultimately it will be a relief. Tonight: Opt for dinner for two.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You will be more volatile than you realize. You might feel as though a loved one is challenging you when he or she is not. Be careful, as you could be projecting your sour mood onto others. Relax and make fewer judgments. Tonight: Stay present in the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to have a day for yourself. Go off and schedule a massage. You might decide to wander around a bit or go shopping before heading home. Don't let a sense of loneliness ruin the moment. Call a dear friend. Tonight: Meet a pal at a favorite spot.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ You might want to change your plans once you have a long-overdue conversation with a loved one. A friend could be upset, should you change your plans with him or her. How you choose to handle this situation will be important. Tonight: Be where you want to be.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

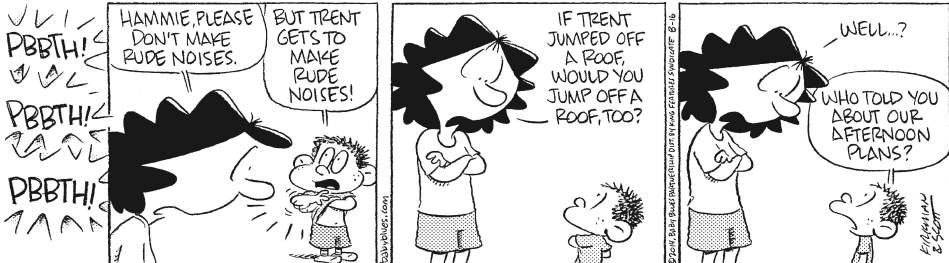
★★★ How you deal with a loved one will be important. This person could be coming from a sincere point of view. Recognize how volatile your dealings with an older relative could become if you decide to offer a new perspective. Be true to yourself. Tonight: Invite others over.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You will demonstrate your ability to choose the right words at the right time. You have a way of calming down a situation. Nevertheless, a matter involving someone at a distance could be troubling. Detach and observe what is going on. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

