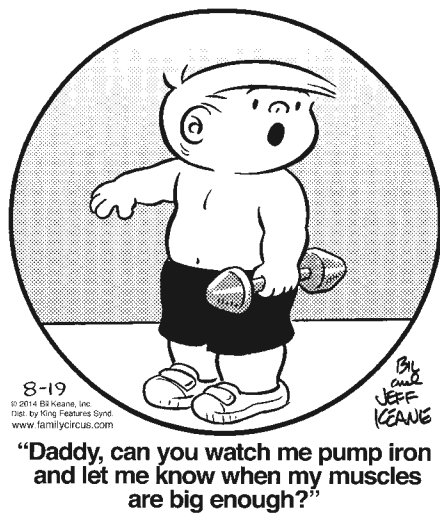


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



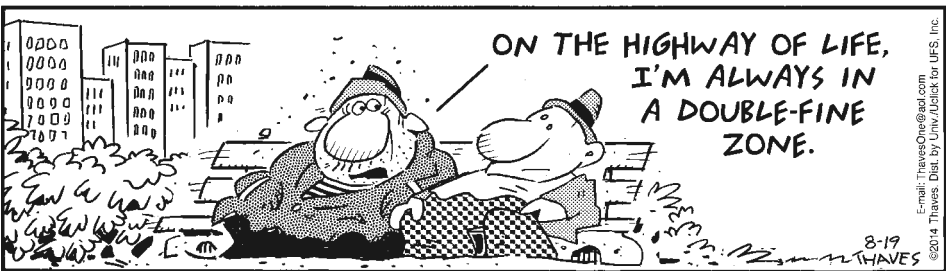
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



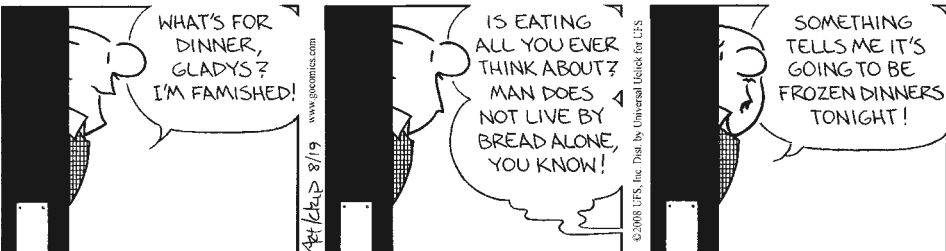
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



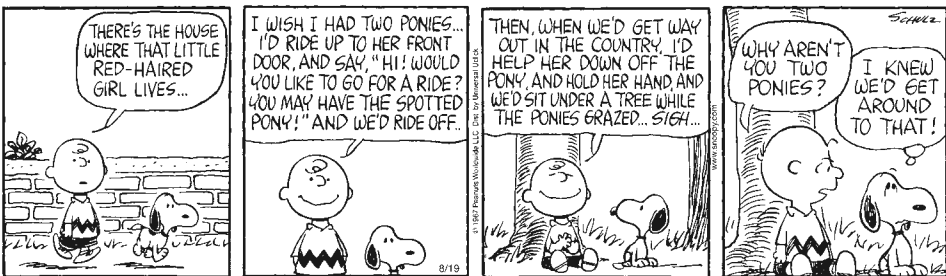
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



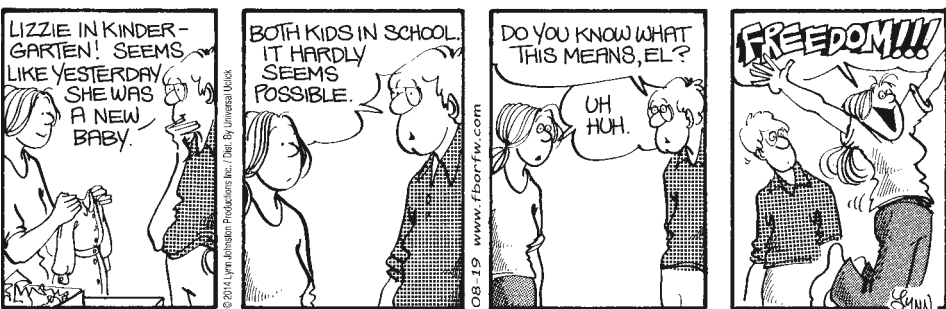
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



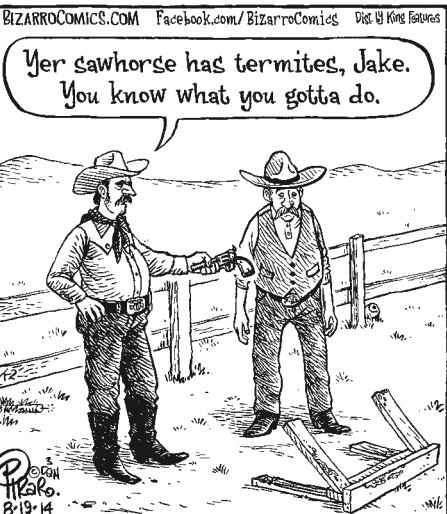
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



## Man With Heart Scar Has Options For Covering It Up

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from “Self-Conscious in Georgia” (May 15), a young man who is insecure about the scar from his heart surgery. I have had three surgeries for congenital defects, my first at 2 years old. Because many women’s fashions expose the upper chest, I applied anti-scar products, which greatly reduced the size and color of my scars.

Swimwear lines have sun-blocking swim shirts that are quick-drying and comfortable. At the beach, “Self-Conscious” could wear a beach-themed T-shirt and say he is reducing his sun exposure, which is a good idea these days.

As to anyone protesting his not going shirtless, true friends accept your choices, no matter the circumstances. They won’t call you out for not following the herd.

And another thing: The young man might benefit from a cardiac support group to lessen his feelings of isolation or inadequacy. He suffered trauma that led to and created that scar. Now he deserves to be happy on his own terms. — WAS THERE ONCE AND I’M STILL HERE

DEAR STILL HERE: Thank you for your comments. Readers were quick to offer messages of support to “Self-Conscious”:

DEAR ABBY: I am a registered nurse. That scar can be faded by using pure cocoa butter (in stick form, not lotion). It can be purchased at the pharmacy.

I would also like to let him know that in this part of the country, survivors are known as members of the “Zipper Club.” When I see patients with this scar, I know they have had open heart surgery. It alerts me to a whole realm of information before anything is said and directs how care is given in case of emergency. Please let “Self-Conscious” know his scar is not an eyesore, but a GIFT OF LIFE. — PROUD R.N. IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: “Self-Conscious” might bene-

fit from getting a tattoo. A recent TV program aired a segment showing women with mastectomies receiving amazing designs to cover or beautify their scars. With a good tattoo artist, these pieces can be life-altering and the artwork stunning. — JANET IN ANNAPOLIS, MD.

DEAR ABBY: I broke my ankle a few years ago. A wonderful surgeon and a fantastic physical therapist got me walking again, but I was left with several large, raised scars. I put wheat germ oil (full of vitamin E) on them in the morning and evening, and they are barely visible now. — ONLINE READER IN ISRAEL

DEAR ABBY: For many years I dated a young man with a similar scar, and it was something I found endearing. To me, it was no different than freckles or a birthmark. It was part of what made him unique. We all have our stories and history. His scar is an opening to share his. — ROSE IN NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

DEAR ABBY: I have a young friend who had open-heart surgery when she was a high school senior. On the night of her prom, she wore a strapless dress with her “red badge of courage” on full display. — SANDRA IN ROCHESTER, N.H.

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 Gemini.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 19, 2014:

This year you are goal-focused. Part of accomplishing what you want will require you to intensify your networking. The more people you meet, the better off you’ll be. Your domestic life can be extremely demanding and somewhat burdensome. You will clear up any problems by next year. If you are single, you will have many suitors. Decide what kind of relationship you want, and then you will be able to make a sound decision. If you are attached, many difficulties you have had together most likely will be happily resolved. Make it OK to have differences of opinion, and learn to respect them. GEMINI always wants you to meet more of his or her friends.

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 efforts count. Even if you don’t reach your goal, a partner will be supportive of your efforts. Later in the day, you will see the right path. Tap into your endless creativity in order to find the right solution or approach. Tonight: Catch up on a friend’s news.

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might be more possessive than you realize, and someone will let you know in no uncertain terms. You could push others away if you are not careful, as some people cannot tolerate that type of neediness. Tonight: Make it your treat.

#### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Keep your long-term objectives in mind. The unexpected is likely to occur in a meeting or with a friend. At first, you might be startled, but in time your sense of humor will take over. Try not to laugh in front of others, though. Tonight: Wish upon a star.

#### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Reveal less than you know right now, and maintain a low profile. You might be more judgmental than you realize. If you express your views, it is likely that someone could shut down. Tonight: Play until you are tired, then get some extra R and R.

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

★★★★ Listen to a friend’s news more carefully. You have the ability to get past a problem

once you detach. When you are no longer triggered, you’ll come up with a workable solution. A meeting could be instrumental in this process. Tonight: Find your friends.

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

★★★★ You often feel as though you need to answer to others. As a result, you could be allowing yourself to be taken advantage of. You will have to learn how to say “no” more often. Know that this could take some time, as patterns could be difficult to break. Tonight: In the limelight.

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

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. Maintain some discipline, especially with your finances. News will head your way that offers more insight. Use this vision to find a solution. You might want to open up to a new acquaintance. Tonight: Follow the music.

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

★★★★ Move forward in a discussion. Listen to others’ opinions before deciding which way to go. Unexpected developments could take you in a new direction, where you might need to become more self-disciplined. Tonight: Pay attention to an older person.

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

★★★★ Defer to someone else, so that he or she can show off his or her skills. You might be taken aback by this person’s self-expression. Make several calls to someone in the know for a second opinion. You might be slightly more negative than you realize. Tonight: Go with the program.

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

★★★★ You might feel overwhelmed by everything you need to do. Show off your delegating skills in order to accomplish as much as possible. Be open to a partner’s suggestions, as they could work. Weigh the pros and cons of each one before you decide. Tonight: Make it cozy and warm.

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

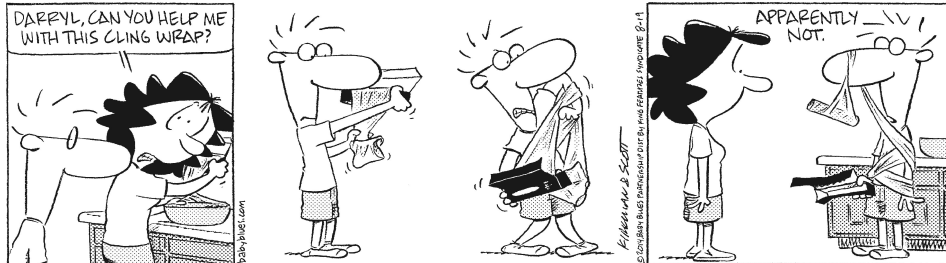
★★★★ Your creativity is likely to emerge. As long as you tap in to your imagination, you will appear to have the magic touch. Take charge of a matter when dealing with authority figures. Keep conversations moving. Tonight: Go for what you want.

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

★★★★ Settle in, and decide what your priorities are before you act. Otherwise, you could experience a big backfire. Look to someone at a distance who seems to understand you; this person always seems to give good advice. Curb wild risk-taking. Tonight: Invite a friend over.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

