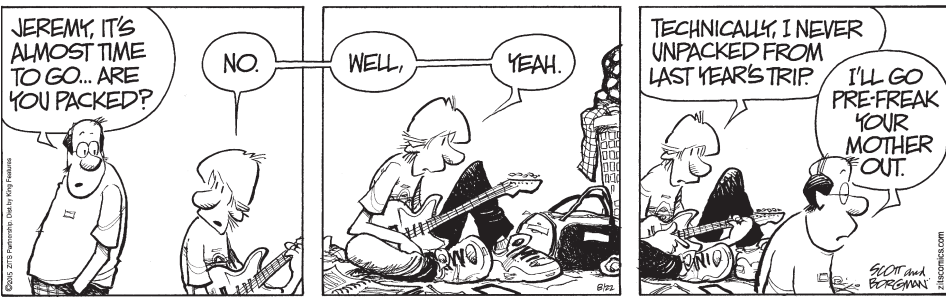


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



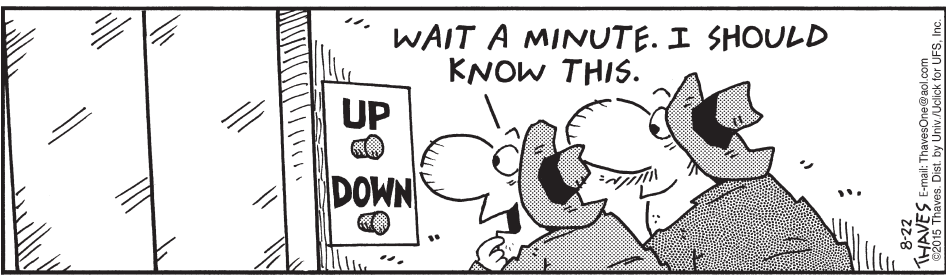
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



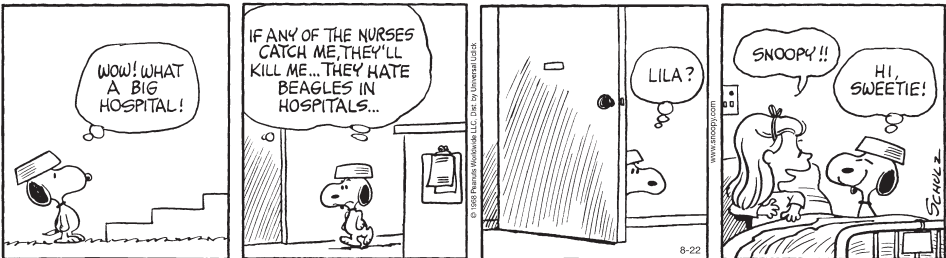
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



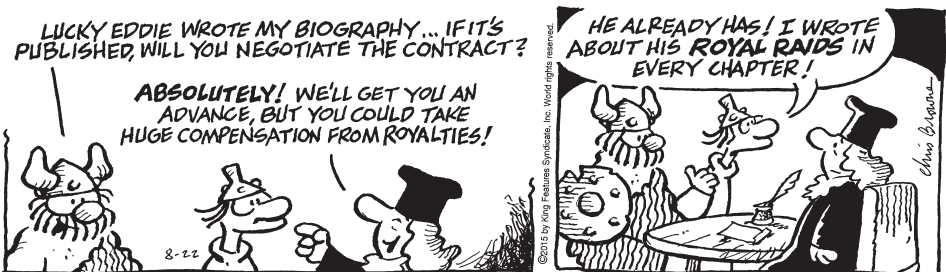
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



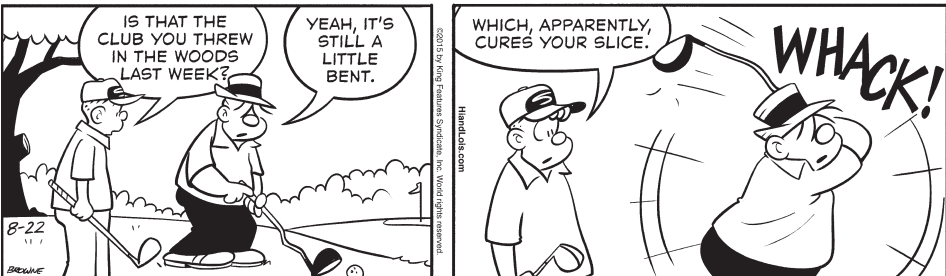
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



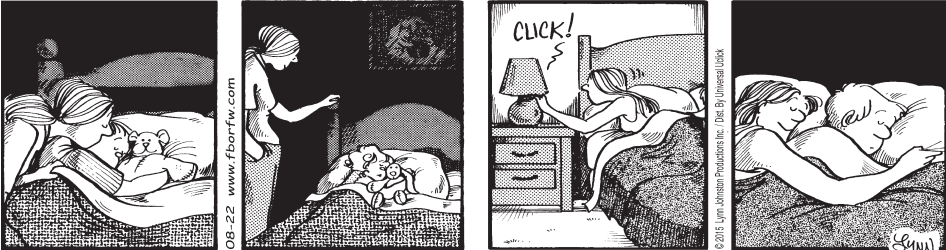
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



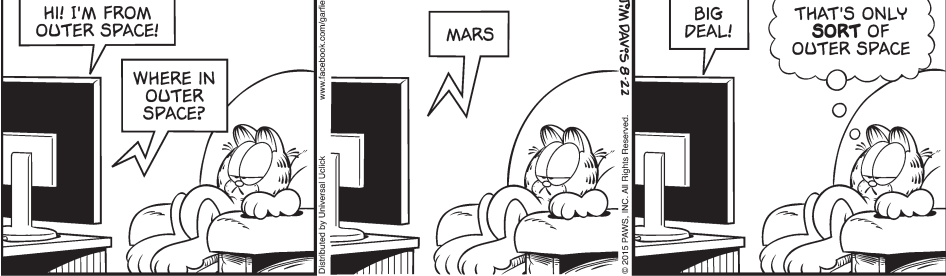
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Social Anxiety Prevents Teen From Stepping Out Of The Closet

DEAR ABBY: I am a lesbian, still in high school, who has not yet come out to any friends or family. I want them to know, but I'm afraid to tell them.

I'm pretty sure this is who I am, and I don't want them to dismiss my identity. I also don't want them to think of me differently – I want to be the same person in their eyes as I was before I came out. They aren't homophobic to my knowledge, but I feel "stuck."

I have fairly bad social anxiety, so it's difficult for me to say anything. I'd be grateful for any advice you have. – HIDING IN COLORADO

DEAR HIDING: I suggest you first deal with your social anxiety (a counselor can help you with this) because it may make it easier for you to come out when you finally decide to do it. Until you are secure in yourself about who you are, I think you should wait to announce your sexual orientation to other people.

DEAR ABBY: I am totally frustrated. My wife has implemented alerts on our credit cards, bank accounts and debit card accounts to a point that I can't buy surprise gifts for her birthday, our anniversary, Valentine's Day, etc., without receiving a text from her almost immediately asking if I charged something to a specific store.

Do you think this is a control obsession, or is she just overly cautious? Every time I try to discuss this with her, she says she's trying to make sure we are not hacked, etc. I want to be able to buy her things and create the element of surprise.

I would love some financial privacy at special times. Other than this, I have nothing to hide. Do you have any advice to help me save my sanity on this one? – UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE: Yes, either get a credit card in your name only or put

aside some cash to spend on surprise gifts for these special occasions.

DEAR ABBY: I met a man online who lives out of state. We seem to have a lot in common. I have relatives near his home and plan to move to that state in the future. He has two daughters, ages 22 and 24. The 24-year-old, who is married, just graduated from college. He flew back east to attend the graduation.

He has told me several times how much he likes my long hair. When he called me from back east, he said how happy he was that he got to brush his daughter's hair! I thought it was odd and mentioned it to a few friends – male and female – who said they thought so, too. What's your opinion? I'm uncomfortable about what he did. – UNEASY OUT WEST

DEAR UNEASY: I agree that it's unusual for a father to be brushing his adult daughter's hair. However, not knowing the man, I can't say for certain whether or not his affinity for your long hair is a fetish. Because you found his comment off-putting, discuss it with him in a nonconfrontational way to learn more before making any judgments.

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.

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DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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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 Scorpio if born before 4:41 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 22, 2015:

This year you often send mixed signals. Some people see you as being fussy and demanding, whereas others enjoy your adventuresome nature. This is a strong year for you financially and with money in general. Try not to take wild risks. If you are single, you need someone who can handle the different sides of your personality. Don't settle for anything less. If you are attached, the two of you often enjoy time alone together. Your sweetie might be taken aback by your changeability, but he or she will learn to adjust, especially if you demonstrate caring. SAGITTARIUS always encourages risk-taking.

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)

★★★★ What you hear and what your expectations are might not line up, which could cause a sense of irritation or anger. Pressure builds as you try to detach from the disappointment. Try to accept what has happened and let go of the situation. Tonight: Ever playful.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Listen to your inner voice about what you want. You have a good idea of what to do and when. Your sense of humor emerges as a situation involving a friend radically changes. Know the ramifications involved here. Tonight: Be a duo without expectations.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Question a person's intentions if he or she seems too eager to give too much. You also might not want to allow your high expectations to take over. A family member means well, but he or she could cause enormous friction. Tonight: Let someone else make a suggestion.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could have many expectations of a stranger who has just entered your usual crowd. You might not know what would be best to do under the present circumstances. Understand what is happening around you. Play it low-key for the next few days. Tonight: Get plenty of R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might be experiencing more mood

swings than usual. You could be withdrawn and then later as talkative as can be. Others could be reactive, far more than you thought possible. They are responding to you; keep that in mind. Tonight: Let the party go on and on.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ An authority figure, perhaps an older relative or friend, could be demanding. You might feel pressured, but know that you have the wherewithal to do what you must. You will want to keep the peace yet also have your free time. Tonight: Prove that you can handle multiple gears.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You have the right words, but a certain fussiness seems to emerge from you. You might wonder why you accept certain situations as they are. Think and reflect. Don't make changes until you root out the present issue. Tonight: A conversation is most enlightening.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Get an early start to the day. You might surprise yourself by how much you have to do in order to keep the peace. In your present situation, you might toss good sense aside and get a little wild. Remember there is always tomorrow. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You have new vitality today, which many have missed for a few days. A higher-up will choose to give you a compliment. Be gracious. Though some of you might not hear these compliments, know that they exist in someone's mind. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Use the later part of the day for a much-coveted project or get-together. You might not need to share what you are doing right now. In fact, you could feel inclined to say nothing, and that would be a smart move. You will find out why later. Tonight: All smiles, but saying little.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

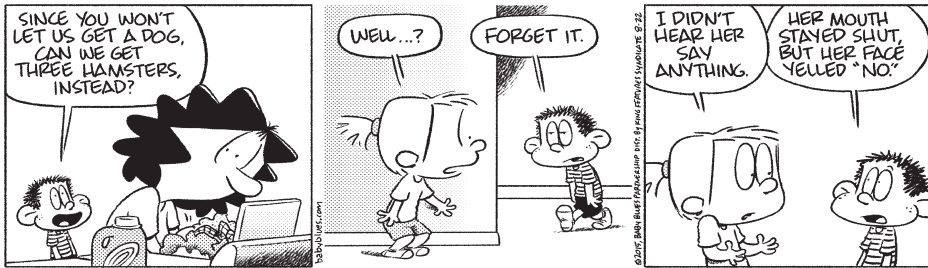
★★★ You have little to say and much to do. Friends surround you and prevent you from seeing the big picture, but it won't bother you. You enjoy your life far more now than in the recent past. Avoid problems, and make sure you know what you need to do. Tonight: The party goes on.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You have a way of getting closer to a certain person. Be careful, as you could find that the reality of this bond is much different from how you had imagined. Back off, if you can. Do not get feisty with those who have authority over you. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

