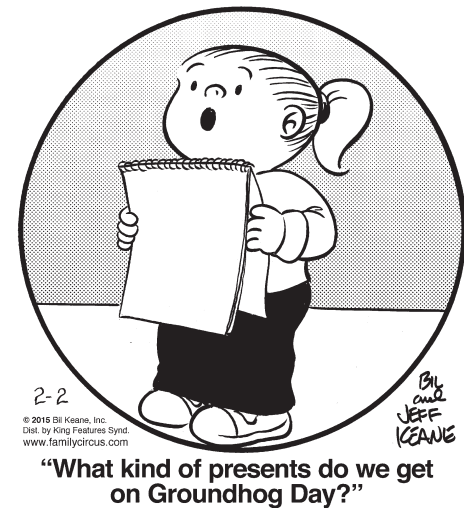
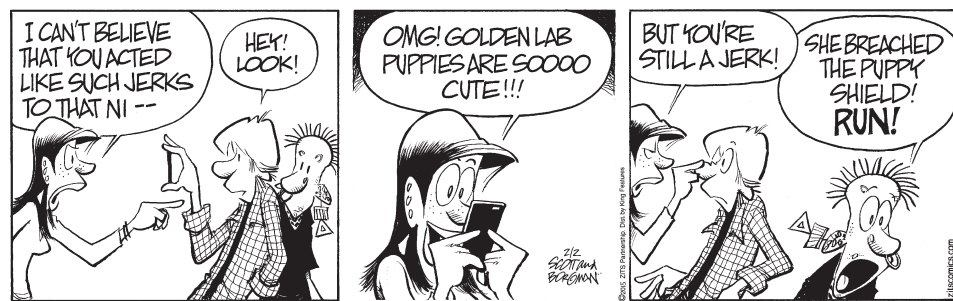


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



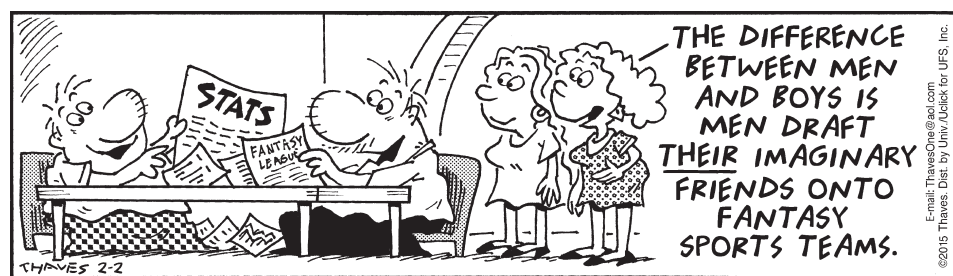
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



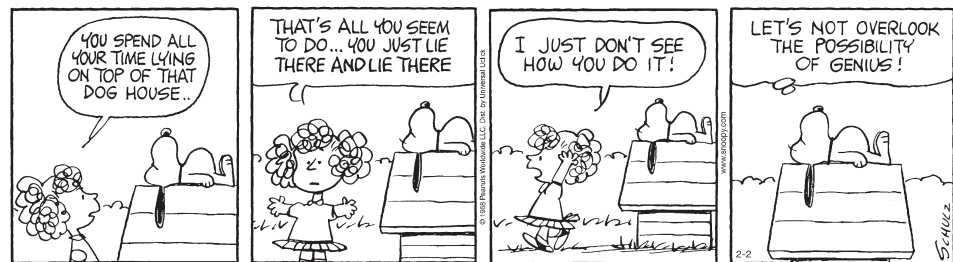
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



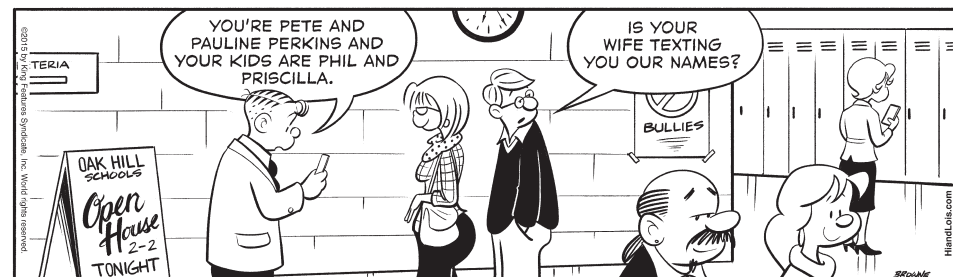
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



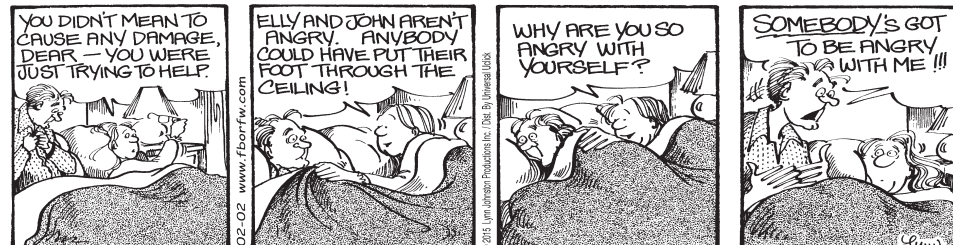
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



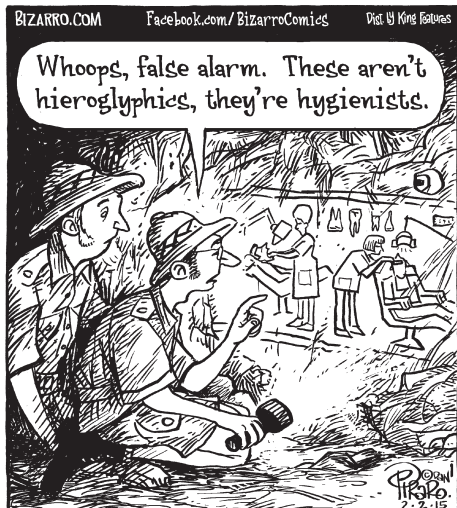
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Woman's Red Face Gains Her Unwanted Attention

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem with blushing. Whenever I'm the center of attention, even if it's with just one other person, my face goes bright red. This even happens when I'm not feeling embarrassed.

I've learned to cope with the feeling of my face flushing. What I'm having trouble with is people's comments about why my face is so red. I've never been able to come up with a good response. Telling them I'm not really embarrassed is met with skepticism. Please help. — RED-FACED IN MEMPHIS

DEAR RED-FACED: My advice is to be upfront and tell the questioner that you don't know why it happens, but you're not embarrassed. As you already know, blushing can happen if someone suffers from a social phobia. In cases like that, counseling and support groups can help. However, because you find it happening even when you are not pressured or embarrassed, discuss it with your physician to be sure there isn't an underlying physical problem.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating my 42-year-old boyfriend, "Mike," for a year. I love him, but he's a heavy drinker. He has a glass or two of whiskey on a daily basis and goes through a huge bottle of whiskey every weekend. (He also drinks beer like water.) When I asked him to cut back, he refused because he "loves" whiskey. I have never seen him drunk or act intoxicated, so he obviously has a high tolerance.

It bothers me that Mike drinks so much and that he won't cut back. I told him I wouldn't marry him unless he does. My problem is, I don't know whether he's an alcoholic since he doesn't ever show signs of intoxication. I've been told that alcoholism is a progressive disease and that it will only increase.

What constitutes an alcoholic? Is it possible for Mike to drink every day but not be

one? I don't want to lose him, but he also has a very bad temper, and I'm afraid it's not a good combination if we were to get married. — TORN IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR TORN: You are right to be concerned. Even if Mike promised "not to drink so much," he might backslide on his promise after the wedding.

Also, has it occurred to you that the whiskey may be part of what is causing Mike's bad temper? Large quantities of alcohol have been known to alter a person's perception, and the results can be explosive. If you haven't already done so, consider attending an Al-Anon meeting, which may confirm this.

I'm not a medical doctor, but it would be interesting to know what your boyfriend's physician thinks about the amount of alcohol he consumes, because the quantity you say Mike puts away may put him at risk for cirrhosis of the liver.

This may be more information than you asked for, but I don't think Mike is marriage material because it appears he is already wedded to his bottle.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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.

Moon in Cancer if born before 9:41 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR

MONDAY, FEB. 2, 2015:

This year you will experience a lot of activity around you. You become more aware of the people in your life and their expectations. As you evolve into a more empathetic person, you could question how much more you should give of yourself. Expect the unexpected, and you won't be disappointed. If you are single, you might change your idea of the type of person you are attracted to. In any case, you are likely to meet someone of significance. If you are attached, the two of you might redefine the boundaries of your relationship. Life won't be boring, and you will love all the excitement. LEO always seems ready to have fun.

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)

Excitement surrounds the morning. You'll get past an immediate hassle with ease. Meeting times will need to be confirmed. If you think someone's remark seems out of whack, just repeat back what you thought you heard. Tonight: Act as if it were Friday night.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You will want to straighten out a situation that involves a headstrong friend or loved one. This person might seem to be quite closed off, but in reality, he or she probably just wants to get past the present misunderstanding. Take your time, rather than push. Tonight: Mosey on home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Share more of what ails you. A partner or loved one might seem distant and difficult. The unexpected is likely to affect a meeting and/or an interaction with this person. Avoid making any judgments, and try stating your point in a different way. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You might want to be more aware of your spending and your budget. You could feel as if your finances are out of whack. Worry less, and stay centered. You are likely to experience a certain amount of boredom in your daily routine. Change it! Tonight: Pay bills first.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You will be in the position to convince

someone that the less exciting option would be best. Misunderstandings could lurk, and you might choose to see a situation a lot differently from how those around you see it. Confirm important statements. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Assume a low profile, even if someone tries to shock you out of complacency. You'll need to observe rather than react. Ask yourself what would be best to do in order to move forward. You are much more together than you ever thought possible. Tonight: Get some R and R.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could be stuck on the wrong side of a problem. As you try to resolve the issue, others might seem bent on creating uproar. If you try to intervene, you probably will find yourself in the middle of an argument. Ride the winds of fate. Tonight: Hang with friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Be willing to stand up and assume your role in a particularly difficult situation. You might not want all the attention on you, but it seems to be inevitable. Your role is dominant, and others will want to learn how to lead in the way in which you do. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You'll be full of unexpected news. Though you might not react as you used to, you still will have a strong response. Be aware of others' confusion. You know what is workable and what is not. Try to convey what you know to those around you. Tonight: Surf the Web.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Deal with a partner or associate directly. In fact, the response you receive could be totally different than if you were to discuss the same issue with someone else there. Take advantage of a quiet moment. Be willing to state the same point several different ways. Tonight: Togetherness.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You might have mixed feelings and be overly serious, especially after a morning surprise. Nothing is as it seems and all is subject to change. Remain open to various ideas and you will head down the right path. Tonight: Confusion reigns. Maintain a sense of humor.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You could be somewhat fixated on your schedule and on what you must accomplish. You will have a surprising change occur at some point throughout the day. You might want to rethink a decision with more care. Verify what you are hearing. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

