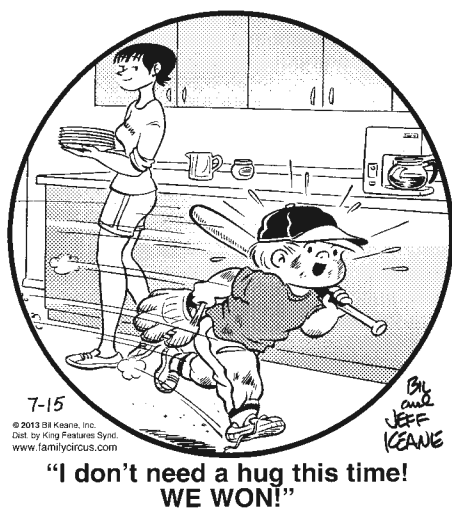


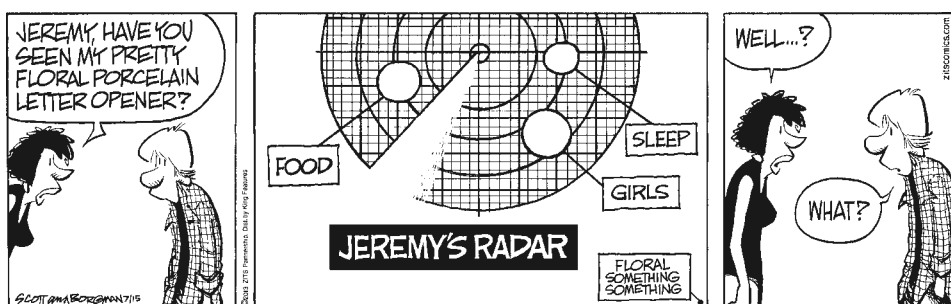
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BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



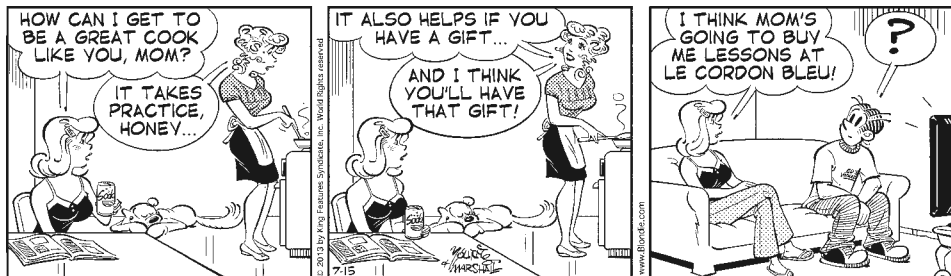
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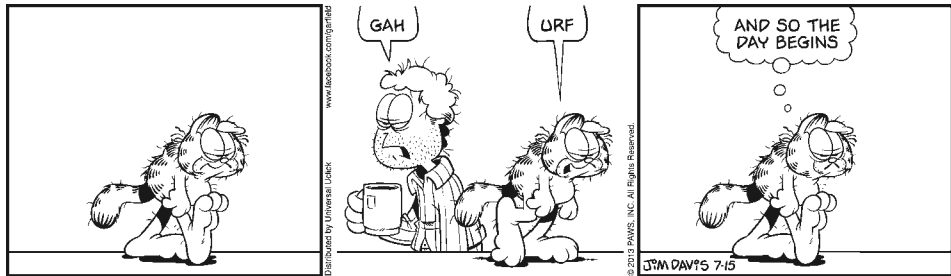
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



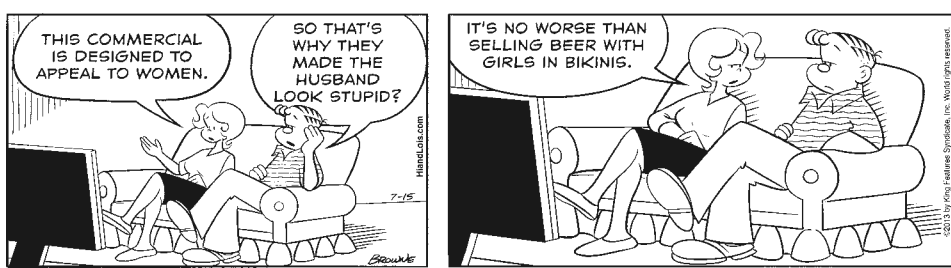
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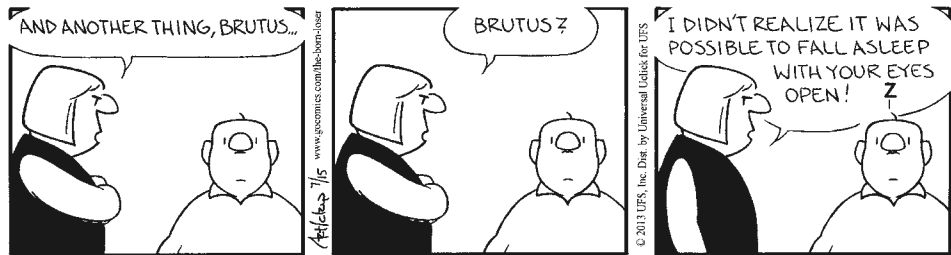
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Woman Attracted To Older Men Should Ignore Hostile Remarks

DEAR ABBY: I have led an unusual life. I lived abroad alone in my late teens, spent my early 20s exploring the West, and finished my college degree a year early while working full time. It gave me independence, experience and clarity.

My problem is, in dating I feel leagues ahead of men who are my age. I am attracted to much older men. My current boyfriend is 15 years older than I am. The age gap is often a topic of conversation among my acquaintances, co-workers and some family members. My boyfriend has also experienced unwanted comments about dating a much younger woman.

What are your thoughts on who a person should be dating in her early 20s? And how should I deal with those who believe I am breaking a social code? — OLD SOUL IN COLORADO

DEAR OLD SOUL: I can't give you an unbiased opinion because when I was in my early 20s, I dated older men. They liked to talk, I liked to listen, and I learned a great deal about life from them. I hope the same will be true for you.

As to how you should deal with people who accuse you of breaking a social norm, unless they have a valid reason for criticizing the man you're dating, I think you should tune them out.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 26-year-old woman who is afraid of my true feelings. I have been friends with a woman who is a lesbian for seven years. I have always been attracted to women — especially her — but I have always dated men.

I have just ended a five-year relationship, and over the past few months my friend and I have grown very close. I am starting to have feelings for her sexually. I think about her all the time. She's beautiful, smart, inspiring and has an amazing personality.

My problem is, I have an 8-year-old daughter,

and I don't know how she would handle it if I were to date a woman instead of a man. I am also afraid of how my family would react.

Our attraction is unspoken, but I can see it when I look into her eyes. Should I admit my feelings or should we remain friends? — AFRAID OF MY TRUE FEELINGS IN OHIO

DEAR AFRAID: I am reluctant to advise you to spend the rest of your life living a lie in order to avoid upsetting your family, because I don't think it would be healthy for you.

Talk to your friend. Once you are sure the relationship with this woman is serious, mutual and lasting, you can tell your daughter you are dating. Children are adaptable, and this may be less of a surprise to her than you fear. My advice is to listen to your heart and you won't go wrong.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and my son get along better with me when they're not together. When I am there, they gang up on me and become adversarial. I have reached a point where I hate to be around them at the same time.

I don't know what to do about this. When I try to talk to my husband about it, he gets angry and blames me. I don't think I can take much more. What do you think about this? — THREE'S A CROWD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR THREE'S A CROWD: If picking on you is part of their male bonding, it's unhealthy. Your husband may do it because he has underlying anger issues he doesn't express directly to you. Your son may participate because his father encourages it, but he should not be allowed to treat you with disrespect.

Before this takes a further toll on your marriage, the three of you should get family counseling. If that doesn't help, you may need individual counseling to help you either stand up for yourself or decide whether you can continue living this way.

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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. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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 Cancer and a Moon in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013:

This year you might experience some tension. Finding effective ways of handling stress can make a big difference. This year is unusually fortunate for you, as you are in the first year of a new luck cycle. You will feel the expansion and optimism that comes with it. If you are single, you are entering a period where you could meet someone very important to your life history. Your social life also could be very active. If you are attached, your sweetie can't help but respond to your upbeat mood. You enter a very special period as a couple. LIBRA weighs the pros and cons of emotional situations.

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 be touchy, and you could turn sarcastic at the drop of a hat. If you feel that mood coming on, back off for everyone's sake. It's better not to say anything at all rather than something hurtful. Be willing to share your feelings. Tonight: Decide what is best for you.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Staying mellow could be a challenge, as someone's agitated mood seems to be directed at you. Let this person's words fall to the wayside; do not give him or her the power to hurt you. You might enjoy getting into a favorite pastime. Tonight: Schedule a massage.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Take advantage of an unexpected opportunity that heads in from out of left field. You might want to think through a response, but you could lose this opportunity if you do. Be that spontaneous person everyone loves. Tonight: Tap into your creativity around others.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Understand what is happening within your immediate circle of friends. Listen to news more openly, and know that you need to honor a change. Question what has been happening within yourself, too. You could be dealing with more stress than you realize. Tonight: Order in.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Let communication flow naturally. Your ability to get past a problem reflects your ingenuity

and your ability to find answers. Make sure that you are on the same page with new people you meet. Express your caring, and a friend will beam. Tonight: Follow the crowds.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ The topic of your finances keeps coming up. Be prepared to have a disagreement or two with others, but not to the point where you might have to buy someone a peace offering. Indulge yourself, and take a break from the volatility. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You beam, and others respond. You might wonder how to get past a restriction. Communication won't alleviate the issue right now, so you'll want to wait a day or two. By remaining positive, you will help others develop a positive reaction. Tonight: All smiles.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★ Know when the odds are stacked against you. You will discover that you are best off doing research or running errands, rather than getting involved in interpersonal work. Think through an issue one more time. Err on the side of caution. Tonight: See what your friends are up to.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Meetings, friends and people in general dominate this day. A child could surprise you with a spontaneous reaction. If you are single, you could be taken aback by a person who might show up unexpectedly today. Open up to someone whom you care about. Tonight: Off to a game.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★ Just when you think everything finally is mellow, you might discover that the opposite is true. How much more chaos can you handle? Figure out what is going on behind the scenes. Perhaps you need to detach more, especially if you take the lead. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Your perspective might be needed. Unless you see an opening, keep your opinions and thoughts to yourself. You easily could be misunderstood if you are not careful. Refuse to get involved with whatever is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Go anywhere you want.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You will be full of fun and high energy. Your ability to deal with a problem comes forward. A partner could feel overwhelmed. You also might get some flak for a decision you've made that upsets this person. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Break bread with a loved one.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

