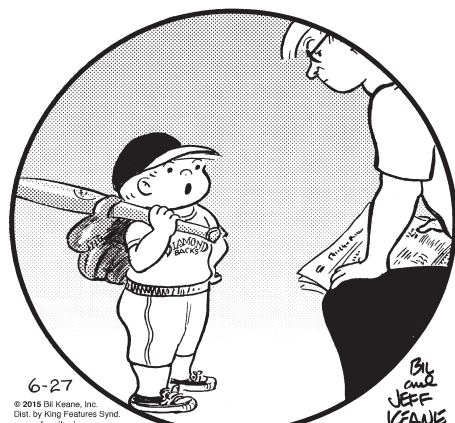


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE

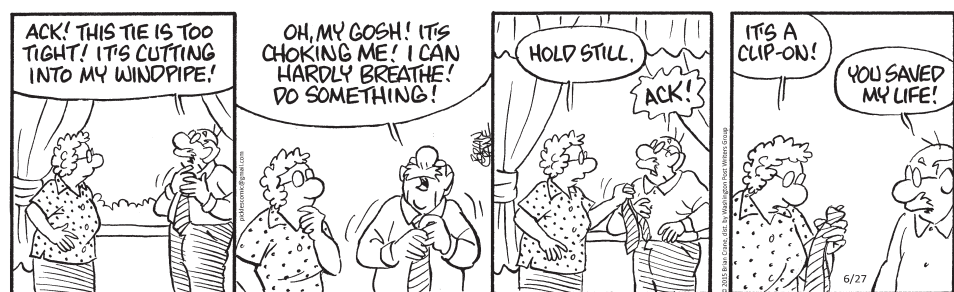


"I'm not sure about my coach. He never lets me practice my home run trot."

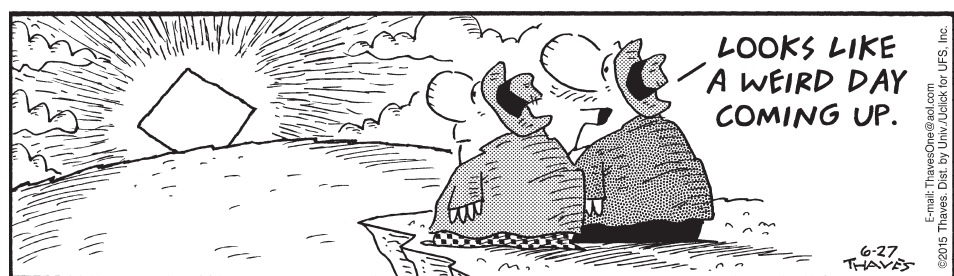
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



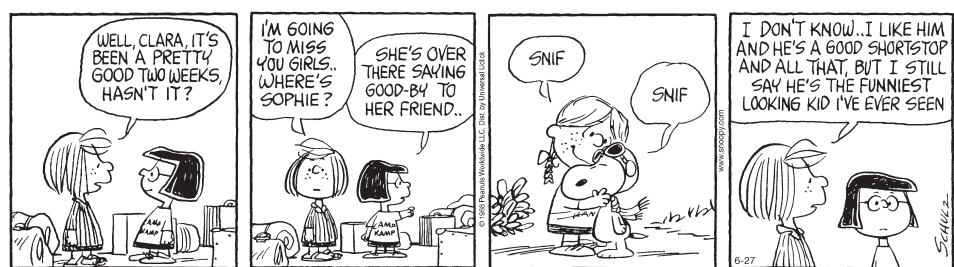
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



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



Teen Fears Telling Racist Parents About Her New Beau

DEAR ABBY: I am 18 and live with my parents. I have a part-time job and I also attend a local university. My parents and I have always gotten along, and I have been obedient and respectful of their rules.

I have suffered from depression for years, but now I have finally met someone who makes me happy and feel like I am worth something. Abby, he is of a different race. This doesn't mean anything to me. I know he's a great guy and I really like him. The problem is, my parents are very racist.

They have done so much for me that I feel guilty dating someone they don't approve of. They have told me to never date someone like that. I am torn and ashamed of them, and I don't know what to do.

How do I break it to them? Am I wrong for being with a genuine, amazing guy who finally makes me happy? - FINALLY MET SOMEONE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FINALLY MET SOMEONE: I'm glad you are finally feeling better about yourself as a person, but before discussing this with your parents, it would be better if you separate the issues of your chronic depression and your feelings for this young man.

If this relationship were to end for some reason, would you cycle back down? If your parents react badly - as they may - would you be able to live independently? Are your parents capable of moderating their attitude about people of a different race? And because racism can be universal, how does his family feel about YOU?

Please consider these questions carefully, because until you have the answers and are prepared to be out on your own, I don't think you should make any announcements.

DEAR ABBY: I run around with my sister "Pam" a lot. She is eight years older. She had a face-lift some years ago, and she continues to seek out cosmetic procedures to enhance her appearance. I have had Botox and fillers,

but do not want a face-lift. I am trying to age gracefully, just at a slightly slower pace.

I love my sister and I think she looks beautiful. However, when Pam and I are together and tell people we're sisters, they always think I'm the older one. My feelings are hurt.

When our father died, I gained 30 pounds. Food was how I dealt with my grief. I have been working hard to get in better shape and lose weight. I am halfway to my goal, and proud of myself, but when these encounters happen, I get thrown. How do I answer people who ask about the age difference and make those comments? - YOUNGER ONE IN FLORIDA

DEAR YOUNGER ONE: Not everyone ages at the same rate, and I don't think the people who make those comments do it intending to be hurtful. With all the help she's getting, it's no wonder your sister appears younger.

If someone remarks about you appearing older, all you have to say is, "Nope! She's my BIG sister." And should someone comment on your appearance, be honest. Say you gained some weight, but you're working on taking it off and getting back into shape. It's no disgrace; it's admirable.

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable - and most frequently requested - poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



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.

notices your mood change. Stay close to home and get into a favorite relaxing pastime. Taking a break from your life's hectic pace will help renew your energy. Tonight: Play it low-key.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ A key person in your life often might opt to share some unusual ideas. Help this person test them and find out whether they are workable. Expect a little resistance at first. A gentle playfulness will mark a significant conversation. Tonight: Make it intense.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of what someone is really saying, as this person's words could have several implications. You might be surprised by the response you receive if you start asking questions. Nevertheless, it is important to be on the same page. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to a friend before making plans. You might enjoy yourself much more if this person is involved in what you are doing. One-on-one relating will result in mindful conversations and an empowered sense of well-being. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Conversations with others might be awkward, but understand that you are heading toward a more fulfilling relationship. You like your freedom, and making any kind of commitment often is difficult for you. Tonight: Set the scene for more fun and caring.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You have been going through a major transformation that you haven't necessarily shared. However, those who are close to you probably already know. Be open; let them see where you have been, where you are and what you are thinking. Tonight: Make it memorable.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ No matter how you see a personal matter, the other parties involved might be visualizing the potential outcome much differently. Take a hard look at what is motivating a strong stance. You probably will want to update your thinking. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

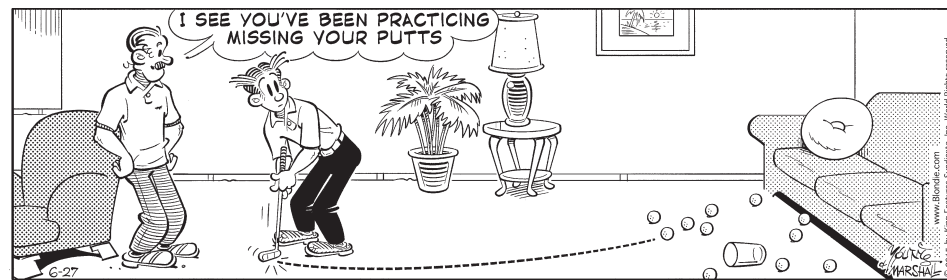
★★★★ Others often go along with your schemes and wild ideas. As you play out a scenario, you will find yourself delighted to be with a certain person. If you are single, be aware of what is going on between the two of you. A family member wants your time. Tonight: Let romance in.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

