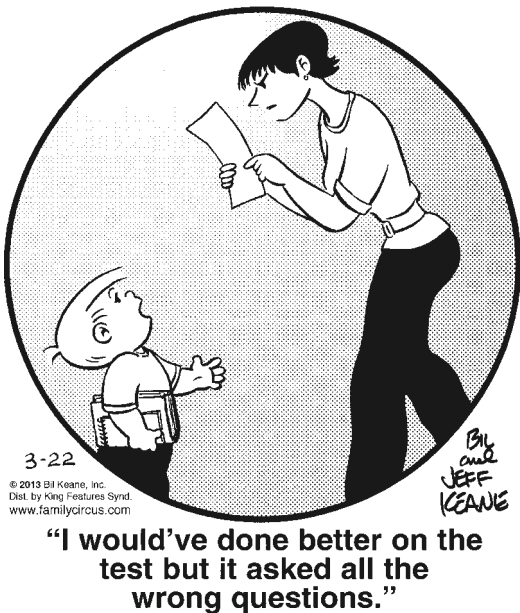
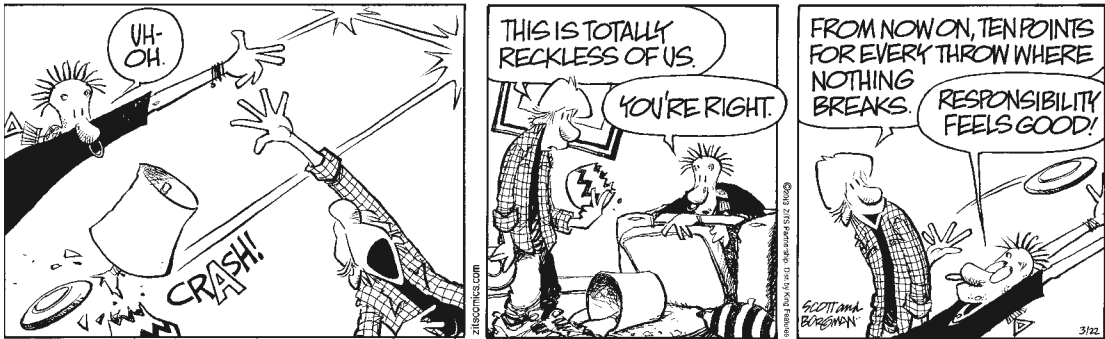


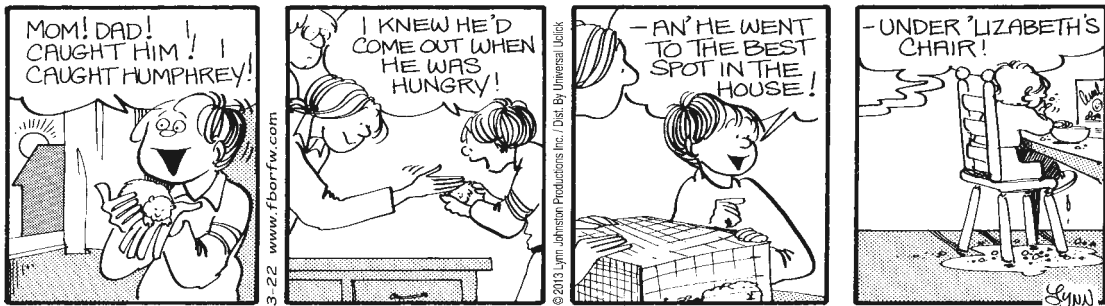
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



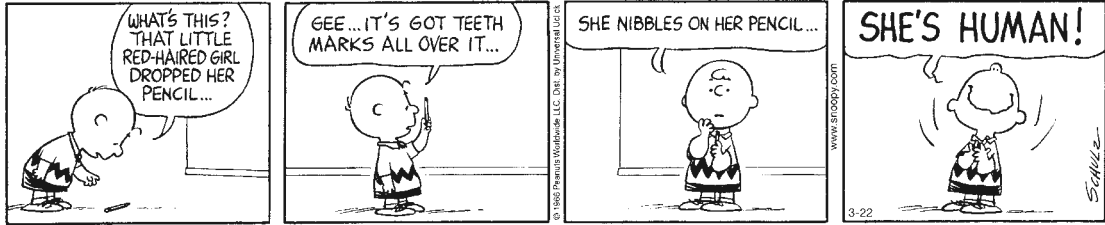
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



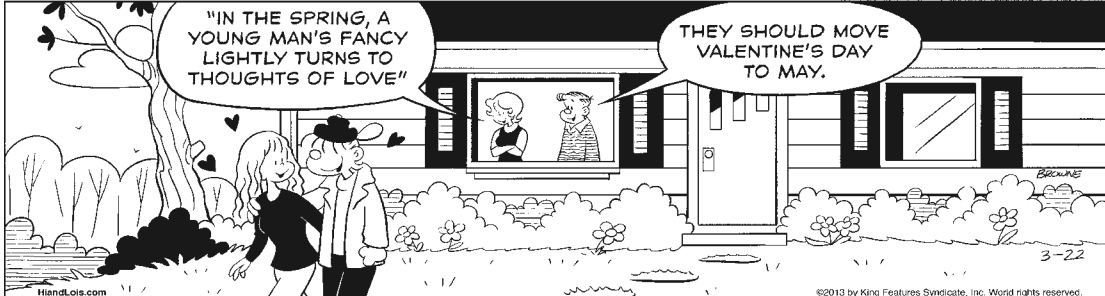
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Elderly Mom Dishes Out Abuse To Daughter Trying To Help

DEAR ABBY: My 87-year-old mother is narcissistic, self-absorbed and extremely cruel. Her physician has consulted with my sister and me and verified these challenging traits. When she says something or acts out, she'll say, "I am who I am, so don't expect me to change."

How can my sister and I deal with the needs of an elderly parent who continues to verbally and emotionally mistreat us and others? My sister is beginning to react in a defensive, angry manner (rightfully so), and all I do is cry and feel guilty for wanting to get away from her. — REACHED WIT'S END IN LOMA LINDA, CALIF.

DEAR REACHED WIT'S END: Because your mother is behaving the way she always has, her unpleasantness can't be blamed on old age. The next time she acts out and tells you, "I am who I am, so don't expect me to change," respond by saying: "That's right. You are who you are, but I don't have to subject myself to this. If it happens again, I'm out of here." Then follow through.

If that doesn't discourage her unpleasant behavior, consider hiring a social worker or licensed caregiver to see her needs are attended to. That's not abandonment; it's self-defense.

DEAR ABBY: I recently came out to my family as transgender (male to female). However, they still call me "gay." I have told them repeatedly that "transgender" and "gay" are not the same, but they won't listen. They accept and love me "as I am," and I'm grateful for that. But I need them to accept me — the REAL me — as I am in my heart.

I am biologically male and there are people in my life who don't care about that; they care about me as a human being and want to spend their lives with me. It hurts when my parents keep calling me "gay" and their "son." Please help me, Abby. My heart is

hurting. — GIRL NEEDING ADVICE

DEAR GIRL: Believe it or not, your parents may need as much or more help than you do. Although you have told them you are transgender, they do not appear to fully grasp that gender identity and sexual orientation are two different things.

A terrific educational resource for them would be PFLAG. It's an organization made up of parents, families, friends and straight allies united with gay, bisexual and transgender people. Part of their mission is education, and there are chapters in all 50 states. Contact them at www.pflag.org. Their literature will help your parents understand.



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.

DEAR ABBY: I am a man in my 40s. My girlfriend and I have known each other for four years, but have grown much closer over the past few months. She's divorced with no kids.

I have asked her to stop going to a gym that she regularly visits. In the past, she had sex with a guy from there. He no longer goes there, but she craves that environment. She says she goes to keep in shape. I say she made a name for herself there, and requested she go to another gym. What do you think? — JEFF IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR JEFF: "Made a name for herself"? That's an antiquated phrase I haven't heard in a while. Because you asked, I will offer a few thoughts:

The individual this lady had the fling with is long gone. I doubt at this point whether anyone at that gym cares or remembers. If the "atmosphere" has you worried, go with her, and I'm sure you will quickly realize that the members go there to tone up rather than hook up.

A word of advice: The harder you try to control your girlfriend the further you'll drive her away, so stop acting like a dumbbell.

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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 Aries and a Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013:

This year you will kick back and enjoy yourself more. Lately, you have been too focused on your many different responsibilities. Nearly any project can be fun, as long as you keep an open mind and maintain a sense of humor. If you are single, romance builds, which adds to your overall happiness. If you are attached, you will make a point to focus on each other much more. Plan on taking that special, long-desired trip together. LEO can be quite demanding. 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 can't possibly be more enthusiastic than you already are. Your fiery personality mixes well with the present moment, and your creativity reaches a new level. Your interest in a situation adds an element of curiosity and possibly some mischief. Tonight: Only what you want.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Friends have an unpredictable edge that keeps you alert. You simply don't know what's going to happen next. Cheer up an overserious partner who cares a lot about you. You might find that you are at the beginning of a project once again. Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Use your excellent skills as a communicator. You will find that an element of surprise runs through your dealings, particularly those with authority figures. You might not want to discuss an issue in the same way with the same person. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Recognize the importance of indulging a loved one. Your positive attitude, coupled with the fact that it is Friday, helps you create the optimism and cheerful attitude you like to exude and also receive. Choose the right invitation for you. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ As you probably already know, there is no other sign like Leo when it comes to living the good life. The Moon in your sign brightens up your Friday and gives you plenty of possible plans to consider. The unexpected

lurks, and it promises some wild moments. Tonight: Just let it be.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Take your time making decisions right now. There is an element of the unexpected on the loose, so make sure to buckle your seat belt. A partner enjoys surprising you. Even if it doesn't feel like a surprise, show this person your appreciation with a smile. Tonight: To the wee hours.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Go where your friends are. You will have a good time, even if you must do some work. You can't suppress your playful energy, but you can justify it because of the impending weekend. Schedule a late lunch, and factor in a celebration. Tonight: Follow the crowds.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might want to check in with a parent or an older friend before making weekend plans. Catch up on news with this person over munchies. Cut out early in the afternoon if possible. Know that you will be the leader of the gang, no matter where you are. Tonight: In the lime-light.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Distant drumming beckons you, and you will want to follow. Make calls early, clear your desk and head out the door as soon as possible. You are on the path of adventure. Be an explorer, and try out a new, offbeat spot. Confirm meeting times and places. Tonight: Play out a dream.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Listen to your instincts when following through with a partner. An investment might fall in your lap. Know that you don't need to answer immediately, as you might want to weigh the pros and cons. Bring in an expert if need be. Tonight: Count your change.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

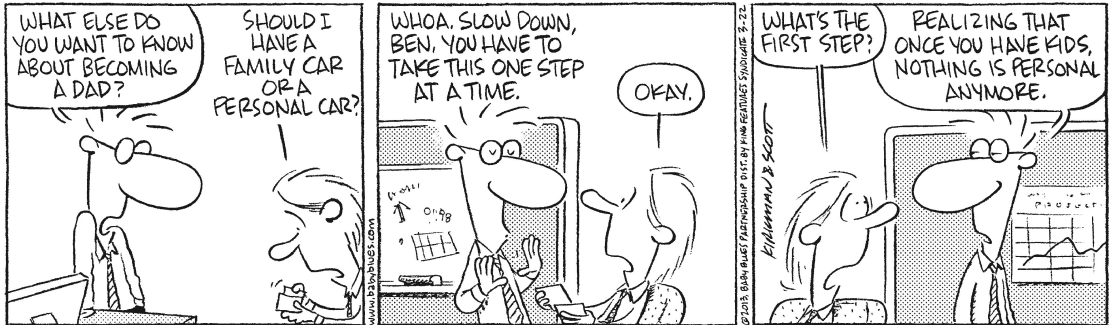
★★★★ Your unpredictability emerges when dealing with money. You might want to figure out how to stop this pattern. Seek out good advice, even if it means listening to something you might not like to hear. If you really do feel lucky, buy a lottery ticket. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

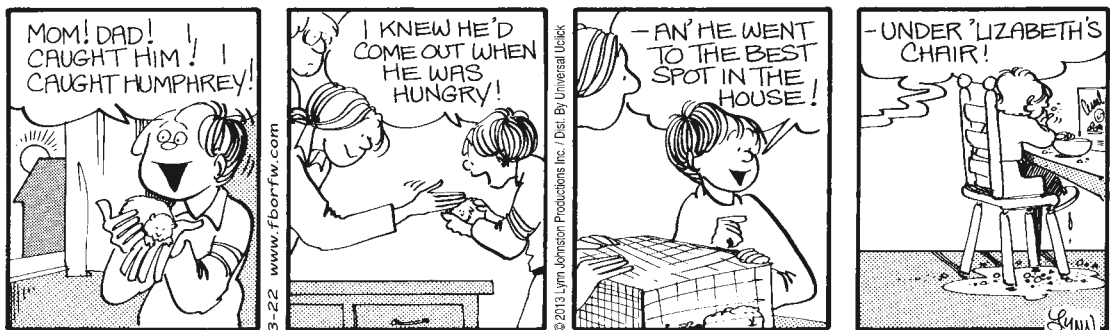
★★★★ Often when people come toward you, they find you to be rather spontaneous. In fact, they never seem to know what to expect when they are with you. You could be experiencing a roller-coaster ride of emotions. Reach out to a close friend for his or her advice or feedback. Tonight: Where there is music.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

