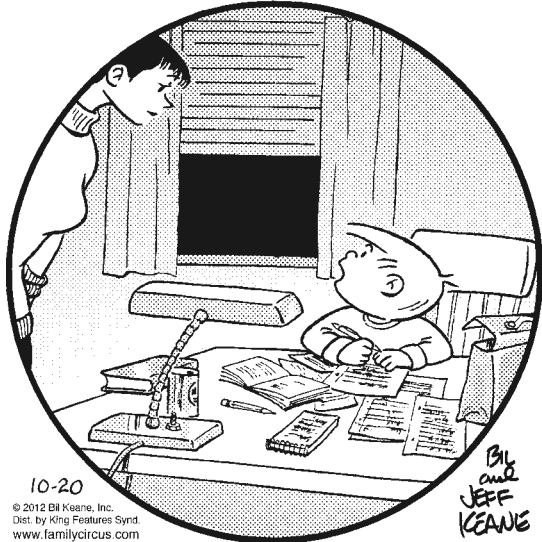


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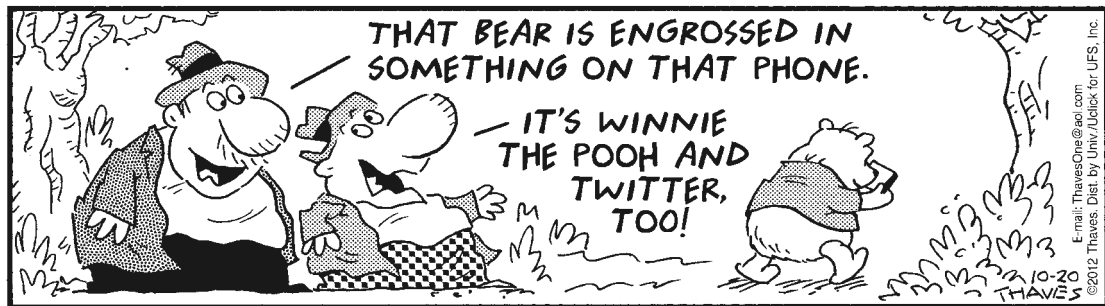


10-20
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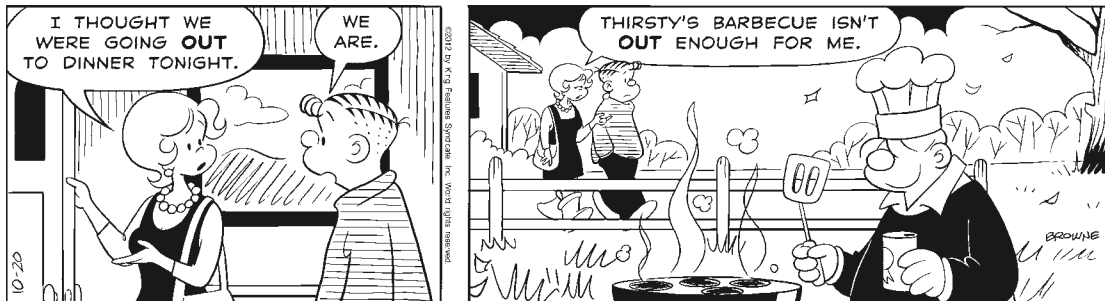
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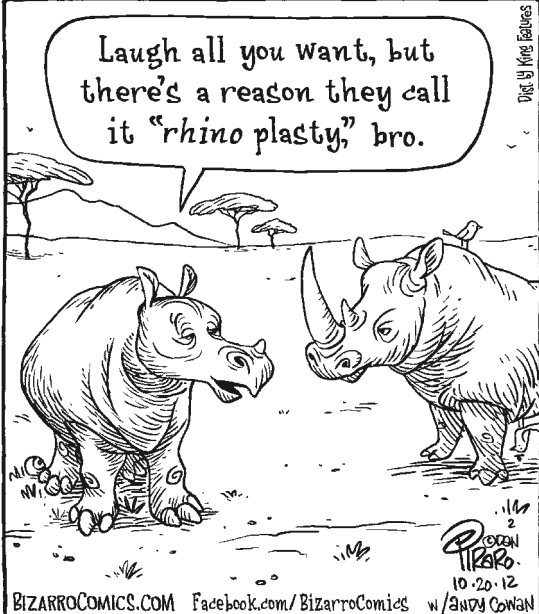
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Teen's Online Sweetheart
May Not Be Who He Says

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13, and a few weeks ago I met a guy online, got his number and we texted — a lot. Before I knew it, we were flirting up a storm. He lives in Tennessee and I'm in Texas. He's the same age as I am, so I don't see anything wrong with liking him, even if he's so far away. We have decided not to date until we have a chance to meet each other in person.

The problem is, I feel like I love him. He doesn't call me "hot," he calls me "gorgeous." He doesn't call me "Babe," he calls me "Angel." He listens to me when I have a problem and gives me sweet advice.

Yes, I know I'm young and love is supposed to come later in life. Yes, it seems shady that I met him online and we have never talked face-to-face. I know I might be mistaking love for infatuation — I've heard all this before. But I trust this boy to be faithful and supportive of me.

How can I tell if I love him or not? Should I cut off contact with him? Is it OK to feel the way I do? — TEENAGE GIRL IN A DREAM

DEAR TEENAGE GIRL: I'm all for young love, but before plunging in, I think both parties should know with whom they are having the pleasure. Has it occurred to you that because you met this person online and have never spoken face-to-face that he might NOT be who he says he is?

The person you have described may not be a teenage boy in Tennessee. He could be an adult man (or woman) ANYWHERE. He doesn't communicate in the language most teens of today use. He doesn't call you "hot," he doesn't call you "Babe." He is using terms that someone much older would use.

Personally, I think you should take a giant step backward until you AND a more experienced adult in your life learn more about him. Adults who carry on online romances with 13-year-old girls are called predators for good reason.



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: My boyfriend of four years, "Taylor," and I are opposites in that I like to be on time and he is generally late. We usually work this out by leaving for an event I choose at the time I want, and leave for his friends' gatherings when he wants.

My problem is leaving for the airport when we travel together. We use public transportation, which takes 45 minutes, but things can go wrong and make it longer.

Taylor would like to leave so we arrive at the airport 45 minutes before our flights. This causes me a lot of stress because security lines can be long and I'm afraid of missing our plane. We have had to run through airports in order to avoid being left behind.

I'd like to be at the airport an hour and a half before flight time to be safe. Taylor hates waiting in the terminal when security is light and thinks we could be doing other things with our time. Please save me from our next argument and tell us who is right. — FRAZZLED TRAVELER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FRAZZLED: You are. Better to be safe than sorry, especially when you have nonrefundable tickets. I have been on flights when seats were given to standby passengers because the ticketed passenger was held up for some reason. There are worse things than having to kill a half-hour at the airport. Missing your flight is one of them.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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.

A baby born today has a Sun in Libra and a Moon in Capricorn all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 2012:

This year much of your focus is on the quality of your life. You might be overserious at times, especially in the first few months of this birthday year. Learn to let go more often. Some of you might decide to make some major changes to your home or personal life. If you are single, you will meet someone when you least expect it. If you are attached, as a couple you make it a priority to work on building security. You also might look to invest in a home or just make necessary renovations. CAPRICORN can be a stick in the mud.

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 could be overserious and unpredictable. You might even stir the pot with a boss or someone in charge. Try to avoid a power play, at all costs. A take-charge attitude seems reasonable and could be most effective. Someone is changing before your very eyes. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information, especially if you are not satisfied with what is coming up for you. You could be surprised by what comes in from out of left field. You might realize that you have had this information all along, but it takes an event like this to recall the memory. Tonight: Be entertained. Try a movie.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Deal with one other person directly, and you could be surprised by how you get exactly what you most want. Surprises tend to follow your path wherever you go. Friends seem to be an endless source of the unexpected. Do not get into a control game with a partner. Tonight: Make nice.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and know full well what will happen. You could feel blocked in some sense. A key associate really does not want any input from you. Someone you look up to might be cantankerous and unpredictable. Tonight: Follow a friend's lead.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Clear out errands in order to free up your day. Afterward, play it low-key or get together with friends. At last, you will have the opportunity to choose what you want. The unex-

pected occurs when making plans to travel in the near future. Tonight: Once in a while, staying home feels right.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You come up with one idea after another today, which creates a problem, as you simply cannot squeeze everything in. A heavy discussion or an intense interaction is unavoidable. No matter what, you cannot turn the other way. A special friend comes to the rescue. Tonight: You know how to have fun.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Stay anchored and direct. You might not have all the answers, but you do need to find them. There is a financial decision looming over you that has several potential outcomes. Do not question your self-discipline. You know how to tell someone that you have had enough. This person could become very stubborn as a result. Tonight: Entertain at home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You will go out of your way to make an impression on a person or situation. You actually are more appealing than you might realize; you do not need to try so hard. Just be yourself, and allow an important discussion to take place. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Be sensitive to your own issues, as well as to a partner's. You can become quite insecure at times. How this behavior manifests could differ from person to person. Try not to get involved in a financial deal or agreement. Stay away from spending in general right now. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ The Moon highlights you and what you want. You could have a strong reaction to a child or loved one who demands a lot at this moment. You probably will go along with this person's request. A situation takes an interesting twist. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Be as discreet as possible when dealing with a relative or neighbor. You'll need to stay mum about what you know, whether it is the information this person wants or what he or she reveals. Rethink a judgment. Much that you hear or see tells you that you might need to readjust your thinking. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and others will seem delighted to play along. You could be taken back by a friend's unusually good mood. Enjoy the moment. This person could flip at any given moment, as he or she typically is difficult to deal with. Tonight: Where your pals are.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

