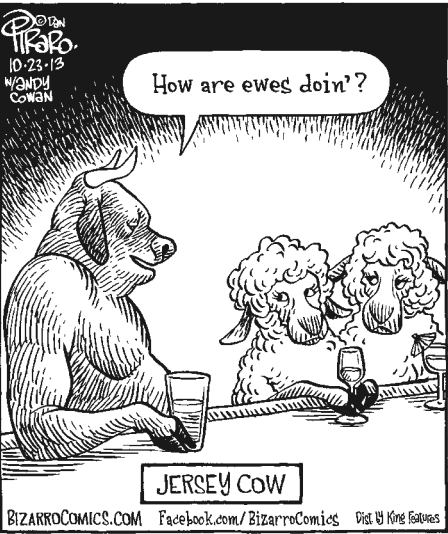


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



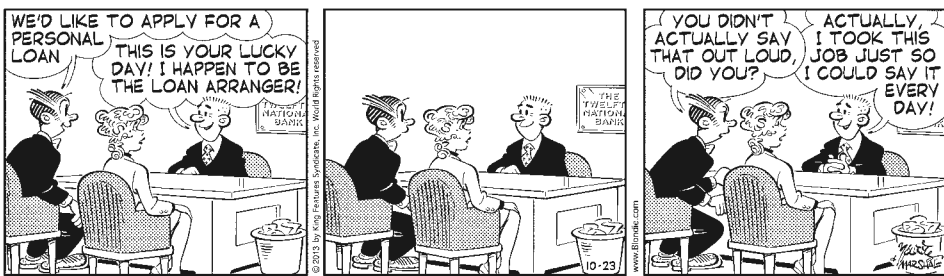
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



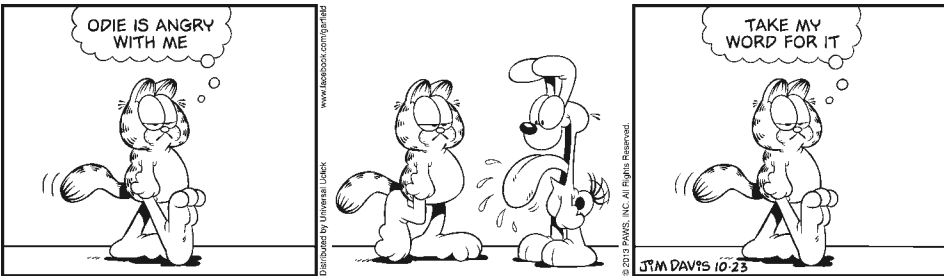
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Cross-Dressing Husband Worries That His Secret Is Out

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married, heterosexual cross-dressing male. My wife understands and is supportive, and we have a wonderful life together.

During the past week I have been caught unexpectedly by three different neighbors, and we are now in a state of panic. We're not sure what to do. If you have any suggestions, we are all ears. — CAUGHT IN A PANIC

DEAR CAUGHT: Because you would prefer to keep your cross-dressing private and this is October, you could tell your neighbors your female attire is what you'll be wearing to a costume party. It's plausible.

However, when someone is "caught" engaging in a private activity once — that's an accident. When it happens three times in one week, I can't help but wonder whether on some level you would like to be more open about your lifestyle.

If you're not aware, a resource, The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess International), offers support for heterosexual cross-dressers as well as their spouses, partners and families. It has been in my column before and is the oldest and largest support organization for cross-dressers and those who love them. It promotes cross-dressing with dignity and decency, and treats spouses on an equal basis with their cross-dressers. You can learn more about it at www.tri-ess.org.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend's husband has been texting me. When he did it the first time, he had been drinking and my friend was asleep. Some of the things he said made me uncomfortable, but I also didn't like that he said his wife didn't know what he was doing. He stopped after I told him I was uncomfortable with it.

Now he has started up again, offering support because my mother passed away recently. I am honestly not sure whether he's trying to be a good friend or if he's looking for something more, and that scares me. I don't want to start trouble between my friend and

her husband, especially because they seem so happy together. Any ideas on how to handle this? — UNSETTLED IN OHIO

DEAR UNSETTLED: Yes. Your friend's husband may be a genuinely sympathetic person — or he could be trying to take advantage of you while you're emotionally vulnerable. Listen to your gut. Tell him you appreciate his thoughtfulness, but you already have a support system in place and are receiving all of the emotional support you need.

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old cousin died in 2010, and I'm still hurting. I have tried to get over it, but we were really close. When I walk the halls at school, I hear people say bad things about him. When I bring his name up, no one has anything good to say about him. It seems like they don't really care that he was my cousin and I loved him.

How can I ask these people not to say bad things about him? — HURTING IN INDIANA

DEAR HURTING: Because people forget that the young man who died was your relative, feel free to remind them. All you need to say is: "You know, he was my cousin and we were close. I still miss him, and I wish you wouldn't say things like that about him when I'm around."

Losing a relative at any age is hard, but when the person is young, it can be even harder. Because you are still hurting and it has been three years, consider talking about this with a school counselor or joining a grief support group. Your clergyperson can help you locate one.

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.

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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 Scorpio and a Moon in Gemini if born before 8:36 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23, 2013:

This year you relate far better and with greater depth than you have in the past. Others note the difference, and they like it. Your ability to detach, empathize and be imaginative is your strong suit. Your solutions are most unusual. If you are single, you could attract someone who is very unique and possibly from a different culture. Relating to this person opens you up to the many different approaches one can have to an issue. You will evolve because of this tie. If you are attached, the two of you will go on more getaways together. Enjoy every moment. CANCER encourages your flights of fancy.

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)

★★★★ Focus on individuals rather than the group in a meeting. Your sense of what is appropriate can change as a result. Use care with a matter involving your home or your domestic life. A conversation moves to the top of your priorities. Tonight: Have a lengthy dinner.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Continue using care with your finances. You could be taken back by a new insight later in the day, which might change a lot of what you do from here on out. Communication accelerates as the day goes on, and you finally will feel understood. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You soar from one level to the next and from one topic to another. Others could have difficulty following you. You seem to know your destiny and the direction you are headed in. Do not feel intimidated by anyone under any circumstance. Tonight: Get some much-needed rest.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★ You might want to continue distancing yourself, as you'll want to avoid distractions. More information comes through a superior or boss. You might not have the right answers just yet, but trust that you will, given time. Tonight: Center yourself, then decide. This is your night.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Spend some time thinking about a personal matter before you join a friend. You might be

taken back by all the different conversation topics. Both of you have been doing your share of reflecting, which becomes quite obvious and gratifying. Tonight: Play it low-key.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You are goal-oriented, but to some people you might come off as demanding. You can't be distracted once you are focused. Others witness you bringing an idea or project to fruition. They could be envious. Know that you don't need to say anything. Tonight: With friends.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Continue the role of observer. You gain through the process and feel much better than you thought possible. Lighten up the moment by treating friends to a fun dessert or whatever feels right. You will need to take the lead in an important project. Tonight: Some midweek fun.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might want to handle a problem quickly before it gets even bigger. You could be delighted by how the other parties involved respond. Recognize that these people really want your attention. Once you give it to them, problems will melt away. Tonight: Make it cozy.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Others seem determined to have it their way. Honor a change in a situation, and accept a less-active role. You will see that you like your new part in a project, as it allows you more free time. You might choose to be more receptive to someone's suggestions. Tonight: Out late.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Pace yourself, and know how much you want to get done. You seem determined to accomplish a goal, no matter what it takes. Others help pave the way. Take advantage of everyone's good will. You know what works, and others see that. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You might want to reconsider your options with more care and sensitivity. Take a hard look at a professional situation that involves dealing with a superior. You'll see events in a slightly more serious way than you originally did. Tonight: Do your own thing.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You have been under unusual tension on the homefront. You might want to lighten up, but you don't know how. Try to let go of your concerns. Plan a fun get-together with a loved one. Understand that everything will work out. Tonight: Join a friend for munchies and drinks.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

