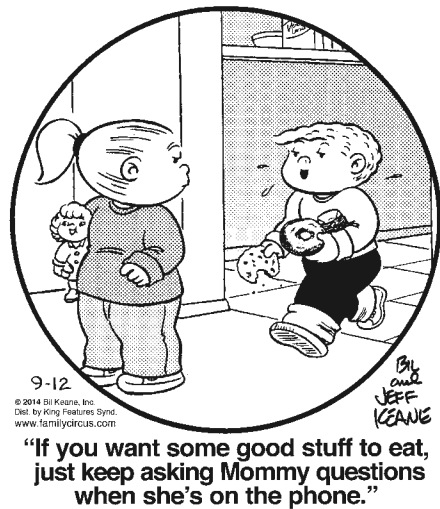


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



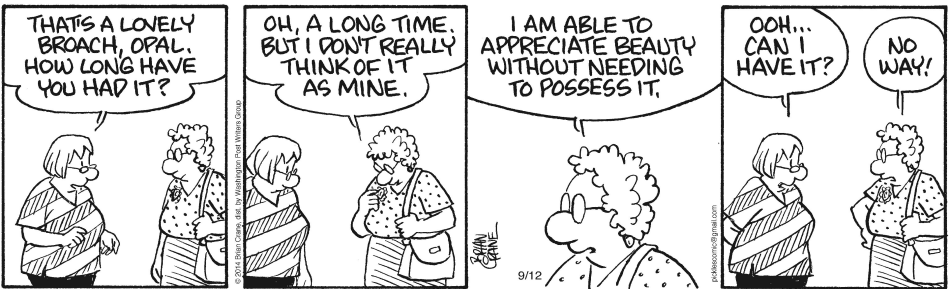
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



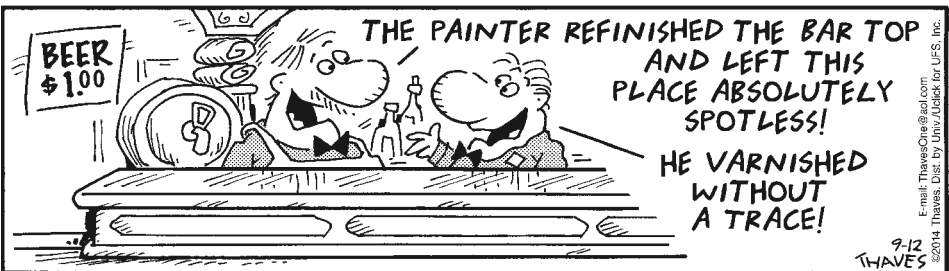
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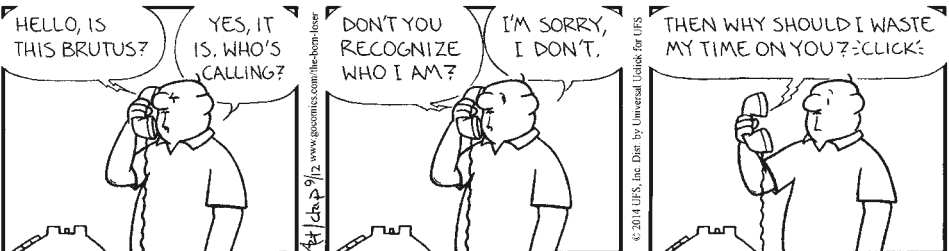
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



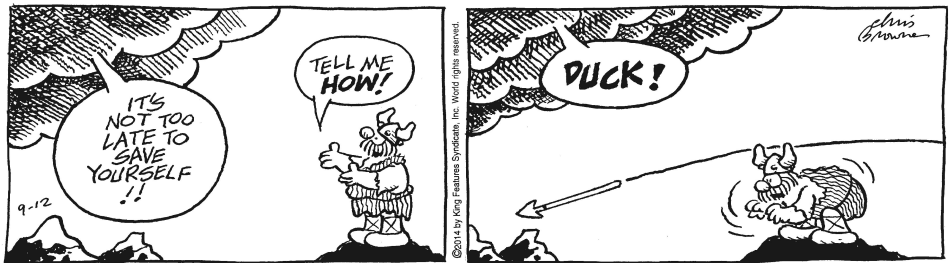
THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



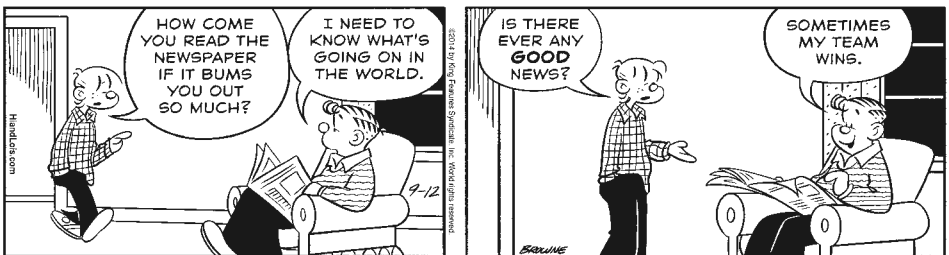
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Parents Persist In Thinking Gay Son Will Straighten Out

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay male college student who is out and comfortable with who I am — 99 percent of the time. When I was in high school, I tried to come out to my parents and it didn't go smoothly. They had an emotional crisis for a day, then shrugged it off as "just another teenage phase." After the panic mode was over, they bought me off with an expensive car and continued believing I'm straight.

I make no attempt to hide who I am because I expect to be treated the same, regardless. But it's awkward whenever I am asked by either parent, "Do you have a girlfriend?" or, "How are you doing with the ladies?"

Do you have any advice on what I should say in response, given my parents' emotional reaction? — IT'S WHO I AM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WHO I AM: It is obvious that your parents are in denial. If you haven't told them again about your sexual orientation, you should.

If you are unable to summon up the words to tell them what they are waiting for isn't going to happen, then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays — pflag.org), not only for your own sake, but also for theirs. In light of your parents' reaction the last time you leveled with them, they may need emotional support to accept that you are gay, and PFLAG can provide it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for a year. We dated for four years before the wedding, and we have a son together. The child and I have never met any of my husband's immediate family. I have never spoken to any of them over the phone, either.

He has met all of my family members. I have asked repeatedly to meet his, and he tells me he's planning a family trip to visit. He seemed annoyed when I brought it up. What should I do? — LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: That you have had no contact with these people in the five years

you've been in the picture is, frankly, beyond strange. It appears there may be some things your husband hasn't told you. He may be ashamed of his family, on the outs with them, or they were never told about his involvement with you and/or the existence of their grandchild.

Because you have now been a member of their family for a year, pick up the phone, call your in-laws and introduce yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Please help to settle a debate between my husband and me. Is it all right for a woman to give relationship advice to her friend?

I have a friend who is struggling in her relationship, and I have tried to help with advice I feel is appropriate and positive. Is this wrong, or should I stay out of it like my husband suggests? — GOOD FRIEND IN TEXAS

DEAR GOOD FRIEND: Part of female friendship is sharing experiences and advice with each other. However, remember that if your friend is "struggling" in this relationship, in the final analysis, she's going to have to resolve the problems herself. If she is unable to do that without coming back to you again and again, then her relationship probably won't last in spite of your best efforts.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Virgo and a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2014:

This year you open up to many possibilities, but you will need to eliminate some existing commitments first. You are a year away from some positive life changes. You will begin a new luck cycle at that time, and the first year is considered one of the luckiest. If you are single, someone special is right around the corner. If you are attached, the two of you love spending quality time together. You also might tend to overindulge often together. TAURUS understands you and can be a lot of fun.

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)

★★★ Your possessive side might emerge when dealing with someone you respect. Being selfish in that way is likely to reveal your innate insecurities. Be more upbeat and deliberate. You could overthink a situation to the point of upset. Tonight: TGIF! Make it your treat.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You could be more forthright than usual. Being so direct will energize you and encourage you to take a risk with a difficult person. You will want to have a long-overdue conversation. Know that you might feel uncomfortable with what you hear. Tonight: A star, wherever you are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Much will be going on behind the scenes. You are anchored and secure at the present moment, and you're likely to be very optimistic. Others will respond to you in a positive way. You could be taken aback by someone's offer. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what is important to you. Know what needs to happen, and decide who you want around you. Stop and buy a token of affection for a loved one. Do not push beyond your normal limits in order to get what you want. Tonight: Be where the crowds are.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Take your time when making a decision. It might be more important than you realize. Getting past an older person's demands could be

almost impossible. You might wonder when to pull back so you can go off and do your thing. Tonight: Out and about.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You might want to make last-minute weekend plans. This person often plays devil's advocate for you. You might be tempted to take off for an adventure. Weigh the cost of proceeding as you have been. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to work through a problem quickly with a friend or loved one; otherwise, a lot of negativity could come into your life. A family member could demonstrate how resilient he or she can be when adjusting to a big change. Tonight: Make it personal.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Defer to others, and understand what is happening with a key individual in your life. By expressing your confidence in this person's decisions, you will open up the lines of communication between you. Don't overthink a decision too much. Tonight: Follow the leader.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You will want to free up some extra time just for you. You'll remain levelheaded, even though you have a very difficult decision to make. You might want to discuss your choice with several other people for feedback. Tonight: Get physical -- go to the gym, or go dancing.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ No one dares question your ideas or your appeal. You know where you are heading. You have a sense of direction that is unique, and you possess a special type of creativity. News from a distance is likely to put a smile on your face. Tonight: Ever playful.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Get down to the basics, and understand that you will need to rebuild certain areas of your life. An older friend or relative could be unintentionally demanding and not realize what you are going through. Ask for consideration and space, if need be. Tonight: Invite friends over.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Listen to news before changing plans. You could be more in limbo than you might have thought possible. Perhaps you need to work through an issue and return someone's call. Choose to make plans that allow you to share some of your dilemma. Tonight: Love the moment.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

