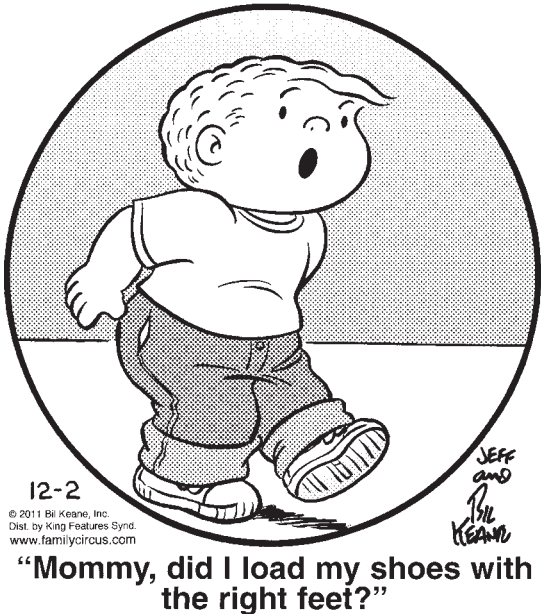


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



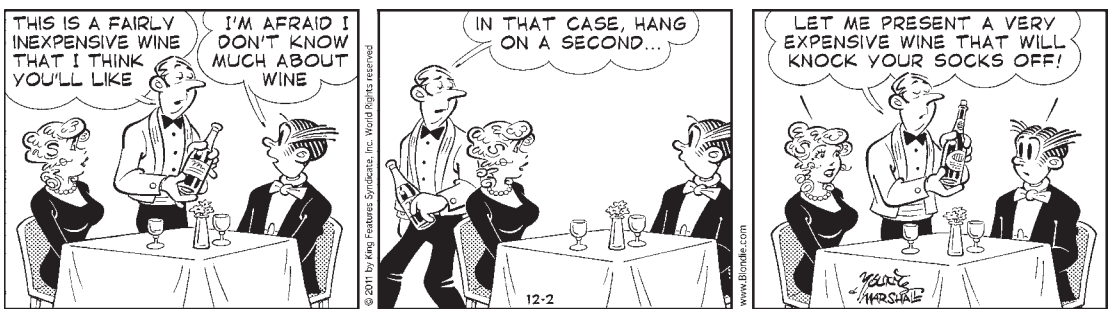
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



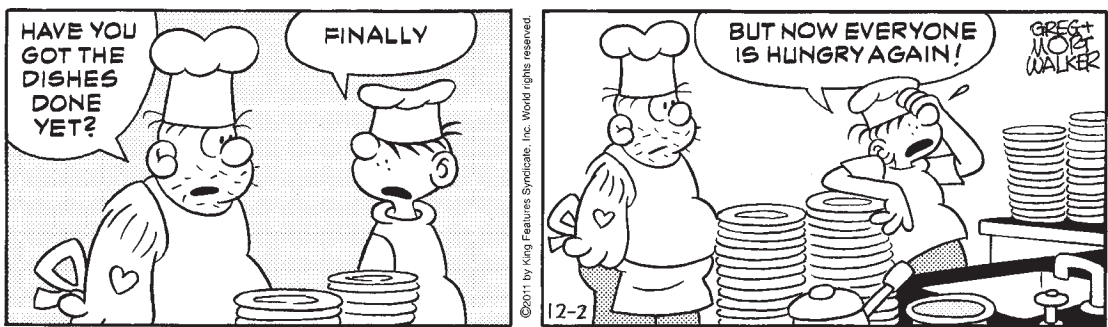
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



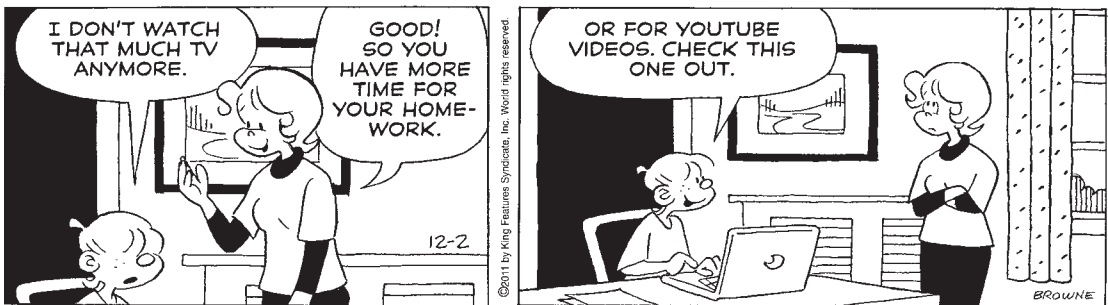
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



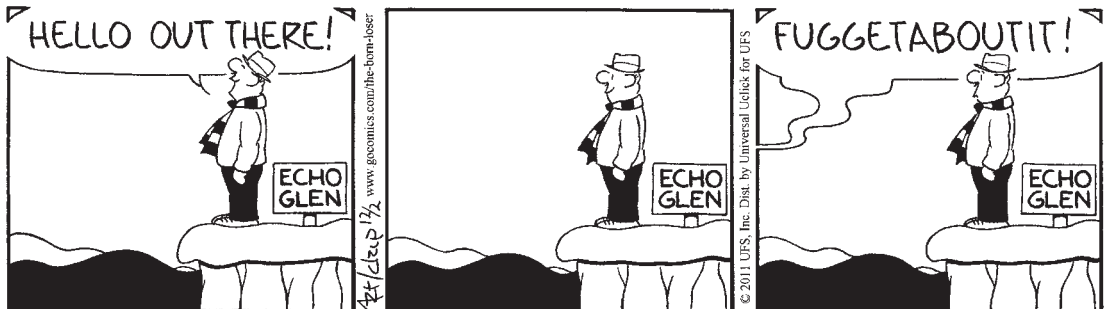
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Mom Fears Her Future Plans Have Cast Pall On The Present

DEAR ABBY: A while back I told my family I was considering downsizing my life and made the big mistake of telling them I want them to eventually have my house. I also revealed the contents of my will. Now I feel exposed, uncomfortable and vulnerable — possibly even a bit paranoid that they might want to have me “six feet under” sooner than I should be.

I don't think I am ready to move yet, but I have gotten my family's hopes up. I did talk to one of them and felt reassured at the time, but I still sense that there's a change in how they perceive me and all of our futures now.

How can I undo the damage, knowing I have to make sure I have enough money to live on as well as provide for them when I'm gone? — FOOT-IN-MOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR F-I-N-M: Two of the most sensitive subjects to discuss are death and money, and you deserve praise for having started the conversation. I disagree that making your intentions known instead of having them transmitted during a reading of your will was a mistake. Because you feel there may have been a misunderstanding, call a family meeting and clarify your message. Tell them your health is great, you have no plans to move in the near future and plan to live a long and happy life.

DEAR ABBY: My mother lives in an assisted living community in the memory care unit. During a recent visit, I became upset because the care staff addressed my mom as “Granny,” “Grandma,” “Mamma,” etc. Mother struggles with the time of day, the day of the week and sometimes forgets who we are — so I don't see the benefit of using names other than her own. I think it is disrespectful, unacceptable and unprofessional.

When I asked the attendant to please address Mom as “Mrs. Smith” or “Ms. Ann,” she laughed and said, “Granny wouldn't know who I was talking to if I called her by those names.” My siblings and I took this issue to the director, who told us we shouldn't be hurt and that the staff was showing our mom she is loved.

I am interested in knowing your opinion on this matter. — SHE HAS A NAME IN GEORGIA

DEAR SHE HAS A NAME: Not knowing the national origin of the attendants in your mother's care unit I can't be certain, but what you encountered may be a cultural difference. In other cultures, calling someone “Mama,” “Auntie” or “Grandma” is considered respectful. While it made YOU uncomfortable, if it didn't have that effect on your mother, you should take your cue from the director of the facility. However, because you have formally requested that your mother be addressed by name, then that is what should be done in the future.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I are out together, he strides out ahead of me and calls back, “Catch up!” or “Keep up!” I am not creeping along but walking at my own (reasonable) pace. I think he should either slow down or let me walk behind him and not expect me to run after him at his command. What do you think? — LIKES TO SMELL THE ROSES IN TENNESSEE

DEAR LIKES TO SMELL THE ROSES: Unless your husband is a Marine drill sergeant, I think you're right.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is 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, Dec. 2, 2011, has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 2011:

This year learning how to express your not-so-nice feelings effectively and not threaten others will become easy. You will put in a significant effort to reach this place. You often are irritated with bosses and authority figures. If you are single, you easily could tumble into a love-hate relationship. Take your time. If you are attached, your vision of your life might be much different from your sweetie's. Don't judge. Try different styles. PISCES can be challenging.

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)

★★★★ Understand that you might be feeling the undercurrents of other people's unacknowledged feelings. Others could be acting out. Curb your temper, and establish strong and sturdy limits. You will gain if you can be nonreactive. Can you? Tonight: Maintain an unusually low profile.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Decide what is too much effort and what is reasonable. The problem lies in getting a group consensus. Don't be surprised to see a couple of people flip their lid on the topic at hand. They feel passionately about the matter. Tonight: Only with pals.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Stay on top of work and demands. Pressure builds between you and others. You might wonder what is enough and when to let others know. Unless you like fireworks, the smart Twin won't wait until the last minute before his or her fuse blows. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ With as much anger being sprinkled left and right, you could be sarcastic or say something you might regret later. Clear the air as fast as possible. You don't need a scene. Tonight: A very important talk over dinner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Deal with people with whom you feel comfortable and from whom you can handle feedback. Anger seems to be the underlying tenet no matter who does what and no matter what others say. Ask yourself if someone is trying to cover something up. Let the cards fall nat-

urally. No heroics. Tonight: Share over dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Others seem to be on the warpath, but perhaps you are really the one sticking the pins in. Let someone know how you feel in a calm, quiet way. Creating uproar won't result in a positive situation. Take a walk to clear your mind. Tonight: Listen to another version of the same story.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Walk right in. Once you're energized, you'll get a lot done. In a sense, by focusing on what you are doing, you are detaching from another situation. You need some distance here. Use your anger to motivate you, but not to cause a problem. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You leap over hurdles. Your smile lures in whatever you want. A meeting could get a bit rough, as you share hostile words with another person. You know what you want — what is stopping you? If you are single or attached, romantic thoughts could occupy a good part of your day. Tonight: Frisky you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Understand that although you are feeling better than you have in a while, at times you could be caught between a rock and a hard place. Today exemplifies that issue. What determines the quality of the day is how you deal with this pressure. Tonight: Know that others are under the gun, too.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Of all signs, you can mobilize anger and use it to enhance a situation. Do just that, and let others see different ways of expressing rage. Communication flourishes, and what was difficult no longer is. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Meet a friend at a preferred place.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

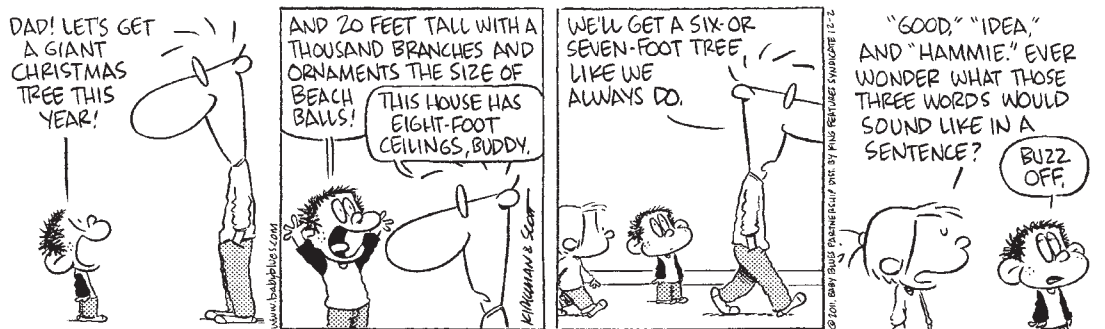
★★★★ You need to move forward and not get hung up on someone's disagreeable accusations or feelings. Indicate a willingness to discuss a problem, but not in the manner this person wants. Give this person space. He or she just might be discharging anger on you that belongs to another person. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

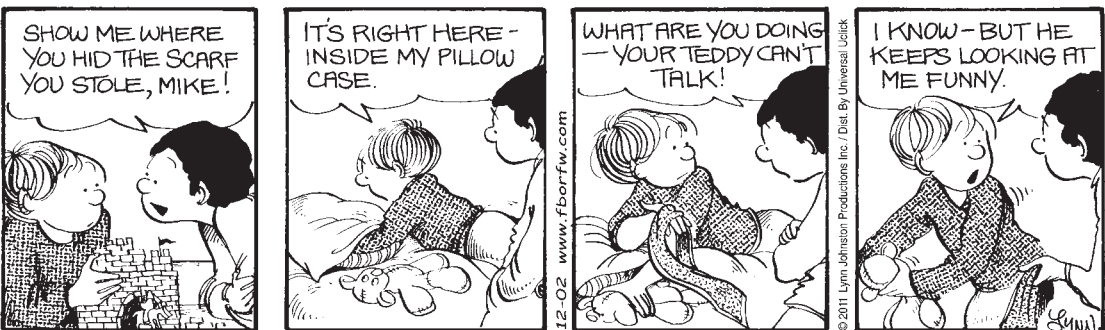
★★★★ You are feeling better than you have in a long time and may make a choice to proceed in a different direction. Others are disagreeable. You might want to settle someone's issue, if possible; otherwise, give this person a wide berth. Tonight: Your night to howl!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

