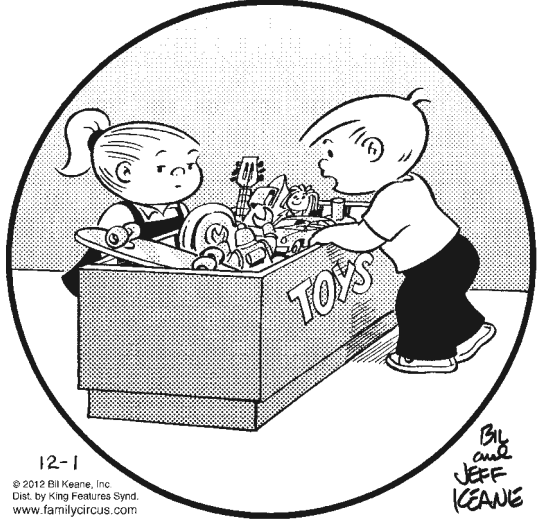
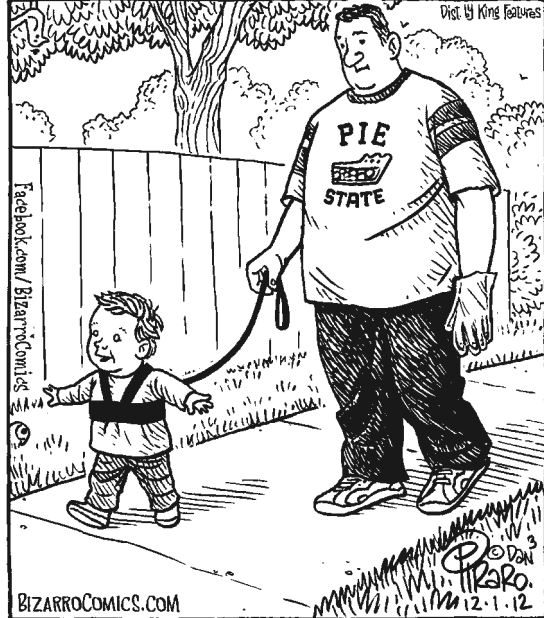


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



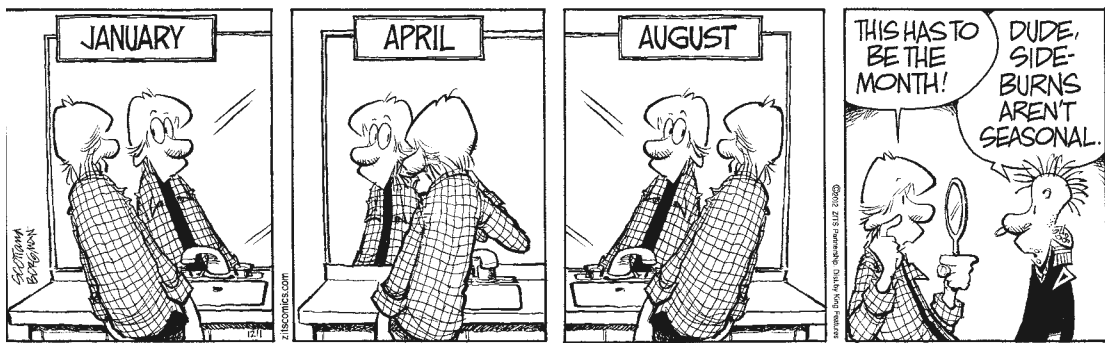
"I'm checking my inventory so I can start writin' my Christmas list."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



PIE STATE

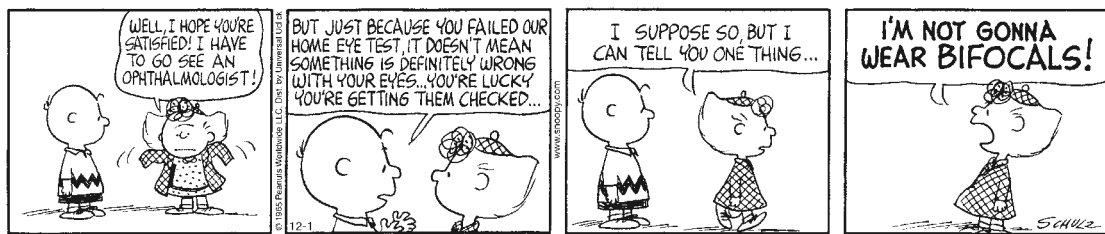
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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



Domineering Mother Keeps Her Son On A Short Leash

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend "Alex's" mom is the most controlling person I have ever encountered. We only get to see each other on weekends because he lives an hour away from me. When we do see each other, it's for one-third of the day. Alex has to spend the other two-thirds with her. I'm 22 and he is 21.

He is also not allowed to stay with me. Alex has to lie to her about where he's staying in order to be able to spend time with me. His mom has added a feature to his cellphone in order to see where he is 24/7, and would cancel his service if he refused it.

I love my boyfriend unconditionally, but his mom is driving us both crazy and turning our relationship into a trio. We have tried getting her to back off, but it just makes her worse. I am at a loss as to what to do. What do you think we should do? — EXTREMELY WORRIED IN MISSISSIPPI
DEAR EXTREMELY WORRIED: Frankly, you should be worried. Your boyfriend is an adult who seems to be firmly under his mother's thumb. He is completely dependent. At 21, Alex's activities should not be monitored, nor should he be spending two-thirds of his day with his mother. If nothing else, he should be looking for a job so he can sever the umbilical cord before it strangles him. You can't fix this. HE has to do it.

I think that if someone is low on funds, the person should be more diligent in balancing his or her checkbook. Had I known she had money problems, I would have waited to deposit her check. It has been months, and my once best friend still won't speak to me. Was I wrong? — AT FAULT? IN KENTUCKY

DEAR AT FAULT?: No, you were not. It was your friend's responsibility to make sure there were enough funds in her account to cover the check she gave you. She may be embarrassed, which is why she doesn't want to talk to you. People who are angry at themselves sometimes blame others. It's a sign of immaturity.



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 have been dating "Kristen" for seven months. She is great as far as personality, physical chemistry, similar likes and dislikes, and patience go. She is ALMOST everything I have ever wanted in a girl. However, I have never called her "beautiful," although she has made a couple of "fishing" comments to try to get me to say it. In my eyes, that would be a lie.

Kristen is attractive, but not beautiful. I have always thought that anyone I'm planning on spending the rest of my life with would be "beautiful" to ME, and I'd let her know accordingly. I can't discuss this with family or friends because I'm afraid they will think I'm shallow. Your thoughts? — NOT SHALLOW IN PHOENIX

DEAR NOT SHALLOW: Candidly, I think that in spite of all of her wonderful qualities, Kristen is not "the one" for you. And you are not "the one" for her because what she needs is validation you can't give her. Women need to feel beautiful in the eyes of the men they love, and because you plan to spend your life with someone who is beautiful "to you," you should both move on.

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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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 2012:

This year you have the ability to expand your inner circle, and you'll get to know your friends even better. This closeness could result in you meeting someone significant; however, be aware that your introduction might take place through a quarrel. If you are attached, you will work on trying not to argue about money. Perhaps having separate checking accounts would help; it is worth a try. CANCELER can be very caring and vulnerable. Be careful, as he or she could develop a hard shell.

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 might not respond well to a power play, but that's not surprising. Tension could build, even among family and friends. You are likely to need a way to relieve stress. Try some exercise. Know that others might prefer some other type of release. Tonight: Make your world lively.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your ability to see through someone's behavior makes all the difference in how you relate to this person. Perhaps, at the right moment, you might choose to explain this. It is likely that this individual doesn't have that kind of insight into his or her behavior. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Treat someone to dinner or a movie earlier in the day. For whatever reason, this person is feeling less than OK. Your caring makes all the difference and helps this person calm down. See what a little nurturing can do? Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be taken aback by how difficult certain people are. Consider going off on your own until you find friends who are more easygoing. If you go shopping, you might have more than one reason to release some anger. Tonight: All smiles. Others will feel better soon.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Others are not looking at life the same way you are. You are about living well; they are about being right—at least for today. And they are combative, too. Go off and

do something you love until the situation calms down, and you will be better off. Tonight: Remain unavailable.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Focus on a friendship, and try to avoid any heavy conflicts. Others can get stuck on expressing their different points of view. Through your gentleness, you have the ability to warm the hearts of loved ones. Look the other way if you encounter a tantrum. Tonight: Off with a jovial pal.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You want to claim your power, and others let you know that your attitude is unacceptable. You might get into a conflict, or you could choose to ignore the situation. If a loved one doesn't want to do something you want to do, try to find a different mutually agreeable activity. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Speak your mind, and others will listen. Count on repeating the conversation at a later date. Unknowingly, you could be overbearing in how you express yourself right now. On the other hand, it could just be that others are being very sensitive. Tonight: Your smile is a winner.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ A loved one makes certain requests. Ask yourself if you can respond positively. Do try; otherwise, you could be arguing for quite a while. At least try to postpone your response until later. Someone you meet today could be very different from what you think. Tonight: Stay calm.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Defer to others, if possible. You might disagree about certain issues, so be careful. Expressing your feelings at this point could cause a control game to erupt. The less said the better. Save a discussion for a different day. Tonight: Sorting through invitations.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Get into a project and allow others to do their thing. Maintain a caring and neutral stance, as people easily could become triggered and very disagreeable. Listen to news from an older friend or a family member. Accept this person's offer. Tonight: Know that you don't need to do anything.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

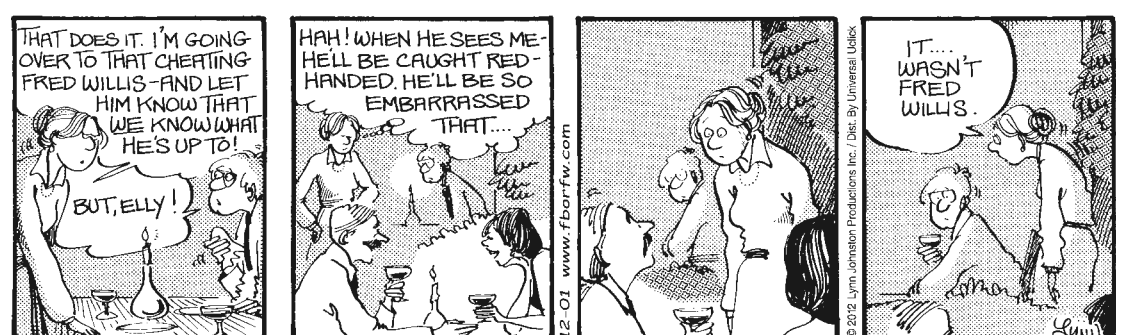
★★★★ While others moan and groan, you work to find solutions. Though many of your friends might not hear your ideas, some will. Allow more caring to flow between you and a loved one. Join this person and share a favorite pastime together. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

