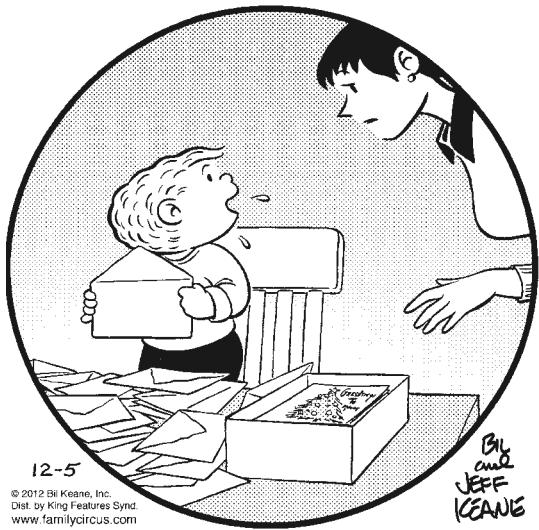


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

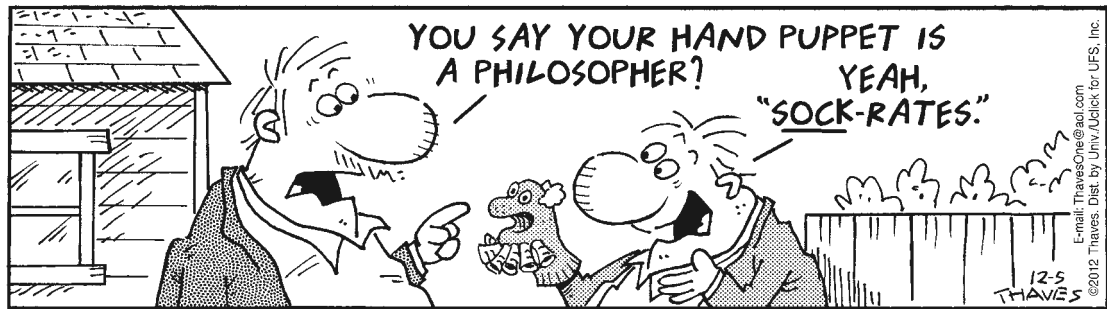


"All you hafta do NOW is write your Christmas cards, Mommy. I licked all the envelopes for you."

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



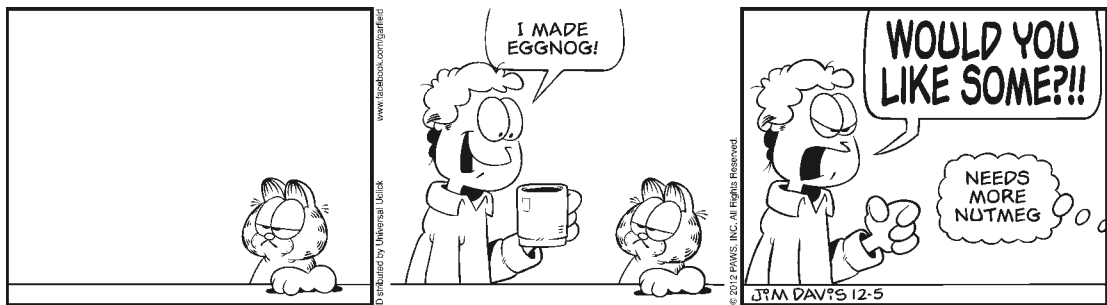
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



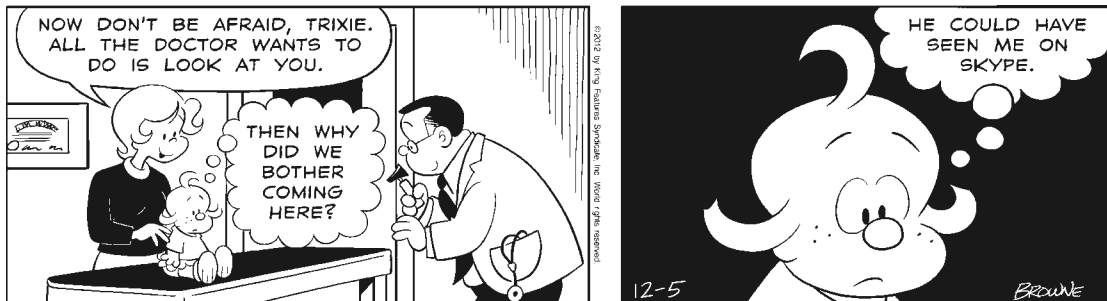
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



# Daughter Must Zip Her Lips With Mother Who Opens Hers

DEAR ABBY: When I was an adolescent, my father molested me. It took me 20 years to finally confide this secret to my mother. Afterward it felt as if a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders.

That feeling lasted about two minutes. That's how long it took for her to get on the phone and spread the news to everyone she could think of.

This was two years ago and, after repeatedly asking her to stop, she continues to tell. Two days ago, I caught her spilling the beans to an acquaintance she hadn't spoken to in more than a decade. We got into a heated argument, and she told me she will say what she wants, whenever she wants, to whomever she wants.

My feelings are NOT considered, even though I was the victim in all of this. I feel she tells my story to gain sympathy for herself.

Abby, I'm ready to end my relationship with my mother. How can I make her stop flapping her lips? — THE GOS-SIP'S DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: I suspect you are correct about your mother's motives, and you have my sympathy. Because you can't "make her stop flapping her lips," you will have to accept that she can't be trusted with any confidential information.

As I see it, you have two choices. The first would be to cut her out of your life (for which I wouldn't blame you), and the other is to avoid sharing ANY personal information with her in the future.

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old daughter, "Shannon," has moved back home and has a part-time job. We pay for her health and car insurance. Because her funds are limited, I asked her to make me a list of things she might want for Christmas. The two things she wants are a tattoo and a piercing.

I told her that while I respect her wish to express

herself, I do not want to pay for something like that. I said if she wants a tattoo and a piercing, she will have to save her money and get them. She became upset with me and said I should give her what SHE wants instead of something I prefer.

I know there are things Shannon needs. Am I selfish for not wanting to give her a tattoo or piercing when I'd rather spend my money on something more practical like shoes, clothing or incidentals? — SENSIBLE MOM IN LONGVIEW, TEXAS

DEAR SENSIBLE MOM: If you are uncomfortable paying for a body modification for your daughter, then don't do it. However, you should take into consideration that Shannon is an adult now and reconsider imposing your values on her.

If she were my daughter, I would give her a check for Christmas along with a note expressing holiday wishes and the thought that you gave her a healthy body, and with it, a nice complexion. It is now hers to do with as she wishes. Then cross your fingers and hope she'll have second thoughts.

DEAR ABBY: One of my neighbors insisted on giving me some hand-crafted Christmas decorations that are hideous. I have never been big on decorating the outside of my home for the holidays, but when I do, I have my own that I like much better.

I know she expects me to display her items and will be all bent out of shape when she sees I haven't. Is there a diplomatic way to avoid hurt feelings? — FLORIDA READER

DEAR READER: Not really. So hang one or two of them in an inconspicuous place when you decorate for the holidays, so they will be "lost" among the items you prefer to display, or refrain from decorating this year.

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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 Leo if born before 3:51 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 2012:

This year you could experience an inordinate amount of pressure, as often what you feel could be in conflict with what you think or must do. People pick up on your mixed messages. You are better off explaining your internal battle to others, even though they likely will know about it anyway. If you are single, check out someone you meet with care. This person might not be everything he or she portrays him- or herself to be. Take a full year to get to know each other. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to communicate far better, which allows you to open up more. Caring flows between you. VIRGO can be demanding.

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 a project that you must complete. A partner or an associate could act like a taskmaster and frustrate you to no end. Understand your limits here, and tap into your ingenuity. You just might find a way to lighten up the situation. Tonight: To the wee hours.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your imagination knows no limits, and it opens you up to a new way of thinking. You could find that a friend wants more, which confuses you on some level, as you have kept romance and friendship separate. Be true to yourself. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might decide to call it an early day and head home; on the other hand, some of you will decide to just enjoy a day off. Of all the signs, you have the least amount of tolerance for boredom. Take up a new hobby to invigorate your daily life. Tonight: Make it easy.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Express yourself in a clear and succinct manner. Realize your limits within a discussion. No matter how creative you get, there are some things that are best left unsaid. Take time for a child or a new friend. Tonight: Catch up on a neighbor's news.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You no longer can avoid taking a hard look at

your budget. You might feel uncomfortable at first, but it is better than not having enough money for the holidays. You'll come up with some good ideas that could make the next few weeks even more special. Tonight: Buy a gift on the way home.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

HHHH Confusion surrounds a project, and possibly even a loved one. A misunderstanding might not be all that bad, as perhaps you have not yet heard the whole story. You'll feel happier when you do. Your creativity surges as a result. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★ Know when you want to pull back. You could be taken aback by the assumptions someone close to you makes. You might not be sure what direction to head in. Do not worry so much. Try to think positively. Tonight: Make an adjustment to your thinking.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Emphasize others. You understand your own strength and where it comes from. You need less support than many other people do. Meetings could be quite important. Use them for networking. Tonight: Only where people are.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Carefully rethink a situation involving a boss or higher-up. You could feel quite restricted, as you sense this person's negativity. The question remains: Is there really negativity here, or are you projecting it onto the situation? Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Listen to your sixth sense. You know when something is off. You need to honor those feelings, as they could prevent a problem before it happens. Someone at a distance or on a trip could rain on your parade. Tonight: Detach, and you will see more.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ A partner whispers in your ear and has a lot to share. You listen, though you might want more information. A boss or an older friend could be challenging. Though you get feedback, your sixth sense tells you something different. Follow your instincts. Tonight: Be a team player.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Think carefully about what is being proposed. The problem lies in how much is being thrown on your plate. Not one person approaches you to help, either. You have to choose with whom and on what project you want to be involved. Tonight: Join friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

