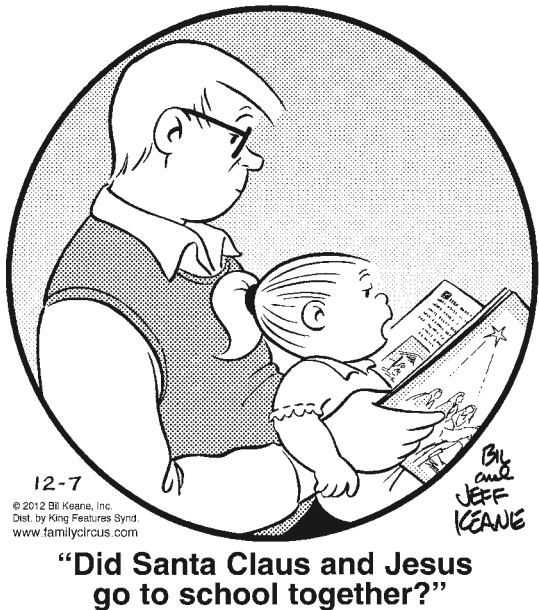


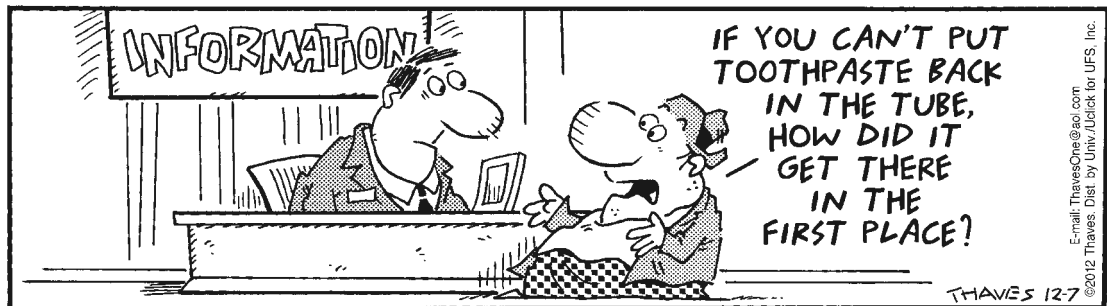
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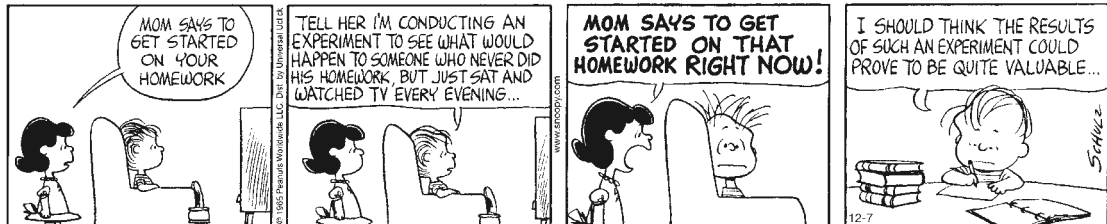
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FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



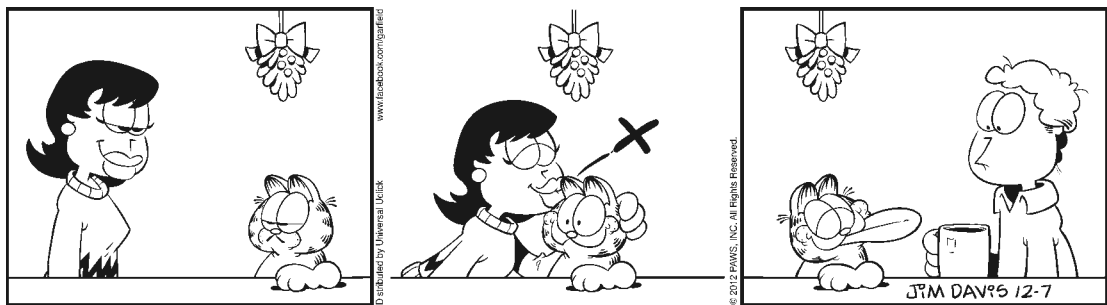
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



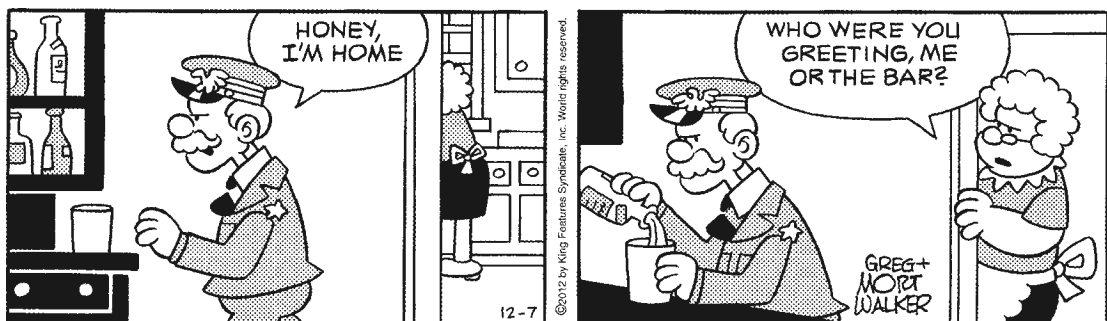
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



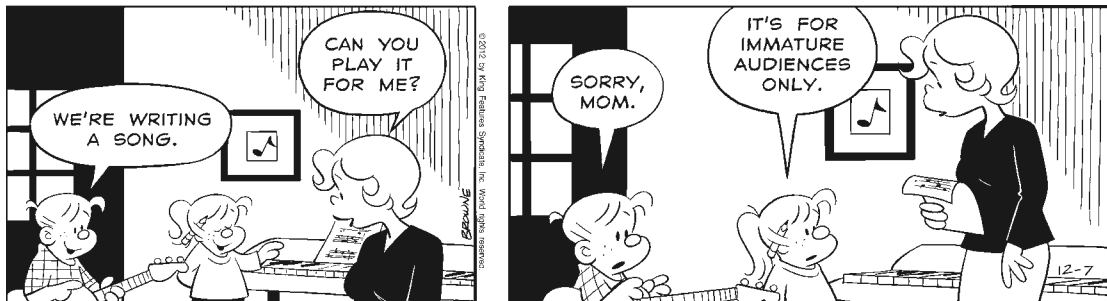
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



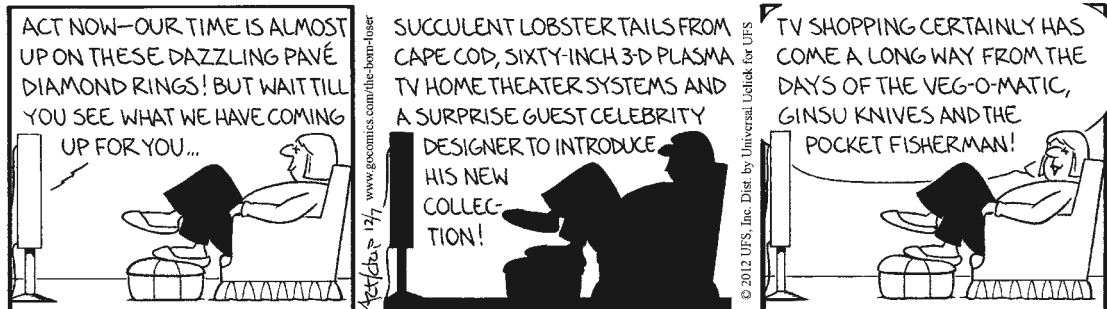
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



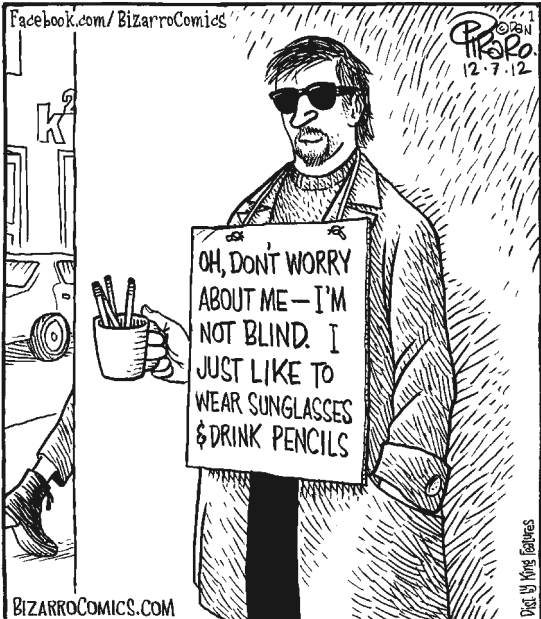
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Family Treats Retired Teacher Like Free Babysitting Service

DEAR ABBY: I never had a desire to have kids. I married a man, "Harry," who had four, and did my duty being with them on holidays, birthdays and vacations. I never enjoyed it, and I have always been honest regarding my feelings about baby-sitting.

Now that Harry's children are grown and have children of their own, they think my husband and I should give up our weekends and holidays to baby-sit their children. Harry and I have had several serious arguments about this.

I have told his kids I do not want to watch their children. Harry will tell me at the last minute that one of them is being dropped off because the father and his girlfriend are going out. When the grandchild arrives, Harry disappears because he doesn't want to be bothered.

I served my time when my stepchildren were small and have looked forward to the day I'd no longer have to share my down time with kids.

Three months ago I was "surprised" with the 7-year-old so her dad and his honey could go to Atlantic City for a great time. I told them I had a political function to attend at 1:30 the next day; they didn't return until 3:30 in the afternoon. My husband thought it was fine to go without me! I would never have done that.

I love Harry, but this is causing me major grief. Please tell me what you think about this. Oh — and did I mention they think because I was an elementary school teacher I should WANT to sit and play with their kids? It's comparing apples to oranges. — NEARING WITS' END IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NEARING WITS' END: What I think is that you are being taken advantage of, and it will continue as long as you allow it, however unwillingly. The next time Harry informs you at the last minute that a grandchild is being dropped off, grab your coat and purse and tell him you are going shopping, visiting a

friend, seeing a movie or anything else that will get you out of the house. If you do, perhaps the next time his kids need a baby sitter he will suggest that they hire one.

Oh, and did I mention that when you were a teacher, you were COMPENSATED for your labor? You are being used, and I hope you draw the line before you really arrive at wits' end.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old man. Many people tell me I look much younger because I have my hair colored professionally.

I started dyeing my hair about 16 years ago because my children are much younger than those of most people my age. They wanted me to color my hair so that I didn't look like their friends' grandparents.

Now friends and new acquaintances make comments about me not having any gray hair at my age. So, what do I say? Should I tell them that I have my hair colored? Should I just laugh? Please advise. — TO DYE OR NOT TO DYE

DEAR T.D.O.N.T.D.: Many men have their hair professionally colored these days and others do it themselves at home. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

You neither have to laugh nor to divulge the secret of your eternal youth. However, since you are beginning to feel self-conscious because you feel the color of your hair isn't age-appropriate, discuss it with your colorist. It may be time to let a little bit of gray come through at the temples.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the

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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.

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 Libra if born after 10:35 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon is in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 7, 2012:

You could enjoy immense popularity the first half of the year. At times, you could be very intense and sometimes stressed out. What an excuse for a vacation! Exciting news comes in that involves those at a distance and/or travel plans. A sudden insight could impact your life positively. A friendship will evolve, which creates more caring and acceptance. If you are single, you could become involved in a deeply emotional relationship the second half of the year. If you are attached, you see your bond become much closer this year. LIBRA demonstrates his or her caring in very special ways.

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)

★★★★ Defer to others, as the power lies with them. Your bright demeanor and high energy set the tone despite some unpredictable elements. There is more confusion around you than there has been in the recent past. At least you are clear and direct. Tonight: Say "yes."

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Pace yourself, as you have a lot of work to get done. You want to make a difference, no matter what. Just when you feel everything is A-OK, an unexpected misfortune occurs. You might feel as if you are treading into dangerous territory. Tonight: As a must appearance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your creativity is marked by many changes. A loved one adds his or her two cents. You could be overwhelmed by everything that comes up in a meeting. Besides being surprised, you also might have even more to think about. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Express your feelings more directly. Schedule some time to make a dentist's or a doctor's appointment. Respond to suggestions from a parent, boss or older friend. You'll feel better if you keep yourself in good shape. Tonight: Sip some hot apple cider, and enjoy a lazy evening.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Keep communication flowing. You have a lot

to say, and you want to share more of what you're thinking with a friend. You might be wondering which way to go on a certain issue. No matter what, you know that you are cared for. Tonight: Share with a special friend.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with funds, as you easily could make a mistake that you'll later regret. A friend maintains nearly the opposite perspective from you on a money issue. Stay grounded when dealing with this person. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★★ Beam in more of what you want. A partner could be rebellious and disruptive. Know when you have had enough, and claim your power. Once your boundaries are set, you will be much happier. Give someone the freedom he or she needs. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You need time away from others. You could be incredibly tired, and this fatigue might come across in your reactions. If you can take the day off, do. You'll be able to catch up on your rest and get everything done that you need to. Tonight: Not to be found.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ A meeting could be instrumental. You might have a jolting realization when listening to others that allows your creative juices to flow. Be open with those who care about you. Their sharing will guide you down the right path. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision far more carefully. You could draw quite a reaction from a family member or roommate. Be aware of what you are asking from this person. A discussion helps ease the tension. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You will get through to this person if you remain persistent. A conversation could remind you of how important a certain friend is to your life. An element of the unexpected runs through your day. Tonight: Try a new spot.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★★ You could be questioning a partner's actions and what he or she really means. You might want to pull back some and relax. You'll bring someone out of his or her shell without any effort at all. Be observant and try to look at the big picture. Tonight: Enjoy a favorite person.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

