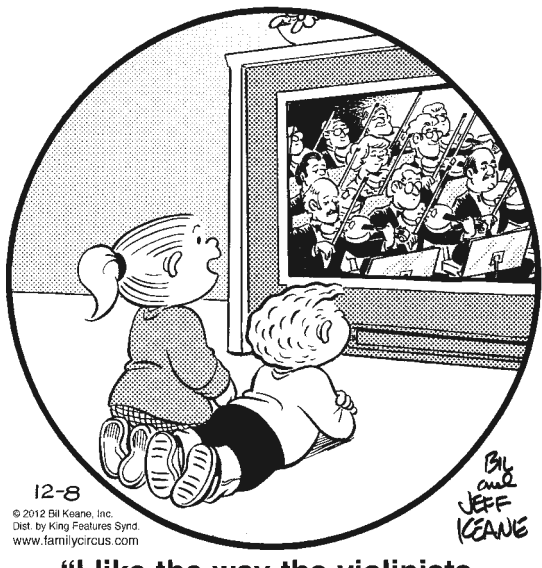
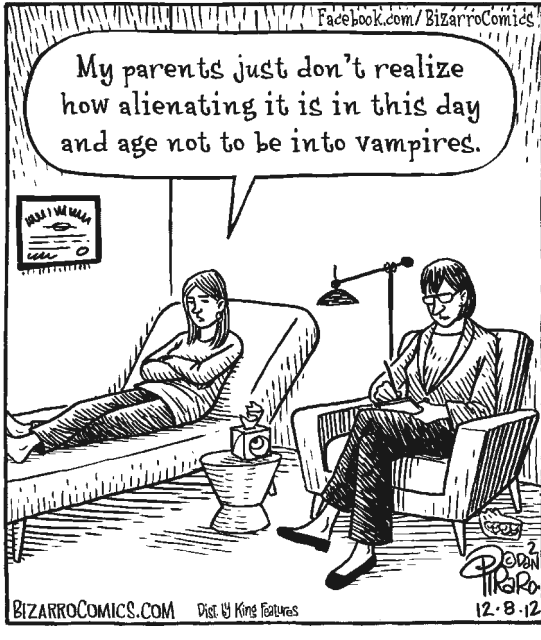


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



12-8
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



BIZARROCOMICS.COM Dist. by King Features 12-8-12

Woman Overcomes Disability, But Eligible Suitors Can't

DEAR ABBY: I am a 41-year-old female working on my associate's degree in paralegal studies. Most people I know tell me I'm attractive, and I do get some second looks from men, but there is one thing I think — although I'm not sure — that scares them away. I am disabled.

I dress well, am an average weight for my height, independent-minded, although not quite independent physically. I get around on crutches.

I live with my parents. I enjoy and participate in physical activities. I don't have a lot of friends, which is fine with me, but I do have a number of special ones. I try to make the best of my disability, and everyone I know, even strangers, tell me I do well and admire me for my courage and strength.

I should be happy with that, but sometimes it bothers me that I haven't found one man who can see past whatever it is that keeps them from liking me. I know a number of grumpy, unhappy, ungrateful women who abuse the men in their lives, and sometimes I can't help but wonder at how "blind" their partners are.

I am not desperate. I like my alone time. But it's a big, beautiful world out there, and I'd like to share it with someone. — AT A LOSS IN OHIO

DEAR AT A LOSS: You need to widen your circle of acquaintances. Once you have completed your studies and have more time, make it your business to join local and state groups associated with your profession. While some people may be put off by your disability, not everyone will be. Many people with physical disabilities have romantic lives and good marriages to partners who see past their disabilities and recognize all of the things they CAN do.

P.S. I know I have said this before, but you should also consider volunteering some of your time to a cause that interests you because it's a great way to meet people.

DEAR ABBY: Last night I received a call from my almost-5-year-old granddaughter asking me for Santa Claus' phone number. It seems she is very angry at her daddy for calling her a brat because she wouldn't give him a hug. She wants to tattle on her daddy to Santa.

Her parents are not together. Her daddy's involvement has been only within the last year. She seemed very upset about the incident, and I want to make sure "Santa" gives her a good answer. I asked her to write a letter instead of phoning Santa to give me time for an answer. Did I do the right thing? — GRANDMA T., PACIFIC GROVE, CALIF.

DEAR GRANDMA T.: Yes. Once your granddaughter has written the letter to Santa you may find that she no longer dwells on what happened. However, if she continues to look for a reply, "Santa's" response should be that her daddy was hurt when she refused to give him a hug because daddies need love just as little girls do. But name-calling is wrong, no matter how old you are, and he shouldn't have called her a brat — which is why he'll be getting a lump of coal in his stocking at Christmas.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

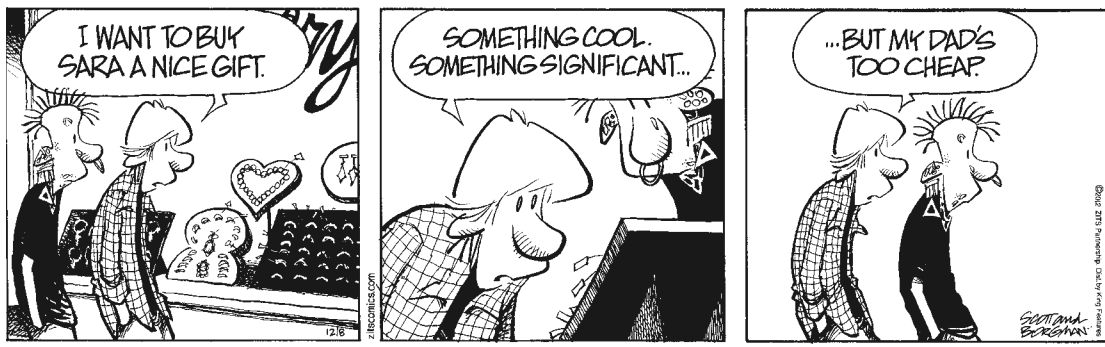
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. (I cannot believe how early it has fallen this year.) Happy Hanukkah, everyone. A Joyous Festival of Lights to all of you!

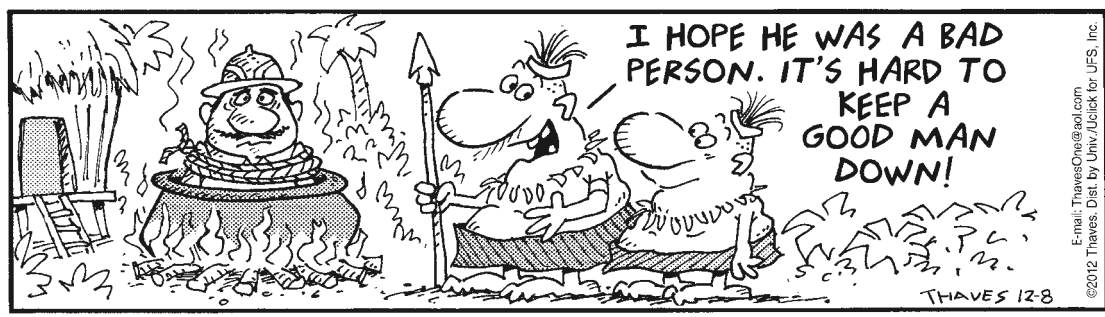
Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

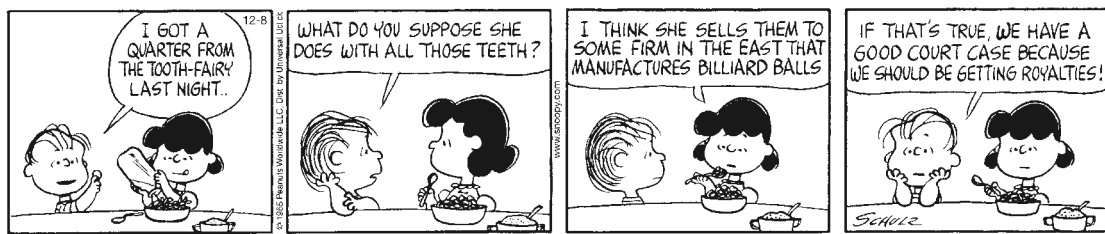
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



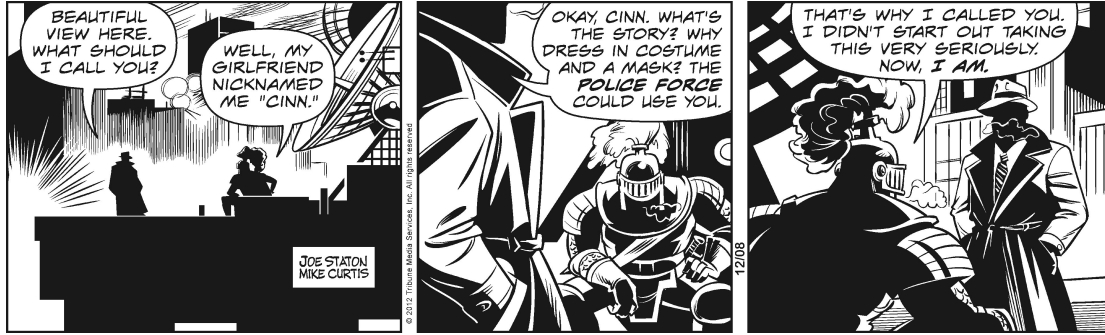
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



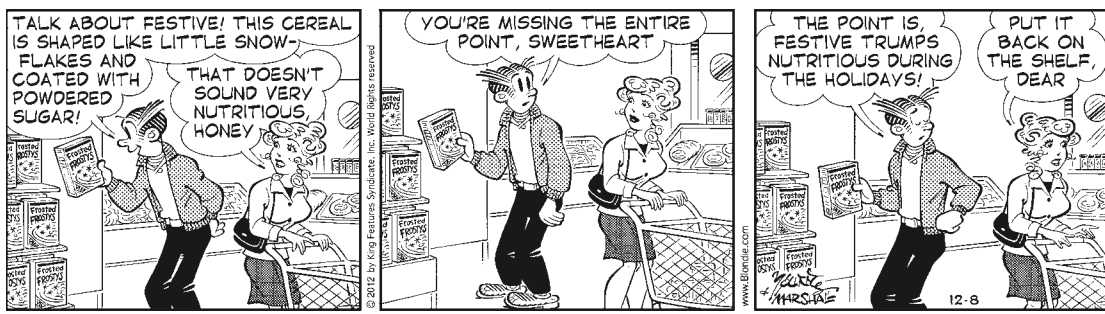
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



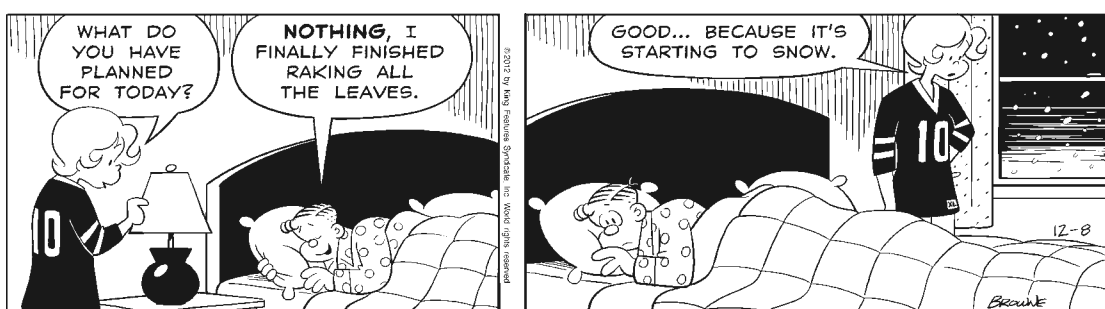
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 2012:

This year your priorities are your friends and expanding your immediate world. From summer on, you will be favored in the area of love, whether you're single or attached. You have a fiery temper, and you often diffuse your anger through spending or by indulging in some other type of activity. If you are single, you have an opportunity to change your status. A potential sweetie is right around the corner. If you are attached, you could be unusually romantic. Many of you might choose to take a second honeymoon. You will see your significant other become more upbeat. LIBRA can tell you off, but you rarely realize it until hours later!

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 will do everything you can to get together with a friend you might not have seen for a while. Frustration could translate to anger, if you are not careful. Be patient, and you will achieve your desired goal. Tonight: Out with a favorite group of friends.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Listen to others. You might have decided to complete a certain amount of chores or must-do holiday errands. You will be spending a lot of money, but you also choose gifts that have an emotional investment. Tonight: Choose a local spot for dinner.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Tension could be high. Someone you care about might be demanding in a way that is important to him or her but irrelevant to you. Still, put yourself in this person's shoes, and try to understand where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Enjoy every moment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might opt for a lazy Saturday at home, but be aware that a partner or dear friend simply wants to spend time with you. This person's idea of "doing something" could be very different from yours. Just keep an open mind. Tonight: You value this person; act like you do!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what is important to you. You have

a tendency to minimize your needs in order to satisfy others. Once in a while, you will need to indulge yourself. Do not hesitate to ask for what you want over a hot cider. Tonight: Out, but not too far from home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Be reasonable. Get your shopping done on a reasonable schedule in order to enjoy yourself more. A child or new friend could be very difficult. Do not let someone who is unhappy trigger a reaction from you. Detach yourself from the situation. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your smile attracts many people. Clearly, you are irresistible. A family member could be on the warpath; step back and just let this person be. Understand what is happening with him or her, but focus on enjoying yourself. Make the most out of the moment. Tonight: Happy at home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ If you need to get away from all the stress someone brings into your life, do just that. Those in your immediate circle will appreciate you taking time for yourself. Don't internalize your frustration; instead, consider other ways to express it. Tonight: Let others wonder.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward. When you do this, you'll discover how supportive a key person is of you. Do not minimize this person's role in your life. Enjoy the easy exchange, but know that a serious conversation might be necessary to clear the air. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Follow through on a commitment involving a co-worker or a family member. This person appreciates your efforts, and you'll feel much better afterward, too. Curb a tendency to be grumpy and difficult. You do want to get along with others, don't you? Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Consider those at a distance. You can't always stay on top of everything, but certain people really do count on you. Listen to a child or a fun loved one. Together, you can create a lot of fun. Do not let a former grievance dominate your day. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Try to be more sensitive to others. A special person needs your time and attention. A friend chimes in with a similar request. You have to make a judgment call. You know who is more important, as this person might need you more right now. Tonight: Add some romance.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

