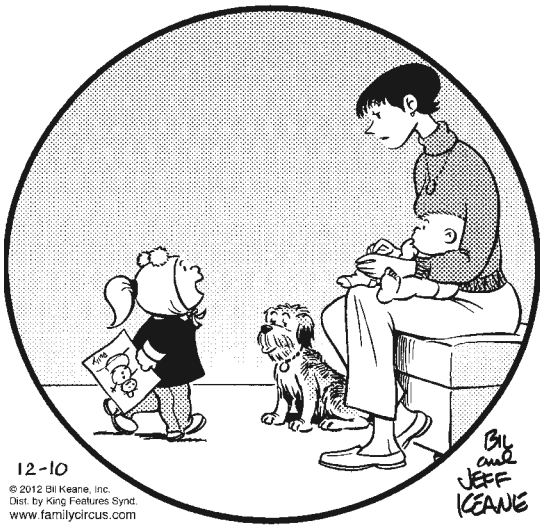
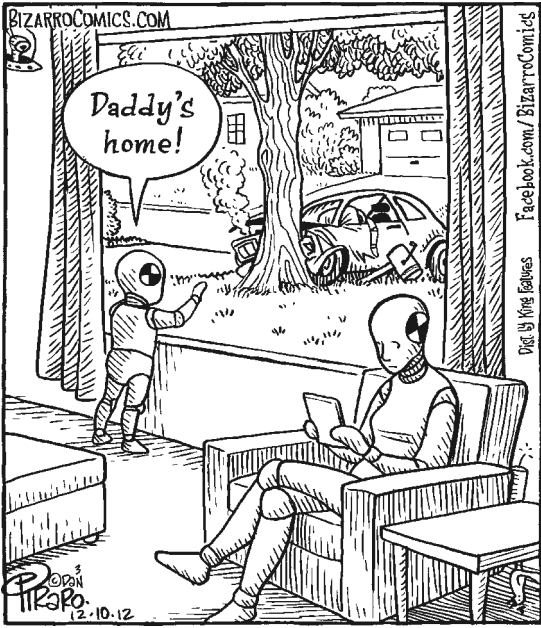


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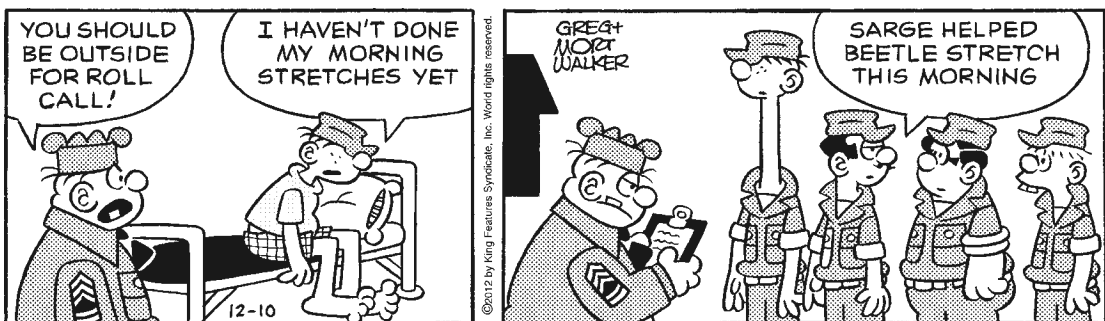
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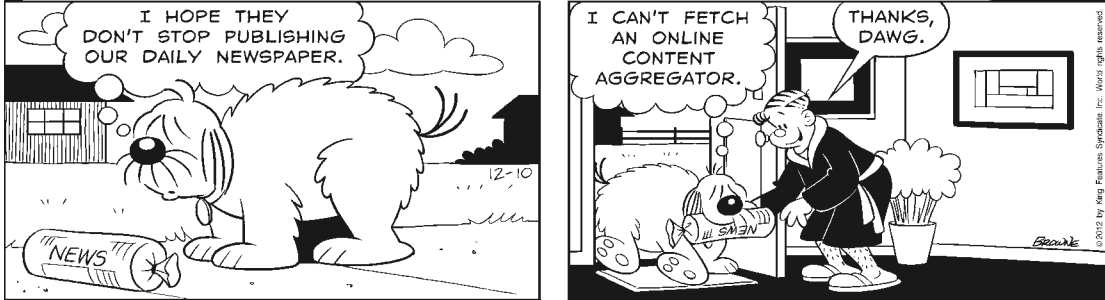
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# Girl Knows Truth About Santa, But Mom Refuses To Fess Up

DEAR ABBY: I have a 12-year-old daughter who keeps telling me she knows Santa isn't real. "Angela" is an only child, so we don't have a younger child to worry about carrying on the tradition.

I keep telling her that I believe, and as long as she believes, Santa will come. Angela went so far this year to tell me that she won't write a letter to Santa to prove her point. I guess I have a problem admitting to my daughter that her father and I haven't been truthful all these years. I would love some advice on how to handle this. — I BELIEVE, IN NAVARRE, FLA.

DEAR I BELIEVE: The jig is up. You're no longer fooling your daughter. By not leveling with her, the message you have been sending is that if she wants straight answers, she will have to go elsewhere to find them. Sit Angela down and explain that the spirit of Santa is embodied by loving parents who want their children to experience the wonder of the holiday as well as the pleasures it brings.

P.S. And if you haven't done so already, recant the story you probably told her about the stork.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for three years. I have started seeing a truck driver I'll call Ted. His job keeps him away from me a lot of the time. I'm used to being by myself, so it doesn't bother me that much. Ted calls and texts me all day, so the communication is there.

My family is telling me it will never work because I need someone with me in the evenings — like my ex was. I say it WILL work because I'm used to being by myself now. Ted and I have a lot in common.

I guess what I'm asking is, should I pay attention to what my family is saying or tell them to mind their own business? — OK BY MYSELF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR OK: Constant togetherness is no guarantee

that a marriage will be successful. If it was, you wouldn't be divorced from your "ever-present" ex. When choosing a partner it is important to listen to both your heart and your head.

Continue the relationship and see how it plays out. Tell your family you appreciate their concern, but this is something you must decide for yourself. "Mind your own business" seems a bit harsh.

DEAR ABBY: I see a very skeletal woman every day at my gym. She does an hour on the sit-up machine. Her stomach sticks out like a person suffering from starvation. It hurts to look at her.

I feel I have a moral obligation to do or say something in case she is suffering from anorexia. However, I would not feel obligated to say anything to an obese woman at the gym. I am also afraid this person may have another condition that is causing her to waste away.

How should I offer support to her? Or should I just ignore her like the other people at the gym do? — WORKING OUT WITH MY EYES OPEN

DEAR WORKING OUT: If you would like to reach out to her, be friendly, but do not comment on her appearance. As you get to know each other you will learn more about her condition — if she has one. If you say anything right off the bat, it could be considered rude, nosy or insensitive, so I don't recommend it.

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 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 has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Scorpio.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, DEC. 10, 2012:

This year, your ideas might not always be workable or realistic, yet you'll discover how much these flights of fancy feed your creativity. Let a friend play devil's advocate before you present an important solution to a boss or higher-up. If you are single, your choice for a suitor might work this week, but not next month. Honor your changeability. If you are attached, your sweetie might be taken aback by some of your comments. Hopefully this person has a sense of humor. If so, he or she will like your high energy. SCORPIO can be sharp-tongued.

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)

★★★★ Someone is far more serious about a money issue than you realize. You must handle your side of this situation. Listen to news from a distance. Follow-through counts and, fortunately, that is your strong suit. Tonight: Go as late as you want or need to.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter more carefully. Your sense of humor comes through because of a partner's perspective. As a result, you also will be able to detach and see the whole picture. Tonight: Accept an offer or invitation.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Pace yourself; you know how to proceed. You could feel as if someone doesn't really get your message. Don't worry, he or she does. Adjust your schedule after checking in with key friends, associates or loved ones. Tonight: Network the night away.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You initially might be rigid with a difficult situation or a loved one. Allow yourself to relax. You have the gift of creativity on your side. You will find a solution that works for both sides. Tonight: Let your imagination invigorate your personal life.

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

★★★ If you can spend more time at home, do so. Refocusing at this hectic time of year might be critical. Adjust

your schedule to take better care of yourself. You have tons of energy. Allow more creativity into your life. Tonight: Let your choices be clear.

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

★★★★ Stay open in conversations. Try to loosen someone up who has become very isolated. Remember, you can only do so much, as this person is in control of his or her own moods. You are coming from an anchored point of view. Tonight: Your treat.

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

★★★ Your more possessive side emerges when dealing with a friend or loved one. This person might be unusually touchy when it comes to funds. Communicate more of what you want. You just might be surprised by his or her reaction. Tonight: Your treat.

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

★★★★ You mean what you say, and the person you want to receive that message gets it loud and clear. You feel uncomfortable when involved in a money discussion. Try not to become frustrated if obstacles keep popping up. You have a lot of energy. Tonight: As you like it.

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

★★★ Your perspective could change the more you hear about a certain situation. Play it smart and say little in order not to influence a conversation. You want someone to reveal more of his or her true thoughts and feelings. Tonight: Make it early.

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

★★★★ Aim for what you want. Your focus and endurance make a powerful combination. A supportive friend could be overserious right now. You might be unusually feisty, and as a result, others might see you as being difficult. Tonight: Find your friends.

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

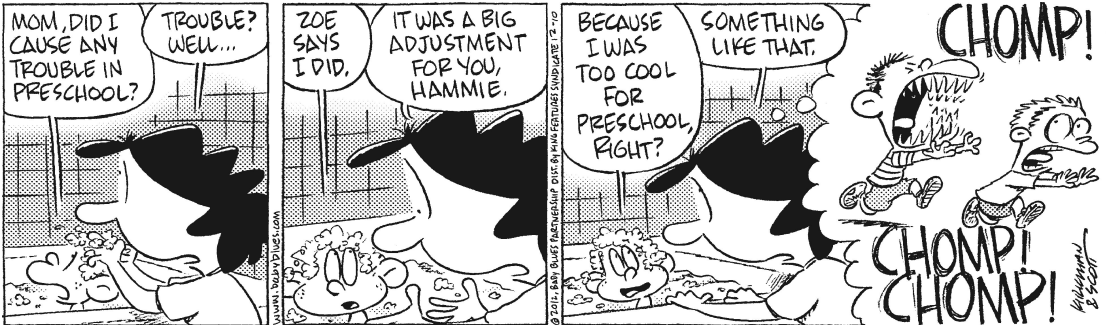
★★★★ Allow others to express their support for or disagreement of your perspective. You know what you are doing, and you will explain your logic. Part of your openness might be stemming from a recent disagreement. Tonight: Could be late.

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

★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information and different opinions. The more you learn and incorporate a variation of ideas, the stronger the outcome will be. A friend might be hot-tempered. Let this person be. Go off and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Catch up on emails.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

