

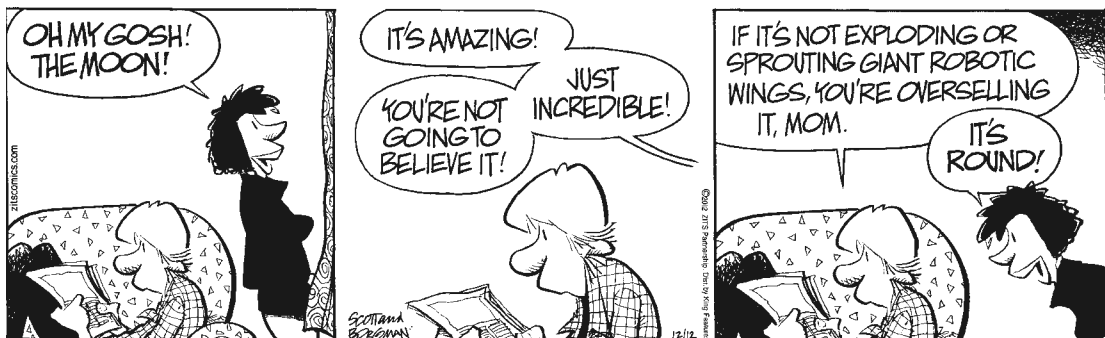
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



12-12
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"How many stairs do you think they use up in a day?"

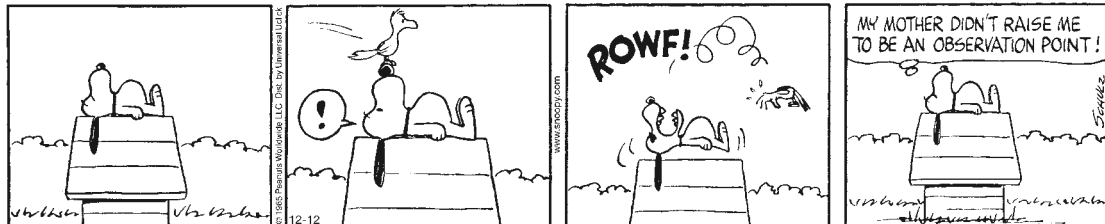
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



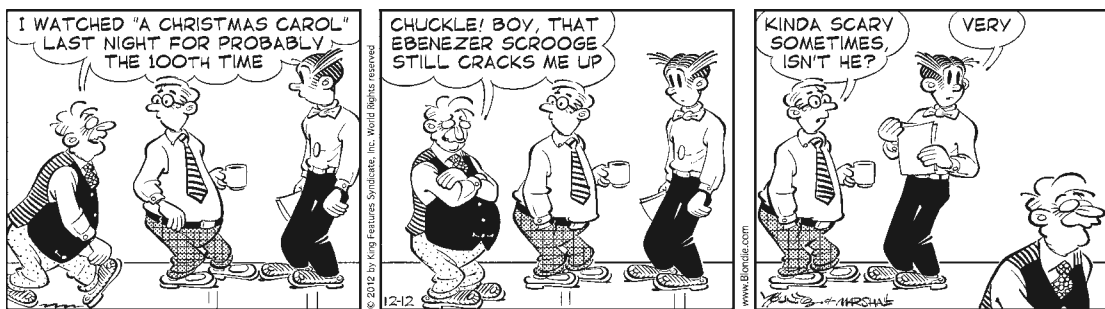
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



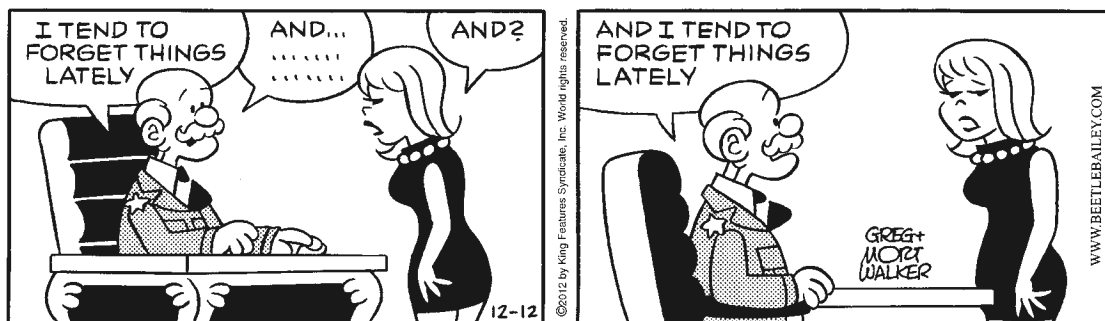
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



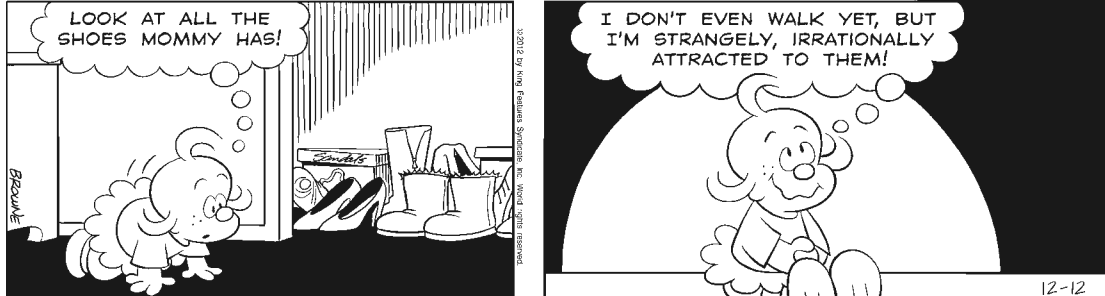
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



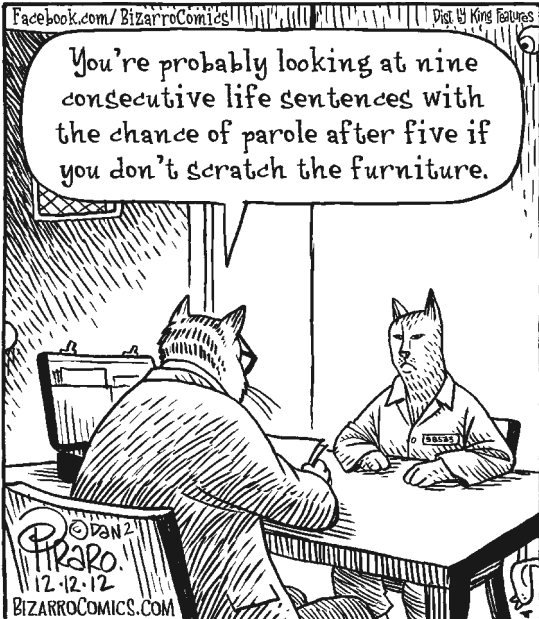
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Wife Of 14 Years Learns Man Still Carries Torch For Another

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 14 years to a man who had two failed marriages. I never felt insecure in my married life until I read his answers to a Yahoo Answers poll that asked, "Do you dream about the one that got away?" and, "Have you found the love of your life?"

My husband responded that he thinks about her very often, especially on her birthday and Valentine's Day. To the other question he replied he had found the love of his life, but the relationship had ended in divorce, which he admitted was his fault.

I know he was talking about his first wife. I feel so sad and insecure. Now I must deal with the fact that on Valentine's Day his thoughts are with someone else. How can I get over this? I no longer believe him when he says he loves me because I have proof that he hasn't moved on yet. I can't believe he said that even now he still thinks about her. Please help. — SAD HEART IN SAN JOSE

DEAR SAD HEART: Your husband posted those thoughts on a public forum? Rather than feel hurt and insecure, you should be furious. How would he feel if the person answering that poll had been you? (Of course, you would have had better judgment.)

By now it should be clear to you that you did not marry a rocket scientist. You have my sympathy because his first marriage has been over for nearly two decades and he — along with his obvious shortcomings — are no longer her problem, but yours. However, your pain may lessen if you look at the bright side: He treats you well 363 days a year, and many of the women who write to me are not so lucky.

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with a man in a long-distance relationship for two years. I care about him very much and I believe he cares for me.

Things were going great until he was devastated

by a downturn in his business. He had planned to move here, but was unable to sell his home. We used to see each other every two weeks, but no longer. It has been almost two months. He calls once a week, but nothing else.

We have been close and he has shared his life, his worries and personal information with me. I haven't pressured him and I don't need a commitment now, although I would like one someday.

Abby, he seems to be drifting away. Is it OK to write to him, email him, send encouraging notes once a week and continue to support him? Is it too much to ask for more frequent communication from him? I have offered to travel the 1,000 miles, but he has evaded my offer. I'm not ready to walk away. We have been great together and this is difficult for me. Advice? — HOLDING ON IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOLDING ON: It's fine to be supportive, but don't overwhelm him right now. You may have to let this play out in its own time. Your friend may have retreated because he's concentrating his energy on reviving his business. He may be licking his wounds or he may have met someone, which is why he discouraged your visit. That he still calls you is encouraging.

Because you have known him for two years, I recommend you simply ASK him if he's met someone else. If the answer is no, it will put your mind at ease. But if the answer is yes, at least you'll be clear about what happened.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 and Moon in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 2012:

This year you express your unique creativity, as an endless amount of unusual solutions and fun ideas seem to come from you. Drop the word "no" from your vocabulary. Because your birthday coincides with a New Moon, unusual charisma becomes the norm for you. You are the honey that bears seek! If you are single, many potential suitors surround you. Which one will you choose? If possible, don't decide on the first date. If you are attached, guard against being too me-oriented. A fellow SAGITTARIUS might take risks in a different way than you do.

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)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to others, especially if recent circumstances caused a problem or a stunned reaction. Focus on conversations, yet maintain an even pace. You'll cover a lot of ground if you let others open up. Detach if you have a strong reaction. Tonight: Take a risk.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ A partner continues to give you significant feedback. You might not like everything you hear, but at least now you know where someone is coming from. Share some special time with a friend who understands how to live life well. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You could be more in touch with your feelings than in recent months. An unexpected change of plans might be hurtful, but don't take it personally. To your surprise, a meeting proves to be rather insightful. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You'll accomplish a lot if you remain focused. The unexpected walks hand in hand with a boss or someone you need to answer to. Let it go. What you learn from this experience could be quite instrumental. Tonight: Get some exercise.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ News gives you reason to frolic and celebrate. You could gain a deeper insight into your life. Op-

portunities come forward out of the blue when you have less energy to give. This pattern happens when you let go of the reins of control. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Sometimes you are the source of your own pressure. The unexpected occurs, which encourages a partner to reach out and express some of his or her concerns. You might feel overwhelmed, as you could have too much on your plate. Tonight: To the wee hours.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You could be up for more excitement or a change of pace. The unexpected occurs, which encourages a partner to reach out and express some of his or her concerns. You might feel overwhelmed, as you could have too much on your plate. Tonight: To the wee hours.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You might be surprised by what an unexpected situation brings. An associate or a matter involving your daily life could take an interesting twist, which adds excitement, if nothing else. A discussion with a partner draws results. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's efforts to make the day more to his or her liking. You might not be sure how another person will react. Stay open and fluid with the moment. Tonight: Be spontaneous. Plan a get-together with friends and loved ones.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Reframe a situation in a different light. Don't allow your high physical energy to affect your thinking, as it might make you more nervous than need be. Take a midday walk to clear any tension. Tonight: Schedule some downtime for yourself.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ A meeting could punctuate your plans. If you are single, you could meet someone who seems to have a magical quality about him or her. Lighten up when dealing with people, and you are likely to have better conversations. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Deal with others in a manner that makes them feel comfortable. You might need to take the lead. Think through a situation with greater care. On the other hand, a holding pattern could create better results. Tonight: Buy a holiday gift or two on the way home.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

