

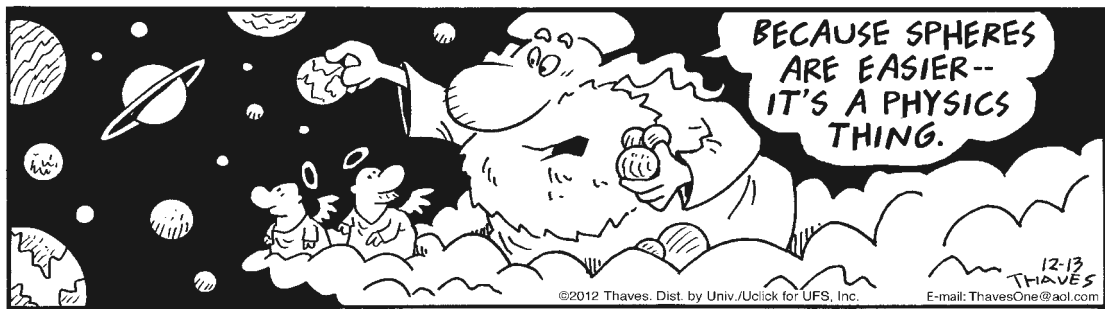
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



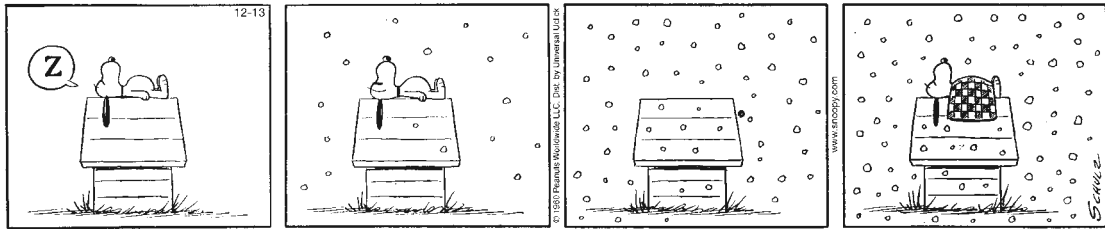
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



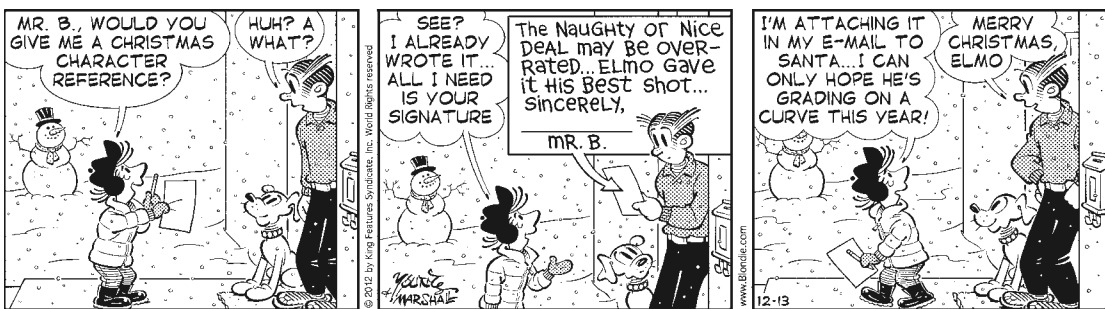
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



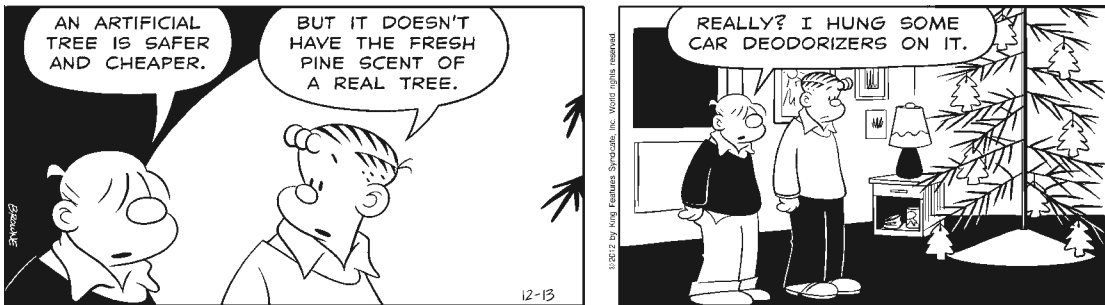
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Dental School Would Welcome Tooth Fairy's Treasure Trove

DEAR ABBY: I must respond to "Always His Mom" (Sept. 26), who asked what to do with her grown son's baby teeth. She can contact the college of dentistry close to her and ask if the school would like to have the baby teeth the Tooth Fairy collected.

When I was in dental school, we used deciduous teeth (baby teeth) to study the dental anatomy of children. It's rare to have a complete set from one person, which would make these a good learning aid for students. When I was in school, the deciduous teeth were nearly smooth because of the number of students who had handled them, making them very difficult to identify. — DOUG FROM SOLON, IOWA

DEAR DOUG: Your suggestion to contact a dental school and ask if they would be interested in using the baby teeth as learning aids is sensible. Other readers offered some "unique" ideas on the subject:

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to comment about what to do with those baby teeth. The original reasoning behind the tooth under the pillow custom was to keep witches from getting ahold of them and casting a spell on the child. The traditional disposition of those teeth was straight into the fire! — LADAWN IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY: I had a neighbor with five children. She also kept their baby teeth and was inspired to use them to make a present for her father. At the time, we were into casting things in plastic, so she bought a mold for a toilet seat and embedded all the teeth neatly into it. Her father refused to use it because he said it would be like sitting in a shark's mouth. — CAROLE IN GILFORD, N.H.

DEAR ABBY: My son passed away. His girlfriend was pregnant and had the baby four months later. We had a DNA test done using his baby teeth, which I had saved. It proved he was the father, and the baby, our grandson, is now 10 years old.

Also, with this information, the boy was able to get Social Security benefits for survivors. It was a bit of a struggle, but well worth it. How's that for a good use for

baby teeth? — GRANDMA IN NEWBURGH, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: As I was cleaning out my father's dresser, I found an envelope with a drawing that I had done in kindergarten and another envelope containing a tooth and a note to the Tooth Fairy written in my childish hand.

Imagine how touched I was when I found it — knowing he had kept these things for nearly a half a century. I think putting the teeth in an envelope for "Always" son to find later on would be a lovely thing to do. — SISSY IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

DEAR ABBY: My favorite Tooth Fairy memory is when my 6-year-old daughter asked if she would hear the "Tooth Fairy's wings flapping" when she came to collect the tooth that had been placed under her pillow. Kids do say the darnedest things, and yes, I still have her teeth and the notes she wrote to the Tooth Fairy. — KARIE'S MOM IN ENCINO, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter did a science fair project on tooth decay, I let her have the jar of saved teeth for her experiments. She did a thorough research job and a beautiful presentation, earning a blue ribbon. — JANICE IN ROCHESTER, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: When I married, my mother-in-law gifted me with my husband's baby teeth and first curl of hair. It sounds weird, but it gave me a warm, fuzzy kick to receive them. It also was a bonding moment with my "new mom." — KERRY IN WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen 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 a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 1:43 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 2012:

This year you will have a new beginning in whatever area you deem necessary. Your personal power will expand because you live your word. Many people in your life want to draw you in, both professionally and personally. Your magnetism soars, and if you are single, you will see direct results. If you are attached, curb a tendency to be me-oriented. Yes, it is an exciting year, but a relationship will succeed only with the combined efforts of two people. CAPRICORN is cautious.

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)

***** A matter from the recent past could come back to haunt you. You can't take back words said or actions done, but the good news is that you can remedy what happened. Your instincts speak to you and show you the right path to follow. Tonight: Touch base with an older relative.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

***** Reconsider a situation involving a close partner. You can work through nearly anything together, as long as you are able to remain detached. You might surprise yourself with the sense of elation and harmony you could achieve as a result. Tonight: Answer your calls.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

***** Reflect rather than react. A friend's unpredictability could create uncertainty in your world. On the other hand, you just might find exactly what you've been looking for. Relate to others directly, especially when discussing finances. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

*** Dive right into work. You'll discover the importance of clearing up as much as possible in the late afternoon. Free yourself up for some socializing with friends and loved ones. A boss or someone you respect startles you with his or her response. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

**** You feel the weekend in your bones, but you have a lot to do before then. As you attempt to accom-

plish everything you must, you could get bogged down in a project. A different perspective could help you see the situation in a new light. Tonight: Do your thing.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

*** If you're considering the possibility of staying home more often, know that you'll have to indulge this fantasy sooner or later. You could find a friend or loved one most distracting, though, so you might want to rethink this plan. Tonight: Now for the romp.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

***** You could be overwhelmed by everything that falls into your lap. You are incapable of handling it all, as you are only human. Your sense of humor emerges because of a child's antics. Can you even question how much you are cared about? Tonight: Get some errands done.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

***** You could have a lot to say, and perhaps it is more than someone wants to hear. Be sensitive to this person. You might have a lot to say, but the purpose of saying it is to be heard. You need this individual around for his or her support. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

HHHH Make a resolution in the morning, and you'll stand a chance of making it so. Your creativity springs forward whenever there is a need for a solution. You delight others, as well as yourself, with an addition to a project or a special purchase. Tonight: More holiday duties.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

***** In the morning, you could have a case of the lazies or seem a bit passive. By midafternoon, you'll start acting like the Energizer bunny, and few can hop as fast as you. What you initially had resisted doing becomes a piece of cake. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

*** Use the morning to the max. You could be inordinately lucky or just have a lot of support. Whatever you launch, do or decide seems destined to succeed. An interpersonal relationship glows. A neighbor or friend could surprise you with his or her antics. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

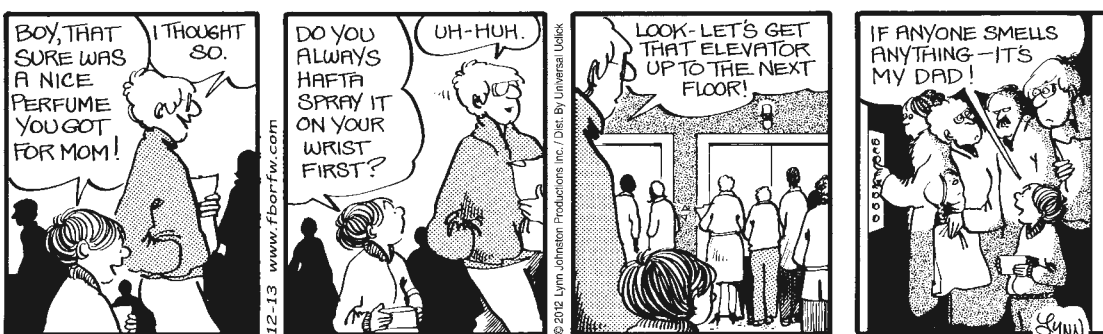
**** Take charge of a project early on. You might feel as if you do not have enough time in the day to handle what you must. Lighten up and prioritize, and by late afternoon, the Fish will beam. A meeting could be more important than you realize. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

