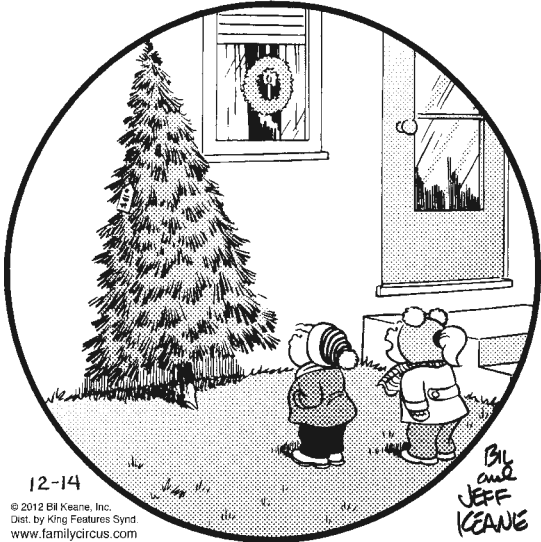


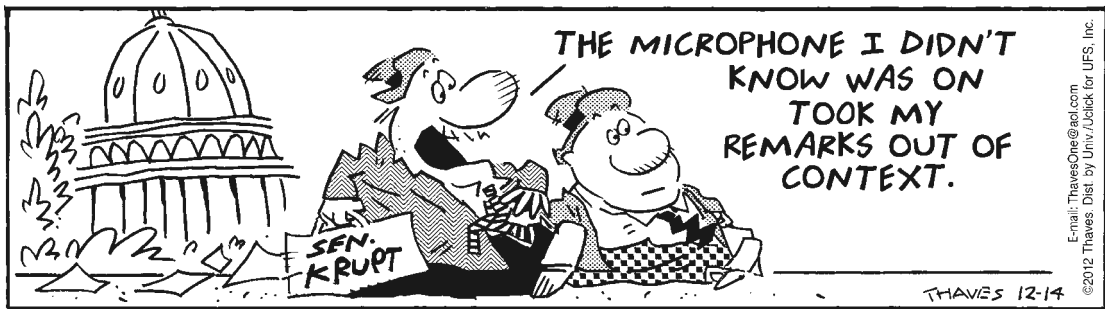
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



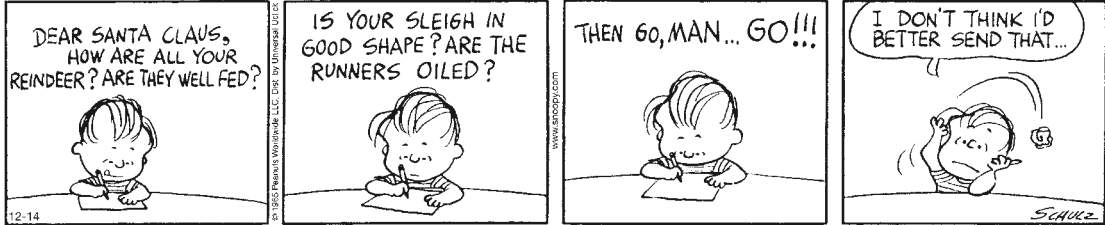
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



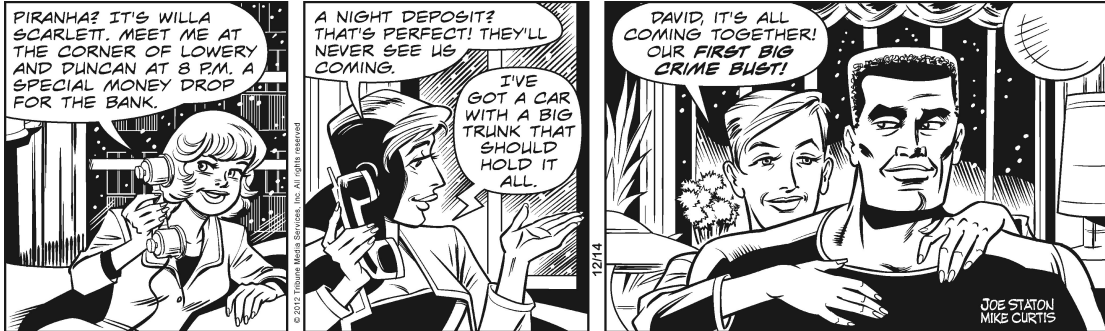
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



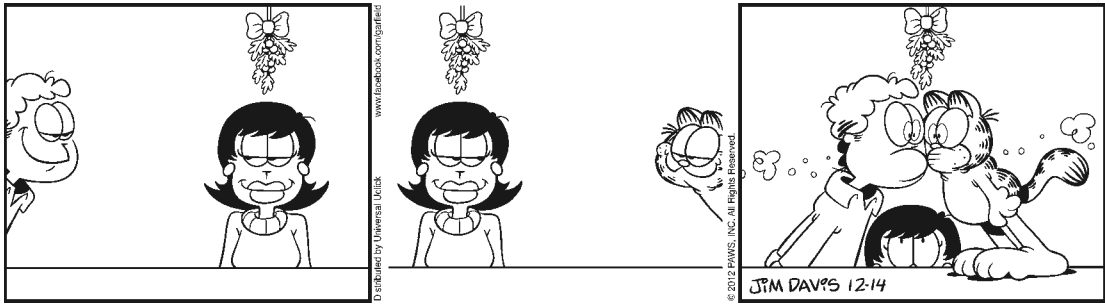
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



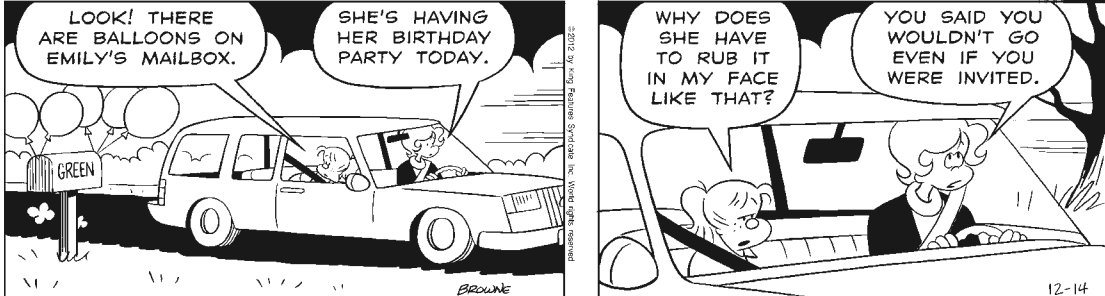
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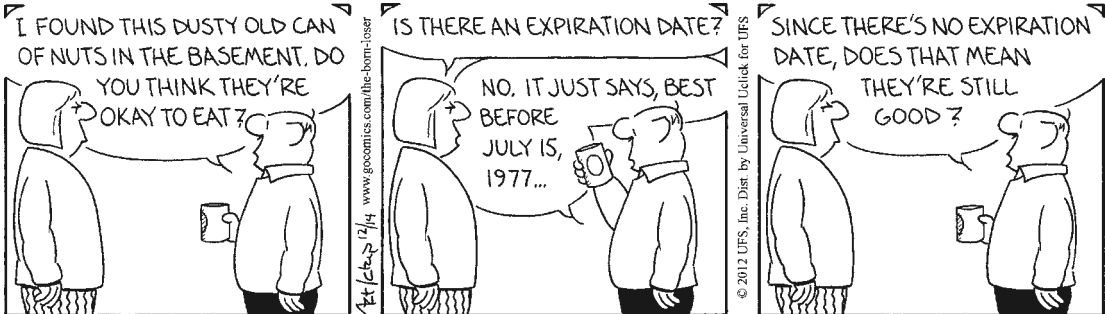
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Wife Is Alarmed That Husband Has Quietly Planned His Funeral

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for seven years. Since our wedding, he has had increasing health problems.

He recently told me that he planned his funeral three months ago, without saying a word to me. I am very concerned that he seems more focused on death than on life. Am I wrong to be upset? He says I am. — WIFE IN BURLINGTON, N.J.

DEAR WIFE: I don't blame you for being concerned because husbands and wives should be able to discuss important topics with each other, and this is one of them.

When your husband has his next medical appointment, go with him so you can speak with his physician. It's possible that because of his "increasing health problems" he has become depressed, and if that's the case, his doctor should be told.

It is always helpful for spouses to accompany each other to their medical appointments in case the patient forgets to ask a question or tell the doctor something he or she needs to know.

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old son, "Dustin," moved out five years ago, but he expects me to keep all his childhood and college items in his old bedroom because he says he doesn't have room for them in his apartment.

I'd like to clear out his closet and dresser and use the space for things I want to store. I need more space for me.

Dustin is calling me selfish because I want to change "his" room and move my stuff in there. I say I need the space, and if he wants to keep all his stuff, he should rent a storage locker. By the way, he sleeps here maybe five nights a year at most.

How long are parents obligated to keep their grown children's keepsakes? — WANTS MY SPACE  
DEAR WANTS YOUR SPACE: You are asking an emotionally loaded question. While, rationally, five

years should be long enough, clearing "his" room instead of maintaining it as a shrine may feel like abandonment to your adult child.

Give Dustin a little more time to adjust — like six months — and then insist that he find a place for his things. That way it will be a little less traumatic.

DEAR ABBY: During these hard times, may I tell you about my daughter? Every year at Christmas, I let our children pick one present for around \$30 for themselves. They know that we don't have a lot of money and that "Santa" brings only a few presents.

My daughter chose to give her "Christmas money" to a charity so that another family can be blessed. She's only 9, and she understands there are families who are in more need than us. She truly is an angel for reminding me of that.

I went to our local food pantry and told them what my daughter wanted to do for Christmas. The director wrote her a letter of thanks and explained how many families her \$30 would be helping. I'm so proud of my girl. Sometimes it takes a child to remind us how all of us should act. — BLESSED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BLESSED: Yes, it's true. But invariably it takes good parents to instill a spirit of empathy and generosity in their children. So some of the credit belongs to you.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 Capricorn.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 14, 2012:

This year your sixth sense provides you with flashes of insight. Be willing to let go of what no longer works. Put your energy where it makes a difference, and you will feel more satisfied as a result. Honor a need for more private time. If you are single, someone interesting appears from out of the blue. Keep in mind that this person could leave just as quickly. Let time decide whether a relationship is long-term. If you are attached, reintroduce more unpredictability into your bond. Given time, you could see your bond strengthen. CAPRICORN knows much more about money than you realize.

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)

★★★★ Be responsive to a boss or older relative, and communication between you will open up more. You'll be able to share what has been making you uncomfortable and finally clear the air. Tonight: It's Friday night! Adjust your plans accordingly.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Take off quickly, even though a comment or situation could trigger a desire within you to do something differently. Sudden insights also might trip you up just as you are walking out the door. Honor your priorities. Afterward, you finally can relax. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Deal with others directly. You will be most effective if you follow that guideline. You might not be OK with a change in attitude from a key person in your life. You can talk around it all you want, but you need to accept what is happening. Tonight: Add spice to your life.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and let them run the show. Understand that you can't always maintain a high level of control. Someone you respect might do or say something that is out of character for him or her. Don't read too much into this. Just go with the flow. Tonight: Say "yes."

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

★★★★ Good intentions go a long way, but couple them with endurance, and you can't seem to lose. You

deal with the unexpected well. In fact, you enjoy change. You must adapt your schedule to these changes. Do not become rigid. Tonight: Join a friend for eggnog and cheer.

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

★★★★ Your creativity comes out when dealing with what is starting to be the customary unpredictability of key people in your life. You are starting to become a pro at dealing with chaos. Stay direct, and know what you want to achieve. Tonight: Ever playful.

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

★★★★ You might want to try a different approach when faced with a recurring conflict between home base and a relationship. You'll need to rethink your priorities beyond the conventional mode. Refuse to become easily triggered. Tonight: Happiest at home.

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

★★★★ You might want to stay focused on several important issues. Situations around you could pry you away from your agenda, but at what cost? Stay strong and centered on your objectives. A loved one could need more of your time and attention. Tonight: Easy works; you deserve it.

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

★★★ Be aware of the financial consequences surrounding a risk. Unfortunately, you could witness a big backfire, unless you take the time to assess the situation. Sometimes less spontaneity is good. Verbalize your thoughts. Tonight: Off doing some holiday shopping.

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

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. You are coming from a position of strength, and others will concede. Discuss your objective in a meeting and with key friends. You will experience change, but you will endure. Tonight: Only where the action is.

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

★★★ Listen to what is not being said. Stay on top of your goals, holiday shopping, important events and whatever else might be filling your plate. Listen and share more. You have a sound sense of direction. Use it. Tonight: Read between the lines.

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

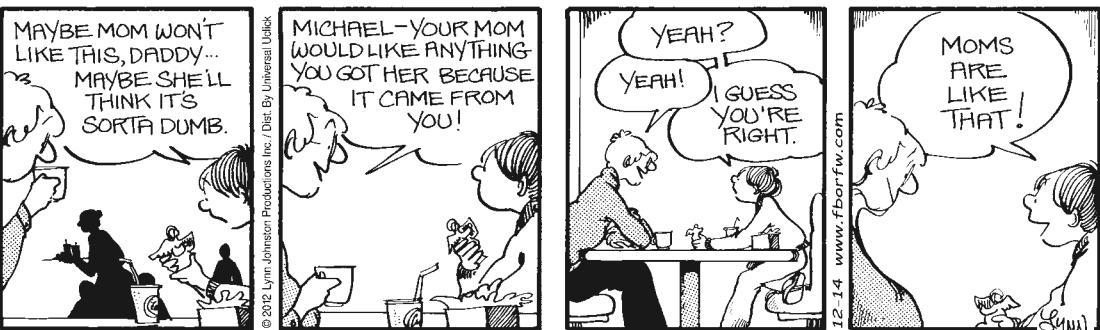
★★★ You are full of fun and energy. You also are optimistic, and what appeals to you are thoughts that are a little more accepting and less emotional. Follow through with the knowledge of where you need to head. Your comfort is a high priority. Tonight: Play a favorite holiday CD.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

