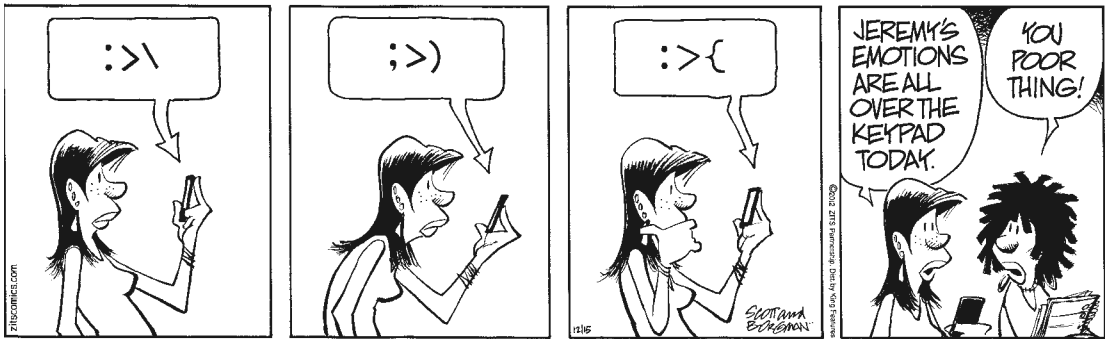


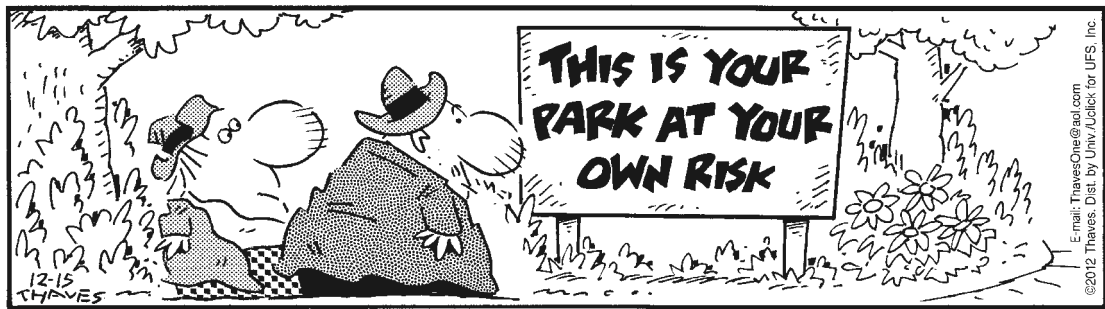
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



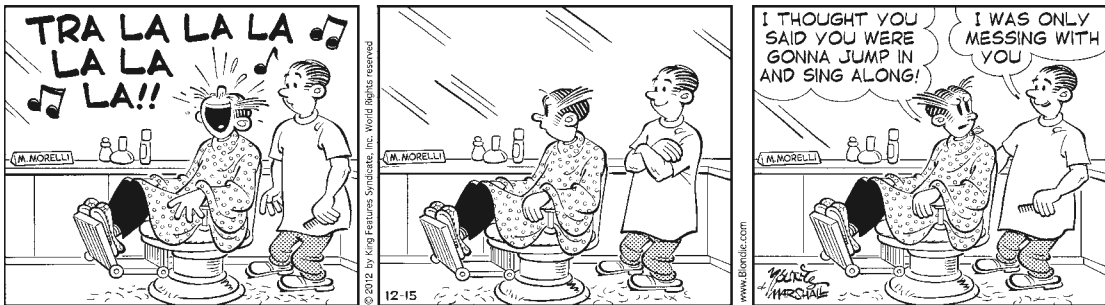
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



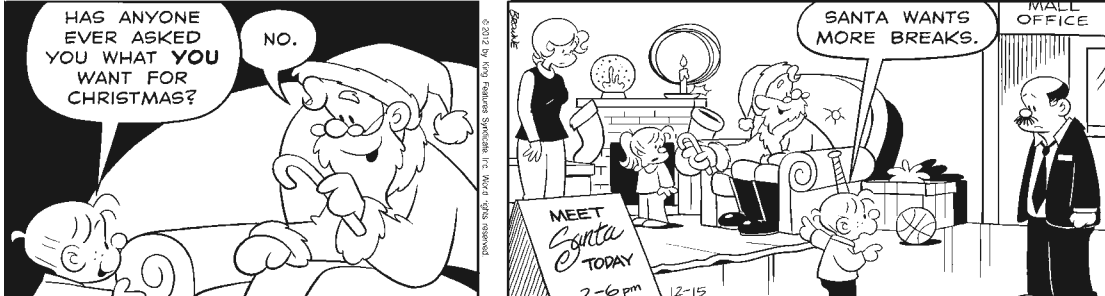
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Dad Drops By College Too Often For Independence-Minded Kids

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior in high school and will be off to college next year. Like my older brother, I will be attending a school 30 minutes from home.

A problem he has, and that I'm worried about, is setting boundaries with our father. Dad works near the college and insists on stopping by to visit my brother at least once a week. If my brother refuses to meet with him, Dad guilt-trips him and gets angry.

I want to experience independence in college. How can I avoid this problem and set visitation boundaries with my father? — COLLEGE BOUND IN GEORGIA

DEAR COLLEGE BOUND: So many people your age who write to me have no father involved in their lives at all, and you appear to have a little too much. I agree that by the time a student reaches college, it is time for more independence than your father seems willing to give your brother.

If your mother is in the picture, perhaps she could reason with your dad. However, if that's not possible, your brother — and you — may have to transfer to other schools to put some distance between you.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and his 4-year-old daughter live with me and my two children. We keep our finances separate. I am self-employed and work mostly from home. I also take care of the household chores.

My problem is that he thinks because I work from home I should take care of his daughter during the day, versus her going to day care. My schedule is very full, and I enjoy being able to work from home without the interruptions of having to play nanny while my children are in school. However, I feel guilty about not helping him out on this.

Am I selfish for not helping him, or am I justified in my feelings? — DON'T WANT TO BE THE NANNY

DEAR DON'T WANT TO BE THE NANNY: If you need the income from your business, that's where you should be directing your energy. Your job, coupled with the housework, is enough to handle.

Your boyfriend is employed, and he can place the 4-year-old in day care during the hours your children are in school. Depending upon your schedule, including his daughter in whatever activities your children are involved in should not take up too large a chunk of your time.

DEAR ABBY: Charlie and I have been married 14 years. Between 1970 and 1980, he traveled with a big circus. He says those were the best years of his life.

We have taken several cruises together and other nice trips, but he never mentions them. It's always his circus days that he talks about.

I have asked him several times not to bring the subject up so much. He will go a day or two before mentioning the circus again. Is there anything I can say to make him stop? It's driving me crazy. — BORED UNDER THE BIG TOP

DEAR BORED: I'm sure your husband doesn't mean to belittle the good times you have had together. But his circus adventure ended 30 years ago. What I suspect Charlie is reminiscing about is less the circus than it is his youth.

Try this the next time he mentions the subject: Remind him that you have already heard the story.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 if born before 1:53 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 2012:

This year, you often overwhelm others with your energy. In hindsight, even you could be taken back by your liveliness. The upside is that you will be able to accomplish a lot. You naturally will find the right path and the right advisers. If you are single, you could encounter someone very intense. Together, you'll experience tremendous passion. If you are attached, your relationship goes up a notch in intensity. Be accepting and respectful of your differences. AQUARIUS adds action and excitement to your life.

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)

*** Avoid being commander in chief of your immediate surroundings. Kick back and start enjoying yourself more. Festivities surround the holidays. Do not forget a friend at a distance. Plan to call or visit this person some time soon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

**** Touch base with loved ones early on. Perhaps without realizing your role, you might have become a major force in a project. Whether you are bringing the family together or decorating for the holidays, you make a difference. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

*** Handle a serious matter first in order to free up some time for holiday errands. Buy a Christmas music CD if you don't already have one. Some of you might even decide to go to a Christmas concert or show. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**** Make calls in the morning. In the afternoon, make time for a special person in your life. The two of you might decide to go see a movie or attend a holiday party. Spending quality time together puts both of you in the holiday spirit. Tonight: Share some eggnog.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

**** You have so much energy that you could bowl someone over without realizing it. Think positively, but

don't expect others to manifest that same vitality. Your caring nature attracts so many people that you might need to adjust your schedule. Tonight: Just do not be alone.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

**** Recognize your limitations. How you handle a personal matter could change as a result. This morning, the energy around you could be high. For some of you, this intensity is reflected in an important relationship. Tonight: If you are tired, say so.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

**** Clear the air with a family member. Make sure your home is as you'd like it to be for the holidays. You can get a lot done if you stay focused. Allow more creativity to come out with a loved one. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

**** You could be looking at a situation far differently right now. With your energy, you could complete your holiday shopping or decorating in no time. Consider inviting a family member over for some holiday fun. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

**** You need to follow through on what is important to you. Someone is observing you and sees your priorities. This knowledge could affect a certain bond. Return calls, before it is too late in the day. Tonight: Join a friend after doing some errands.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

**** You have a way about you that attracts many people. You could feel tired and pushed to the max by midafternoon. Change your pace, but remain active if you can. A gift bought today might be a little excessive. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

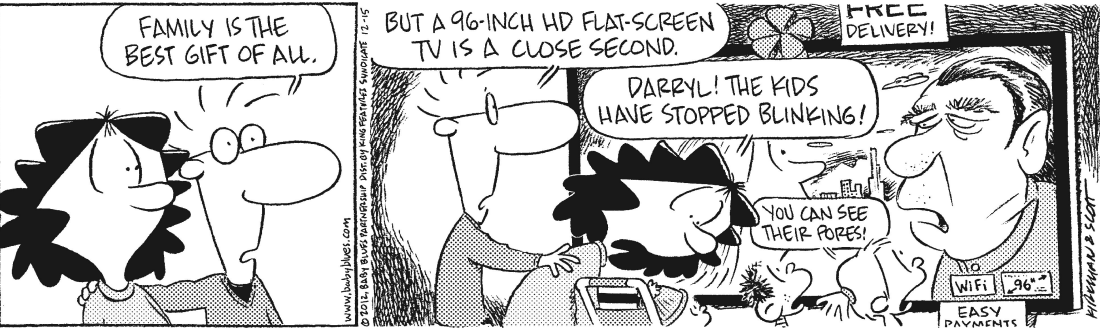
**** Move past an immediate issue. You might feel as if you could do something if someone would let you just try. Your softer side emerges when talking to a loved one. As a result, you'll have the desire to revitalize a friendship. Tonight: Meet up with friends.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

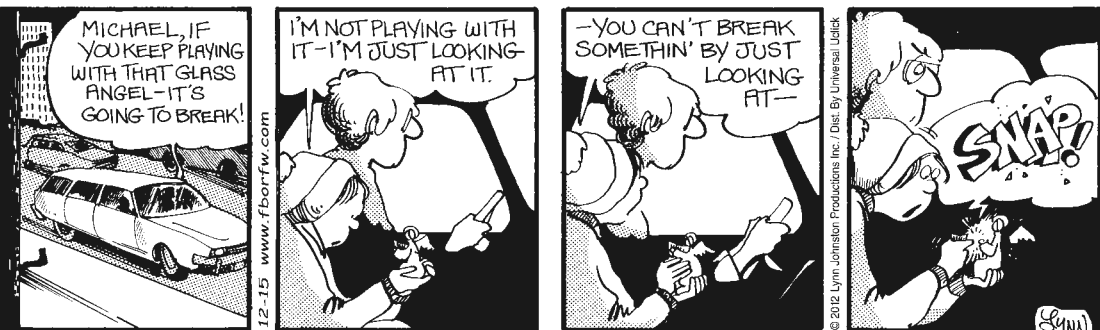
*** Your ability to bounce back makes quite a difference in how you handle a swift change. You will manage to revise your reschedule and make everything fit in. Your clarity is obvious when discussing a problem. Tonight: Get some R and R.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

