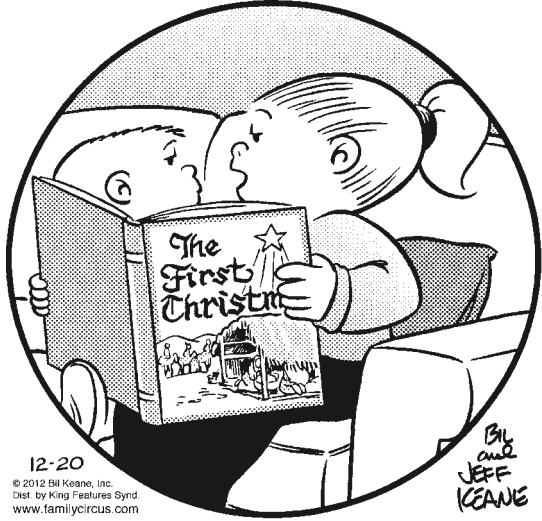
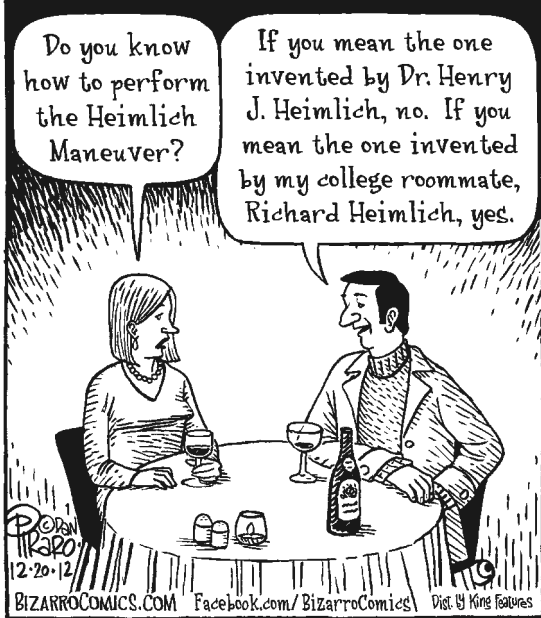


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Holiday Greetings Get Humbug Response From Offended Aunt

DEAR ABBY: I confess, I can be a procrastinator. Last year, my holiday cards sat on my desk, blank and unaddressed until almost Easter, when it was far too late to send them.

and tells me to mind my own business. I feel he's representing himself as someone he's not. He does have a job. He buys his military gear online and at military shops.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

How am I supposed to respond when people ask me obvious questions? Isn't it illegal to dress in Army attire when you're not affiliated with the military? — MOM OF A CIVILIAN IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR MOM: I can see why you are embarrassed. You should be. What your son is doing may not be illegal, but it IS dishonest.

When you are asked if he is in the military, you should continue to tell the truth. Because your son doesn't set people straight when he is thanked for his service, what he's doing is disrespectful, unethical and unfair to anyone who actually HAS served.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small rural town with lots of nice neighbors. During the holidays, I receive a variety of delicious homemade gifts — jams, cookies, breads and other specialties.

I am careful about my diet and consume no white flour or sugar. This means I must thank the person for the gifts, then figure out what to do with them. I hate throwing them out, and I don't know how to stop the practice.

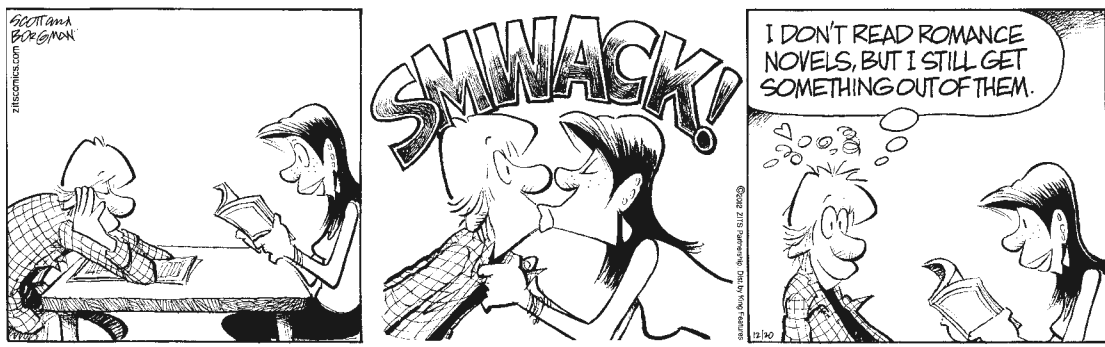
What's the best way to handle this annual dilemma? — UNSURE IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR UNSURE: If you work, consider bringing the goodies with you and sharing them with your co-workers. Or, donate them to a shelter or senior center where they might be enjoyed and appreciated.

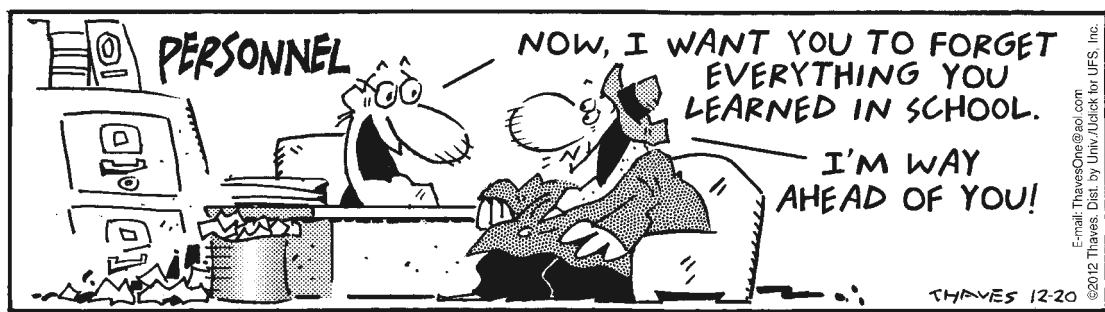
To order 'How to Write Letters for All Occasions,' send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



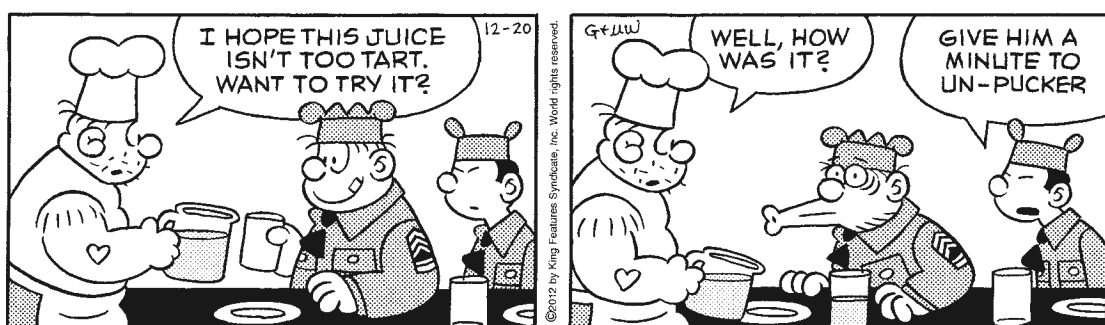
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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.

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 2012:

This year you will be much more assertive than you have been. As a result, you will break past patterns that have held you back in the past.

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)

The unexpected runs rampant right now. If you stop and think about it, you are the trigger. Express your caring without getting involved in a power play.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

You could be taken back by everything that is happening around you. It might be difficult to define what you want to do. Make it OK to do nothing.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Make plans to bring friends together before you exit the scene for a family holiday gathering. You will be, or probably already are, in the mood to start enjoying the eggnog and presents and cornering your sweetie under the mistletoe.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Others follow your lead, but they could be wondering what is up. You might want to vanish and not be found. Indulge those around you a little, but continue on your path.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Keep reaching out to others, especially the people you rarely call but often think of. A friend's confession could stun you.

Let your feelings show -- there is no reason to hold back. Be willing to ask for more of what you want. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You might want to eliminate a problem and move forward. The other party can be unreasonable and often does the unexpected. A child or a loved one decides that now is the time for rebellion.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Others want what they want, so try not to stand in the way of their long-desired dreams. Avoid protesting any opposition you might have, as their energy is far higher than yours.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Everyone seems to be pursuing their interests, or they're already slacking off. You have a lot that you would like to accomplish before relaxing and getting into the holiday mood.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You can't be restrained or held back. You are like a wild horse that is tied up. Your creativity surges in this mindset; however, not all of your ideas are good or positive. Hold yourself back.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You might be uptight about a domestic or personal matter. Accept what is, and choose not to push to have your way. Your pushing is part of what keeps the situation from finding resolution.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

You could have a lot to say. Maybe the smart move is to hold back and be more observant. You have been questioning where an acquaintance is coming from.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Run out the door if you must for some last-minute holiday items or gifts. You might feel as if you want to indulge a loved one more. You don't need to drop all of those gifts on this person immediately.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

