

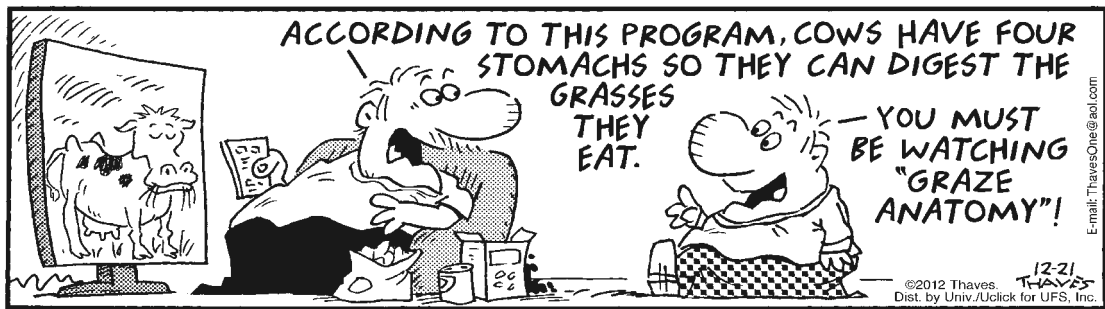
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



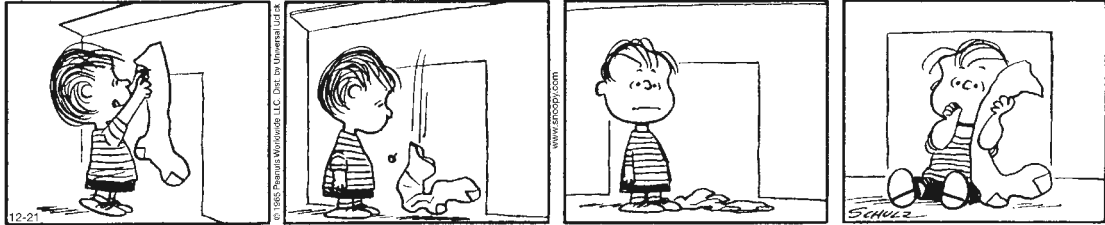
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



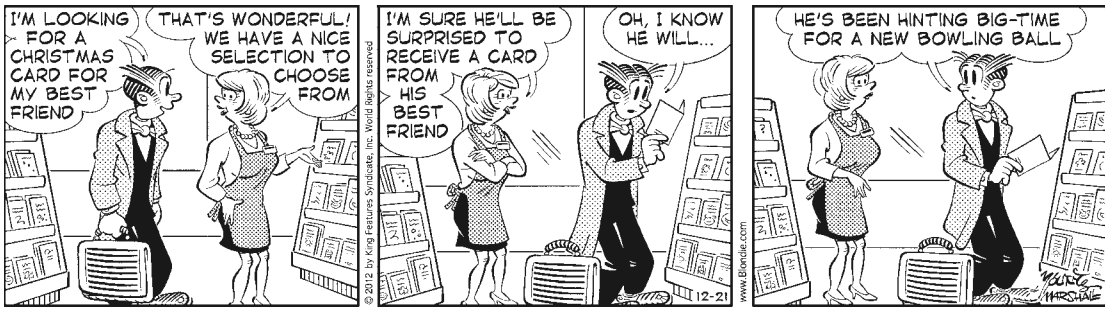
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



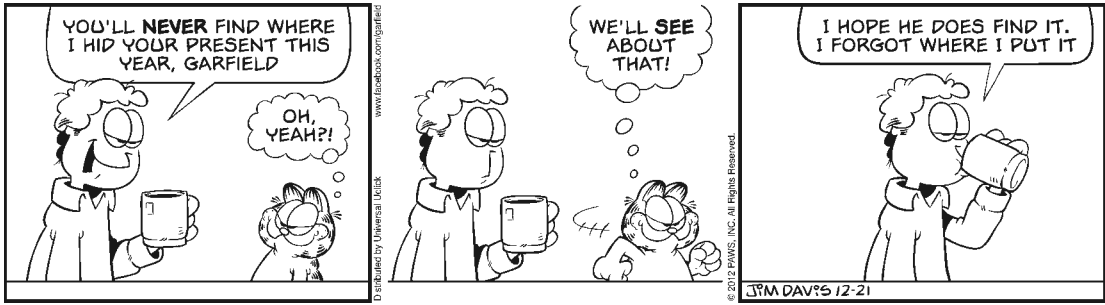
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



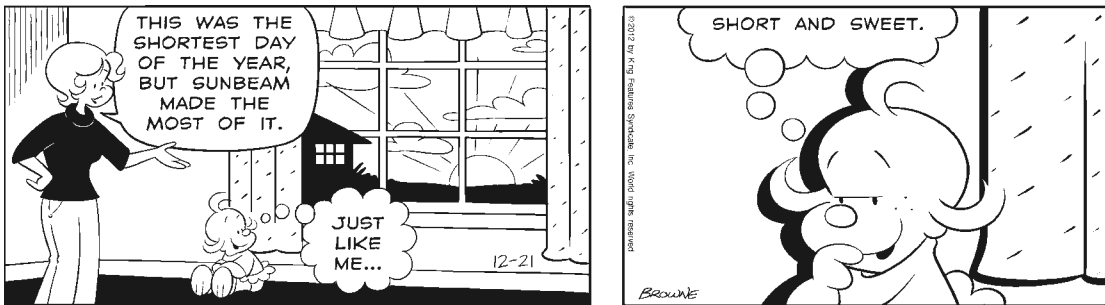
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Woman's Soon-To-Be-Ex Still On Her Family's Guest List

DEAR ABBY: My divorce from "Vince" will be final in a few weeks. We have two sons together and we communicate well. Since our breakup, my parents have continued their relationship with him. They say, "You divorced him, we didn't."

They have confirmed that he will be invited to all holiday events. I am so upset about it that I now want nothing to do with them. Vince has his own family who have unanimously removed me from their lives.

I'm hurt by my parents' actions. Am I wrong? And are my feelings normal? — LOST MY PARENTS IN THE DIVORCE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOST: As the father of your children, Vince will always be a part of your life, so my advice is to accept it graciously. Because Vince had a good relationship with your parents, I can understand why they would extend an invitation to the father of their grandchildren. Whether he will choose to accept is the question. His family may have declared you persona non grata because in their eyes you divorced HIM.

That said, your feelings are your feelings. Rather than say they are "wrong," I would point out that they are unproductive at this point. As you move forward with your emotional life, I predict this will become less of an issue.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old divorced man. I use an online dating service to meet women my age, but I'm extremely frustrated by the lack of courtesy.

Why is it so hard for a woman to simply write, "Thanks, but I'm not interested" after getting a note of inquiry? My photos are recent, I'm polite and I send thoughtful notes that show I have read their profiles carefully and think there's a chance we have something in common. I admit, I'm not the handsomest man, but I hold a master's degree and I am financially stable.

I have sent a dozen notes over the last few

months, and not one woman has been polite enough to respond. Any thoughts? — DATELESS IN DAYTON

DEAR DATELESS: Please don't let the lack of response make you quit putting yourself out there, because eventually you're going to find someone if you keep trying. You are an intelligent man, and I am sure you have much to offer some lucky woman.

However, I would delicately point out to you that by not responding to your notes these women ARE sending you a message. It is possible that because the "chemistry" is wrong, they do not wish to get into a dialogue.



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.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl and every time I meet people, they think I am 12. How do I look more my age? Please help me. — HONEY IN GEORGIA

DEAR HONEY: A way to accomplish it would be to go to a department store and ask at the cosmetics counter about a demonstration makeover to achieve a more sophisticated look. While you're there, I'm sure a clothing salesperson would also be happy to accommodate you in finding items that girls your age are buying. A different hairstyle could also "update" your image if you are wearing it the way you did a few years

ago.

P.S. While you may not think it now, later on you will regard your youthful appearance as an asset. Trust me on that!

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger 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 if born before 3:12 a.m. (PST). Afterward, the Sun will be in Capricorn. The Moon is in Aries all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2012:

This year you will want to move in new directions, but often will trip yourself up. Feedback from those with whom you have frequent brainstorming sessions could be instrumental. You might decide to choose a different path if and when an obstacle gets in your way, but you will return eventually. You have endurance; count on that. If you are single, you might find it difficult to relate easily, as you are unlikely to offer the conventional attitudes and gestures of a single, available person. Summer 2013 might find you more open to relating. If you are attached, the two of you might struggle with the traditional roles of marriage. Be open to working together on a progressive level. ARIES can be passionate.

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)

★★★★ Communication flourishes. Oddly enough, others could decide to make themselves vulnerable and speak about their dreams and/or their fears. You might gain a great deal of understanding and empathy as a result of their openness. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★ You'll want to keep a certain matter under wraps. All indications show that you are a successful team player, while others tend to be very me-oriented. Detach from the actions and words of those people. Indulge an inspirational friend. Tonight: A party could dwindle to two.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ Someone you care about is accommodating beyond what you feel is even possible. Do not count on this generosity lasting forever. Invite friends and loved ones to join you in celebrating not only the weekend but also the holiday! Tonight: And the fun continues.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Take charge while others run around and get their errands done. You actually might like being commander of the ship, and, as a result, you will have a good time. Be careful with a very dominant person in your life. Tonight: Let your imagination invigorate the moment.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance whom

you care about. This is best done now rather than in a few days. Start your holiday round of visits, and delightful and meaningful conversations will ensue. You will have an effect on someone special. Tonight: Pinch yourself.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You feel far more comfortable than you have in a considerable amount of time with partners, loved ones and friends. You will see the difference in their responses. Someone who often puts a smile on your face might share an important secret. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Personal and family demands start piling up on you. Between commitments with your real family and wanting to touch base with your "family" of friends, you could feel stretched to the limit. Someone at a distance lets you know that you are cared for. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Pace yourself, and be aware of what is about to happen. Conversations will be lively, but you might be taken back by what someone shares. Let your imagination play more into a relationship in order to add that magic touch. Tonight: Under the mistletoe, and very happy.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★★ The magic of the season starts to play a bigger role in your life. You might want to reach out to several people whom you might not get to see before Christmas. Get together with them, whether you all go to a fun party or meet up individually. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You are energized as a result of the Winter Equinox taking place. You might need to go for a walk in order to let go of your innate need to move. You are like a kid waiting for Christmas morning. Start making some of your holiday calls now. Tonight: Head home early.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes, but it is not overt enough that you would notice. Money could slip through your fingers like water if you are not careful. Of course, this vanishing act could be symbolic. Take preventive measures. Tonight: Get together with friends.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

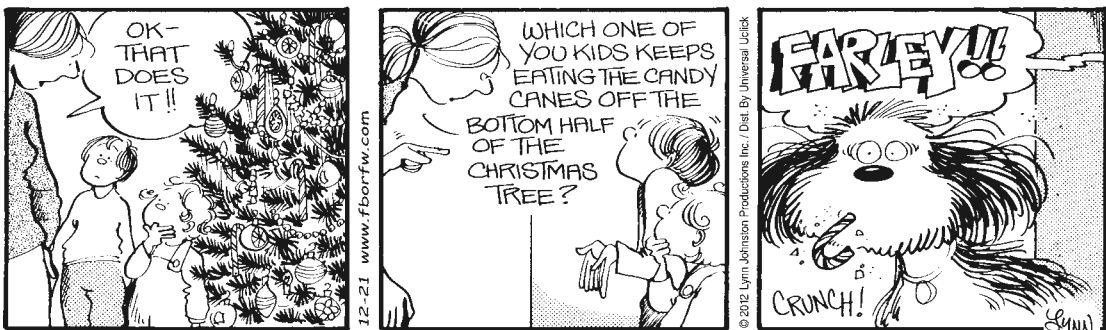
★★★★ You can be so spiritual, that others could be stunned when your jealousy emerges. You can't sit on this situation forever, but you can take some time to process it. Ask yourself why you feel so insecure. Maybe that is an excuse to do some shopping. Tonight: Be noticed.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

