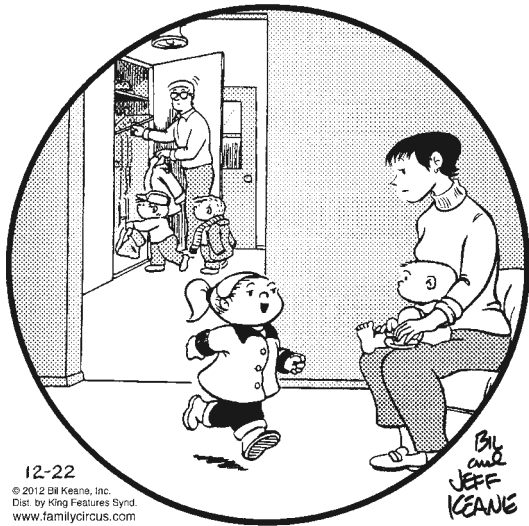


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



12-22
" Don't tell ANYBODY, P.J. It's a surprise! We got Mommy a new phone."

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



12-22-12
BIZARROCOMICS.COM

Time To Drive Home A Point In Long-Distance Relationship

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are in a long-distance relationship and agreed to split our visits 50-50 between our cities. Initially, it worked great. Unfortunately, his work schedule has changed, and for the past year he has come here to visit me only once every month or so, while I frequently drive for hours to see him.

He says that because he's away from home for work, it's only fair that I travel to see him since it's "less trouble" for me. I understand that he puts in a lot of time with travel for work, but at what point does the ratio become unbalanced and unfair?

I miss weekends in my city with my friends, and it makes me sad that he won't make the effort to see me. What do you think is right in this matter? — UNCERTAIN IN SAN FRANCISCO
DEAR UNCERTAIN: "What's right" is the original agreement you had with your boyfriend, or something close to it. Because he is no longer willing to live up to his part in the bargain, consider seeing him less often. Perhaps if he has a chance to miss you, he will feel impelled to make more of an effort. And if he's not, then you won't have to cut off your social relationships at home — relationships you may need if this romance doesn't work out the way you would like.

discern a question, but from my vantage point, I disagree that you would "throw 32 years away." You used that time to make sure your children were grown and independent.

I'm sorry about your wife's delusions, but because she is unwilling to follow through with counseling, there is nothing you or I can do about them. If you want my permission to end this marriage, I can't grant it; only you can do that for yourself.



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: My sister is engaged to a severe alcoholic. I host the annual Christmas dinners and I feel stuck. When he was here last year, he broke a wine glass that held special meaning for my husband and me and generally made a fool of himself.

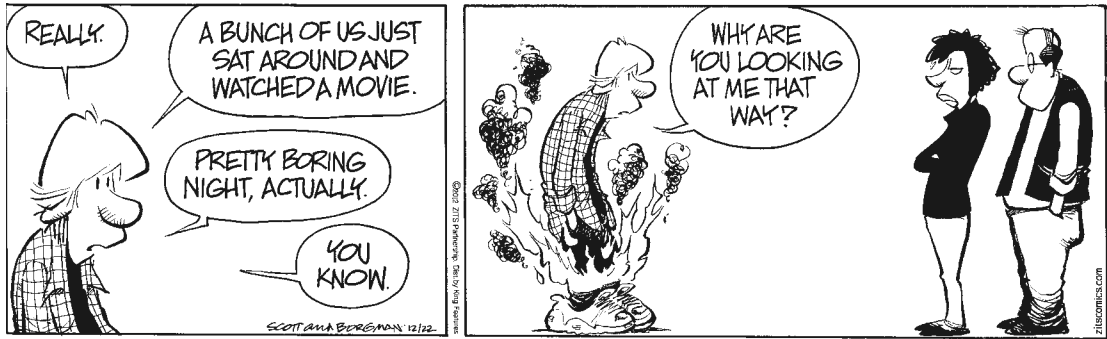
Should I invite my sister and tell her that her fiancé isn't welcome? (They live together.) He has gotten even worse this year. He broke three bones because he was so drunk he fell, and he left rehab three times in one month. I'm a cancer survivor and do not need the stress in my life. — NERVOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR NERVOUS: I agree that you shouldn't subject yourself to unnecessary stress. Your health must come first. If you haven't discussed this with your sister, do it NOW. A way to include her and her fiancé would be to serve no alcohol during your Christmas celebration. However, if that isn't feasible, then tell her that until her fiancé is able to stay "dry," you regret that you will be unable to entertain them.

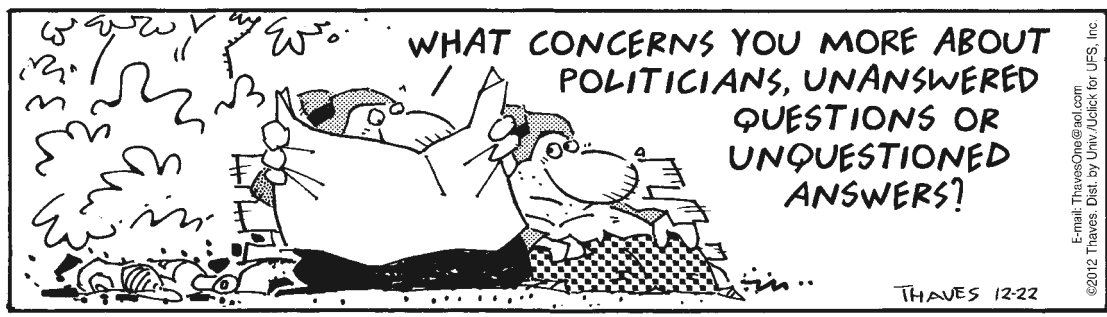
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



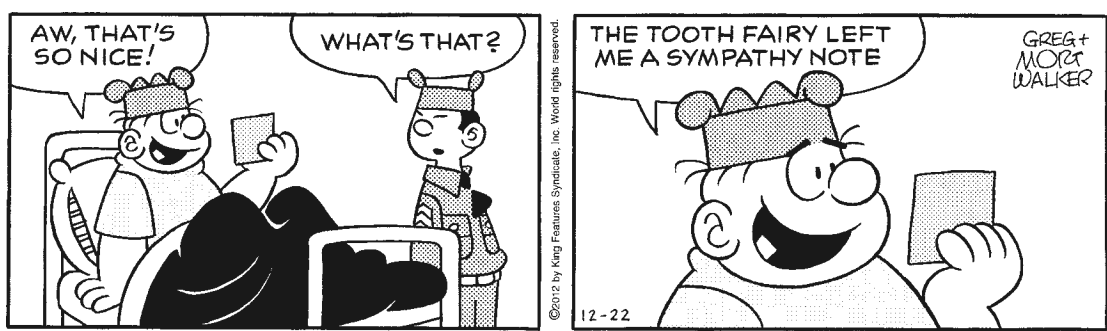
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSONO



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 Capricorn and a Moon in Taurus if born after 10:25 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon is in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 2012:

This year you often will go to extremes. In the process of doing so, you couldn't care less. It is how you feel after the fact that will cause you to employ some self-discipline. You have a vision for what your life could be and what you want out of it. You ambitiously will start to create just that. If you are single, your desirability speaks for itself. Commit only when you are good and ready. If you are attached, the two of you blend together well. You can count on your sweetie. TAURUS can be seductive yet difficult. 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)

Your wildest dreams could not predict the importance of being money savvy today. As you weigh the pros and cons of an indulgence, an unexpected expense heads in. Hopefully, the path not involving an either/or choice appears. Tonight: Getting into the spirit of the holiday.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Others associate you with stability, so they would be surprised to see you today! After basking in dreams of mistletoe and gratefulness, you suddenly could turn volatile. You might not even know why; just roll with the punches. Tonight: Are we overindulging again?

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You wake up and think it is a perfect day, but by noon, that thought will be moot. Many of you might sense a disappointment heading your way. Be careful with this thought, as you could end up manifesting it. Distract yourself. Tonight: No overthinking things, please.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Only when you can distance yourself from a demanding friend will the good times begin. Whether it is baking cookies or out finishing last-minute details, you beam. You love any excuse to bring others together. Tonight: Let someone's hostility be his or her problem -- not yours.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

You flourish in your private dream world.

where you play out what could happen this Christmas. Necessity jolts you out of this reverie. Be grateful for these flights of fancy, as you once more return to reality. Tonight: Music, Christmas gifts and sweet-smelling candles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You seem practical and together. You know exactly what to do, and when you should do it. The one exception might be a child's tantrum or a loved one's Scrooge-like attitude. Don't allow this person's negativity to get to you. Keep smiling. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Your sensitivity emerges when dealing with a partner. While you might've thought you had everything handled, you'll discover otherwise. If a fight erupts, step back. You do not want this scenario to mark your holiday. Just be your charming self. Tonight: Finally, all is well.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

You could get into being the one who is centered, as everyone around you is stressed. You Scorpios can be tough, but you also can be very caring. Maintain a positive attitude as you return calls, and maybe toss in an errand or two. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You seem determined to handle everything perfectly in the next few days. On another level, you feel inspired by a family member. Together, you'll create a dreamy holiday for you and your immediate circle. Tonight: Play it low-key, if possible.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

The kid in you emerges, which delights many people. Think positively about all the potential proposals you could make. Your mind could still be on work. Let go, and reorient yourself. You know what someone needs. Tonight: Don't forget to pull the shades down.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

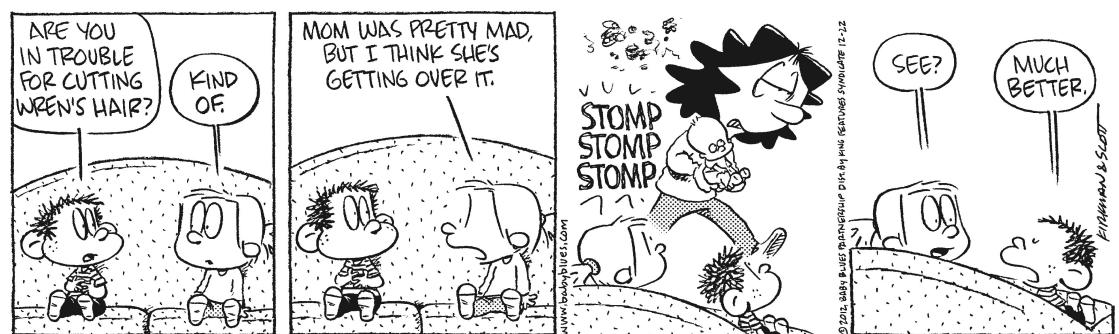
You could be overwhelmed by others' requests, as they feel more like demands. Just when things get mellow, another task heads your way. Tap into your innate creativity, and you will lighten up the situation for you and for others. Tonight: Meet friends at a favorite spot.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Know the impact of your words. Someone's reaction to a comment, which wasn't meant as a criticism, could light up the sky. This person is volatile and looking for someone to take his or her mood out on. How fortunate for you! Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Invite friends over.

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

