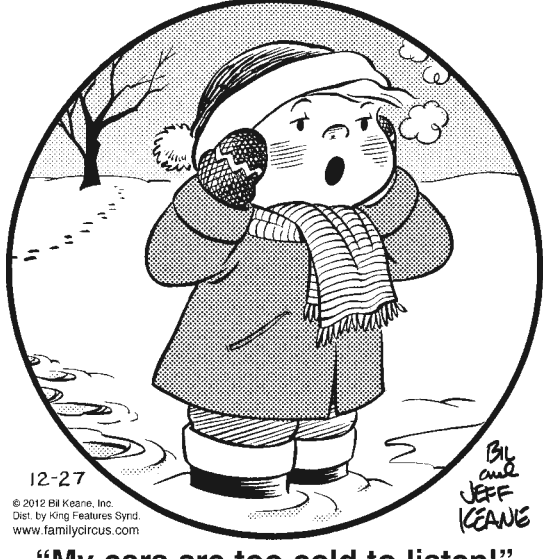


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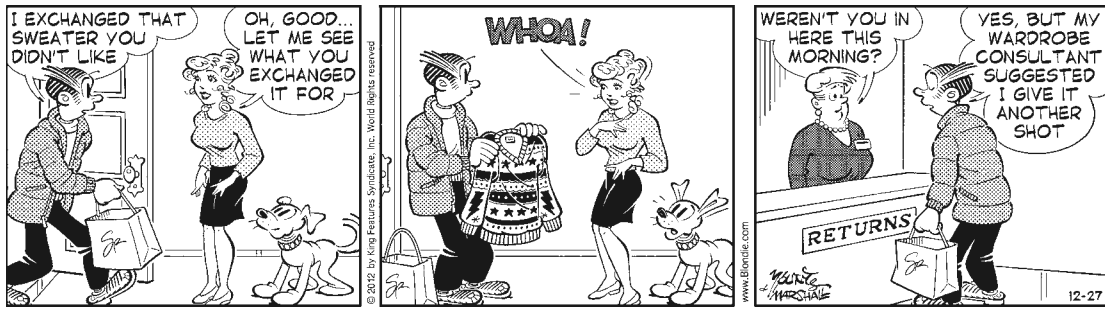
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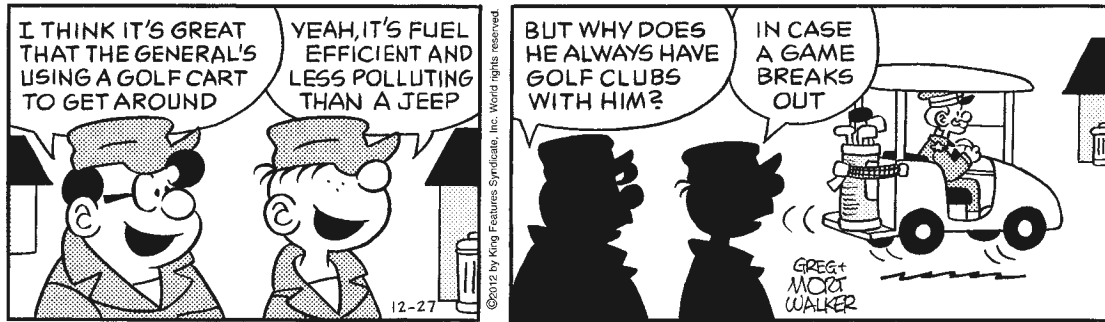
BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



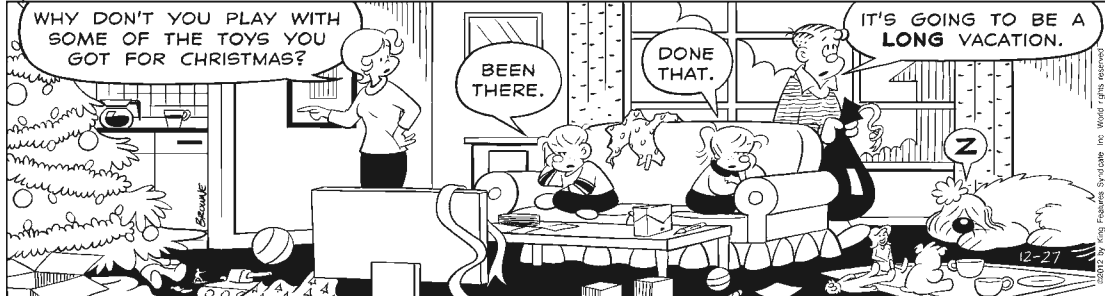
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



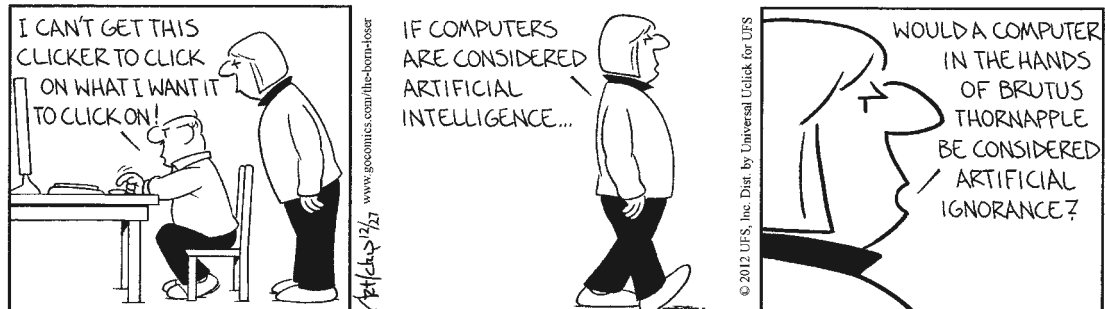
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Sympathy Is Wearing Thin For Needy, Demanding Friend

DEAR ABBY: How can I set healthy boundaries with my best friend without feeling guilty? I have always been supportive and available because I sympathized with her difficult family dynamics during childhood and adulthood.

The women she was talking about are baby boomers and older. After thinking about it, I remember my mother and mother-in-law saying that money was why they remained in their marriages.



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.

I love and accept my friend as she is, and I try to give her all the grace I have. I now realize that setting healthy boundaries is the only way I can sustain our friendship. I know this dynamic may put a strain on our relationship, so why do I feel so guilty? — TESTED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: Do you ever get tired of giving advice to people who ask commonsense questions, or those who probably know the answer to their problems if they just thought it out? — JIM IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked the other day when a friend of mine said that many women remain in terrible marriages because of finances. She said those types of marriages are accepted worldwide, so why not in America? She also said she thinks that shame is attached if a woman admits the only reason she is staying with her husband is a monetary one.

DEAR ABBY: The answer to your question is no. I love what I do and consider it an honor to be trusted. While the reply to a question may be obvious to you, it isn't to the person who asks me. Common sense tends to go out the window when there are strong emotions involved.

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.

with others. People will tend to be more responsive then. You actually might decide to keep to yourself in the afternoon. Avoid an argument with a favorite person. Patching this up could be difficult. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Rethink a decision more carefully. Take your time. In the afternoon, test out your conclusion. You might be causing yourself a problem if you move ahead blindly. Look to friends and loved ones for their advice and feedback. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your mind drifts to matters beyond the here-and-now. What will it take to anchor you? A boss or key associate needs your time and attention later in the day. Do whatever you need to do in order to stay present. Tonight: Once you let go of the day's issues, the night becomes fun.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Deal with someone or several different people on a one-on-one level. Rethink a personal matter more carefully. Laughter surrounds you later in the day when you relax. Once you detach, you'll see humor in what was once difficult. Tonight: Try a new pastime.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Open up in the morning. A discussion could be quite animated with hostility or aggressiveness. You might not be up for an argument, but you will need to establish boundaries regardless. In the afternoon, clear the air. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You might find yourself caught in a financial quandary. For some, this scenario might include trying to make ends meet. For others, it might involve returning useless gifts. Take time for someone who needs an upbeat message. Tonight: Be open to a suggestion.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★ You might surprise yourself with the feisty words that come out of your mouth. You have swallowed a lot of anger lately. Perhaps the time has come to process these feelings. Everyone involved would prefer a discussion rather than sarcastic jabs. Tonight: The unexpected occurs.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Your ingenuity could face a problem. The issue will keep rearing its ugly head until you face facts and open up a discussion. You'll decide to let go and indulge in some playfulness. Tonight: Buy yourself that item you wanted but didn't get.

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Gemini if born before 12:06 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 2012:

This year you often will swing back and forth between being intellectual and being highly emotional. Some of you might try to control this seesaw of sentiments. Accept that this is unlikely to change any time in the near future.

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)

★★★ Use the morning for an important talk or meeting. By midafternoon, you could be conflicted or irritated about a situation. Your mood flows into other dealings. Take your time and process the irritation first, then deal with others. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Taking a hard look at recent expenditures might be more necessary than you think. Do not let someone's opinion trigger an argument — just let it go. You know what you want. Do not stand on ceremony. Pick up the phone and call a friend. Tonight: Secure New Year's plans.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You are full of energy and could be difficult to find, according to more than a few people. It seems as if you flee the scene with an adeptness and quickness that surprises many. Make plans, if you can, for a short trip with some good friends. Tonight: Treat yourself.

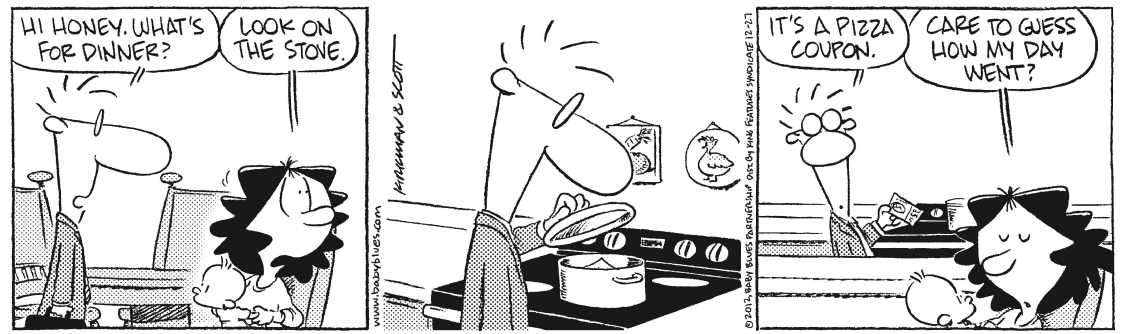
CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Make it OK to move slowly in the morning. Accept and understand what you have been through as of late. Consider your options in the morning, and act in the later part of the afternoon. At the right moment, you will feel alert. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Use the morning to the max when dealing

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

