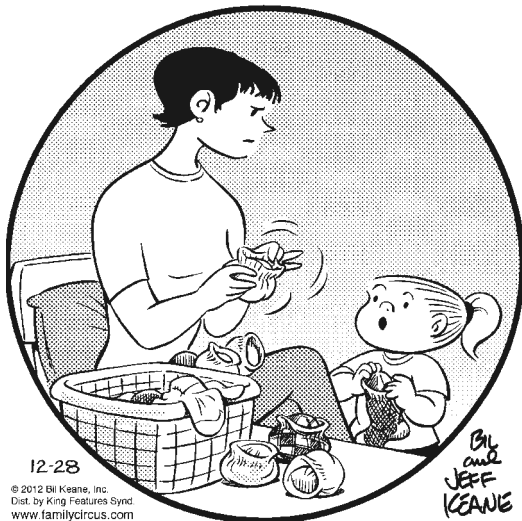


## FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



12-28  
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

"Mommy, when I get older can you teach me how to make sock balls, too?"

## ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



## FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



## PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



## DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



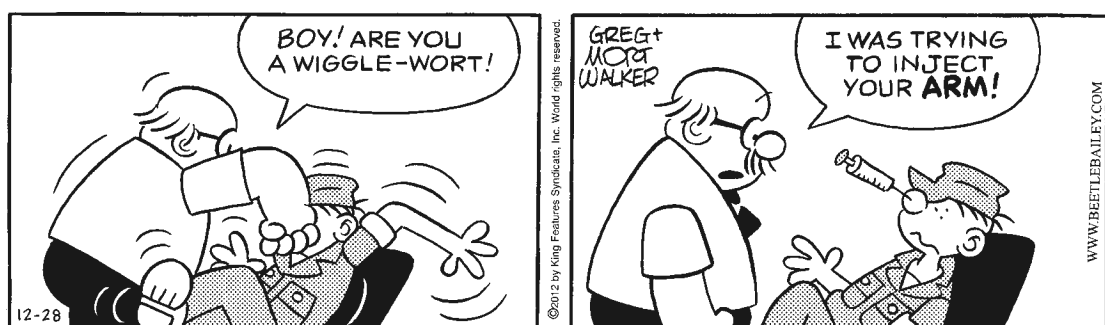
## BLONDIE | YOUNG &amp; DRAKE



## GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



## HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



## THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



## BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



## Grandmother's Photo Collage Brings Back Painful Memories

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was repeatedly date-raped at the age of 16. Her predator threatened to kill her if she ever told, so she kept it to herself until she could get away from him. It was a very scary time in her life, but with the help of counseling she is working through it and moving on with her life.

The problem is, while visiting with my in-laws it was pointed out to us that my mother-in-law had made a collage of pictures and included in it the person who raped my daughter. In all, there are five pictures of him in group settings. When my husband asked her calmly to remove them, she refused. She says it would punish the other grandchildren if she removed the pictures, and it would "ruin her collage."

We have asked her three times, but she refuses to budge. She says WE all need counseling and that the request is completely out of line. Do you think our request was out of line? — APPALLED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR APPALLED: Of course not! Was your mother-in-law aware of what this person had done to her granddaughter when the collage was created? If so, her reaction is bizarre and unbelievably insensitive.

Approach her once more and ask if she would agree to take the collage to a photographer so your daughter's attacker can be digitally edited out of it. If that's not possible, perhaps she would agree to take down the collage when your family visits. However, if the response to that request is also negative, I wouldn't blame you if you went there very rarely, if ever.

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to people when they tell you they will "pray for you" when you're dealing with an illness or other life tragedy if you are a nonbeliever? Statistics say that 34 percent of Americans are nonbelievers, so please address this to the 34 percent who share my feelings of appreciation for the senti-

ment, but feel like hypocrites for playing along to reciprocate their kindness. I wonder if any of your nonbeliever readers can share how they internally deal with this dilemma. — NONBELIEVER, BUT GRATEFUL

DEAR NONBELIEVER: I'm sure they will, in droves. However, because nonbelievers physically resemble those who ARE believers, and nonbelievers don't usually wear symbols indicating their nonbelief, it's understandable that someone of faith would attempt to offer comfort that way. And most people battling a serious illness welcome a "blast of positivity," whether it is couched in religious terms or not.

When someone offers to pray for you, it's usually because the person cares about you, knows you are sick and feels helpless to offer anything more to help. Accept it for what it is, and say thank you rather than tell the person that what they offered is, in your eyes, worthless. That's called being gracious — regardless of your religious or nonreligious convictions.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of eight years will not resolve his foot odor problem. We live in a small apartment, and it's humiliating when we have company and half the apartment smells like stinky feet.

He refuses to wear socks, and his solution in winter is to open all the windows and turn on the fan as soon as he returns from work. The "airing out" never completely gets rid of the smell — and I freeze! How can I get him to change? — FED UP IN MANHATTAN

DEAR FED UP: You obviously can't change your husband, but you don't have to risk getting pneumonia, either. Shoe repair shops sell deodorizing products in the form of sprays and powders. Or buy a large container of baking soda, and when your husband removes his shoes, dump a cupful into each one. They next day the smell should be gone.

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

## 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 Cancer.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 2012:

This year you often think one way about an issue but act on it in a different way. You'll feel one thing, but think you should do something else. This internal conflict helps you discover which voice to respond to. Many times, the people around you don't know how to respond to these mixed signals. If you continue to flip-flop in this way, both professional and personal relationships could suffer. If you are single, you will meet someone who knocks your socks off. You know what you want and what to do. If you are attached, openly discuss your mental process in order to avoid any negative responses. CANCER has the same issues as you. 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)

★★★★ You could find yourself on both the giving and receiving end of a surprise. On some level, you might feel as if you must answer to someone; on the other hand, you also recognize your own needs. A partner might be difficult when it comes to financial matters. Tonight: Flex.

## TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, especially if you think there is an underlying problem. Yes, you eventually will have to deal with this issue, but the timing is off right now. Realize that many people are off-kilter. Tonight: Hang out with a loved one.

## GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Know what is going on behind the scenes. You might find that you're not ready to deal with all of the consequences involved with a partnership and/or a money matter. Your lack of energy very well could have colored your thinking. Tonight: Do what feels right.

## CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ The Full Moon points to you. As a result, you might be reactive and cause yourself a problem. You'll try to take command of your life, but there are so many unpredictable elements that it might not work out. Know that you can adjust to the situation. Tonight: Do your thing.

## LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. Acting on what you think could be difficult at best. Gather informa-

tion, but avoid making a judgment for about a week, if possible. Today's events will have a different appearance at that point. Tonight: Not to be found.

## VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Keep your eye on the prize. Do not get distracted by all the hoopla, unexpected events and emotional statements from others. This, too, will pass, given a little time and caring. If a conversation feels stilted, you can be sure that you're not getting all the facts. Tonight: Join friends.

## LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds. On some level, you could feel out of sync as you look at the panorama of your life. You will become the ringmaster if you just relax and allow others to help out. Do not make any commitments of your time or money for a while. Tonight: TGIF.

## SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to deal with a situation differently. How you handle a personal matter could change once some of the intensity of the moment dies down. You could be overserious or too demanding. Detach for a better perspective. Tonight: Where there is music.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ A creative endeavor takes an unusual turn. A partner could be reactive, especially with finances. You could be making matters worse. Address a low-level depression, and understand that you can handle this problem. Tonight: Answer any questions that are posed.

## CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ The Full Moon affects you socially and emotionally. You might wonder what is going on with an important person in your life. If you are having difficulty explaining this person's behavior, don't get uptight. He or she might not be able to, either. Tonight: Go along with the program.

## AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You could be past the point of no return when dealing with an associate. You also might give this person an unexpected jolt. Though at first you might feel guilty about it, try to view your words as a wake-up call. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.

## PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You might feel pushed beyond your limit. Rather than express your exasperation, hold back and do something for yourself. Friends also could be unusually demanding. Your finances will take a strange twist if you are not careful. Double-check your change. Tonight: Only what you want.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

