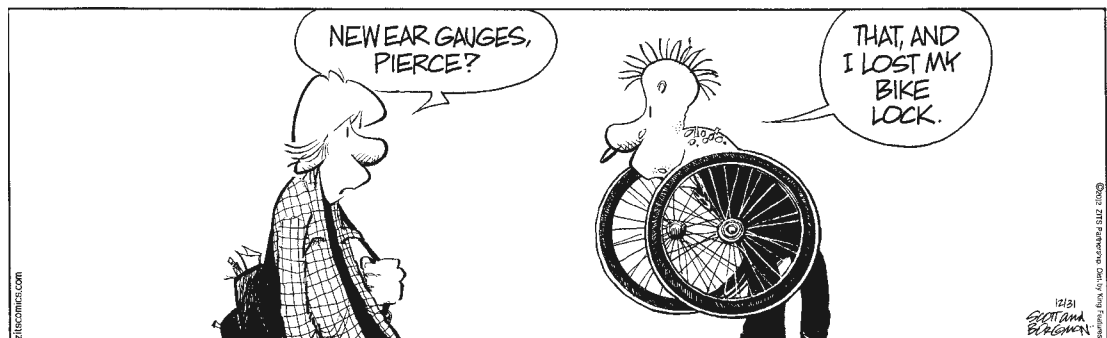


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE


12-31
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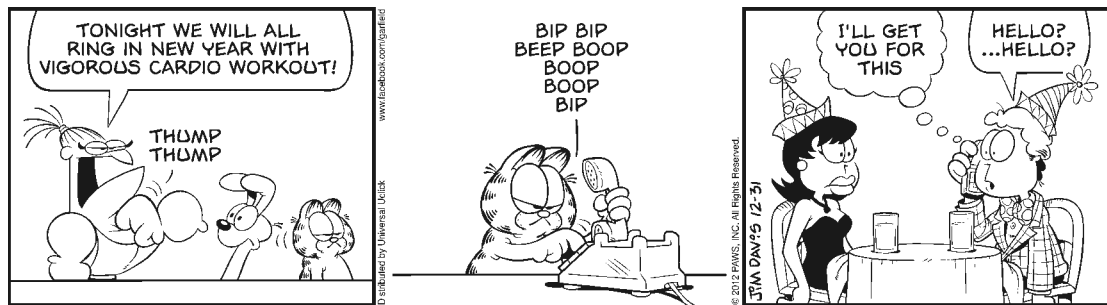
“Yes! God decided to wrap up the year in snow!”

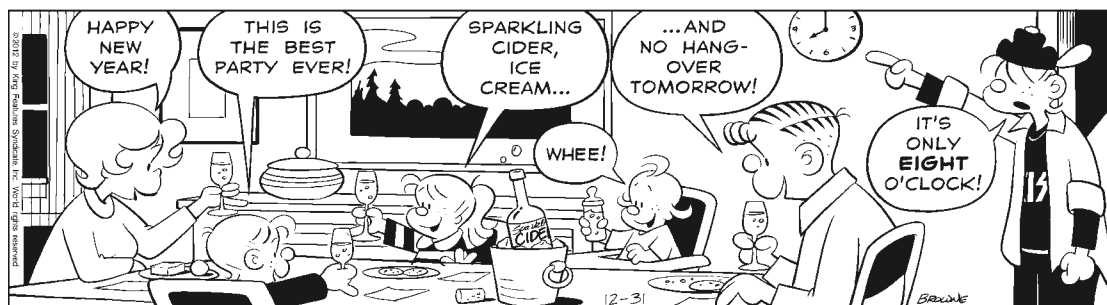
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES

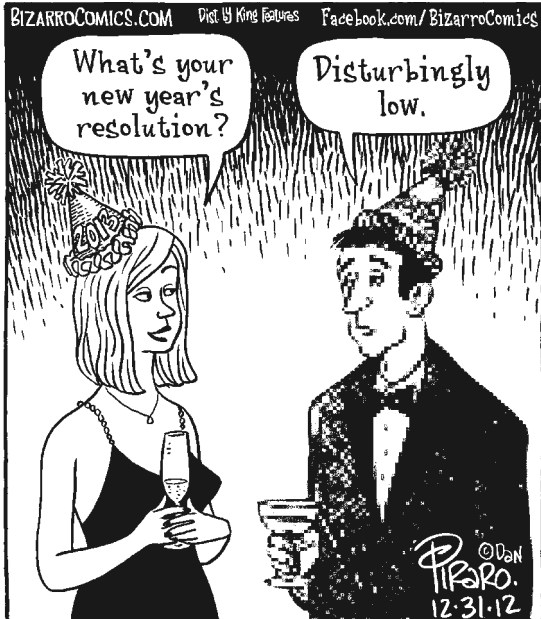
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ

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

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO


The Rules Of The Road Apply To All Drivers — Even You!

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional driver. Please allow me to offer some advice to everyone I share the road with:

- (1) Please do not honk or display obscene gestures because I am driving the speed limit. It's not my fault that you're late.
- (2) Please don't pass me on the right, using the curb lane, parking lane, bike lane or sidewalk. It's dangerous for me, for you, and for anyone who happens to be in those lanes legally.
- (3) Please obey the stop signs, stoplights, yield signs and other signs on the road. They're there to protect people.
- (4) Please put down that breakfast sandwich, cup of coffee, lunch or dinner. If you're that hungry, pull over to eat.
- (5) Please turn off your cellphones while driving. Whatever it is, it can wait. And if it can't, you have no business being behind the wheel.
- (6) If you must discipline your children, please pull over to do it. I have seen drivers wrap their vehicles around trees and lampposts because they had turned around to talk to their child.

I drive more than 1,000 miles a week, and I see more accidents than most will in a lifetime. Many of them could have been avoided simply by paying attention to the road. If you choose to ignore this advice, I can pretty much guarantee that you will injure, or possibly kill, someone eventually. If my letter prevents just one fatality, then it was well worth the time it took to write it. — MILWAUKEE MILE MAN

DEAR MILE MAN: Thank you for taking the time to write. As both a driver and a passenger, I have seen some frightening near-misses because drivers

chose to ignore speed limits and run stop signs and stoplights. Usually the infractions are caused less because of thoughtlessness than by rudeness and an attitude that the rules of the road apply to everyone else.

And please don't think that automobile drivers are the only transgressors, because I have seen bikers and cyclists do some of the same things.

DEAR ABBY: Why do some people think it's acceptable to tuck in the tag on my shirt? It's bad enough when my mother does it, but I have had acquaintances and even strangers do it without asking.

I said something the last time it happened, and the woman had the gall to take offense! All I said was, "Please don't!" Am I wrong? — PLEASE DON'T IN TEXAS

DEAR PLEASE DON'T: I'm sure there are various reasons why people try to tuck in an errant tag — or remove a piece of lint — from a stranger's clothing. I suspect they range from attempting to be helpful, to impulsiveness to compulsive behavior.

However, because what the woman did made you uncomfortable, you were right to tell her that you didn't like it. She should have asked before touching a stranger because many people are sensitive to any breach of their personal space.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: If you are partying tonight to celebrate the arrival of the new year, please don't drink and drive. Make sure you have a designated driver.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous 2013! — LOVE, ABBY

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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 Capricorn and a Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, DEC. 31, 2012:

This year you enjoy relating on a one-on-one level. Though you love to socialize, you also appreciate the exchange that goes on just between two people. If you are single, you attract people from out of the blue and in odd situations. Others generally see you as being touchy and perhaps even somewhat volatile this year. You don't tolerate the same behavior from others, so ask yourself why you act this way. If you are attached, the two of you love going on getaways together. Make sure you plan plenty of them. LEO understands you perhaps better than you understand yourself!

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 imagination dominates most situations. Do not sit on your anger; otherwise, sarcasm and harsh words might fly out of your mouth. Only by having calm discussions and expressing a lot of caring can you patch up the situation. Tonight: Express your anger effectively.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Decide to make New Year's plans that involve having a party at your house. It's OK if this is a last-minute decision. Invite your favorite neighbors and friends over to join in the fun. With good vibes around you, you'll start the new year off on the right note. Tonight: Anchor in.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Make calls early in the day. You could wonder where a situation ends and/or begins. Does it make that much of a difference? Stay present. You will find that you can enjoy yourself even in a difficult situation. Tonight: If you haven't made your resolutions yet, do it now.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Help a friend let go of a difficult year. Your caring is appreciated by this person, but be careful, as a loved one could become jealous as a result. Remember your sweetie and how important your bond is. Tonight: Ring in the new year by hugging the one you love.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You know what to do. You feel it in your bones as you go off to wish people a Happy New Year. A

spontaneous decision to visit a friend in the early afternoon could set off the celebrations. Tonight: Nobody likes the snap, crackle and pop of a party more than you do!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★ Make it OK to decline an invitation to a celebration. You'll perk up after having the right conversation with a friend. Your nurturing qualities start to emerge, and once more, you are beaming. A long-overdue chat with someone makes you smile. Tonight: Get into the moment.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your smile tells everyone how you feel. You sense that the new year will be a good one, and you're probably right. Where the parties are and where your friends are is where you want to be. Even with your sweetie, you still gravitate to crowds. Tonight: Cheer in the new year.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You make a great leader, which is fortunate, as that is your role. Friends and acquaintances seem to be scattered until you set the mood. Be sure to share your New Year's resolutions with someone who cares deeply. Tonight: Pop a bottle of bubbly at just the right moment.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. This person offers you a different perspective. Simply by speaking to him or her, you will be taken to a whole other intellectual realm. Detach, and you'll see life through new eyes. Tonight: When New Year's rolls in, think of a wish.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You will be happiest relating to others individually. You might not be up for superficiality at this point. The intensity between you and a friend occupies your thoughts. Deal with an unexpected development on the homefront. Tonight: Togetherness and New Year's go together.

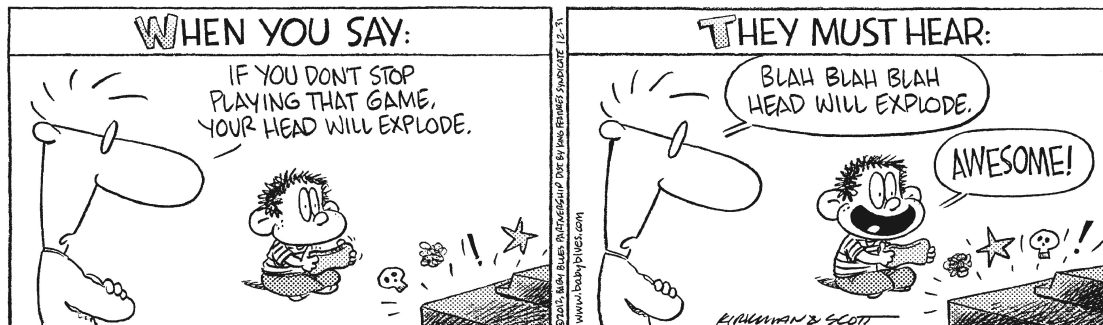
AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You can sit back and relax. You might want to take a nap or clean out a drawer in order to start fresh for the new year. In any case, you won't be alone for any length of time, as friends surround you. Tonight: Pop some bubbly, make resolutions and greet the new year in style.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You might be stuck playing the role of host or hostess for the night, even if it's not at your own celebration. Pick up an item you have wanted today. Start your new year off with something new. Do not swallow your anger. Tonight: Be a role model. Live it up!

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS
