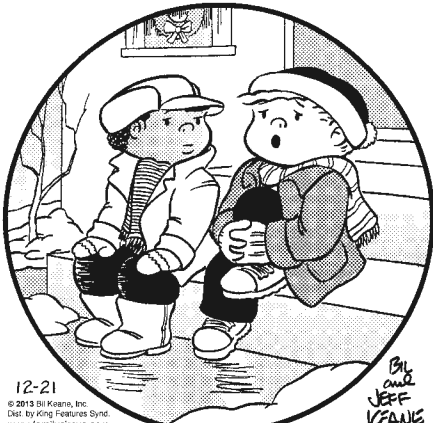
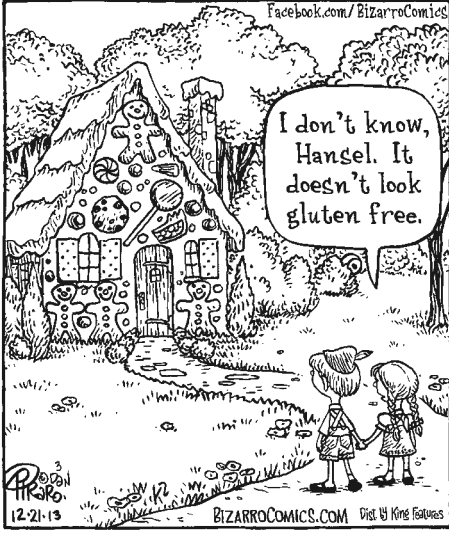


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



12-21
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www.familycircus.com
'I don't know what I'm gettin' for Christmas. My mommy and daddy keep SPELLIN' everything!'

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

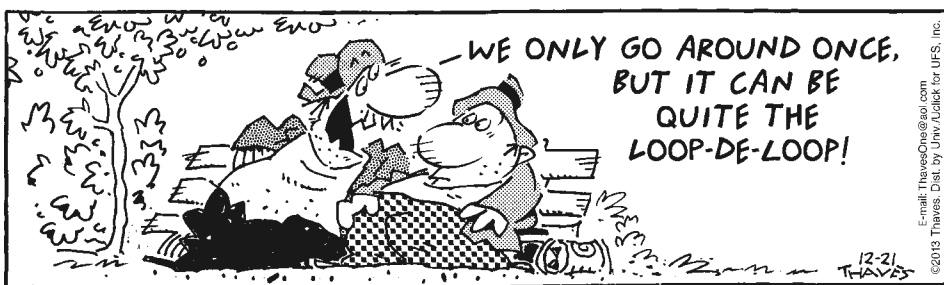


12-21-13
BIZARROCOMICS.COM
'I don't know, Hangel. It doesn't look gluten free.'

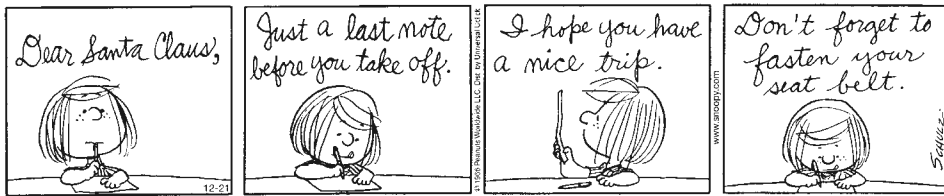
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



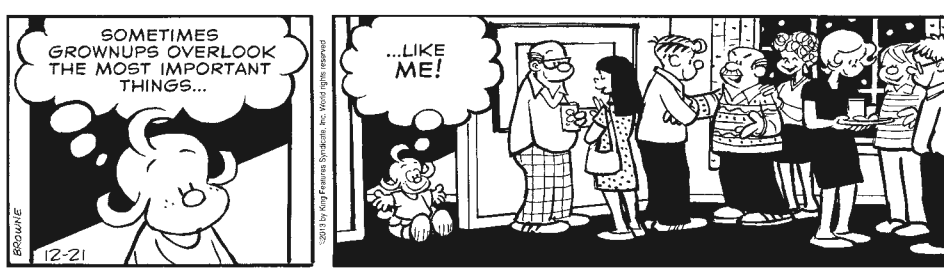
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Sister Immersed In Virtual World Blocks Out The Real

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister "Lainie" is 14. She has had a smartphone for about a year. While I don't belong to any social media sites, Lainie is a social media junkie. She never goes anywhere without her phone. Sometimes she'll have her phone in one hand and her tablet in the other, taking turns when one or the other begins to bore her. It's almost impossible to interact with her because her face is buried in the virtual world just about every hour of the day and night.

I miss the way things used to be before she got that smartphone. I have talked about this with my parents. While they are equally concerned about Lainie's withdrawn, sometimes secretive behavior, they never do anything about it. What are your thoughts on this topic? — GADGET GIRL'S SISTER IN NEW MEXICO
DEAR SISTER: It's common for teens to spend a lot of time on their phones and computers. But when they become withdrawn and secretive, it is time for a parental intervention. If your folks are equally concerned about your sister's behavior, they should step in, find out what's going on and do something about it, if necessary. If they don't already, they could start by scheduling family dinners during which cellphones are turned off or put away.

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is nearly here, and I'm concerned about my brother. I'm afraid he blames himself for his 28-year-old daughter's suicide, which was by no means his fault. This will be his first Christmas without her. I don't know what to do for him. Any suggestions? — CHALLENGED IN MICHIGAN
DEAR CHALLENGED: When a close family member commits suicide, it is common for survivors to experience a range of emotions. Anger and guilt are two of them. If possible,

encourage your brother to spend Christmas with you or other relatives. You should also suggest he join a survivors support group.

The American Association of Suicidology provides referrals to local self-help groups for survivors of suicide. Its website is www.suicidology.org. If he joins one, it will give him a place to talk about his feelings with people who will understand because they have them, too.



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: A long time ago, I was dating and living with a wonderful woman. I was arrested and went to jail for possession of cocaine. She then had an order of protection issued against me for one year.

That was 10 years ago. I have been clean from drugs ever since. She has a child with another man now, and I hope everything is great. My problem is, I can't get her out of my mind. I miss her so much and just want the chance to be with her. Any advice? — HEARTBROKEN IN NEW YORK
DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your former girlfriend has gone on with her life, and your relationship is ancient history. If she had been willing to forgive you, she wouldn't have taken out the restraining order. If you want to be successful in moving forward in your life, stop looking backward. It's time to focus on your future.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers 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 9:11 a.m. (PST). Afterward, it will be in Capricorn. The Moon is in Leo all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 2013:

This year you become more easygoing than in the past, partially because of a relationship or a key friendship. Someone relates intensely and openly with you. You feel more secure as a result. If you are single, you could find this year to be very memorable. You could have a secret admirer, and you might want to start seeing this person on a romantic level. If you are attached, the two of you are likely to enjoy more couple time together. Curb a tendency to go boldly over the top with spending, eating out and other such activities. LEO always seems to have the right words.

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)

★★★★ Don't assume that someone is OK when you know that he or she has difficulties with the holidays. Make a call and make sure that this person has plans, or invite him or her to a lengthy brunch. A partner could start acting gawky. Tonight: Wherever you are, there is a party.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You'll flourish at home, even if you're busy. Make cookies and finish up any gift wrapping that needs to be done. If you must go out, make it fast; otherwise, you could feel drained. Be sure to indulge yourself now and in the next few weeks. Tonight: Go with the flow.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Return calls, catch up on emails and mail out a holiday card or two. Others will want to talk, and they want to talk to you. Listen, but also understand what they really want and what their words mean. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You could be off spending money somewhere. Hopefully you will complete your holiday shopping. Resist making a purchase just for you. Wait. An issue could revolve around you, a parent and/or your home. Tonight: Order in, or treat others out to dinner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You might attempt to deal with a situation involving your daily life. Let go of worry, as it is absolutely pointless. Know that something better

lies ahead. You could feel quite drained just from the day. Take a nap. Tonight: Do only what you must. Note the change in energy.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Hit the pause button and give yourself a little time off. Events will march on relentlessly to Christmas. Take a break. Some of you might opt for a massage and/or a snooze. Do what works for you. Take down the stress level a notch. Tonight: Your sense of adventure emerges.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Wherever you go and wherever you turn, there will be crowds of people around you. You also might get flooded with emails. Take an hour or two just for you. You need a break, and the timeout will make all the difference. Tonight: Drop in on a party or join some friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You might feel different and a little out of sorts. Someone could misunderstand your words or your intentions. This confusion might lead to a rift. Clear up the issue before too much bad blood develops. Tonight: Hang out at home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Take off if you can, even if only for the afternoon. Note the difference in your energy. Honor this change and stop pushing so hard. Other creative ideas will pop up if you must buy a gift or two. Think about experience-related presents. Tonight: Be around great music.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ The Sun enters your sign and signals your birthday month. Note that you soon will have more get-up-and-go. A boss or parent could become very indulgent. You might want to shy away from the intensity. Tonight: Light the tree and add some romance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Your focus seems to change as the first day of winter arrives. You will tend to become more internal. A person you care a lot about could be on your mind. A friend might not understand the change in your moods. Be understanding. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Pressure finally eases off. You might want to kick back and enjoy the holiday celebrations. Drop in on a party or two. You could be surprised by some of the people you see. Don't forget about a loved one who tends to get depressed this time of year. Tonight: The party goes on.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

