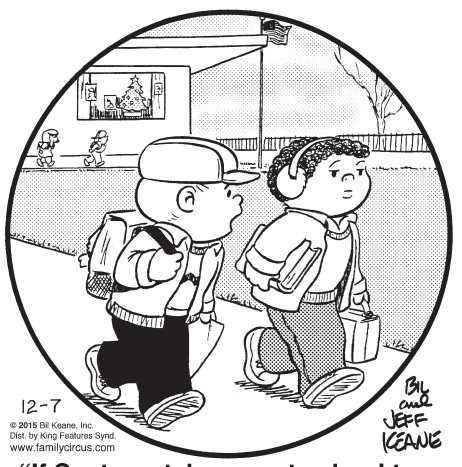
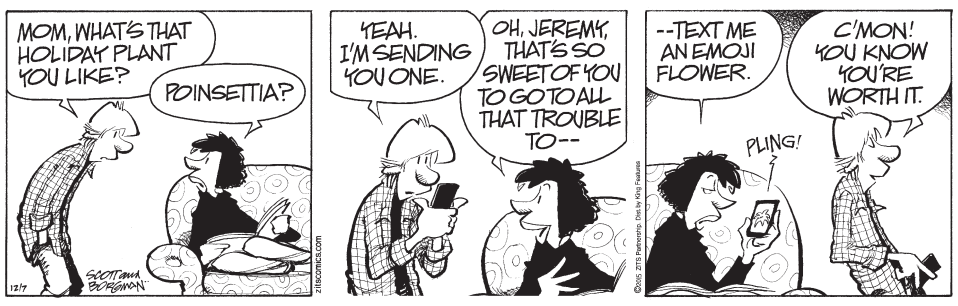
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"If Santa watches us at school too, I'm in for a lousy Christmas."

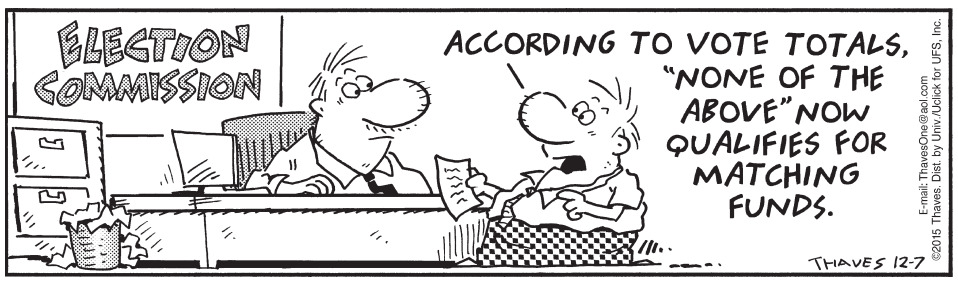
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



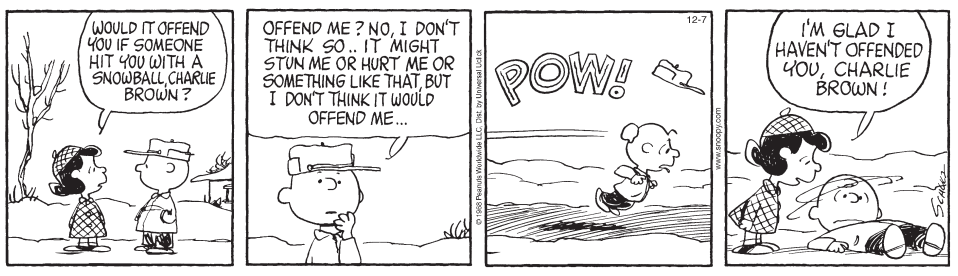
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE

FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES

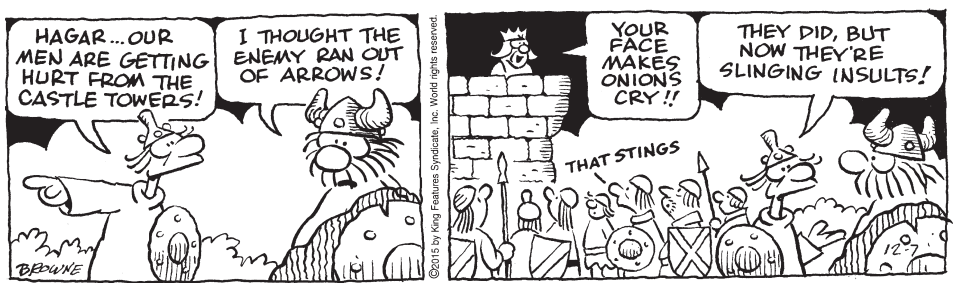


BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON

PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ

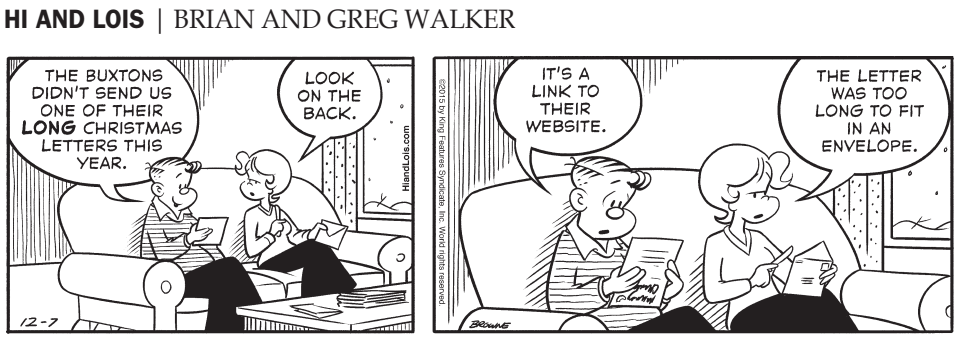


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE

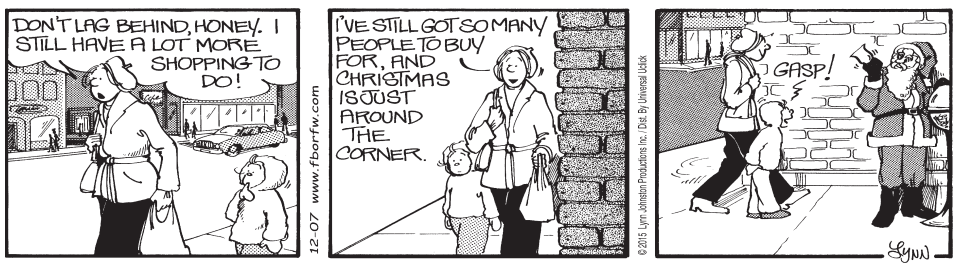


BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER

HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS

Holiday Greeting Need Not Prompt A Religious Claim

DEAR ABBY: Every year around the holidays, well-intentioned strangers wish me and my family "Merry Christmas!" Even though we are Jewish, I have always regarded it to be a kind gesture to spread good cheer. I smile and return the greeting.

My children have asked me why I don't tell people we're Jewish and that we don't celebrate Christmas. I don't feel I need to educate strangers when they're just trying to be friendly, but my kids don't agree. We've had several discussions about being friendly and polite, but still they ask if being Jewish is something to keep secret or be embarrassed about.

I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but I do want to give my kids the message that we are proud of who we are. How do you recommend I handle this situation, because it happens a lot? – JILL IN SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

DEAR JILL: Explain to your children that you return the greeting to be polite, not because you feel being Jewish is anything to be ashamed of. The strangers who do this are saying something nice, and you are returning the greeting.

However, the response to people to whom you are closer and with whom there will be a deeper relationship should be different. To them, your children should explain that they are Jewish and that you celebrate Hanukkah rather than Christmas. When you're with them, if they feel the need to assert their Jewish identity, they should go right ahead and do it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for 16 years. Last year I found out he was married before I met him and still is married to her. He never told me he was married when I met him – or at all. If he had, we wouldn't be together.

His wife got ahold of me on Facebook because she was looking for him. I was in disbelief. We almost got married in 2007, which would have been bigamy. I have stayed with him for the sake of our kids, but I'm miserable.

I recently reconnected with a male friend from high school. We have been talking, but not romantically. He knows my situation. The problem is, he said that he had a crush on me back in school and still does. I have feelings for him, too – more than just friendship. What do I do? — EMOTIONALLY LOST IN MARYLAND

DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR LOST: I can only imagine the extent to which your trust has been shaken. What you need to do right now is recognize how vulnerable you are feeling. What you shouldn't do is rebound from one relationship into another.

Because you are no longer happy with your boyfriend, consult an attorney to ensure your children's father lives up to his financial obligations to them. If you don't have a job, start looking for one to supplement the child support income.

Once you have established economic independence, you will be in a better position to judge whether or not your old high school friend is your knight in shining armor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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.

© 2015, 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 Sagittarius and a Moon in Libra if born before 6:26 a.m. (EST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, DEC. 7, 2015:

This year others might be surprised by the amount of caring that emanates from you. A female friend or a family member could take on unusual significance. If you are single, you can't be too discriminating. You easily could meet someone who is not portraying his or her authentic self. Take your time getting to know people. If you are attached, the two of you frequently are in different places at different times. The importance of downtime as a couple must be emphasized. Schedule more weekends away together. SCORPIO is a natural healer.

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 generally are as extroverted and intense as they come. You might not understand what is going on with you, but you'll have a need to retreat. Process a matter about a loved one. Don't make the assumption that this experience is negative; it's just different. Tonight: As you like it.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be in the position of allowing others to take the lead, when you normally wouldn't. Consider how you could change the way you and others see a situation, but keep those thoughts to yourself unless someone asks for feedback. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You could be concentrating on one specific issue and doing some research. You might have difficulty indulging in conversations about other matters, as your mind is elsewhere. Be willing to take a risk. Tonight: Take the time you need for yourself and/or a project.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might not be able to close down the muse that lies within you. Your creativity can't be shut off easily. You might want to remain relatively discreet. You will know when the time is right to share more of your thoughts and ideas. Tonight: Let the fun begin!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You'll want to rethink a personal situation. You might feel as if you see eye to eye with the other party involved and can come to an agreement. You rarely feel strongly about these type of situations, but decide to make it OK anyway. Tonight: Head home early, if you can.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★★ You might want more free time to visit with a partner. You could be overwhelmed by an option you never expected to have in your life. Enjoy the moment, but be rational in your choices. What a loved one feels could be off as well. Tonight: Continue the happy moment.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You will be very tempted to make a certain purchase and/or head in a certain direction. You will find the experience or the item to be close to impossible to turn down. Make sure you are aware of the costs of this expenditure. Tonight: Meet a friend for some eggnog.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Sometimes, when we overthink a personal matter, we get into trouble. Perhaps you need to take some time off for holiday shopping, if nothing else. You could be taken aback by how much fun you have doing what often has seemed like a chore. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Several friends might notice a serene quality emanating from you. It more than likely stems from a personal matter. In fact, some of you might be upset about an issue, but you are on your way to letting it go, or at least seeing it from a different perspective. Tonight: All is well.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Stay focused on the long term. Often, you find that others don't seem to understand where you are coming from. All the activity that surrounds you needs to be pushed away if you are to accomplish anything. Politely isolate yourself. Tonight: Open the door for others.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

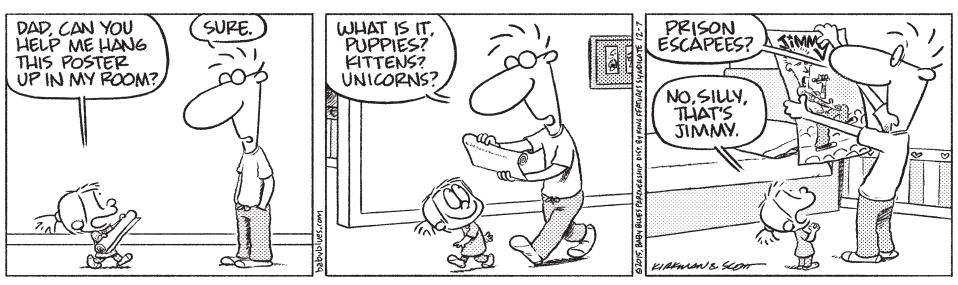
★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes on a new level of caring that somehow leaks into other areas of your life. The possibilities for change are many, should you decide to take a leap of faith. Understand that your expectations sometimes are off. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

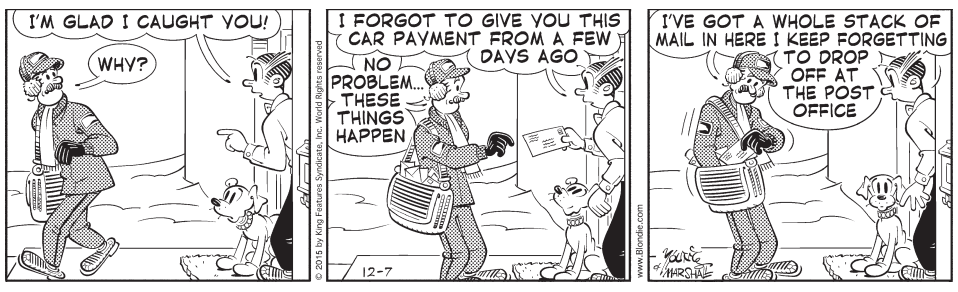
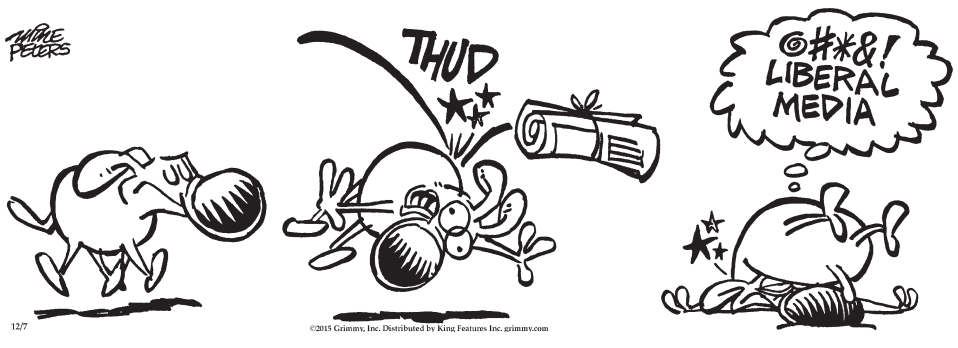
★★★★ Look at the big picture, and you will make a much better decision. A situation that you might have perceived as being hostile likely has become one of caring. You feel much better once you break down barriers between you and others. Tonight: Start hanging up some mistletoe.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS