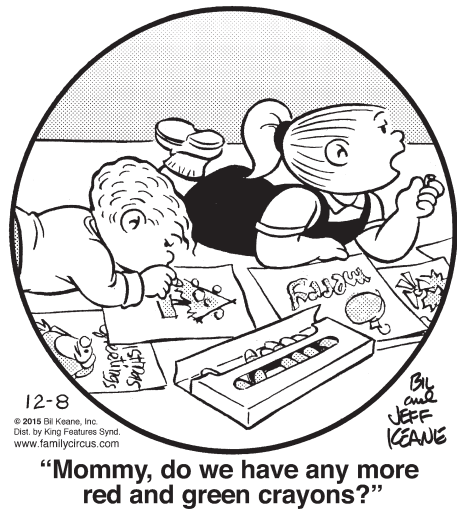
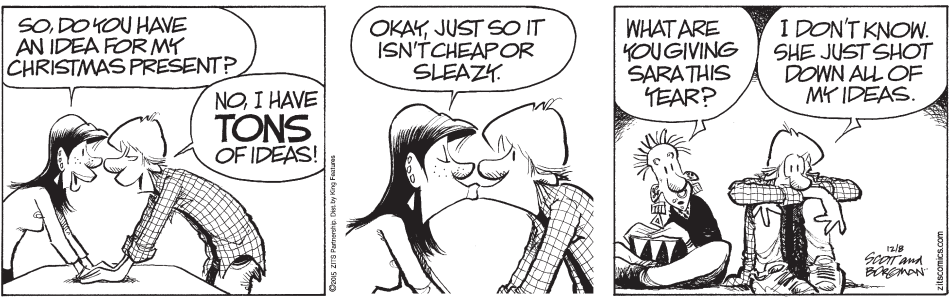


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



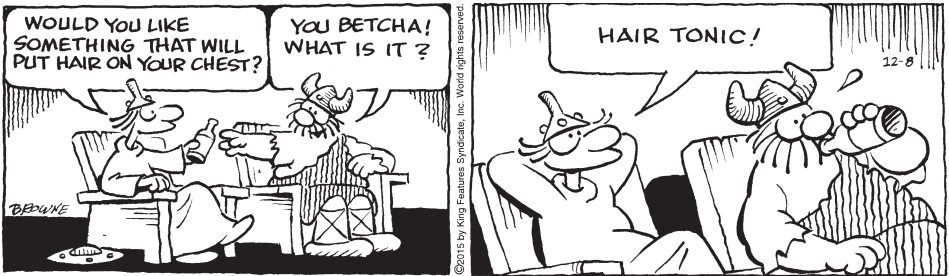
BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



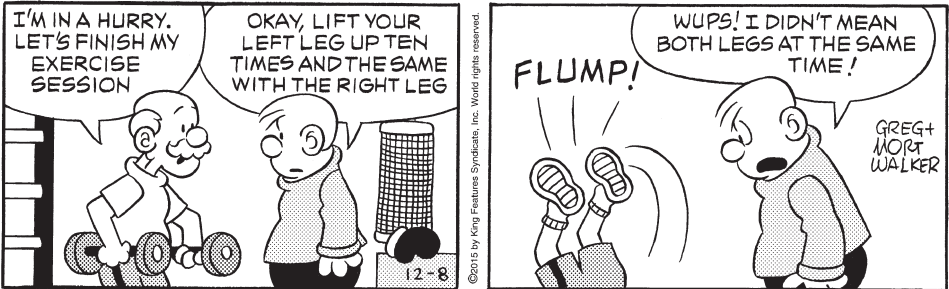
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



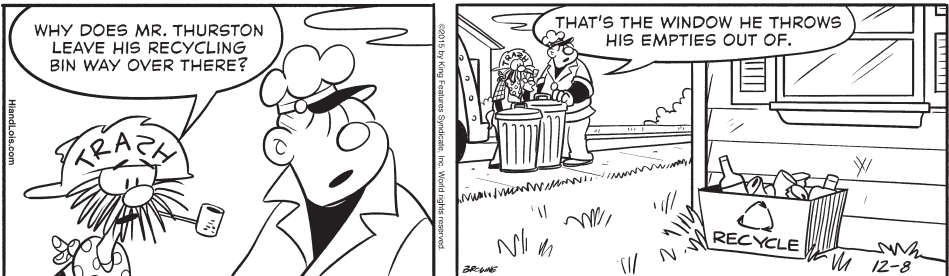
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Daughter's Changing Gender Identity Baffles Her Family

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine recently found out his daughter, "Rhonda" (who is over 18), feels she should have been born a boy. "Ronnie" is now living life as a man and plans to change genders completely.

To say the least, my friend and his wife are finding it difficult to deal with. He doesn't understand why she can't just be gay, which he would be fine with. I want to give them emotional support while at the same time supporting Ronnie, but I'm having a hard time relating to their feelings.

Could you provide some resources for them, such as organizations that help families deal with gender changing and all that it entails? – WANTS TO BE SUPPORTIVE

DEAR WANTS TO BE SUPPORTIVE: I know an excellent LGBT organization that has been mentioned before in my column. It's called Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The largest increase in new individuals reaching out to PFLAG is now among trans people and their family members.

Ronnie can't "just be gay" because the issue isn't sexual orientation; it is Ronnie's GENDER IDENTITY. PFLAG can help to explain this to Ronnie's father, and he should visit pflag.org for guidance.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "John" for 18 years. We married while he was in prison. I know I have outgrown him, but I'm scared to say it's over in case I realize later that we should be together. Over the years, we have both cheated and hurt each other.

I don't know exactly what I am holding onto with him. There doesn't seem to be anyone else out there to choose from, so maybe I should stay. I'm not afraid to be alone, but I am confused. I am suffering from depression over this. Please help. – STUCK IN DES MOINES

DEAR STUCK: If the only reason you haven't left John is that there's no one else around to choose from, it's understandable that you would be depressed. The status quo isn't fair for you or your husband.

As I see it, you have two choices: Fix your

marriage or leave. Of course, the better option would be for you and John to have counseling to see if your love can be revived. However, if it doesn't work, then it might be better for you both to separate. The reason there is no one else out there right now may be that you are unavailable.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Call me ungrateful, but I am very uncomfortable receiving gifts. How can I get longtime friends to stop bringing hostess gifts when I invite them over? I don't need anything, and I resent feeling I am obligated to take something to them, too.

Why do women do this and men not feel so compelled? I have tried remarking, "The present of your 'presence' is present enough," but it continues. I need your help. – UNGRACIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNGRACIOUS: Women usually bring hostess gifts because they were raised to believe it is the gracious thing to do. ("Don't come empty-handed.") Since "remarking" hasn't gotten your message across, you will have to be more direct with your friends. TELL them that when they visit, you would prefer they bring only themselves and nothing more. Then explain that you are at a point where you have enough "things" and do not need or want any more.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 8, 2015:

This year you prove to be more inventive when approaching your day-to-day life. You are capable of finding unique solutions. You might do some reorganization of your finances as well. You could be uncomfortable revealing more of yourself than you would like at times. If you are single, you might meet someone who isn't as available as he or she leads on. Be careful with your feelings. Get to know this person better. If you are attached, your relationship demands some personal one-on-one time. As a couple, delight in more weekend escapes. SCORPIO understands 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)

★★★★ Your unpredictability works in your favor. News from a distance could perturb you much more than you had anticipated. In any case, you'll manage to create a lot of excitement. Be prepared to deal with a friend. Tonight: Walk the dog or go to the gym. You need exercise.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Allow others to express more of their personality. You might be weighing a different approach or attitude. You could be amazed by what a loved one does as a gesture. This person will be very imaginative, and you will be delighted. Tonight: Go along with the program.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Pace yourself, as your mind seems to drift to an unpredictable situation. You might not believe the effect that this matter has on you. On some level, you could be quite amused. A matter involving your family will make you smile. Tonight: Know when to switch gears.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your creativity helps stop any pending problems. Someone close to you delights in having your attention. You can't hide your caring from this person. Let your feelings flow, and you will be a lot happier; there is no point in holding back. Tonight: Be a little naughty.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A friend has a lot to share. Rather than make a judgment, observe what is occurring

behind the scenes. You might want to build a relationship, but you won't be able to if the other party refuses to share. You can't force this person to do what you want. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Speak your mind, and listen to the possibilities that others offer. You might feel as if you have few options until a partner or close loved one suggests one that is irresistible. Know that there are solutions, but you can say "no" if you need to. Tonight: Run holiday errands.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Keep a firm hand on your budget. You might not have the control you desire right now. Understand your limits and remain centered. You have a strong sense of direction, which a key person often fosters. Use it now and clear up a problem. Tonight: In the holiday spirit.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You're on top of the world, looking at new possibilities. When you awoke this morning, you might have thought you were in a different realm. Take this energy and infuse it into your day. Choose and use your creative thoughts well. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ You'll sense that there is more going on than what meets the eye. You could try to find out what is happening, or you might choose to ignore your intuition and see what results. Maintain a quiet demeanor until you make an informed decision. Tonight: Know when to vanish.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Zero in on a high priority. You can move in a new direction if you stay open and responsive. Others will understand your decision. Allow more creativity to come forward. A friend could play a significant role in your plans. Tonight: Go for what you want.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

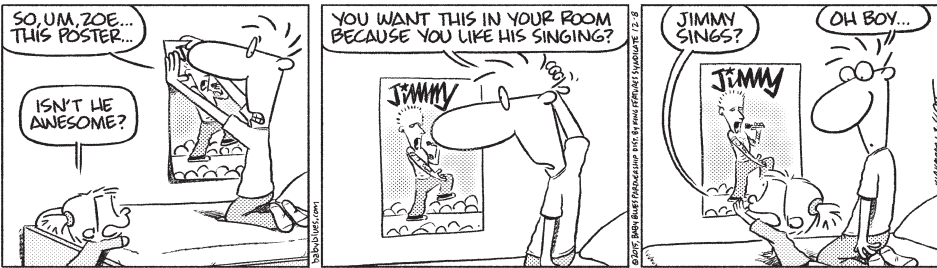
★★★★ You have a way about you that draws many people toward you. Your sense of direction delights a boss, but perhaps not a rival or fellow associate. Don't worry about a conversation with a very moody person; it has nothing to do with you. Tonight: Out late.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Detach, and you will see a matter with greater fullness. You could be unpredictable with your spending. Slow down, and you will make appropriate and sound decisions. You have much more to offer than you realize. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of holiday music.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

