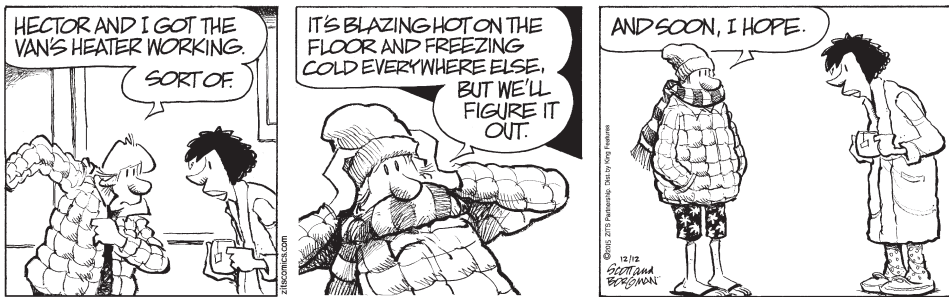


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



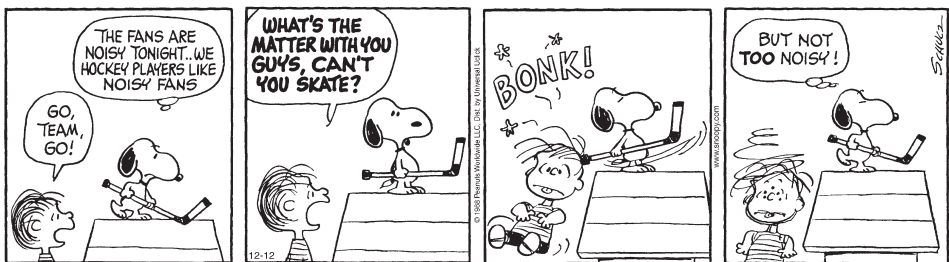
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



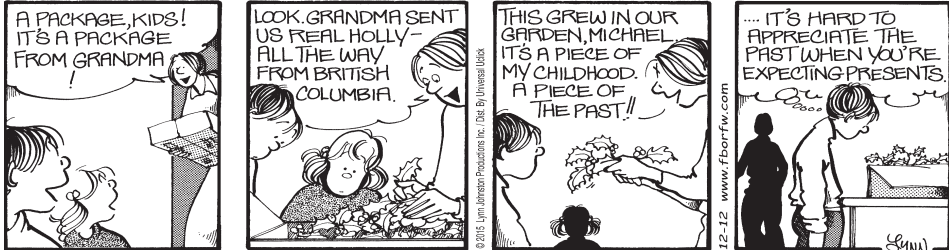
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



South Dakota Student Scared After School Shooting

DEAR ABBY: I'm a student in eighth grade. In September we had a shooting at the high school in my district. Honestly, I have no clue what to think.

My dad always said that being in South Dakota, we are safer from the craziness that happens in more populated areas. We have little to no bad/dangerous kids in our district, so I still can't wrap my mind around it. It feels surreal.

I'll be in high school next year, and I don't know how I'm going to cope with the idea that it could happen again. — SCARED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR SCARED: The student who acted out so violently may have suffered from a severe mental illness that wasn't properly treated, or may have been angry because he was bullied, excluded or felt discriminated against. While no one is 100 percent safe from violence these days, the chances of it happening to you are less if you treat others with the same respect and kindness with which you would like to be treated. If these concerns are preoccupying you, it's important that you continue to discuss them with your parents so they can give you the assurance you need.

DEAR ABBY: My heart breaks when jokes are made about older children, especially sons, who still live at home. My son "Nick" has his own area of the house and cares for himself. His rent helps us greatly. My parents also live in another part of the house, and he helps with their needs sometimes.

Why does everyone make fun of these people without knowing the situation? Nick has a college degree and a good job, but the wages aren't what they were in relation to the cost of living. We both work full time, and so I rarely see him. He also travels for his job and can be gone for two weeks at a time. He used to own a home, but sold it to move out of state for work. When he came back, we set up this arrangement to benefit all of us.

People need to look at the whole picture before making a judgment. Abby, do you think

this is an unacceptable arrangement? — FAMILY EXTENDED IN KANSAS

DEAR FAMILY EXTENDED: Unacceptable? Not at all, if it's working for you and your family. In recent years it's become more common for adult children to live with their parents. People shouldn't rush to judgment if they don't have all of the facts.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has an extensive list of health issues, both mental and physical. His family has a history of cancer. Last week, we were given the news that he may have pancreatic cancer. He watched his brother die from the same disease, so we know that if he is diagnosed, he may not survive long. The doctors weren't able to make a definitive diagnosis, so there will be more testing. I love my husband with all my heart and have stood by him through everything.

My dilemma: After we got the news, I started thinking about what may happen to me after he dies. I thought about getting him more life insurance, selling the house, what to do with his belongings — even where I would bury him. Am I a terrible person? I feel guilty for doing it and would appreciate your opinion. — FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF EMOTIONS

DEAR FILLED: Please stop beating yourself up. I can't think of a single reason why you should feel guilty for thinking rationally.

You and your husband are going through a traumatic health crisis right now. I hope his diagnosis of a terminal illness is premature and that you will enjoy many more happy years together. However, whatever lies ahead, the two of you are overdue for a conversation about what both of you would like to happen — including a review of each other's health care powers of attorney.

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.

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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 and Moon in Sagittarius if born before 1:46 a.m. (EST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2015:

This year provides many opportunities for growth, and perhaps better communication and happier days in general. Your finances remain a key issue, which you can't seem to avoid. Follow your instincts -- more often than not you are right-on. A family member or a domestic situation creates tension. If you are single, you could meet someone quite exotic from out of the blue. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company even more than usual. You love being alone together. CAPRICORN's demands often make you feel as if you are slacking off.

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'll hear much more from an older relative than you might want to. Don't internalize this person's words. Use your intuition to the max, and you'll get great results. A loved one knows exactly what to say to achieve the results he or she wants. Tonight: Near good music.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could get past an issue with ease if you were willing to detach and look at the big picture. A friend who inspires others and you too could be unusually vague. This behavior is not intentional. Several close loved ones, friends and/or family members delight in doting over you. Let them. Tonight: Go for a drive.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your ability to manage a problem yet still look as if you are having a good time emerges. You probably need to put in some hours with a project. One-on-one relating proves to be a source of happiness. Someone who has been a problem finally will level out. Tonight: Be a team.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and understand what is conspiring with them. Allow your creativity to flourish, and decide what plans would suit you best. You might not make the same choices if you consider the end results. Ask your friends for feedback. Tonight: Wherever you are, the party is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You know what lies ahead. Let others go

off and do whatever they want; you have holiday errands to clear out. You also might bring home a tree if you get enough done. Stick to a tight schedule and budget once you get going. Tonight: Know when you are too tired to go on.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Tap into your creativity, and you'll discover that you have more answers than you originally thought possible. You'll get a lot done. A new friend will be delighted to have your attention. The caring between you builds as a result. Tonight: Embrace the weekend!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might have a project in mind, and will need to make time to dive right in. You will discover how much more relaxed you are afterward. Someone close can't seem to get enough of you. Express your appreciation of this person. Tonight: Happily at home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ You have a way of starting a conversation that will leave even the most reluctant person with something to say. Your romantic and/or sensual nature speaks to someone you care a lot about. Be willing to be more open about your feelings. Tonight: Enjoy the good vibes.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Be aware of what you are committing to, even if it is just dinner with a friend. You won't want any unwanted expenses as you head into the holidays. A family member inadvertently might reveal a secret that could shock you. Tonight: Buy a present on your way home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Making plans and keeping schedules could create some confusion. You and a friend might be so excited by what you are doing that this won't even matter. If you sense something is about to happen, follow your instincts. Tonight: Be with the one you love or like!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

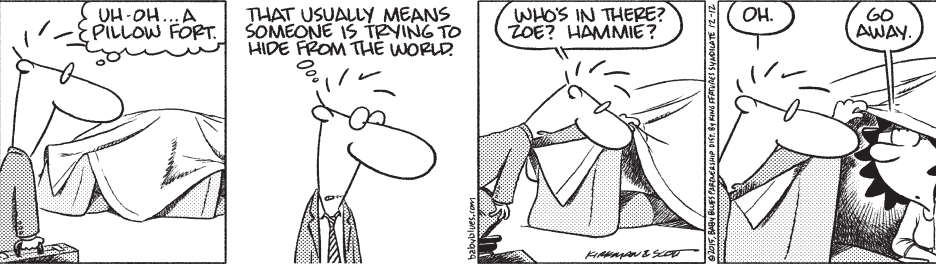
★★★ Many thoughts will travel through your mind, but you might choose not to share them. You could be more vulnerable than usual. Be willing to help make someone else's dream a possibility. This person will respond in kind. Tonight: A compliment is meant to be just that; nothing more.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Aim for what you want. You might consider hosting a tree-decorating party or asking someone to help you bake. Plan on a day trip to a favorite antique shop or flea market in the next few days. You'll feel unusually inspired and into the holidays. Tonight: Follow your friends.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

