

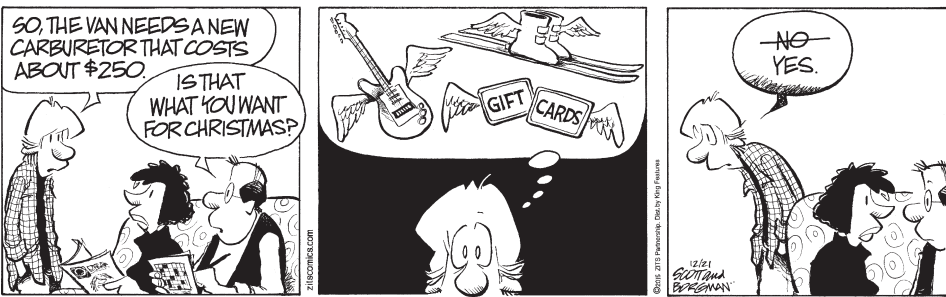
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



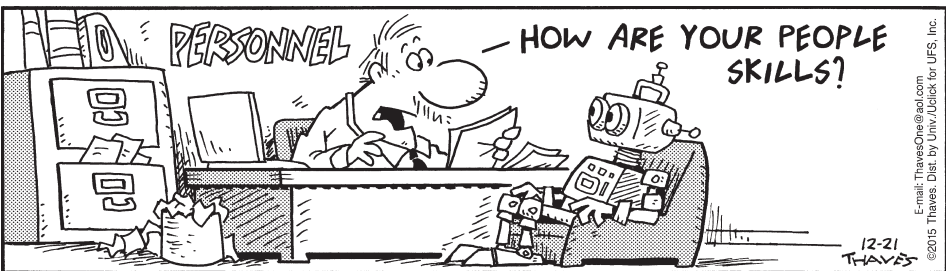
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



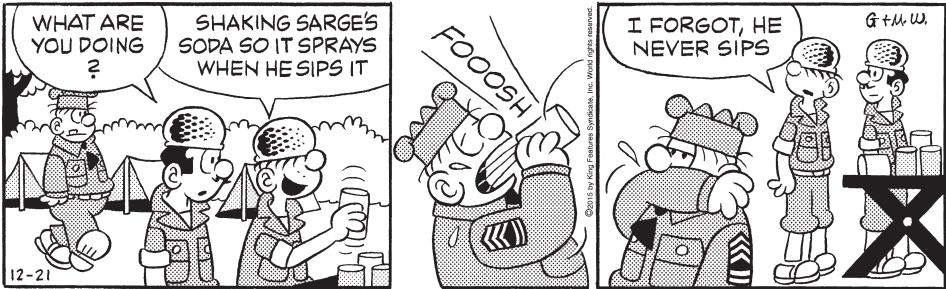
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



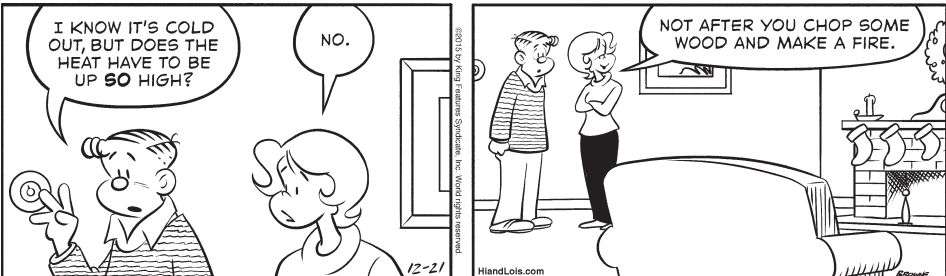
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



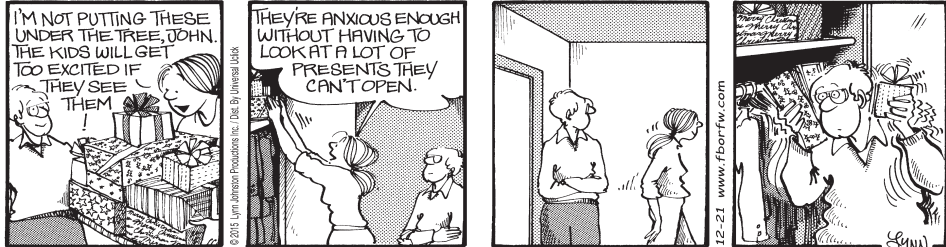
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Single Woman Hopes To Break Pattern Of Dating Abusive Men

DEAR ABBY: I am turning 40 and have never been married. Lately, on dates, men have started asking me why I've never married. It makes me uncomfortable, and I don't know how to answer them.

I have always been attracted to emotionally abusive men and have always been the one to break things off. I was abused as a child and was also a victim of sexual trauma. I'm not sure if this is why abusive men keep showing up in my life.

I'd like to meet someone who is kind and stable. Is it too late, and how do I answer the question as to why I've never been married? — **FOREVER SINGLE IN CHICAGO**

DEAR FOREVER SINGLE: Because someone asks a question does not compel you to do a psychological striptease. A way to answer without baring your soul would be to say that you haven't met the right man yet. (If you are attracted to abusive men, that's the truth.)

People are usually attracted to the familiar. Because of your background, you may not pick up on warning signs that might alert others that there is trouble ahead. This does not mean it's too late for you to find a caring, supportive life partner — however, you might have an easier time of accomplishing it if you schedule some sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Old habits are hard to break, but it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband passed away four years ago, I donated his corneas to a local organization. I was told the donor family could write a letter to the recipients, who remain anonymous, telling them a little something about the donor but without divulging any personal data. I finally felt up to doing it a couple of years after the funeral.

I sent the letters to the organization, which forwarded them to the recipients. I was told not to expect a reply. I learned that two women in California had each received one of my husband's corneas.

I have not heard from either of these ladies, which I really don't understand. I don't want a pat on the back, but I'd love to know how the corneas changed their lives. It would help me know that my husband's death was not in vain. — **WIDOW IN WASHINGTON STATE**

DEAR WIDOW: Your husband's death was not in vain. You did a wonderful thing in offering his corneas so that others might see. Not every surviving relative is as brave as you were to do that.

Frankly, it's hard to guess why you haven't heard from the recipients. I can't imagine that they aren't extremely grateful for what you did. However, many people have great difficulty expressing their feelings on paper. The lucky individuals who were given those corneas may be among them.

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.)

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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 11:46 p.m. (EST). Afterward, it will be in Capricorn. The Moon is in Taurus all day long.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, DEC. 21, 2015:

This year you seem more organized and devoted to the details, people and hobbies that make your life work. Sometimes you might feel overwhelmed by how much is on your plate. You become more and more work-oriented. If you are single, come summertime you will have difficulty juggling your personal life with your professional commitments. From mid-September on, a person whom you adore could enter your life. If you are attached, share your outside life with your significant other; otherwise, he or she might feel left out. **TAURUS** is grounded, but he or she is not always your cup of tea.

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 intuition will carry you through any last-minute holiday shopping. You know when and how to acknowledge a situation that has become too difficult. You are smart enough to back away when you see a problem emerge in front of you. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You'll bask in the holiday cheer. Be careful not to get too frantic about any last-minute details, should there be any. You are very organized, and you display that trait frequently. Others don't seem to go with the flow as easily as you do. Tonight: Choose a fun holiday happening.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You might want to take another look at a difficult situation and a personal matter. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening around you. A contrary friend or loved one will not attempt to make the moment any easier for you. Tonight: Make nice.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ A meeting, even if it is just business, easily could dissolve into holiday chatter and a discussion of plans. Don't get caught up in last-minute holiday details. Try to approach tasks methodically, with the knowledge that you can get only so much done! Tonight: Join friends.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ A partner has a lot to share, but you

might not be in the mood to listen. You need to invest more into this bond if you want to have it work as well as possible for both you and your significant other. You'll get strong feedback immediately. Tonight: Others notice your smile.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might not have intended to share so much or allow your imagination to get out of control so easily. You could be in a playful mood, and you'll want to take the lead in bringing certain people together, perhaps at the office. Tonight: Funnel your intensity where it counts.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating proves to be more satisfactory than some of the gossip chatter that surrounds you. You know how to get the type of attention you need and desire. A parent, roommate or loved one could be very touchy at this moment. Tonight: Make it special.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Defer to a friend who always seems to have it together. This person displays a high level of organization, and tends to be very efficient. Listen to what is being shared before you ask for a favor. Remember, everyone feels a little hassled at this time of year. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You might be focused on getting as much done as possible. If you try to socialize less, your ability to handle many details will emerge. You could be very tired by the end of the day. Look back and see what you have accomplished. You might need a nap. Tonight: Squeeze in a walk.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Your creativity flows; almost everything triggers your wild imagination. Reach out to someone you care about before the holidays get into full swing. A boss or older friend could become a little crazy about last-minute details. Tonight: Be willing to adjust your plans.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

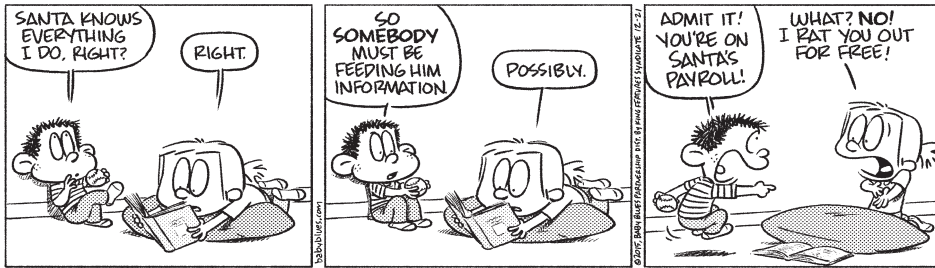
★★★ Be sensitive to a family member who doesn't seem to get enough attention. This person feels easily victimized. It isn't necessarily that you are not making this person happy, but instead that he or she is set on a certain outcome. Tonight: Order in while wrapping a present or two.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Return calls before making any definitive plans; this could make all the difference in keeping your day organized. You'll see a personal matter in a new light, which will be beneficial. Make the most of an offer that comes your way. Tonight: Go caroling.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

