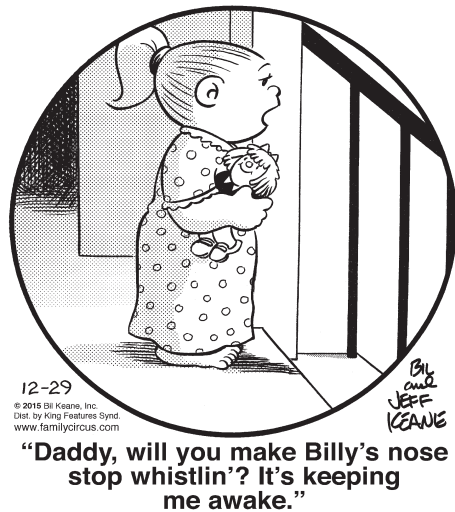


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



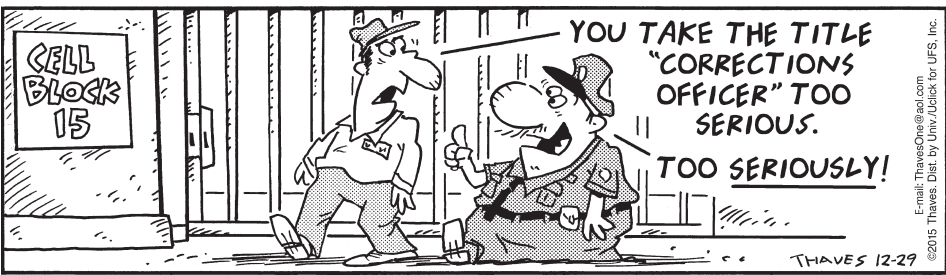
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



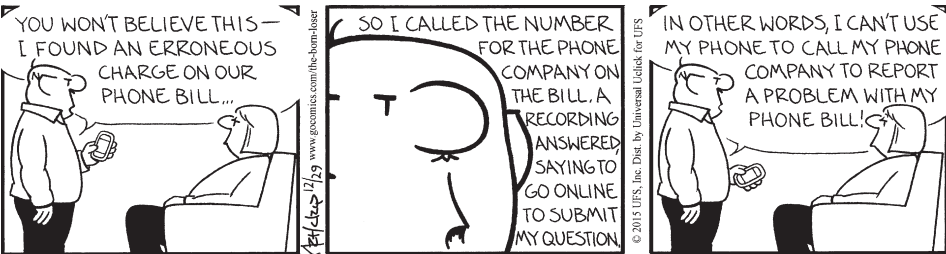
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



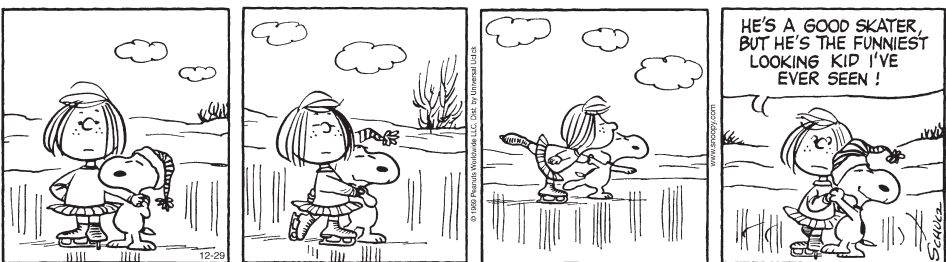
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



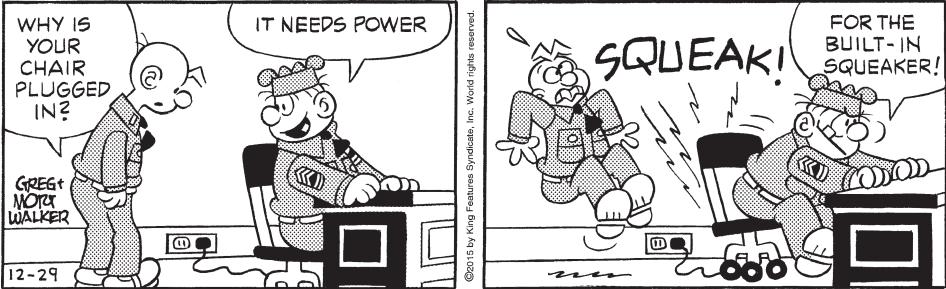
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



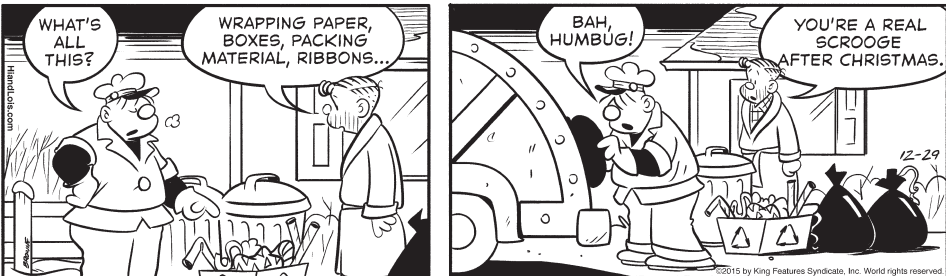
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



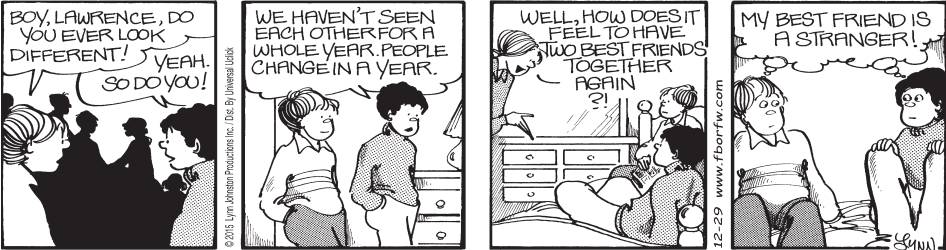
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



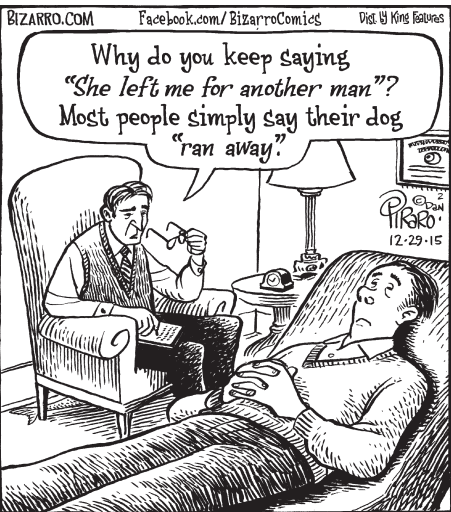
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Mom Worries That Kids Get Attention Only For Their Looks

DEAR ABBY: All children are beautiful to their parents. My three children are of mixed race and get a lot of attention because of it. The boys are aloof about random compliments they receive from strangers. However, I'm worried about the pressure it may put on my daughter to be "pretty."

I care more about my daughter's character than her looks, but I'm concerned that if I say that to these people, it will come off as rude. Also, I don't want her to think I don't think she's pretty. How can I respond in a way that isn't rude to well-intentioned strangers, but at the same time allows me to make a statement about the importance of character over beauty? — MOM OF BEAUTIES

DEAR MOM: When someone exclaims that your child is beautiful, accept the compliment and say something like this: "Yes, my child is beautiful, but more important, she is beautiful on the inside." It will reinforce the message to your daughter that character is equally, if not more important, than physical beauty.

DEAR ABBY: Isn't the rule of etiquette that when a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient? My mother sends gifts to our infant daughter. She is the first grandbaby, and my mother is a doting grandparent. My question is what should happen when my child outgrows the items — clothing, shoes, toys, etc. My mother expects me to put them all in a storage bin and return them to her.

There have been times when I have packed up things to give to friends who have younger daughters than ours, or taken them to a resale shop. My mother then becomes upset that I'm not returning the items to her. She is saving them for my sister, who isn't even pregnant yet.

While I have no issue with saving some things for a potential niece, my friends need

these things NOW, and I feel strange essentially being obligated to return them. Is my mom out of line? It's off-putting to receive a gift that comes with a return clause. — CONFUSED IN CENTRAL TEXAS

DEAR CONFUSED: It appears your mother is not only a doting grandma, but also someone who is determined to get a double bang for her buck. Once given, a gift DOES belong to the recipient. Otherwise, it's not a gift but a loan.

And yes, however well-intentioned your mother may be, she is out of line to demand that everything she has given be returned to her. (I mean, what will she do if your sister has only boys?)

DEAR ABBY: When I'm dining out, sometimes the flatware is wrapped and banded in a large paper napkin. Do I use this napkin for cleaning myself, or do I ask for more napkins? — UNSURE IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR UNSURE: Place the napkin in your lap, and if you would like to have more, do not hesitate to ask your server. It is not a breach of etiquette to do so.

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.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding 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 Capricorn and a Moon in Leo if born before 1:58 p.m. (EST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 29, 2015:

This year you will turn a situation around because of your endurance and willingness to integrate new information. Others admire these abilities and often listen more carefully to you because of them. Acceptance and love seem to flow from you. If you are single, others buzz around you with interest. Do not commit until you are good and ready. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy each other even more than you have in the past. In fact, you often have a party just for the two of you! VIRGO gets under your skin, even if you like the way he or she thinks.

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)

Take charge and follow through, even when the unexpected tosses you into a dynamic situation. Others often head down the same path as you. You could be on top of a problem, but your leadership might be questioned by those behind the scenes. Tonight: Off to the gym.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Reach out to others. You see a matter in a more creative vein and are willing to take action. You might wonder whether a new attitude would help you come to a better understanding with others. A family member wants to share how he or she feels. Tonight: Fun is happening.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You could be far more tired than you have been in a while, as you have been giving 100 percent to make what you want happen. Someone might be taking a stand, so try to understand why. Allow your imagination to lead the way, and move forward. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Defer to others and let them express their ideas more often. You have a tendency to monopolize the moment. Let people know that you value them. You might believe you are right, but so do they. Try to be more open-minded and receptive. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Pace yourself; know what you must do.

Understand what is occurring around you and prioritize. Even when you decide to isolate yourself, someone comes shining through with an expression of his or her affection. Tonight: Go with the flow. Don't swim against the current.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Complete some personal matters that might be on hold. Observe rather than act. Know your limits, and be kind in conversations. Others will respond with greater understanding and a willingness to pitch in. You will find a resolution to a difficult situation. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You could be overdoing it by using your connections to carry your perspective into predominance. Consider what is happening, as you suddenly might witness others shutting down. You seem to be pushing them more than you realize. Tonight: Not to be seen.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Take a stand against someone's pressure to act a certain way. How you express this opinion will make a difference in how far your influence goes. Ask yourself what you want others to get out of your ability to clarify the matter. Tonight: Indulge yourself a little.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Your fiery personality will melt barriers more quickly if you add that touch of vulnerability that exists within you. Understand what is happening within your immediate circle of friends. Listen to news, and get to the bottom of a problem. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You could be in touch with many different people in the afternoon. You have a vision that will change dramatically after you get more feedback. Understand where others are coming from. You will start to understand the validity of all points of view. Tonight: Open doors.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

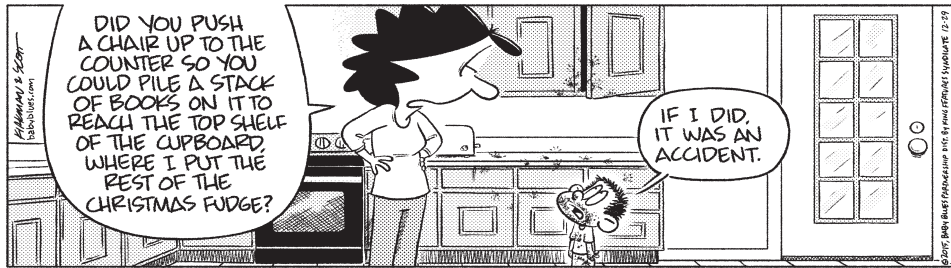
Others seek you out with a lot of ideas and want feedback. On some level, you will feel overwhelmed. Decide where your interests lie. Don't feel so obligated that you feel as if you can't say "no" to someone. Tonight: Talk with an important friend or loved one.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

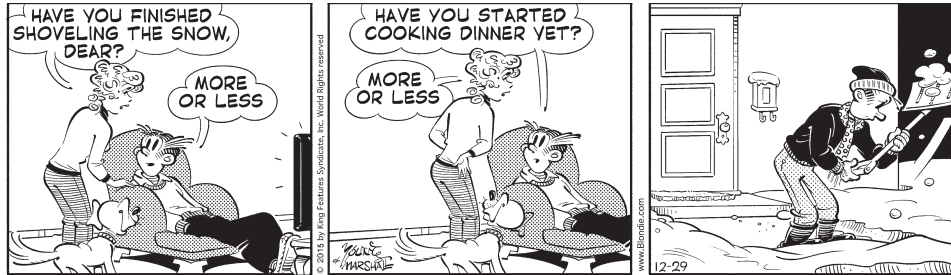
One-on-one relating allows you to see a different perspective; however, you don't have the luxury of stopping what you are doing in order to have this type of interaction. Wait until you are free of obligations. Your schedule will lighten up as a result. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

