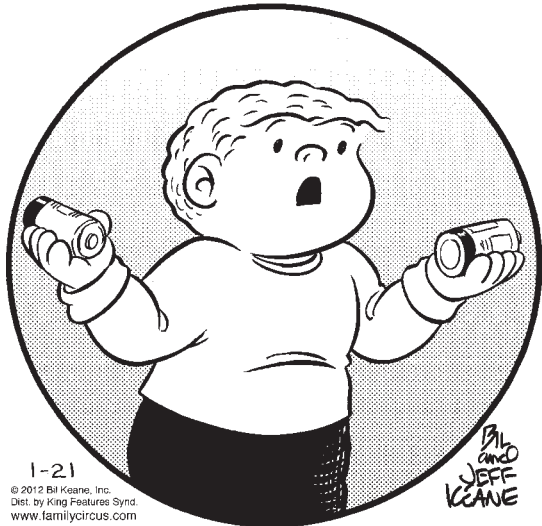


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



1-21
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.
All rights reserved.
www.familycircus.com

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



BIZARROCOMICS.COM
Visit King Features w/ANDY COVIGNI

Walls Are Poor Conductors
For Casual Conversations

DEAR ABBY: What do you think about people who attempt to converse with you from another room? My boyfriend does it fairly often. He may be on the computer while I'm reading or watching TV, and he'll yell out a question or tell me something. Most of the time I answer him, but then he'll continue the conversation — all from the other room. I find it rude, and to be quite honest, disrespectful. I also think it makes no sense because with the TV on it's difficult to hear him. If I want to speak to someone in another room, I get off my "keester" and go directly to him or her. That's common sense. My former roommate used to do the same thing. Do you think this is a "guy thing"? — CANT HEAR IN NEW YORK

DEAR CANT HEAR: Nope. It's just lazy. And it continues because you allow it. Tell your boyfriend that if he has something he wants to say to you, he should come and say it. Point out that you give him that respect. And if he "forgets," stay put and don't answer from the other room.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend with whom I exchange birthday and Christmas gifts. I make a great deal of effort to find things I know she would like, and I have been quite successful. My friend, however, buys me things I suspect she would like for herself.

Example: I'm always hot while she's always chilly. She bought me heavy pajamas and a warm robe for Christmas. I don't like spicy food — she does. She gave me two large containers of seasoning containing chili pepper. I love to read fiction while she prefers nonfiction. For my birthday I received a book about history.

This kind of exchange has been going on for years, and I don't remember receiving one gift I could really use. What can I say to her? — PEEVED IN PITTSBURGH
DEAR PEEVED: To say something would be rude. I do have a suggestion, however. On the next gift-giving

occasion, give your friend some things YOU would like. Example: A pretty fan to accessorize a summer dress, a jar of your favorite jam, a novel or two you would enjoy reading — and then you can agree on a gift exchange. Problem solved.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

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

DEAR ABBY: I have a 2-year-old son, "Seth." His father, "Ray," and I went our separate ways during my pregnancy. He came to see Seth a few times when he was a couple of months old and promised he'd continue, but he didn't follow through. Ray has married since then, and hasn't called to ask about his son. I don't call him either.

He didn't show up for court and the DNA test, so the judge ordered him to pay child support by default, which he has been doing. I don't believe in forcing a man to be a father, and I would never make my son visit him. It is obvious Ray has no interest in his child. I contacted the grandparents and they are just as cold. What do I tell Seth when he asks about his father? — SOLE PARENT IN ALABAMA

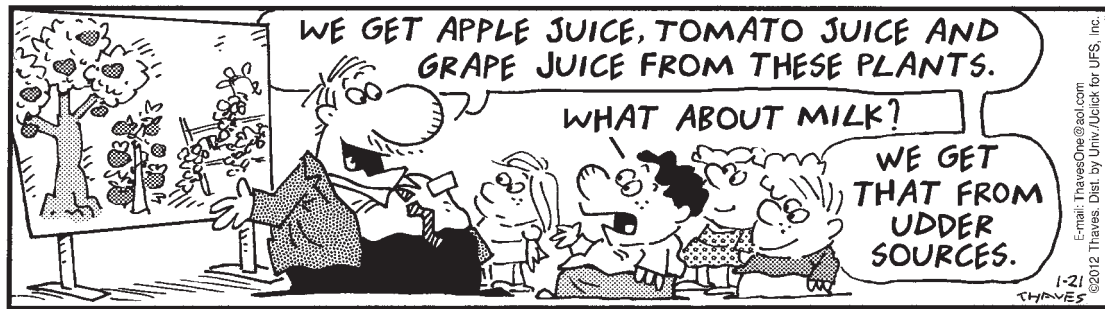
DEAR SOLE PARENT: Tell him the truth. Explain that when he was born, Ray wasn't ready to accept the responsibilities that go along with being a dad — and that as time has passed, Ray has been unwilling to step forward. As sad as

that may be, it would be worse to give your son false information or false hope that his biological father will ever be willing to give him more than the court ordered him to.

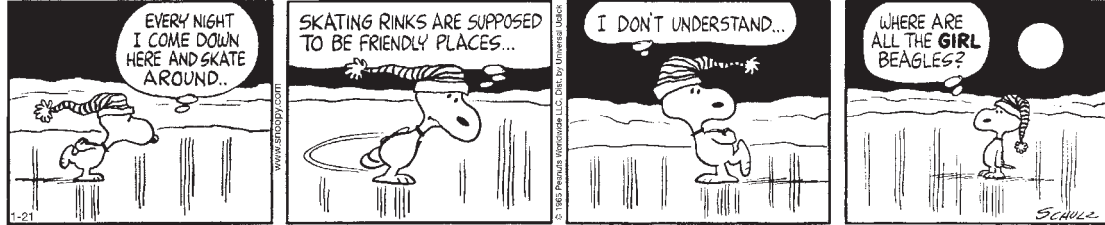
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

© 2012, Universal Press Syndicate

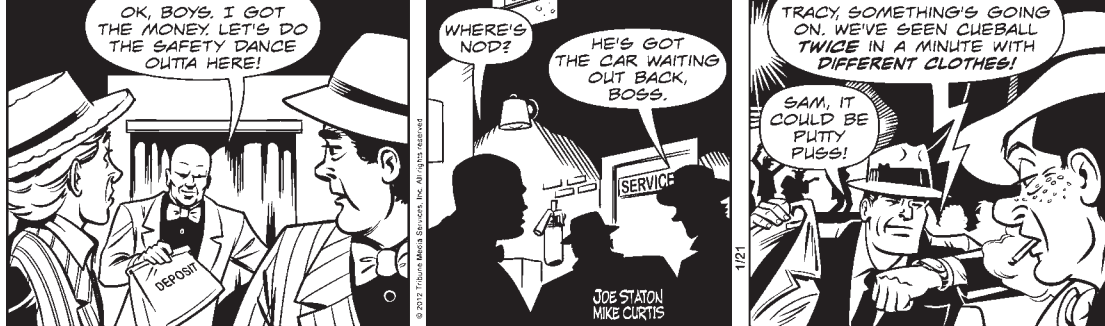
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



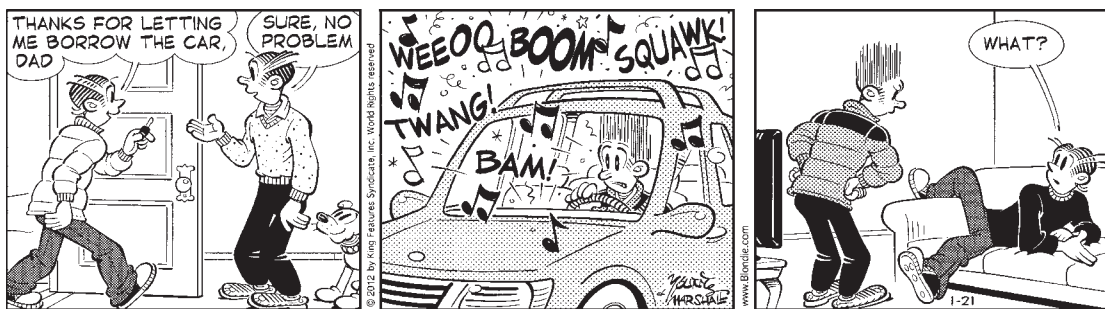
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



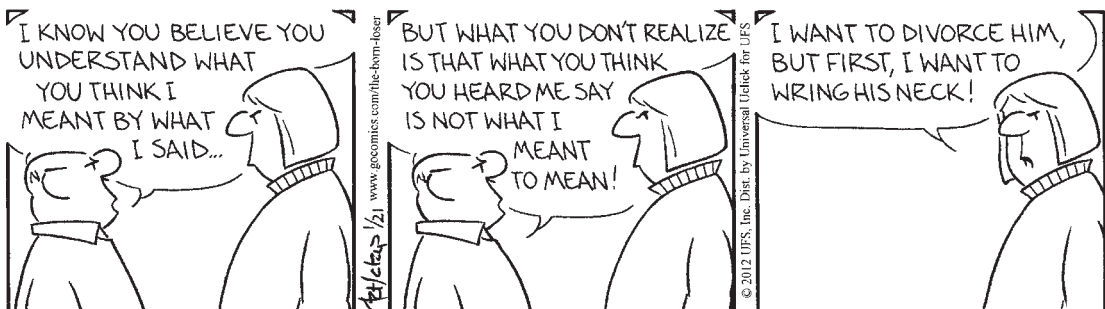
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



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, Jan. 21, 2012, has a Sun in Aquarius and a Moon in Capricorn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 21, 2012:

This year you greet many positive events. You often can be found cocooning emotionally, holding your feelings in. Others don't always know how to relate to you. Take the lead and get past a semi-inverted stance. Events often surprise you, pushing you into the limelight. You are known for your flexibility. If you are single, you might inadvertently choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. Careful! If you are attached, the two of you gain from weekends together without others. Re-create your honeymoon. CAPRICORN can be your best friend or your worst enemy.

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)
★★★★ Totally revamp your schedule, if need be. As a result, you and a loved one will be much happier. An element of the unexpected marks your new plans. Flex. You are on an adventure with twists and turns. Tonight: What starts out as a treat could become a lot more.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
★★★★ Your efforts to see beyond the obvious help. Relaxing your mind and not overthinking could be just as important. A rested mind can get a new perspective more easily. Surround yourself with elements that help you relax. Tonight: Follow the music.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
★★★★ Your instincts guide you in areas of uncertainty. Trust yourself. An element of the unexpected comes forward that allows greater give-and-take. A partner helps drag out this intuitive, non-intellectual part of you. Be open to the process. Tonight: Add more sparkle to a relationship.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
★★★★ As a friend or partner visualizes and starts to create much more of what he or she wants, you might take a lesson from him or her. Focus on an event involving your friends. You will enjoy being surrounded by these special people. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
★★★★ Defer and let others make plans. You also might need to spend more time on a project, or simply

catch up on sleep. The effusive Leo also can get tired and need downtime. News from a distance could be provocative at first. Tonight: Play it by ear.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
★★★★ You add spunk to even the most boring of tasks. No wonder people are seeking you out. Follow through on what you must do before joining others. Your sense of organization demands thoroughness, even when you are about to let go. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)
★★★★ To feel as good as possible, spend more time at home. A loved one or dear friend is happy to join you wherever you are. Caring emotes if you just relax. Open up a pathway for communication between you and an erratic associate. Tonight: Add romance as only you can.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)
★★★★ Tension mounts around a domestic issue. Clearly not everyone thinks like you do. Your availability and willingness to proceed on a different route emerges. You can be quite rigid. A discussion helps understanding grow as you gain insight into another person's motives. Tonight: Join friends at a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
★★★★ Your instinct is to speak your mind. You probably shouldn't hold back, yet there is no guarantee as to how someone will respond. Whatever occurs will merge insight and creativity. Take the risk if you can handle the unexpected. Tonight: Treat time.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
★★★★ The Force is with you, though you might be hesitant to act as you feel. Let go of what no longer works and proceed with confidence. Lady Luck is nearby. You will land on your feet with a reasonable risk. A child or special friend demonstrates his or her caring. Tonight: All smiles. Why not?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)
★★★★ The Sun in your sign signals a period with increased magnetism and vigor. If you're not feeling as good as possible, please step back some from plans. A little care and rest will go a long way. Someone approaches you with a secret. Can you keep it? Tonight: You first.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)
★★★★ What you say and what you hear could have a weird disconnect. Take a cue from this type of exchange. You might need some time to resolve your mind to what is happening. Reflect and speak to a trusted adviser who rarely is wrong. Tonight: Out and about.

© 2012, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

