

# Dad wants to stay in touch

**Dear Annie:** I am a 51-year-old man and have been unemployed for the past three years. Last year, my wife asked for a divorce.

My question is: What can I do to revitalize my relationship with my three teenage children? I have to initiate all phone calls and texts. They never ask how I am. The youngest is forthcoming about events in his life, but my daughters require extensive questioning, and all I get are brief answers. I understand that they are angry with me, but I am trying my best to get a new job and move on with my life. Every time I see them, I tell them that I miss them, but only my son says he misses me, too.

It is so frustrating that I don't want to do this much longer. I have started applying for jobs out of state so I won't have to deal with the disappointment. I feel that they are trying to keep me out of their lives. If so, I should just stop trying so hard. I don't like spending my days thinking about them and feeling hurt. What do you suggest? — *Feeling Unloved*

**Dear Unloved:** Please do not cut your children out of your life because they are angry and confused and taking it out on you. No matter how upsetting their behavior, they still need you. They also need to know that you will not give up on them.

Talk to your ex-wife. Explain how this hurts the children, and ask for her help in maintaining a better relation-



ship — for their sakes. Your contact at this moment in time will reflect on their feelings for you in the future, when they are more mature and able to gain perspective. We know it's hard. Please don't make it permanent.

**Dear Annie:** My sister and her husband have disowned us because we did not go to a memorial service for her husband's brother, who passed away after a long battle with cancer.

My wife and I saw this brother once every few years at family occasions. We were never at his home. The day of the service, my sister called and asked whether I was coming. I said no, that I had other things going on, and she hung up.

We are in our late 60s, and I think it's a shame for them to end a relationship over this. Were we wrong? — *Weighing on My Mind in Pennsylvania*

**Dear Weighing:** The point of attending a funeral is to pay respects to

the family. Your sister and her husband were "the family." While you are not obligated to go to the funeral of someone you barely know, it would have been a kindness to go for your sister's sake, or at least give her the impression that you wanted to be there but had other serious obligations.

We do think your sister overreacted in the moment, but we also know you'd like to fix this. So apologize to her. Tell her you are so sorry you didn't go to the funeral, that you should have been there for her and her husband, and that you deeply regret it and hope she can forgive you. It's not too much to do for a sibling relationship that you value.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Frustrated Wife," whose husband leaves the cabinet doors open and never puts tools away.

My wonderful, hardworking, intelligent husband exhibits these same tendencies. I would come home from work exhausted and find the cupboard doors open and things all over the countertops.

At first, I fumed. Then, God put the thought into my head: If my husband were dead, my cupboard doors would be closed, the screwdriver would be put away and nothing would be out of place. So, I started saying to myself, "Thank you. Hubby is still alive." The difference in my attitude makes a big difference in my life. — *Petite Wife in Nebraska*

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It's nice when things come easily, but it's not always beneficial. Difficulties are just part of your initiation. They give you a sense of belonging you wouldn't have otherwise, and they get you ready for the challenges ahead.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People have a tendency to reject what they haven't tasted, but you're more adventurous than that. The vegetables (and life's equivalent) are typically good for you, and you'll like them if you give them a chance.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll find yourself in a room full of VIPs, and you very much belong there. Bring reality to the group before anyone's head explodes. When everyone is famous, no one is famous.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your half-hearted effort will yield results that are on par with your wholehearted effort. Maybe this is unfair, or maybe it's extremely fair, considering you've already put in your time and paid your dues.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Love may be stabilizing, but it's not like a rock. You can't give it to someone and expect it to keep the same shape through the ages. Like bread, you have to make it fresh every time you give it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Rigor, relevance, relationships and responsibility. It's more than a high school motto; it's the way you live your life. These four "r's" will shape your days this week.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Einstein suggested that reality is a (very persistent) illusion, making a good case for persistence in general. If you behave in a certain way enough times, you'll be characterized as the essence of that behavior.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your conscience will prevent you from fully indulging in extravagance. You'll dip your toe in, though. How can you help it when such luxurious options present themselves?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's a competition going on, and if you continue to work hard, you'll be the sure winner. Be sure to distinguish between competition and fun, though. There's no winner at fun (unless you count everyone).

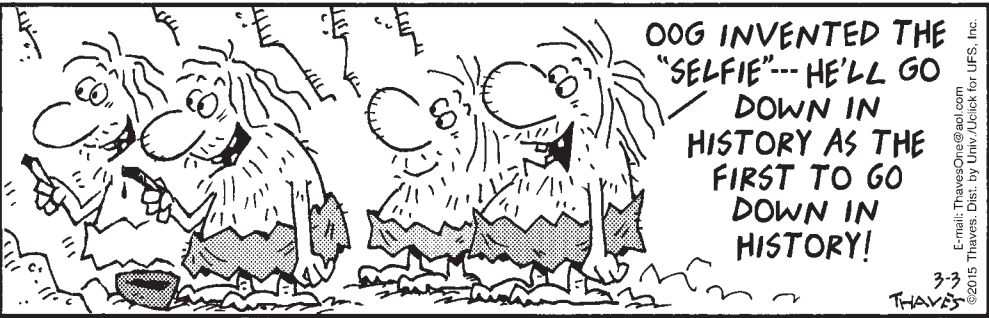
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It's said that the right habits will give you the key to the universe. Indeed, if you can command yourself to do as you think you should, you'll have many new options.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Don't assume that people know what you're about. Start from the beginning. Give them some context. Take your time — they want you to. You're more entertaining than you know.

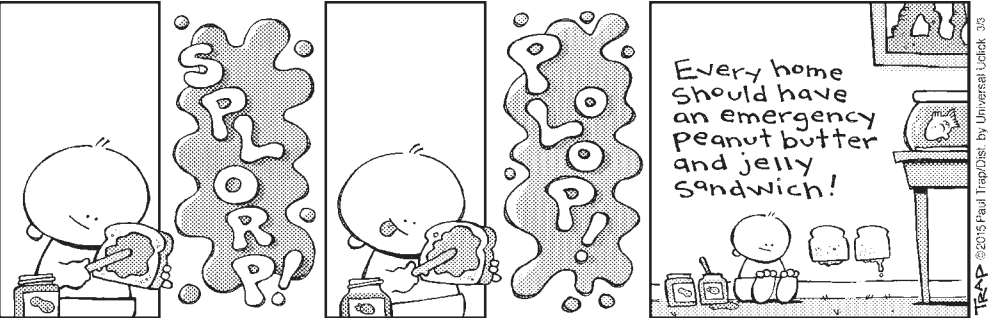
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You don't write your name now the same way you did when you were 8, and you don't dress the same way you did in the '90s. Your style is ever-evolving, as is evident by today's choices.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 4).** This month's challenge is a no-brainer. You'll excel because you do what you're supposed to be doing. Next month will bring a new deal. Putting in extra work hours will help you fulfill a wish. June brings you a gift that's hard to come by, rare or expensive. Someone special will capture your heart in September. Aries and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 8, 30, 15 and 19.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



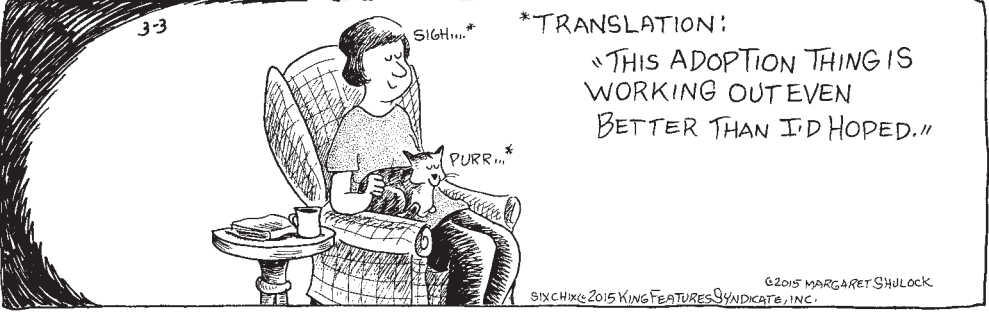
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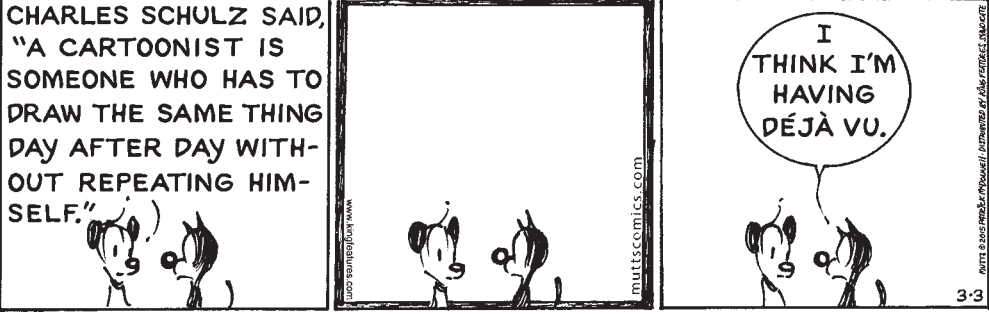
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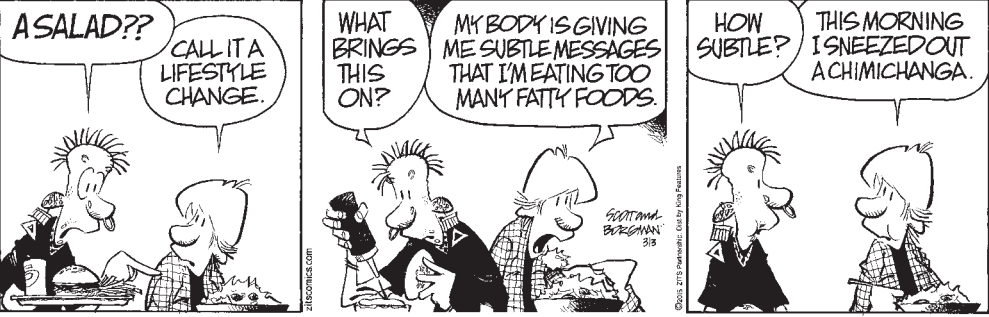
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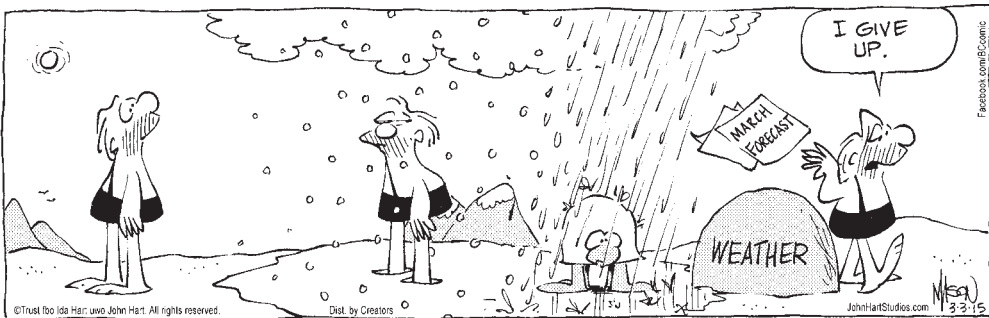
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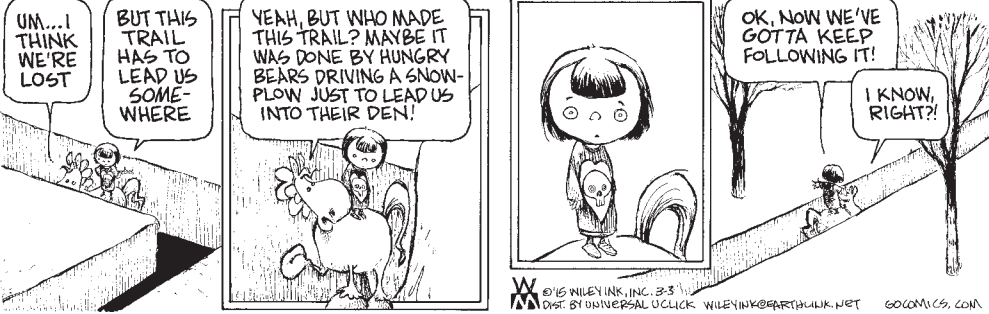
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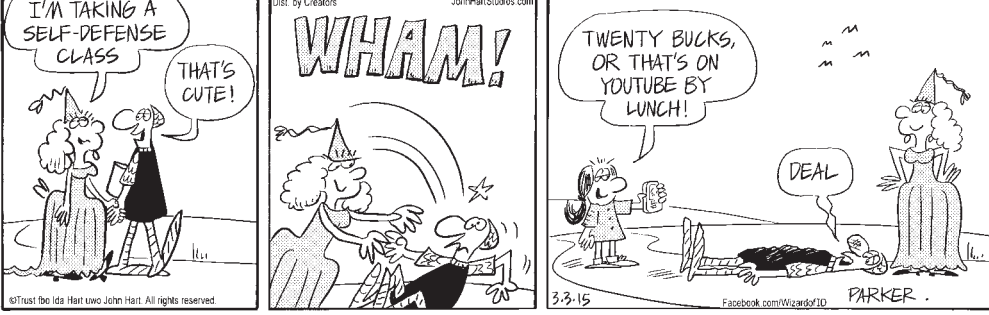
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

