

# She treasures volunteering Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I are recently retired teachers who have been able to travel extensively because we budgeted well. I have motion sickness and other health issues that make traveling unpleasant. I want to do less of it, but my husband wants to do more.

My passion for retirement was always to volunteer. Several retired teachers set up a store filled with donations where our students can shop for free. I help out three afternoons a week. Many of the retired teachers have mobility issues and rely on me to carry donated items. When I travel, the others take turns doing the heavy work, but I know it is a struggle for them.

My husband's idea of retirement is to spend at least three months as "snowbirds" in Florida. This doesn't appeal to me at all, but as a compromise, I reluctantly agreed to spend one month each year in Florida.

The first year was tolerable, but after a week, I was bored and missed my volunteer work. I told my husband he was free to stay, but I would return when my month was up. I've looked into volunteer opportunities in Florida, but everything is at least 30 minutes away, and we only have one car, which my husband uses to go golfing.

I have kept my part of the agreement and am getting annoyed at the pressure from my husband to spend more time

## Annie's Mailbox

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in Florida. He knows he can invite other relatives or friends to join him. I realize these are "high-class worries," but do you have any suggestions for resolving this before we start up again next year? — *M.W.*

**Dear M.W.:** Your husband wants you with him, which is why he keeps pressuring you. Would you consider going for a month in the middle of those months so your husband would feel less alone? How about investing in a second car so you can do volunteer work in Florida, or perhaps finding a place to play golf that is within walking distance? There are ways to compromise a bit more if you truly wish to make the effort, but meanwhile, tell your husband we said to knock off the full-court press.

**Dear Annie:** Please allow me to use your column to say thank you to someone. I was in a restaurant in The Villages in Florida waiting for my check when the manager came over and said my din-

ner was already taken care of. Apparently, a woman paid my bill, saying she was paying forward a kindness that someone else had once done for her.

I would like to thank her publicly and assure her that I will be paying it forward as she did for me. — *B.*

**Dear B.:** We are always happy to hear of such kindnesses. We have many fans in The Villages, and we hope whoever bought your dinner will see this and know that it was appreciated, and that you will be doing the same for someone else. Thanks for letting us know.

**Dear Annie:** I disagree with your advice to "Trying To Build a Better Life in the Midwest" to seek ways to accommodate her husband's sexual desires.

My wife decided in her early 50s that she was tired of sex. I decided that respecting her wishes superseded all "desires of the flesh." A woman has the right to say "no," and any man who has been married for 35 years should have the wisdom to turn his attention to matters other than his sexual appetite.

For me, that meant accepting my wife's requests in order to avoid harassing her. My wife is a beautiful woman and the mother of our adult children. Her attention to the family's needs and her detail in maintaining a beautiful home are examples of why sex is no longer a priority in my life. — *Respect for the Woman I Love*

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If it makes you want to run away and hide, that's an excellent sign that you should run toward it and wave your arms so as to be seen as the bigger-than-life force you really are.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Love will inspire you to go to extremes, bringing out the very best and the very worst you are capable of, depending on the hour. Also, romantic hopefuls will vie for your attention.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your guiding planet, Mercury, is pulling out of a fiery trine with lucky Jupiter, helping you communicate your heart's desire. If you keep your words soft and sweet, you won't mind if you have to eat them later.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's a time to try things out. You'll find yourself in unfamiliar territory, so you may as well take social risks. Nobody here knows you anyway! You might as well be who you want to be.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You like your new friends to be relentlessly positive, but you rely on your old friends to be slightly less so because a snarky comment here and there proves their humanity. Otherwise, you wouldn't trust them with your innermost thoughts.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** If you want people to tell you the truth (and you probably do today), you'll have to lower the obstacles that prevent them from honest talk. Let them know that you sincerely want to improve and that you need their input.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Just because something's coming out today doesn't make it good. You'll look into what's popular for the sake of staying current, though you may not find it all that valid.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Mistakes are cause for celebration, not humiliation. If you're making mistakes, it means you're trying. Don't let the mess-ups stress you out. Go back and try again. Keep your humor, and you'll find your way.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Fix it, or let it go. Don't vacillate in between. Worry is passive, miserable and unproductive. Train yourself not to worry because nothing will improve from that kind of attention.

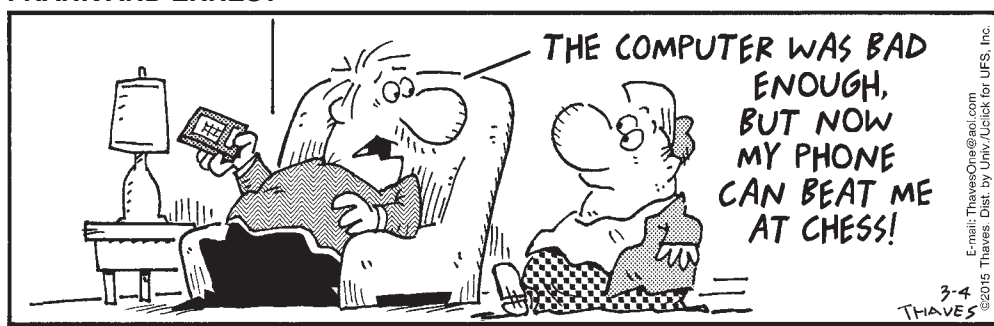
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The first step to making yourself irreplaceable is to realize that no one is irreplaceable. Secondly, do the job to the best of your ability, and then go the extra mile so that someone else can have a wonderful experience.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You super-intelligence can be both a blessing and a curse. If you understand everything before it's explained to you, then you'll miss out on the opportunity to learn. Ask questions, even if you think you already know the answers.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You've already been down this road. Do you remember the moves that got you through it before? When you stumbled, you made it part of the dance.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 5).** You'll find what you're looking for this year, so you may as well look for something miraculous. Demanding goals will keep you highly motivated. A big sale will close this month. Moves are featured in June. You'll learn a new skill in July, and it will augment your income. November and December bring romantic adventure. Libra and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 40, 3, 21 and 18.

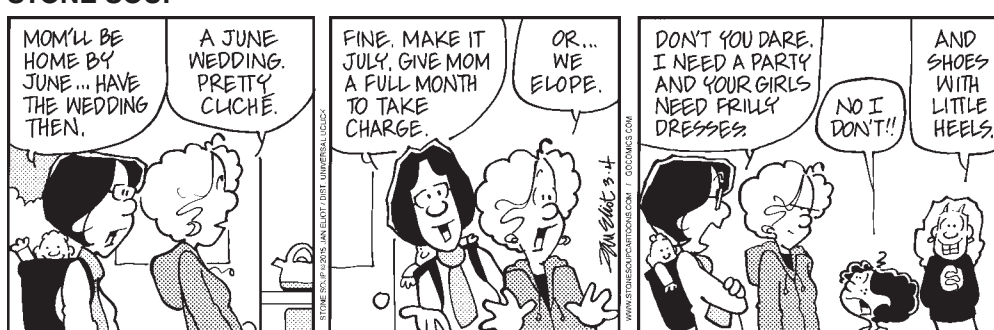
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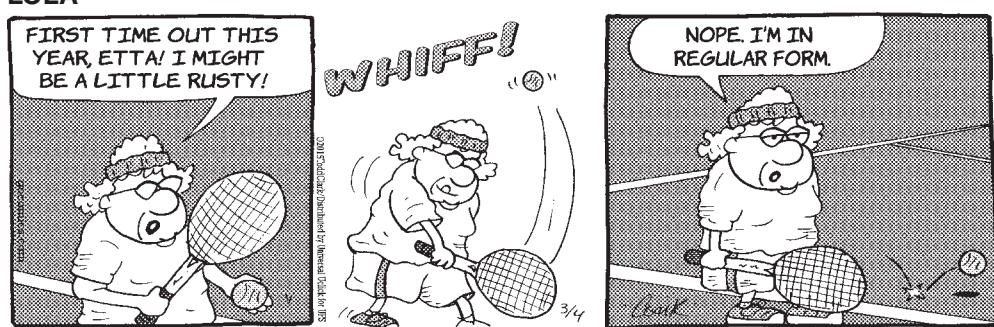
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## STONE SOUP



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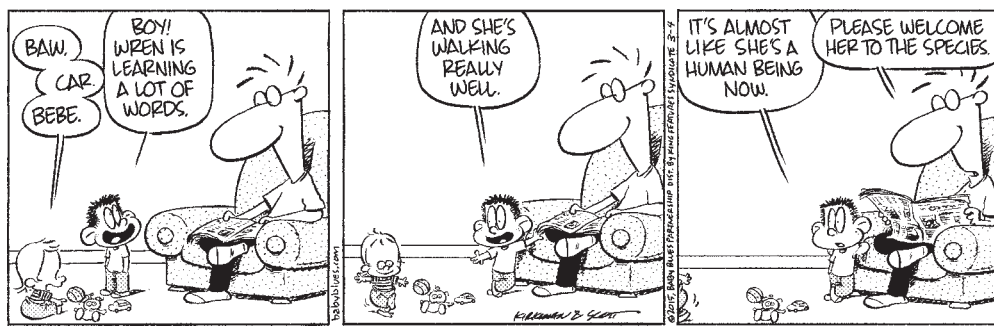
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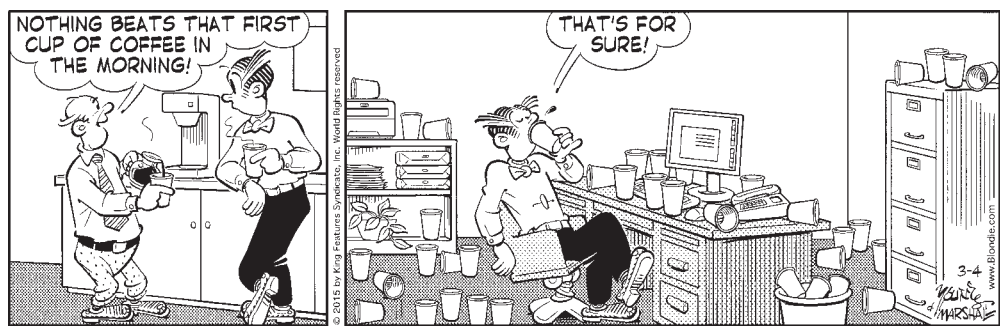
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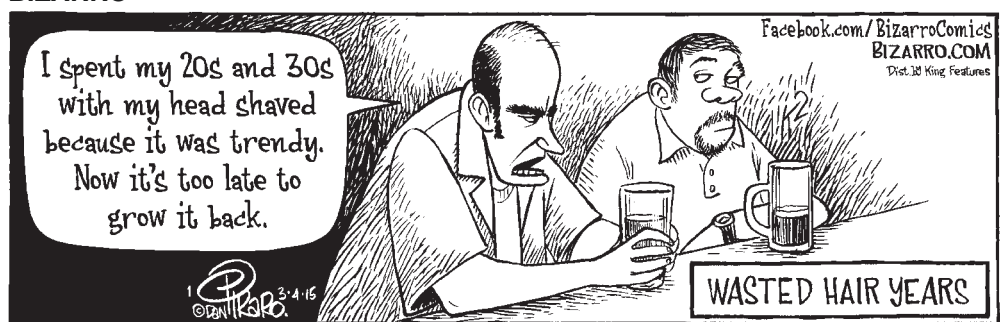
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## DILBERT



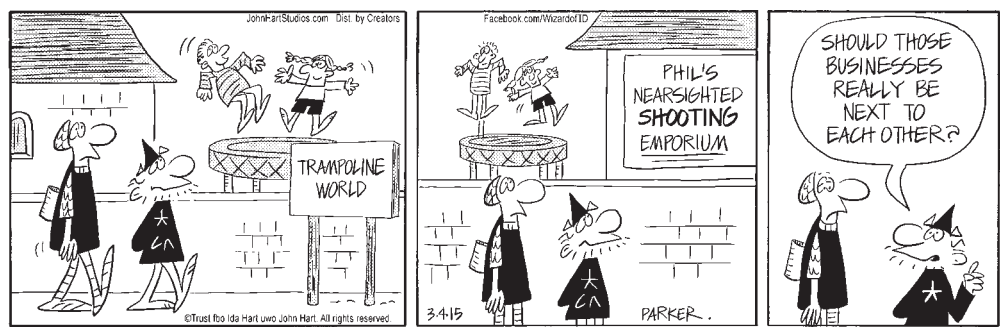
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

