

# Fiancé makes outrageous demand Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** I am a 54-year-old widower living in a large and active retirement community. I am engaged to "Pete," a 64-year-old man whom I've been seeing for a year. We get along very well and have many common interests.

Pete has a 20-year-old mentally challenged son living with him, and we also get along fine. (My grown children live in another state.) Pete's son would live with us after we marry, and I am OK with that. We've set a date and even had an engagement party. Now everything is turning into a nightmare.

Pete and I have had some heavy make-out sessions, but we have never had sex. He now tells me he cannot "perform." It doesn't really matter to me, but he's turning it into a huge problem. He says that in order to really be married, according to his religion, it has to be consummated, and that because he isn't capable of doing so, his son should be his stand-in. Pete would be there to make sure everything was completed. I was shocked to say the least. He has told a number of our friends about this, and they think he's crazy. They also think I'm crazy to still be with him. He says if I love him it won't matter and that it is only a one-time thing.

Pete says this is "nonnegotiable." I don't want anything to do with it, but if I marry Pete, all of our friends will think I slept with his son, even if I haven't. If I'd known this before we got engaged, I nev-

## Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



er would have agreed to marry him. I am in good health and do not need him financially. What do I do? — *Upset in N.Y.C.*

**Dear Upset:** Leave. Now. The reason various religions expect marriages to be consummated is to produce children. You are not going to do that, so Pete's request is completely unreasonable. If he wants his son to have a sexual experience, he can hire a professional. But you ought to get away from this nuttiness while you still can. We guarantee it won't be the last crazy demand he makes.

**Dear Annie:** I know there are free and low-cost options for people who need counseling for depression. Do you know of any such resources for couples who could use a marriage tune-up but don't have much money? — *Daisy*

**Dear Daisy:** First check with your local YMCA or YWCA, as well as university counseling centers and your place of worship. Your county, state or city is likely to offer free or low-cost family

counseling, which usually includes marriage counseling, and you may be eligible for those services. You also can look online to see whether there are community counseling centers in your area. Worldwide Marriage Encounter (wwme.org) for Catholic couples is free, and there are other Marriage Encounter programs that are not faith-based and often operate on a small donation. Every marriage could use a "tune-up" now and then. Good luck.

**Dear Annie:** As the wife of a prostate cancer survivor, I want to expand on your answer to "Missing It." Prostate cancer is a couple's disease because it affects the sexual relationship. Here are my ideas to improve the situation:

Buy pads instead of diapers. (They are available for men, but women's pads will work, too.) A guy feels more like a guy in his own underwear. He should do Kegel exercises. Join a gym and work out together. Exercise is a mood elevator, and strong core muscles help with incontinence.

Find a prostate cancer support group and attend as a couple. Shower together since it won't matter if he leaks in the shower, and soapy rubdowns can lead to other things. Research penile pumps, injections, implants and medications to relieve ED. Be creative in the bedroom. And finally, if your doctor is not supportive, find another. — *Love My Husband*

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Research shows that a stressed or nervous person can focus on only a few things at a time, while a calm person can take in more details. It's a more reason for you to make yourself comfortable.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Part of the work ahead will have to do with healing family relationships or finding new ways of handling them. Focus first on your own feelings, especially the ones you've tried to push down or deny.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The clock hands will smile on you. You'll find shortcuts and ways to maximize your efforts. You'll get the work done in half the time or fit twice the fun into your leisure hours.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Softness and weakness are not the same thing. Anyway, forceful tools and attitudes won't work today. A warm smile will put people immediately on your side.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** People aren't always that nice. It's why you choose to honor the kind ones you meet along the way with exchanges of appreciation and encouragement.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** In the culture of consumerism, effective marketing of standard goods can net more profit than quality goods with bad or no marketing. You'll busy yourself with the homework of a savvy consumer.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Trying to get a commitment out of someone is work, while trying to engage a person in one interesting moment is play. Don't worry — you'll be able to string those moments together with the right person.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll truly feel like the master of your destiny this year, though you should understand that, as with all master-and-servant relationships, the servant also has quite a lot of power.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A specific and unique reaction is a kind of gift that you give to another person, letting this person know that you are paying close and special attention to the nuances of who he or she is.

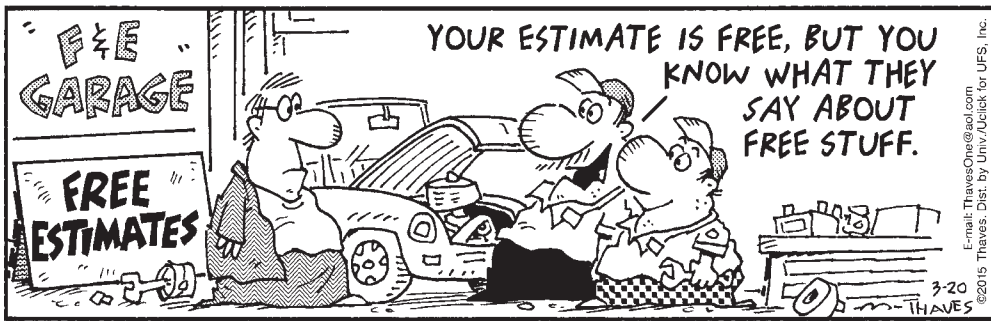
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll be tested. You have an unfair advantage in this: your sharp powers of observation. If you watch and listen closely, people usually will subtly indicate to you exactly what they want you to do or say.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll be inspired by a hero. This could be one you've long held in high esteem or one that's created in a moment of valor. You, too, have heroic qualities, which is why you're so impressed.

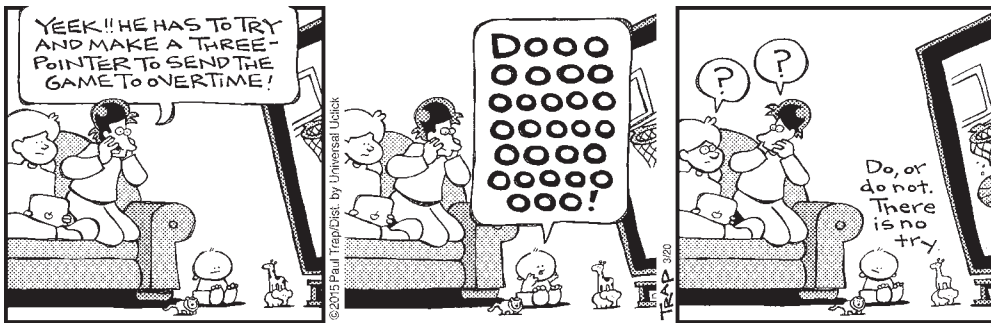
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** On your quest to being a better person, you're usually up for making improvements. What's needed most now has nothing to do with action and everything to do with accepting and relaxing into how you are "as-is."

**SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 21).** You're in sync with the cosmic clock, as evidenced by the "coincidental" good luck you experience over the next six weeks. May brings the kind of personal success that vindicates past slights. You'll raise the morale and effectiveness of your family or a group. June shows you dancing with your love. Taurus and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 17, 42, 38 and 21.

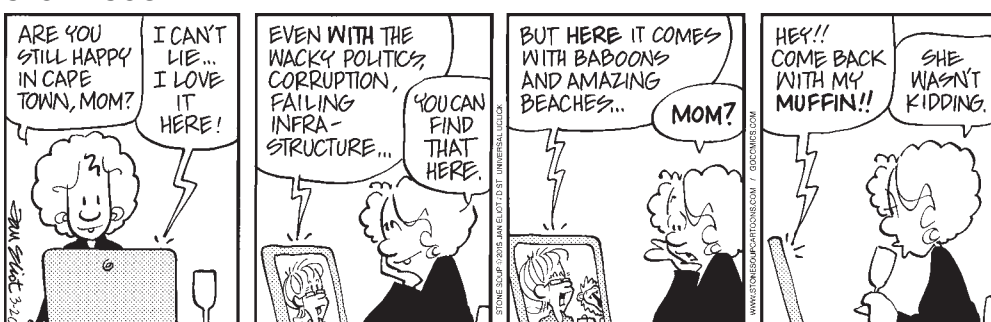
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## THATABABY



## STONE SOUP



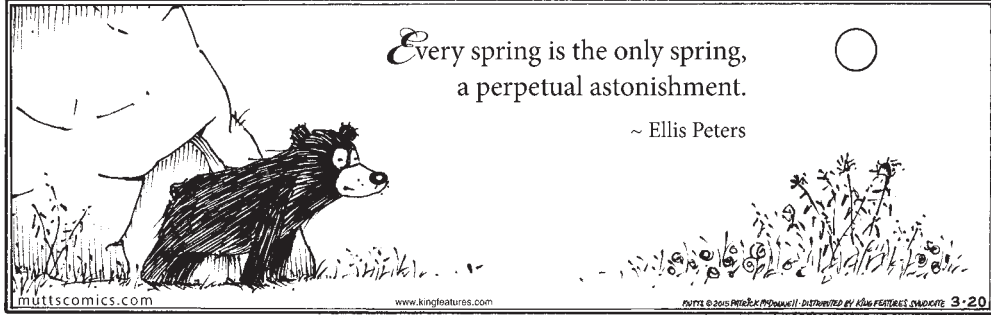
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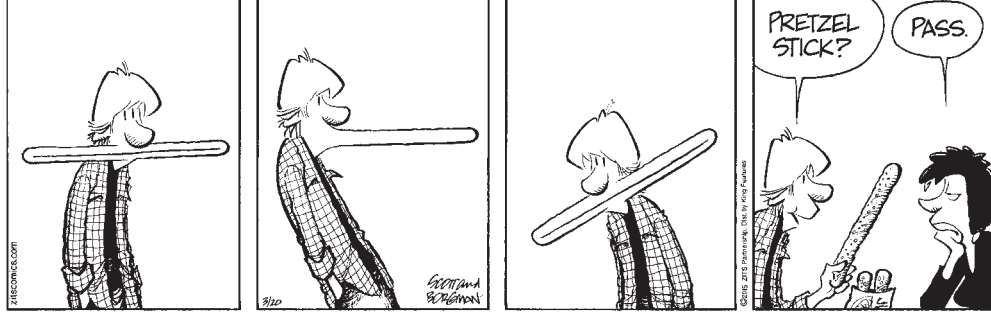
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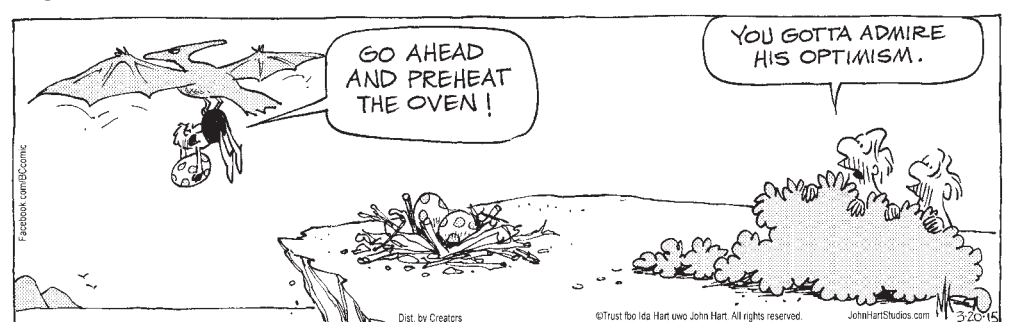
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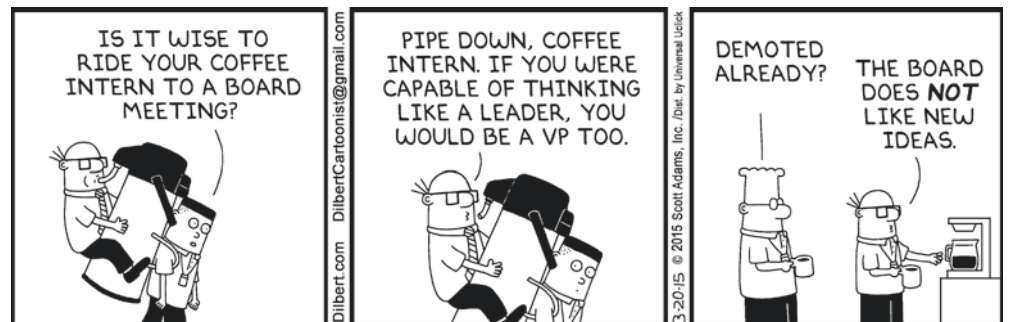
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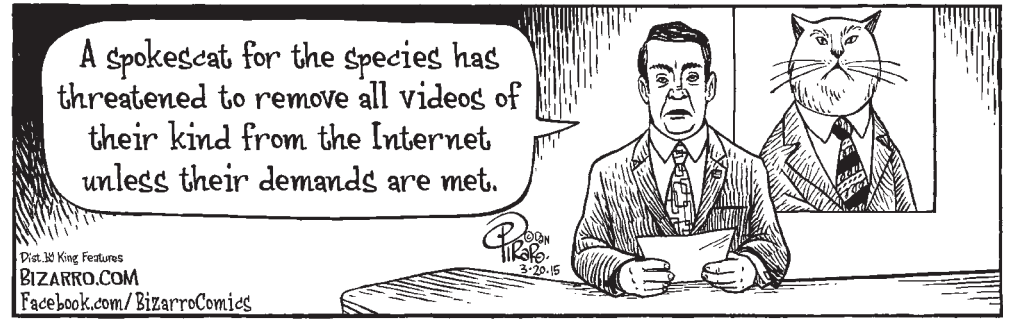
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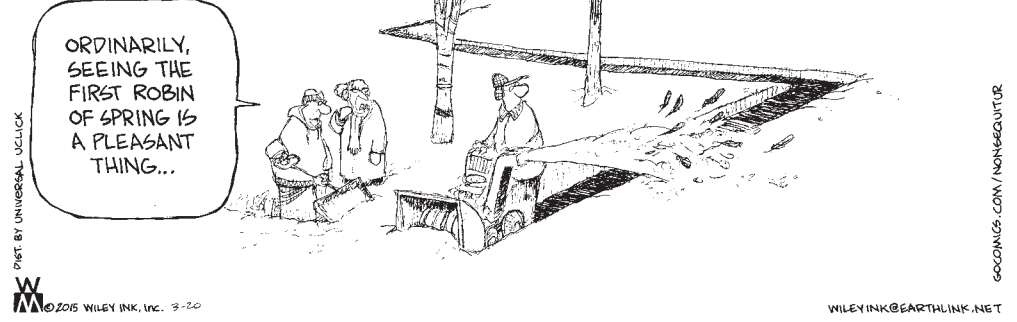
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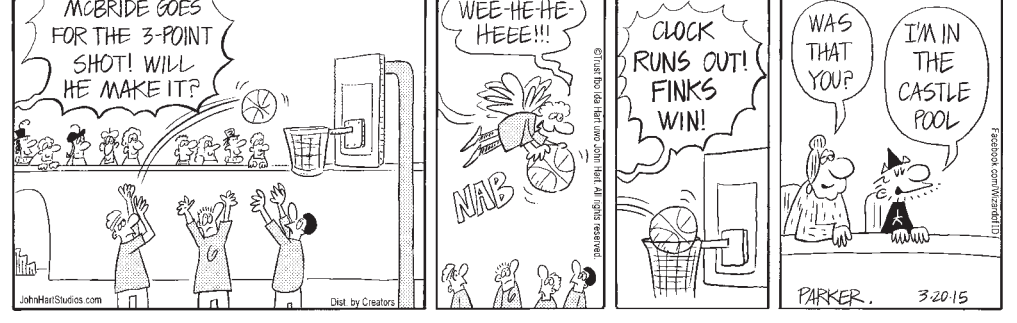
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

