

# Perplexed on wedding protocol

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** My son lives in California and is going to marry a local girl in the fall. Our entire family lives in the Midwest. My husband and I, along with our daughter's family, will attend. But I know it is far too expensive for any of my relatives to be there.

Should they receive invitations even though we know they can't come? I don't want it to seem like a gift grab. Do I have a "meet the bride and groom" party in our hometown after the wedding? What is the proper procedure?

I have another question, too. My husband and I are retired, but are giving our son and future daughter-in-law a large sum of money to help with wedding costs. As the parents of the groom, we will pay for the rehearsal dinner, but what about the rest? What are our responsibilities when it comes to out-of-state guests? — *Don't Want To Get Another Job*

**Dear Don't Want:** If these are close relatives, they probably would be hurt or offended to be excluded. Please invite them. They may wish to send a gift whether they attend or not. But you can skip more distant acquaintances, such as business associates or people you rarely contact. And should you decide to have an informal reception of your own after



the wedding, that would be lovely and much appreciated.

As for expenses, your son should be covering most of them without your assistance. These days, most couples split the costs, perhaps with help from their parents. Traditionally, the groom or his parents would be responsible for his attendants' accommodations, along with the officiant's fee and travel costs. Other out-of-town guests, however, are on their own. They should be given information about available hotels in the area, and you can supply a gift basket to each room so the guests have something to nibble on should they arrive too late to find an open restaurant. (Some hosts provide a hospitality suite or include all out-of-towners at the rehearsal dinner, but this is optional and certainly not a requirement.) Our congratulations on your upcoming special event.

**Dear Annie:** I want to respond to the letters you've printed about relationships between mothers-in-law and their son's wives.

When I first married my husband, my MIL was great — shopping, vacations and activities with the grandchildren. When her parents experienced health problems, I helped care for them, including trips to the ER in the middle of the night, checking in on them daily and managing their health care needs for 15 years. Meanwhile, my mother-in-law continued her traveling and active social life.

When her parents died, they left me an inheritance that ticked off my MIL. (Mind you, had she paid someone for the care I was giving, there would have been no money left.) My MIL never calls anymore, and I only see her on holidays, and she barely acknowledges me. She has given her daughter a trip to Europe and her other son a home makeover, but my husband receives nothing. I am cordial and polite, but things will never be the same. — *Fed-Up Daughter-in-Law*

**Dear Fed Up:** You became the daughter her parents needed. When you were rewarded, it underscored her guilt, and that made her angry. We're so sorry.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You may not get the closure or epiphany you sought. In fact, it is unlikely to happen. But you'll get a result you weren't expecting, and that surprise will be even more revelatory.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You were once walking toward a goal, and now you're chasing it. There's a point at which the chase is exhilarating and another point at which it's exhausting. Pace yourself.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's said that those who can't take the bad will never see the good. That's not entirely true. It's just that no one can truly appreciate the good without a contrasting experience.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Whatever you want to do, hang out with others who do it. Your instincts for making money, spreading love and perpetuating human decency will be strengthened in the company of those who do the same.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Feeling deprived? Declare it! Maybe it's sleep, a creative outlet or a supportive friendship that you're lacking. Get specific about your needs, and you will easily get them met.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Tardy people play on the insecurities of their waiting victims. When people are late, everyone wonders whether they ever wanted to show up in the first place. Be prompt, win friends, earn trust.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You inwardly roll your eyes at people who work too hard at being dominant. You prefer to let your work speak for itself. If they need it enough, they'll pay the right price for it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You haven't been able to act on a lot of your good ideas.

That's just life. Think about the opportunities you have been able to capitalize on. You're due for another bout of terrific luck, and it happens when you stay positive.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Whether or not you are a parent, someone in need of comfort, protection and nurturing will be drawn to you. You don't have to know how to help. Your willingness to help will be enough.

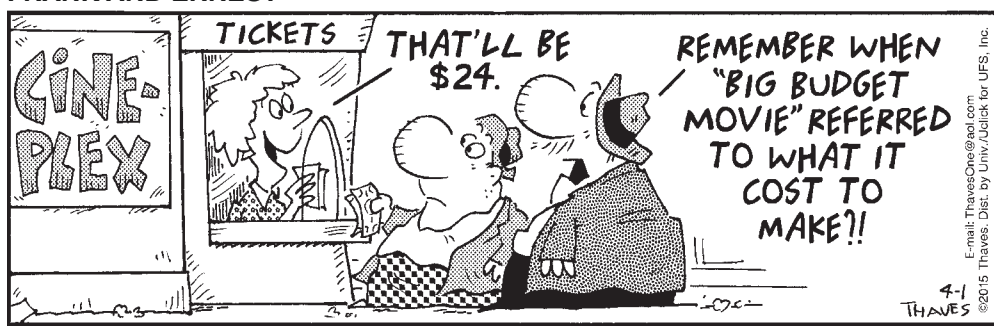
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The group discussion will be comprised of a wide array of opinions. Is there a way that everyone can be right at the same time? No, but there is rightness in each stance, and it will bring you good fortune to look for it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It's not like you have anything to hide. You're not a spy or a member of a secret society. You're not doing anything you shouldn't be doing. But privacy is a treasure. You appreciate those who respect yours the best.

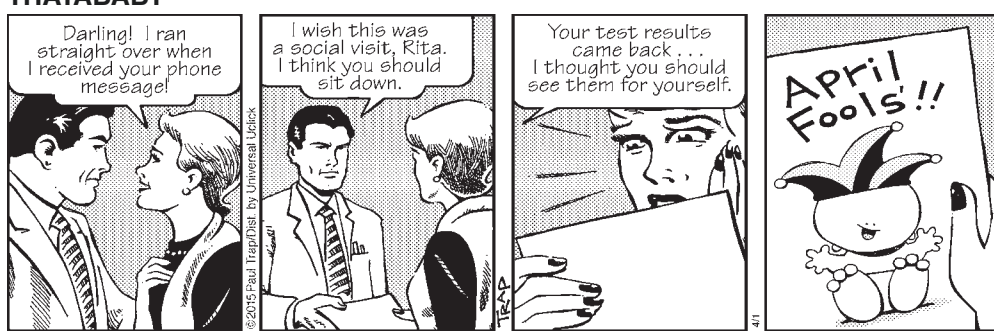
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You may be unsure because of your mighty company or because this is all new to you, but let nothing intimidate you. "Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye." — Helen Keller

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 2).** Better organization will improve your life and health this year. This month you'll make a special connection with clients and customers and amp up your earnings. May shows you traveling in the name of love. Family additions will come in June. A charitable mood prevails in August, and your efforts will change lives. Taurus and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 18, 49, 25 and 14.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## STONE SOUP



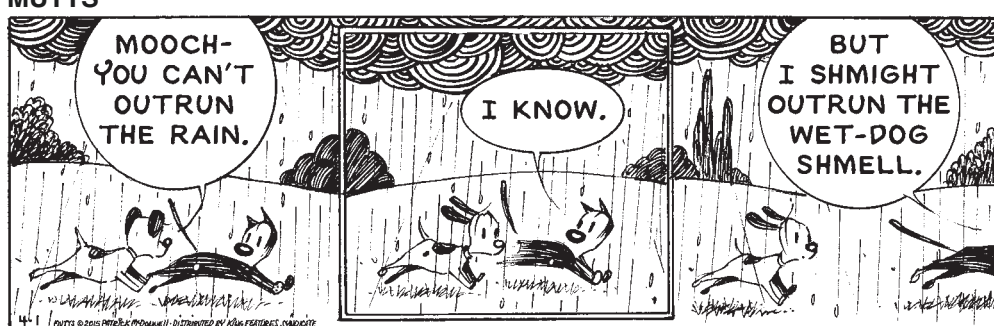
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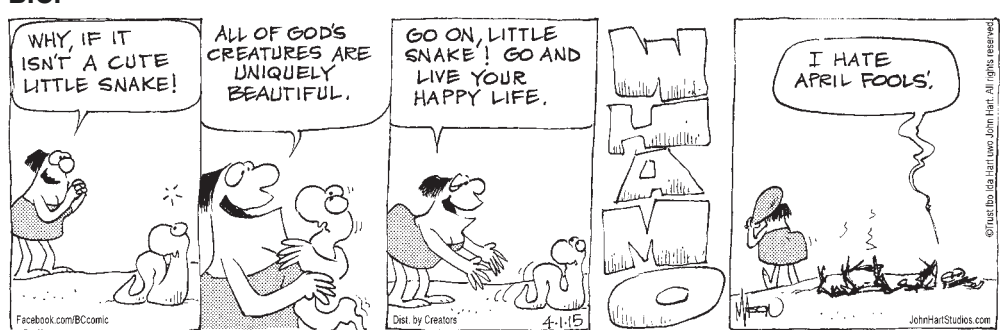
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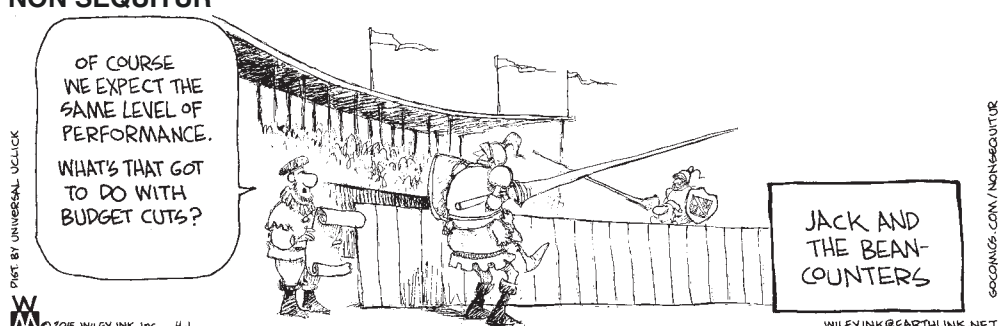
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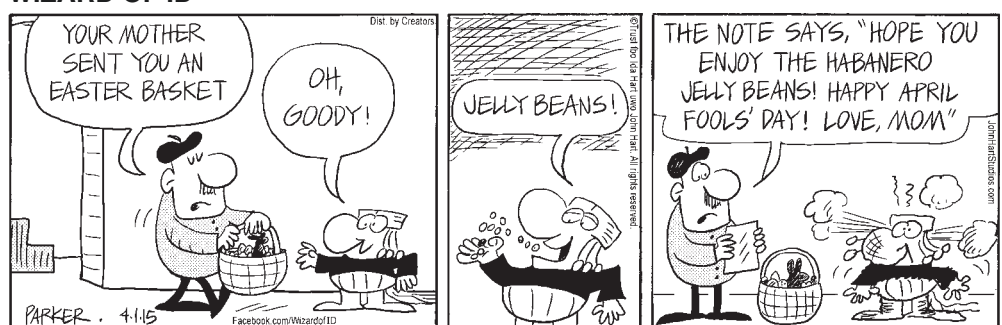
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

