

Young voices need to be heard Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Young people are ready, willing and able to tackle the world's most difficult challenges, and yet are vastly underrepresented as active citizens, decision-makers and problem solvers. We know that young people are uniquely suited to help solve problems if given the opportunity.

1. Fifty percent of the world's population is younger than 25.

2. Brain research tells us that young people are uniquely suited to solve problems if given the opportunity. They are wired for novelty (learning new things and creating new solutions), risk (trying things adults might not) and peer authority (kids listen to other kids more than they do to adults).

3. Youth who are engaged as active community members are more likely to grow up to volunteer, vote and donate to charitable causes.

4. Today's social and environmental problems are immense; we need youth to be leaders and problem solvers today, not just the leaders of a distant tomorrow.

Please let your readers know about Global Youth Service Day, April 17-19. During this three-day event, held in the U.S. and around the world, we are asking that young people raise their voices, claim their place on

Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



our GYSD map and tell their story. Together with their parents, teachers and friends, young people will begin their story of service and address unmet community needs. This event spotlights what youth are doing to make a difference. When given the opportunity, young people are great assets and resources to their communities, providing unique perspectives and skills.

For more information, readers can visit www.ysa.org and www.gysd.org. You can also find us on social media at @YouthService on Twitter and YouthServiceAmerica on Facebook. Sincerely — *Steven A. Culbertson, president and CEO, Youth Service America*

Dear Steven Culbertson: Thank you for once again allowing us to mention Global Youth Service Day. Young people all over the world do such wonderful and helpful volunteer

work, not only on this day, but every day of the year. Global Youth Service Day provides more opportunities for everyone to get involved. We hope all of our readers, young and old, teachers and students, will check out your website.

Dear Annie: "C.B. in New Hampshire" said people should write down their plans for their own funerals and not leave family members guessing.

When my husband passed away, I was fortunate that our insurance covered his expenses. I didn't want my daughters to worry about me when my time comes. I had a CD that would cover my expenses. We went to the funeral home, and the director called the bank and had the CD turned over to an irreversible trust fund. It will accrue interest, and after all expenses are paid, any money left over will go to my daughters. Additionally, all of the decisions are made, from the vault to the obituary.

For anyone who can preplan and prepay for their funeral, it's a great idea. My girls said it was the best present I ever gave them. — *Planning Ahead*

Dear Planning: Such pre-arranged plans give children peace of mind. We wish more people would be willing to address this issue ahead of time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're still learning. Try not to get disheartened when the day's events prove to you that you still have a long way to go. Just trust that you'll execute whatever behaviors are necessary to get there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being susceptible to the spark of attraction doesn't make you a flirt; it makes you human. There are certain people who just make you feel more alive, and they'll be near you, or near in spirit, today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). At the center of your day lies a dynamic contemplation. What you're thinking about will change the order in which you do things. It will change your conversations and your environment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're very observant today, but you probably won't have much to say about what you witness. Your attention is a form of praise even when you can't quite find the words to articulate it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're reaching one peak now, and you already see that there's another hill to climb. There goes your plan for a never-ending party at the top. Why not make a never-ending party that's themed "climbing" and enjoy it now?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People often like those whom they have hurt. That's why it's better, when you suspect or know that someone you actually like has hurt you, to let them off the hook graciously.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go ahead and argue with your critics, as imaginary as they may be. The argument will make your work better. The trick is to set a time limit to these exchanges, and then send the critic away so you can resume working.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is much to tempt you away from what needs to be done, and a hypnotizing fellow fire sign may be to blame. However tedious the necessary work is, once you commit yourself, it won't be so bad.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though there will be minor strife today, all in all, you like yourself and the things that come from the way you "do you." Therefore, you're successful. End of story.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Half of getting along is understanding. The only way to understand is to inquire in a way that makes people feel compelled to answer you truthfully. Your gentle way will pay off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though you think some of the rules that are guiding your group are arbitrary and unfair, today you will be careful not to break them. (You're right about the proverbial policeman around the corner.)

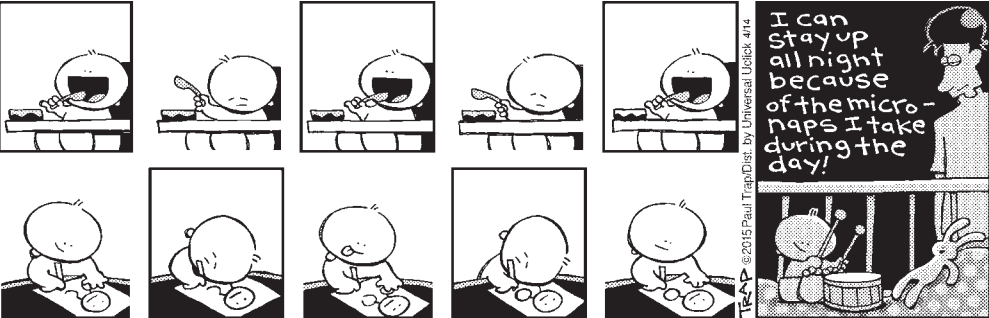
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be involved in sorting out the actions of children and people who act like them. If they didn't follow reason into a situation, they probably won't follow reason out of it.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 15). Many things become clear as you get to know yourself better. What you used to consider an expense is really a worthy investment in who you are. Act on the lightning-bolt moments in May. New financial partners come along in June and October. You'll be put through a test in September. Accept an award in November. Libra and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 22, 39 and 11.

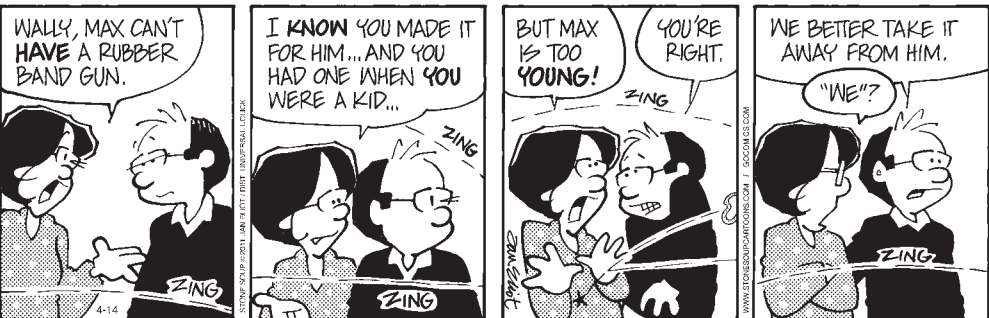
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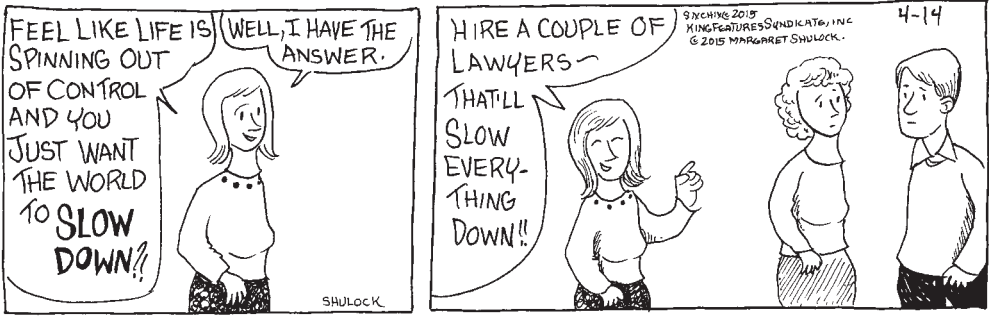
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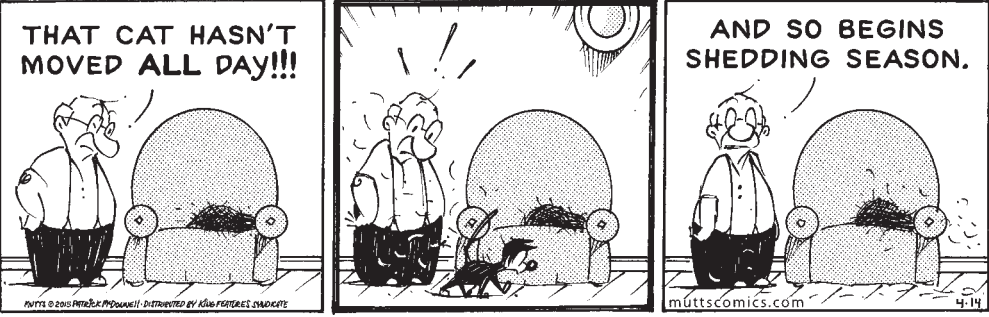
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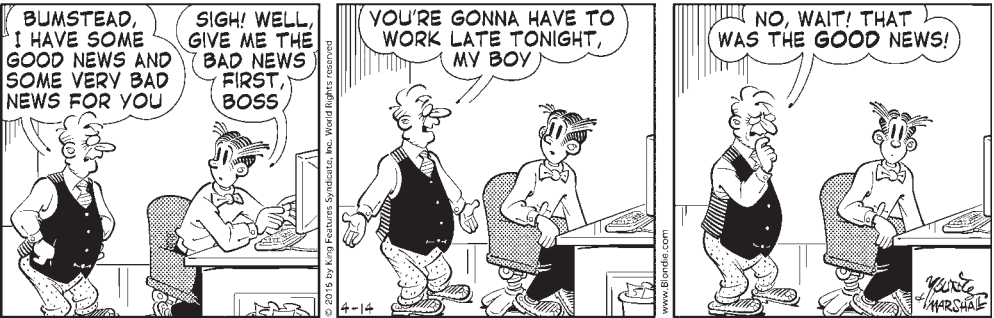
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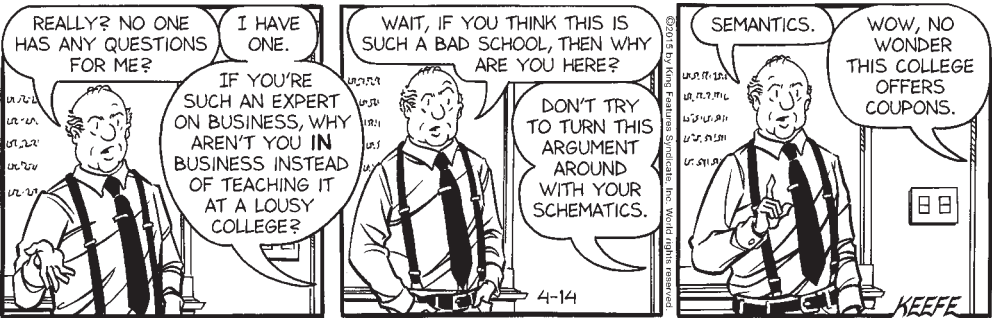
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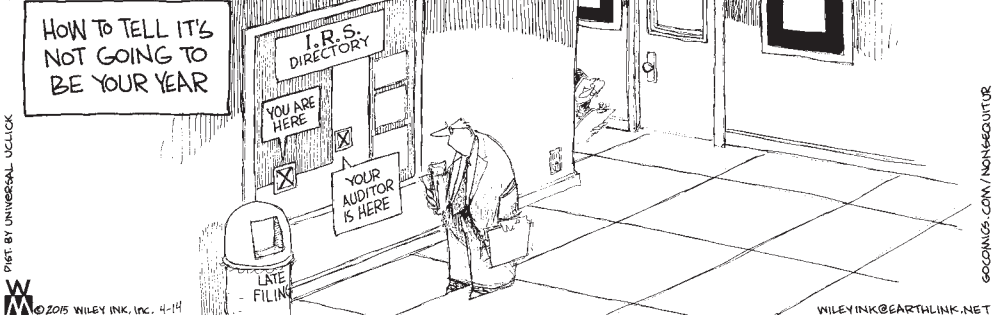
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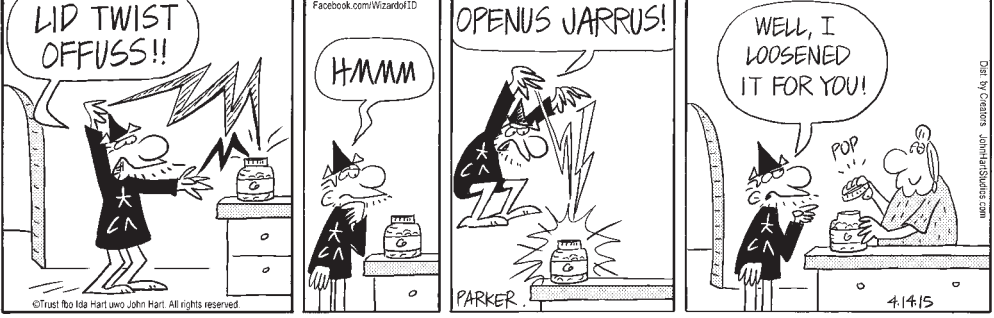
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