

# Son wants dad's drum set

**Dear Annie:** My husband died 11 years ago. Our son, "Marcus," was 6 at the time. His dad was in intensive care for two months, and because of his young age, our son was not allowed to see his father.

Before he died, my husband asked his younger brother to keep his drum set until Marcus turned 18. Marcus' uncles used to call him every year on his birthday, which also is his father's birthday. But since my husband died, neither has called to wish their nephew a happy birthday.

Marcus will be 18 soon. He is into music and wants the drums. I have asked his uncle on several occasions by sending a message on Facebook. I also asked my son's half-brother (from my husband's first marriage) to get the drums, and Marcus would pick them up from his house. Nothing has happened.

I recently noticed a picture on Facebook of a guy who used to play in a band with my late husband. In the photo, he is playing drums that look suspiciously like the ones that belong to my son.

Marcus has nothing of his father's. He was not included in any decisions on what to sell or what to keep, or even asked what he'd like to have. He was also given his dad's El Camino, but my husband

## Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell  
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Marcy Sugar



put the title in the name of Marcus' half-brother, who sold it. He didn't even give my son any of the money from the sale. That was bad enough, but Marcus only really cares about the drums.

The entire family knows that my late husband wanted Marcus to have the drums. What should I do? File a lawsuit? How do I honor my late husband's wishes and give my son this final gift from his dad? — *Distraught Mom of a Musician*

**Dear Mom:** Is anything in writing? If not, you might need to file a lawsuit, but in order to prove your case, you probably will need other credible witnesses to testify that your husband's wish was for Marcus to have the drum set. An attorney will let you know if you have a case.

But a lawsuit should be a last resort. Please stop asking for personal things on Facebook. Pick up

the phone. Call the uncle who supposedly has the drum set. Be nice. Tell him what a wonderful birthday present it would be for Marcus to finally have this memento from his father. Ask when would be convenient to pick it up and what you can do to facilitate the transfer.

Marcus also can call his uncle. These relationships work both ways, and Marcus is old enough now to establish his own contact. And if he is close to his half-brother or another paternal relative, perhaps you or Marcus could get the relative to intercede on his behalf.

**Dear Annie:** "Holding My Breath" said she can't kiss her husband because of his halitosis. I had bad breath for 10 years. I brushed, used mouthwash and saw the dentist regularly. I also had frequent problems with my digestive tract. Finally, after having an endoscopy and a colonoscopy, my gallbladder was found to be functioning at 17 percent. It was removed, and my bad breath and constant low-level nausea went away immediately. — *Alabama Maggie*

**Dear Maggie:** Thanks for writing. Readers, please don't assume these things are unimportant. They can indicate serious medical problems.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You desire to become more disciplined, and yet the very thing keeping you from being able to do this is the demanding lifestyle you currently keep. Is it possible that what you need more than discipline is tenderness?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** In ancient Rome, merchants carried money in baskets made of fiscus, which is how, over the centuries, things to do with money came to be called "fiscal." Today, luck centers on your own version of a money basket.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's possible that a certain persistent fear exists for a good reason. Then again, maybe this fear is just a bad habit you can break yourself of. Test both theories out today.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** This is a time for extreme self-care, the likes of which you once would have considered too indulgent. When you don't feel at your best physically, it is hard to be at your best in any other way.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There are those who feel it's hip to be cynical, but cynicism isn't insightful or helpful or any more "real" than sweeter commentary. Anyway, support and optimism are more attractive modes of communication.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The path you didn't take will be a source of wonder. Perhaps you'll never know the version of you along that untraveled road, but there's something about the wondering that will make you live differently today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Aesthetics will matter to you even more than usual. Your mind expands when you're in the presence of beauty. Loveliness helps you see more

possibilities for yourself and others. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Tension in the morning doesn't have to negatively charge the rest of the day. Address and heal relationship problems quickly so you can get on with a wonderful time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The quality of your friendships matters more than the number of them. One friend who gets you on a deep level will bring you more joy than dozens who don't see you for who you are.

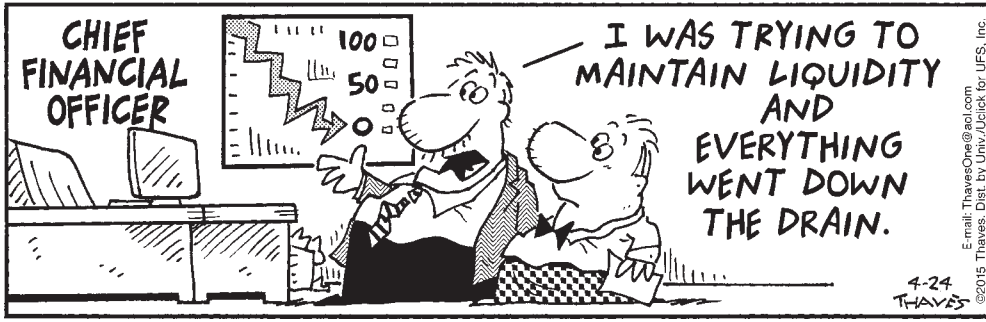
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Feeling hyper-alert, you'll notice the kind of subtle beauty that makes your day feel poetic. You'll also be prone to getting tired or overwhelmed, so go easy on yourself.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Knowing that a thought process is irrational doesn't make it any easier not to think it. But at least you can joke with yourself, which will make it a whole lot easier to lighten up and change the mental channel.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You can feel it when people harbor resentment for one another, and it hurts you even if those people appear to be getting along. Because you can't be fooled, avoid couples in disharmony.

**SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 25).** You'll reach a prize-winning level of mastery in May and then start a new venture as an amateur, refreshing your spirit through the learning process. June ties your heart to another through a shared adventure. Your philanthropy in August will build your legacy. An important professional decision must be made in October. Virgo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 27, 17, 32 and 4.

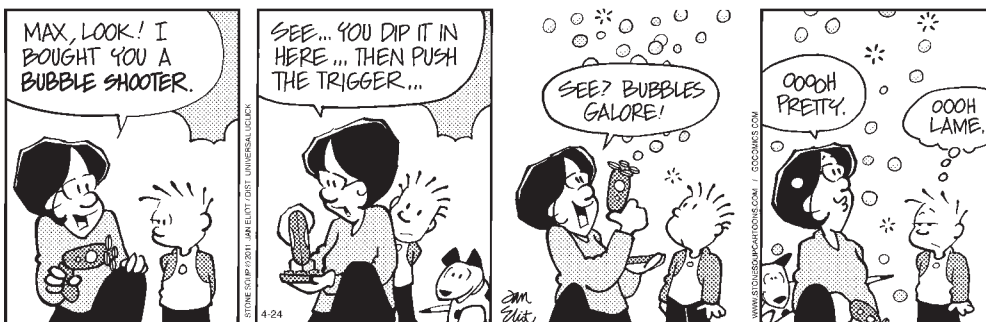
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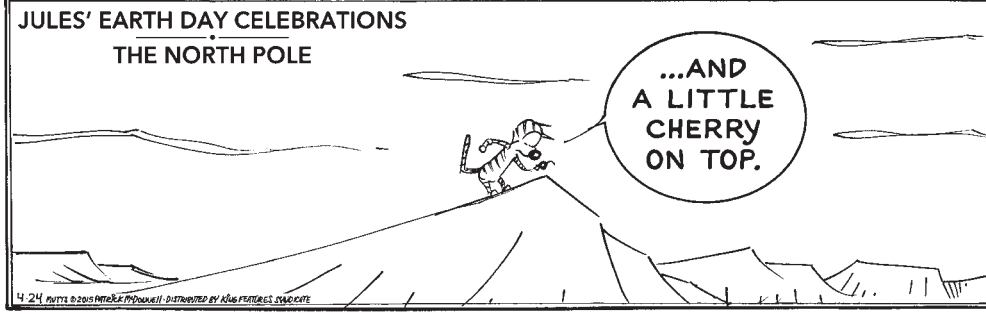
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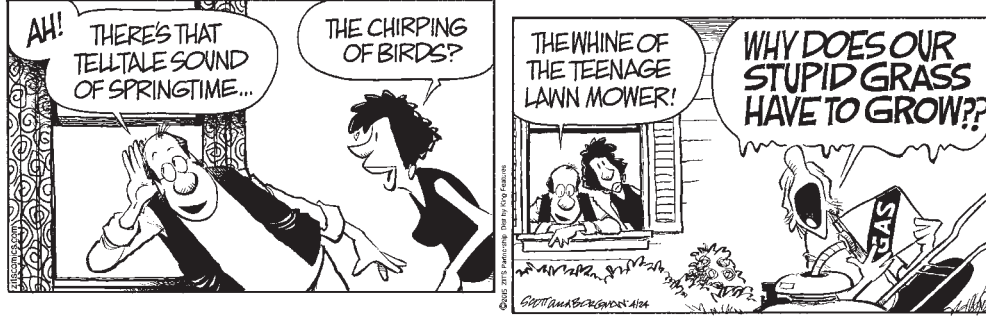
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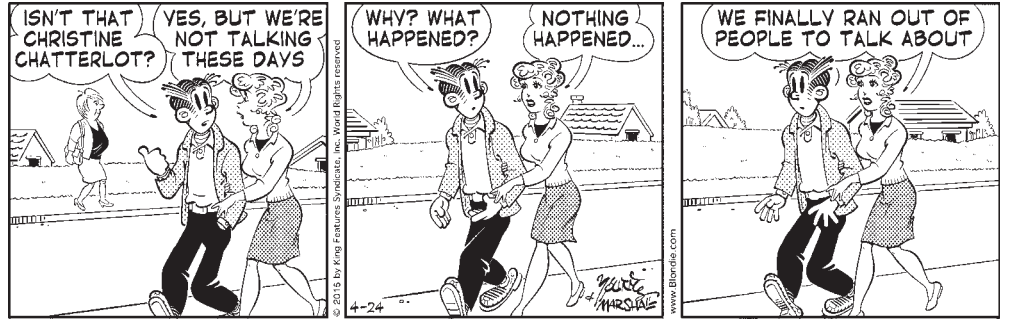
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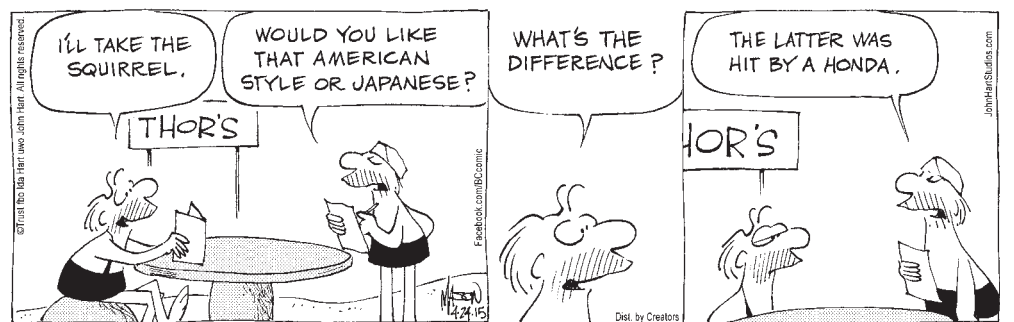
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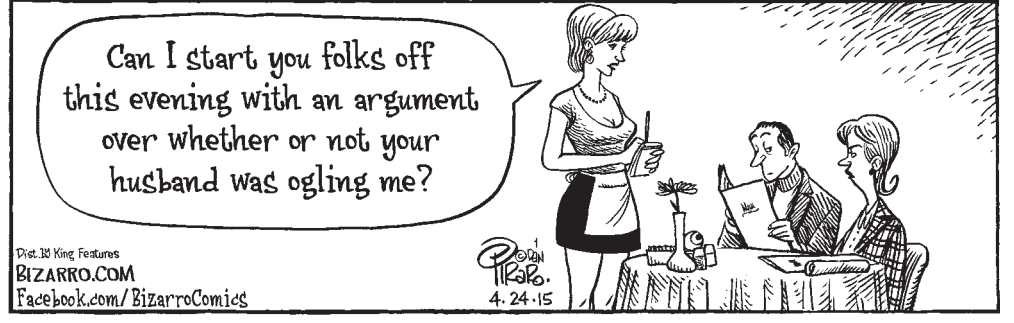
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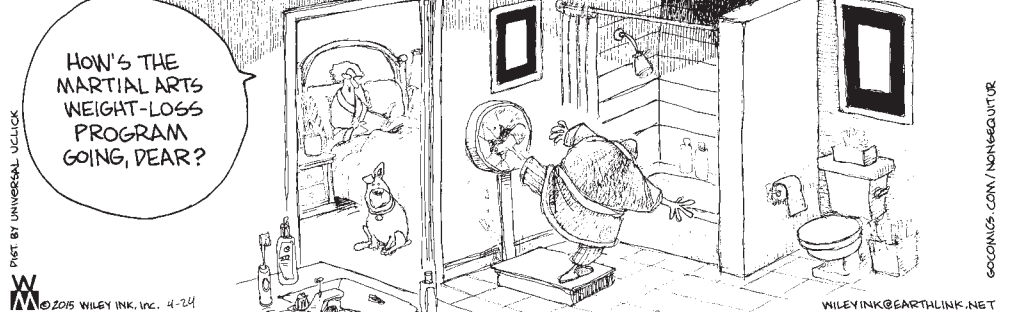
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## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

