

# Should man apologize now? Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** Thirty years ago, when I was 11, I got into an argument on the school bus with another kid my age. I was an insecure child, and I was losing the argument and feeling humiliated. In a move to try to regain some power, I called the other kid, who is black, a racial epithet. I immediately felt sick at what I had done, and it is the only time, before or since, that I ever did anything like that.

I have thought about that moment hundreds of times over the years and consider it one of my lowest, most shameful decisions. Thinking about it has made me aware of inherent racial biases that I was raised with, and I have actively tried to address these.

Recently, through a mutual friend, I became aware that the victim of my words is reachable through social media. My question is: Should I apologize? My apology would be sincere, but would also perhaps be self-serving, as it may only dredge up a terrible memory for him. I so wish I could erase that awful moment, but I am prepared to accept that I just have to live with this disgusting thing. What do you advise? — *Trying My Best*

**Dear Trying:** Apologize. May-



be it is a bit self-serving, but many apologies are — they make us feel better that we tried to make amends. If this dredges up a terrible memory for him, you can rest assured that he hasn't forgotten the incident, either. An apology could help him close that door. A private message, rather than a public post, would be best. Don't belabor the issue. Simply say you are sorry, that it has bothered you for 30 years (he may be glad to hear that), and that you want him to know you sincerely regret it. Any communication after that should be up to him.

**Dear Annie:** I'd like to say something about people who disregard their family members who require care.

My mother had a heart valve replaced when she was 97. Eighteen months later, she had a stroke and has been in a nursing home since.

By the time she uses up all of her savings and is eligible for government assistance, she will have expended close to \$300,000. My family realizes that this is my mother's money until she dies. We have picked up the remaining costs, including supplemental health insurance, hearing aids, clothing, etc.

My mother just turned 100. She can walk with a walker and one person assisting. But I am at the nursing home 12 hours a day to provide the therapy that Medicare doesn't. The staff here is kind and caring, but they have a limited amount of time, so I help out any way I can. I have seen residents who have no one to visit or keep their interest piqued. They tend to die sooner than patients who have visitors. I hope those uncaring people get the same treatment when they are old. — *Pat*

**Dear Pat:** There is no question that regular visits, especially those that encourage conversation and exercise, are beneficial for residents of nursing homes and any seniors who live alone. We also know that doing so regularly requires commitment and dedication, and not everyone cares enough to put forth the effort. Your family sounds wonderful. Bless you.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You know there's a problem to be solved, but for some reason, you are in the mood to treat it as an advantage, not a problem. From this mindset, you'll come up with many solutions, some humorous, some workable.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Grand buildings and bridges and mountains and oceans give the illusion of permanence, but the sobering truth is that all things are impermanent. That's why you'll celebrate tonight.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** As much as you enjoy the kinship of others, you do not wish to trade nebulous group-think for focused independent thought. Without arguing a point, you'll nonetheless quietly disagree.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22):** Though the care your crew needs most right now is emotional in nature, you can deliver it in material ways. For instance, cooking is a fine way to show you love someone.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may feel like you took a wrong turn and are now heading down the interstate in the direction opposite of the way you wanted to go, no exit in sight. Stay calm and know that this way leads somewhere good, too.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It's like the physical laws of inertia have been altered just to favor you, and now any small gesture will propel you forward. As long as you don't dig in your heels, you'll shoot ahead.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Decisions about love, family and even nutrition will all impact your finances. Research and review your other responsibilities before you take out your wallet. And don't buy what you could possibly borrow.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** Most peo-

ple are talking too much under these chatty astral influences, but you have a success secret. To be understood, be brief. You're mighty convincing with a few well-chosen words.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Getting too enmeshed in one culture makes people wary or even prejudiced against other cultures. This is one reason you welcome and celebrate diversity. Another reason is that you're a curious person.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** To encourage you further along yesterday's theme: Have confidence. Don't entertain doubt — it casts insidious shadows that make a dark mess out of what would otherwise be an idyllic picture.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You've been fed a story that's obviously not true. Don't let the fact that so many people believe it make you complacent about checking the facts. You don't have to take them all on in order to make your own decision.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** It doesn't matter whether or not you can paint or write poetry or play the piano. If you can find greatness in the inconspicuous and overlooked details, you truly are an artist.

**SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 30):** You're the one with the big ideas — and the small ideas, the good ones and some of the bad ones, too. The point is that this year you're overflowing with inspiration. Next month, you'll change how a business or household is run. Love enhances your leisure and inspires your work in July. Commitments are shared in September. Virgo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 34, 1 and 28.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## STONE SOUP



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



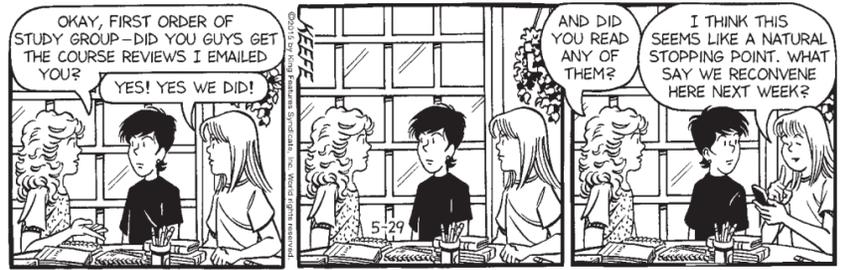
## ZITS



## BLONDIE



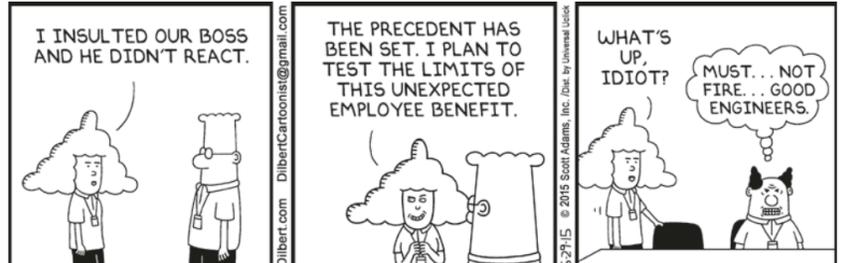
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



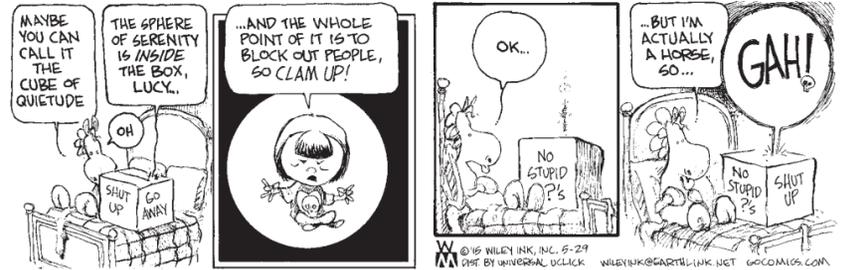
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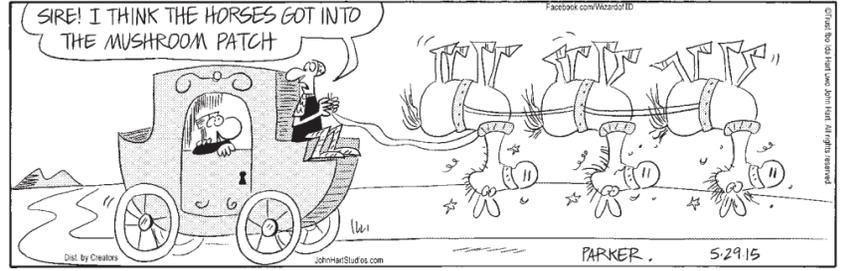
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

