

# Woman alienates her stepchild Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** My friend "Nancy" has become one of those stepmothers who negatively influences her husband's relationship with his adult children.

When things began to turn sour between Nancy and her husband's daughter, who lived nearby, the daughter retaliated by distancing herself from her father, refusing to see him and avoiding his calls. Nancy persuaded her husband to move across the country. She blames the move on the daughter, who "drove them away," but I'm sure his daughter sees it as Nancy making sure Dad is totally alienated from his family.

Now, when Nancy's husband speaks of visiting his daughter and her family, Nancy actively tries to discourage him, reminding him that he wasn't treated properly. Family members have suggested to Nancy that she allow her husband to handle his relationship with his daughter on his own, but she's unwilling to do that.

I hope Nancy's husband reads this and sees himself. Perhaps other men with controlling wives will, too. He should remember that his relationship with his children predates his marriage to Nancy and that he needs to honor that relationship and quit being so passive around his wife. — *On the Sidelines, but Been There*

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



**Dear Sidelines:** Many men would rather abandon their children than fight with their wives. They also figure the kids don't need them that much. But truthfully, kids always need their parents' love and support, and once a husband takes a firm stand on the issue, the arguments tend to be shorter, and the wife often backs off. But it takes some initial effort. And by the way, this dynamic works with either spouse. There are husbands who push their wives to move away from their kids, and the wives allow it. Sometimes it borders on an abusive, isolating relationship.

You can't force someone to grow a spine. You've expressed your opinion to Nancy, and she has chosen to ignore you. We hope her husband finds a way to reconcile with his daughter before the estrangement is permanent.

**Dear Annie:** Last night, my husband finally came home after being

away for three weeks. He was exhausted, mentally and physically. He is still tense, and I know it will take him at least a week to recover.

My husband is a trial lawyer. When he takes a case, he applies all of his training and skill, as well as his physical and mental energy toward helping his client. He wears himself out worrying about the case. He works as hard as he can on his client's behalf until the case is finished. It takes a toll, but I am proud of him.

I wish the people who make jokes about lawyers could see how much my husband cares for his clients and how hard he works for them. — *Married To a Lawyer*

**Dear Married:** What a sweet and supportive letter. Lawyers generally have a terrible reputation ("sharks" comes to mind), but most attorneys are dedicated and extremely hard-working professionals. Their job is to represent the client. They are obligated to do their best, but others often blame the attorney if the client is unpopular or the lawyer is aggressive in the client's defense. But everyone is entitled to legal representation, and no one would want an attorney who makes a half-hearted effort. And many lawyers work pro bono (unpaid) cases in what little spare time they have. Thanks for the testimonial.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It is possible for your body and mind to be racked with fear and, at the same time, your spirit to be fearless. This is the warrior dynamic you were born to, and you can achieve this state when you know you're fighting for the right thing.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's so much you want to do, but if you try to do everything, you'll end up doing nothing of note and feeling demoralized in the process. Instead, pick one thing and do it well. Success!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're not in the mood to commit, and yet someone is requiring a commitment of you. So don't be surprised if just as soon as you agree to do something, part of your mind starts searching for a loophole.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** What you know or what you believe, in the end, isn't half as important as what you do. Actually, what you do may be the only thing that matters this afternoon. It's a good thing you're in the mood to take action.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** In protective lion mode today, you'll scan the scene and note right away what's amiss, dissonant, incongruous or dangerous. Alert your loved ones. They may not listen right away, so hang in there until they get it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** It may surprise you that you say something a parent would have said. Depending on how you feel about this, you could have some identity-related work to do today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Even though you're the sign of partnership, you have a resilient independence. Maybe the reason you're so good in relationships is that you're strong in yourself. You'll be working on the

you-to-you relationship today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Some things just don't work out. Why take it personally? Usually, it boils down to a mismatch of interests. Your ability to wash your hands of it quickly and make a new plan — now that's a talent!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** This is what heroes do: embrace the worst-case scenario and go forward with velocity. Anyway, when you're willing to face the worst consequence, it often happens that it doesn't show up.

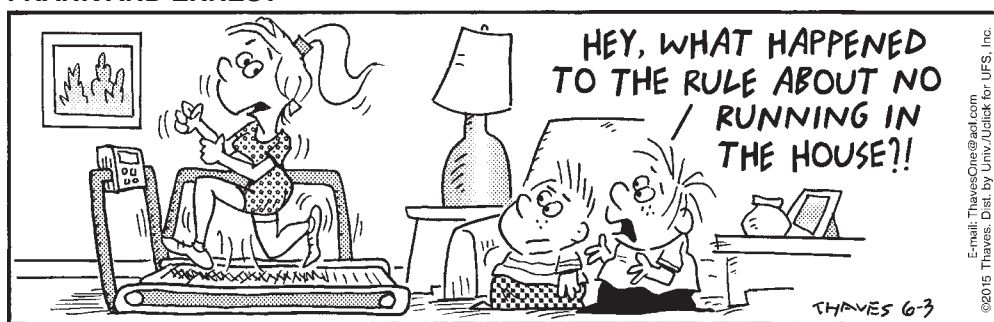
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Plain foolishness is easily spotted. Foolishness that's been airbrushed, set to a soundtrack and passed off under an expensive brand is also pretty easy to spot, at least for you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You haven't quite settled on your next goal. Don't rush yourself. A sincere desire to be useful and help others bodes better for success than any other ambition a person could have.

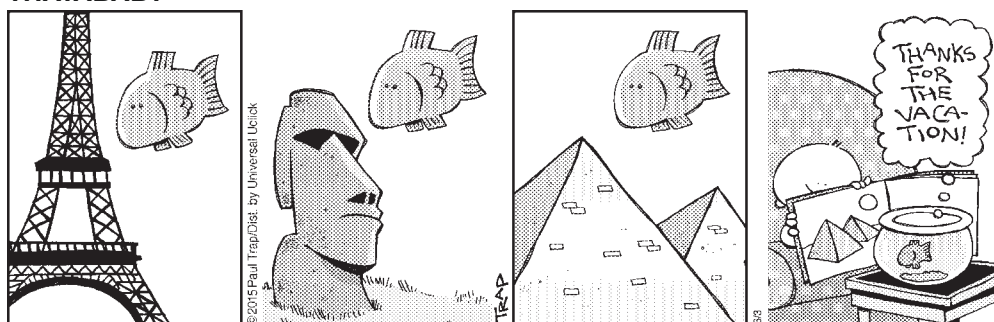
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You've spent enough days being in step with your people, and now you feel the rebellious urge to create your own rhythm. This will require great will, and don't expect them to understand.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 4).** Your definition of the good life will feel right. Certain early ambitions no longer feel right, and in their place will drop a much better fit. For the next seven weeks, you'll focus on improving your physical and fiscal health. Your calling comes from within your family in August. September and January are the most romantic months. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 3, 33, 39 and 15.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## STONE SOUP



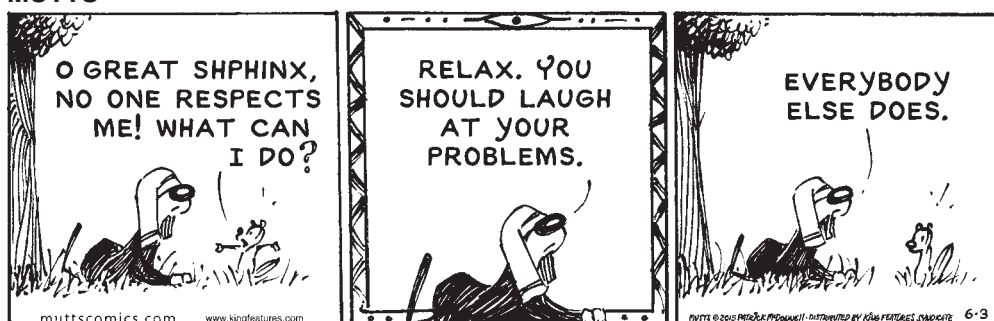
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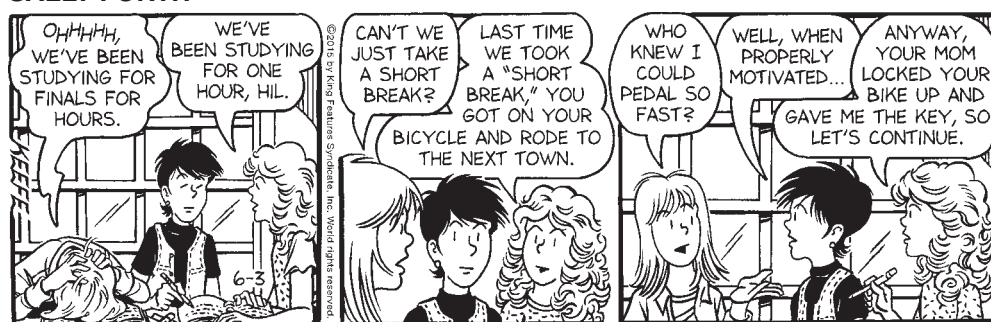
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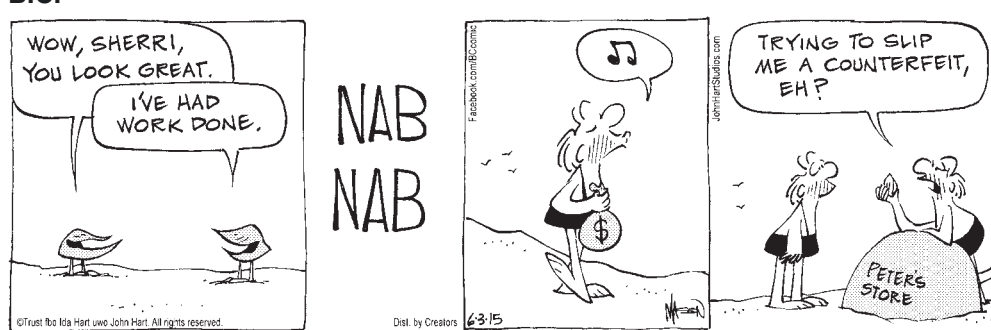
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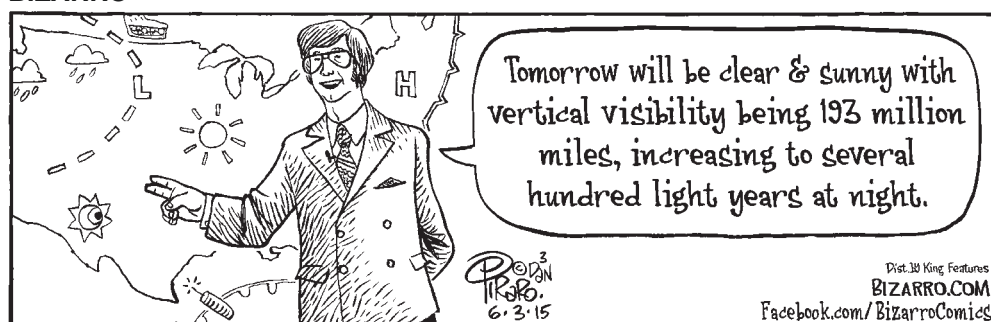
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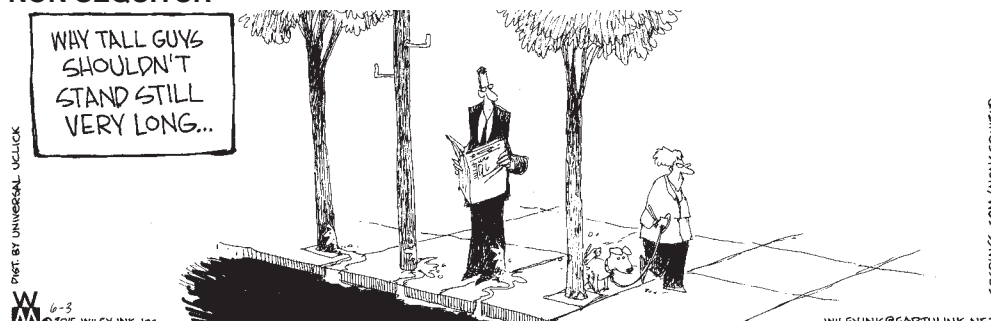
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## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

