

# Confused by parents' dynamic

**Dear Annie:** My dad died two years ago. He was 73. Mom misses him so much. When we visit, she talks about all the nice things Dad used to do. This makes me sick.

When Dad was alive, he never missed a birthday, Christmas, Valentine's Day or any other important day. He would always buy candy and flowers and give a card to my mom. I never once saw Mom thank him, and she never bought him a thing, not even a card.

I once asked Dad whether he minded not getting a gift from Mom, and he said he had four wonderful gifts already: his wife and three children. He often talked about how he met Mom in school and loved her from Day One.

When Dad was alive, I asked Mom why she never got him gifts or cards. She told me, "He can buy anything he wants. Why should I buy him anything?"

When he called her his high school sweetheart, she would say, "Don't remind me." Now she raves about him. I don't understand. — *Missing Dad*

**Dear Missing:** Your parents developed a certain dynamic

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
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Kathy Mitchell  
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Marcy Sugar



over the years: She played hard to get, and he showered her with affection and attention. This probably started in high school. It doesn't mean they didn't love each other or that your mother doesn't miss him terribly.

Every couple has their own pattern of behavior, and when it works, both are content, regardless of how it may appear to others. We know you think your father deserved better, but your mother is the one he wanted. And won.

**Dear Annie:** Should I have given my daughter a gift on Mother's Day? She is married and has a child. Father's Day is coming up. Should I give a gift to my son-in-law? — *Mother*

**Dear Mother:** Giving gifts to people on these days is entirely optional. Some people

give only to their mothers. Others give to their mothers and wives. Still others give to daughters and daughters-in-law.

The same goes for fathers, and the list is endless. If you wish to give your daughter a gift on Mother's Day, by all means do so.

If you would rather not set such a precedent, you could give her a card. If you want to do something in between, a card with a rose is lovely, or the two of you could go out for brunch.

The same idea applies to sons and sons-in-law. There are no rules about these things, so feel free to start your own traditions.

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to "Fed Up," who had problems finding clothing in her large, very tall size.

She should look for a tailor or seamstress who can make her clothes to order. Or, she could learn to sew and make her own.

That's what I do, and there is an infinite variety of patterns, fabrics and colors. Knowing how to sew would also allow her to alter any clothes she finds in retail stores. — *P*

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** When people want you to "behave," what they really want is for you to behave in the manner they would prefer. Because you are always behaving in some manner, why not the manner that best pleases you?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're all benevolence and love until someone messes with the people you care about. Woe to the one who crosses you once your protective instincts have kicked in.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The journey to what you want will not require anything of you that you can't do. In fact, you'll be taking very manageable steps that are pretty much the same step over and over. The challenge is in the consistency.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Before you go into today's meetings and encounters, think of what you'd like people to take from the experience of meeting you. Give them loving words to remember in your absence.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Get accurate facts and make an accurate assessment. This isn't as easy as it should be because there's so much misinformation out there, but with every effort you make to get informed, your fear goes down a level.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A small group of people may be involved in completing the day's work, but without you, none of it would get done. Be strategic. Lead from within the ranks and lead with kindness.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're apprehensive about joining the party, but that never stopped you before. Sure, there are a few intimidating characters about. That challenge will only make it more interesting.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You can only

do what you can do with what you have and what you know at this time. If it's not quite enough to go the distance, learn more. The resources become available as soon as you ask for them.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When your friends meet with success, your first instinct is to support them. Your second instinct might be jealousy, so go with your first instinct instead. Later, you will have similar good fortune to celebrate.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Michelangelo carved until he set the angel in the marble free. That problem in your life that seems about as substantial and indestructible as a giant marble slab? Chip away at it. You'll get there.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You've had more ambitious days. Maybe you even feel guilty for not wanting to do more with your time. What you need is more inspiration. Get out and see more, experience more, read more. There's no shame in that.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Composer Florent Schmitt said, "When I don't like a piece of music, I make a point of listening to it more closely." That's what you'll do in a key relationship today, and the understanding you'll come to will make life easier for you.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 11).** What's in it for me? Ask the question frequently, as your tendency toward self-sacrifice will not fit the cosmic order of this year. Take what's yours, better your talents, refine your skills. This is your chance to make an impression on your environment. Your family will be impressed, as well, but don't work for their approval. Taurus and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 50, 22, 1 and 17.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



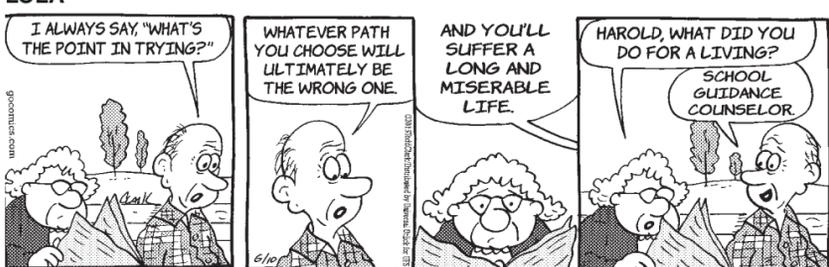
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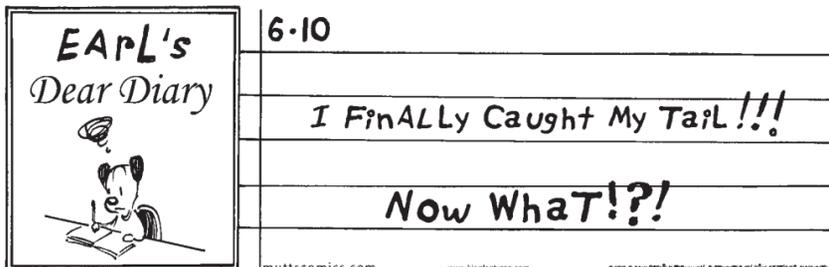
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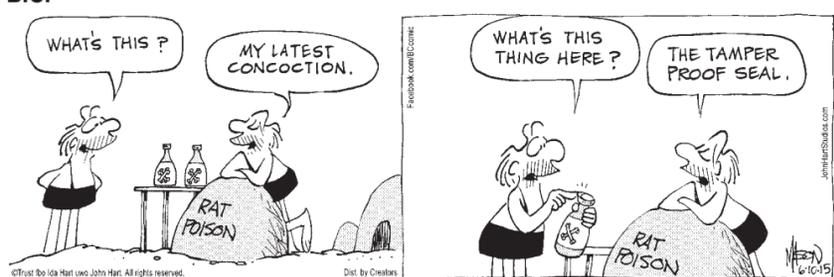
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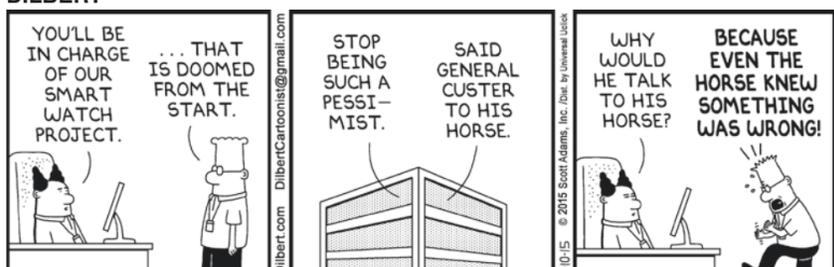
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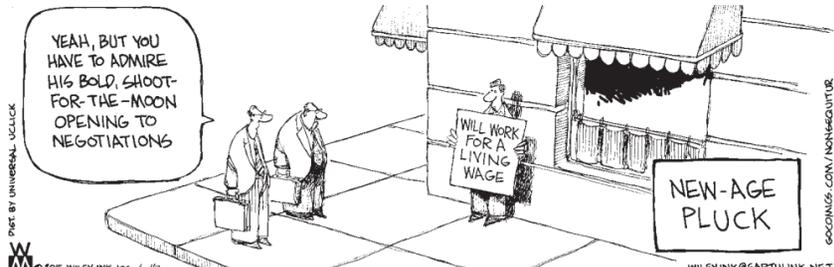
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## ROSE IS ROSE

