# Bad vibes from son about wedding

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

*Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar*

**Dear Annie:** My son is divorced and will be marrying again soon. His fiancee has never been married. I like her and am happy for both of them.

Here is the problem: When he married the first time, my husband and I paid for all of the customary groom things — the rehearsal dinner, the bar tab, the minister, and so on. For this wedding, we told him we would give him a specific amount of money and he can use it for whatever he wishes.

We are getting some bad vibes about this. We were asked to make out a guest list, so we did. When I gave it to my son, he asked why it was so small. Annie, I don't think I should expect everyone to come to a second wedding. I listed only close friends and family. Also, since we aren't paying for the wedding, we don't feel right inviting a bunch of people.

Weddings should be about the words you say and the ceremony, and less about the party. We are happy he is getting married, but we don't believe in big weddings. We will, of course, support whatever they do and attend with bells on.

My husband and I have been married for 34 years and believe in for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and health. What is your opinion? — *O.*

**Dear O.:** Please have an open discussion with your son and his bride. Explain that since this is a second wedding invitation for your family and friends, you don't feel it is appropriate to have a large guest list. Also, because you are not financing the wedding, you don't wish to obligate the couple or the bride's parents with additional expenses. They need to know that your small guest list is for reasons of propriety, not because you aren't happy about the wedding.

Your son and his bride may ask you to increase the guest list anyway, and that is up to you. (We don't advise upsetting the bridal couple.) There is so much stress surrounding weddings. By speaking honestly and directly with your son and his fiancee, it will help to limit mixed messages and hard feelings.

**Dear Annie:** "Love Her" seems like a caring, loving husband, but I think he is still a bit clueless. He says, "I consider it a privilege to do things for her." That indicates that he believes doing laundry, washing dishes, going grocery shopping and other chores are for HER, and that he is helping her out.

Why is it so many men do not believe that these things are as much their responsibility as they are for the women they live with? Don't they wear clothes, use dishes, eat food? When will couples realize that all the things required to run a household are the responsibility of both people in the household?

Obviously, chores should be adjusted to reflect the time available and the skills necessary, and that should be discussed. Hopefully, an equitable resolution is reached without the inference that something is "her job," but he'll "help" because he loves her. — *Not a Feminist, a Partner*

**Dear Partner:** A lot of readers made this point, and it's a good one. It takes time to adjust the old-fashioned attitude that household chores are "her" job, but society is getting there.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**. Warrior spirit that you are, even when you're not in the battle it's often raging in your periphery. Though tempted to choose a side, you don't have to. You have the option of continuing to stay out of it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**. Your self-esteem is on the rise and you've earned new reasons to be sure of yourself. Enjoy this period of high confidence while it lasts. And when it dips, it only means that you're ready to learn something new.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)**. The Chinese proverb says, "A man dies and leaves a name; a tiger dies and leaves a skin." Today you'll add value to your name, making sure that it's associated with generosity and integrity.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)**. Large groups move too slowly to accomplish what you think needs to be done in the time you'd like to see it accomplished. The only way to keep it within your timeframe is to work with a handful of purposeful individuals.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**. You're not in the mood to stick to the outline, stay with the plan and keep within the budget -- and yet your reputation depends on it. Encourage praise and support from your team. It makes compliance easier for you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**. What is your love thinking? If you ask, you'll blow the illusion that you're so in tune that you needn't inquire. Plus, you won't get a straight answer. Instead of asking, just guess and you'll probably be right.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)**. You're emotionally transparent. How you feel about a person will color every nuance of your interactions. If you are trying to keep it a secret that you love or dislike someone, don't be around that person today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)**. You'll navigate through odd characters and circumstances. Keep communication simple. Double-check to be sure you're making yourself clear. Ask for a response that proves your message has been received.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**. You've been teaching through example, perhaps unknowingly. Imitation is flattery. When someone copies you, your eyes will be opened to the very real influence you have.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**. The goal of business is to make money. It's something to keep in mind during today's transactions. Sometimes it's appropriate to fulfill personal goals over business goals. Just don't confuse the two.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**. Don't ask for whom the bell, chirp, ping and alert tolls. It's coming from your technology and it definitely tolls for you. Of course, you could always turn it off and give your full attention to the one who loves you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**. The right solution for you is an idiosyncratic mix of strategies based on your habits, talents, needs, preferences and unique qualities. Recalibrate your workflow.

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 10)**. An environment that used to feel good to you will grow stagnant before the year is over. You'll blossom from this. Growing internally will mean shrinking externally in some way -- possessions, body mass, emotional baggage, etc. This month brings so many profound happenings that you should definitely keep track! Capricorn and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 12, 14, 8 and 16.

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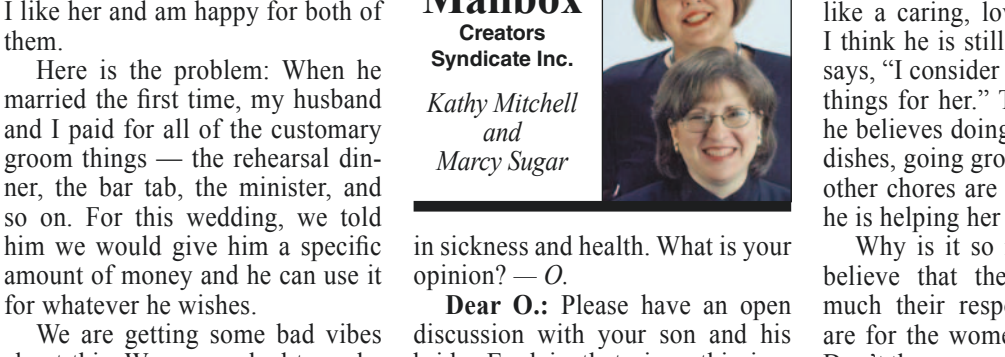


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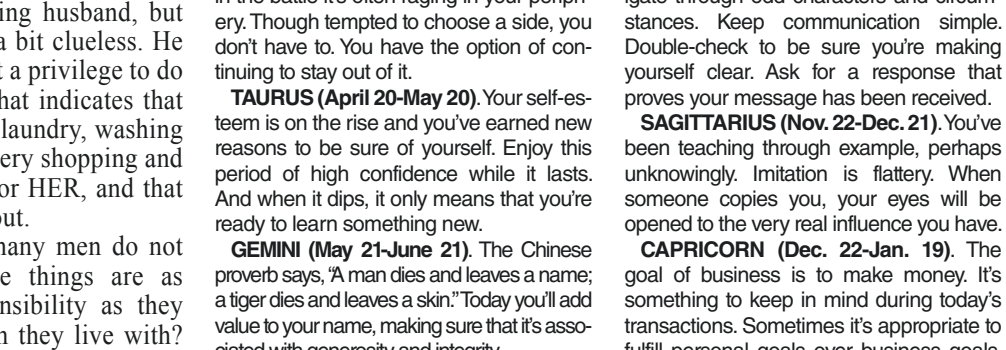


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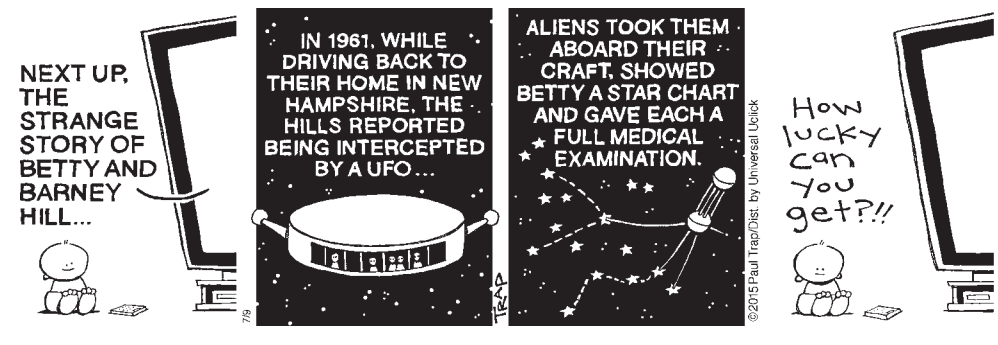


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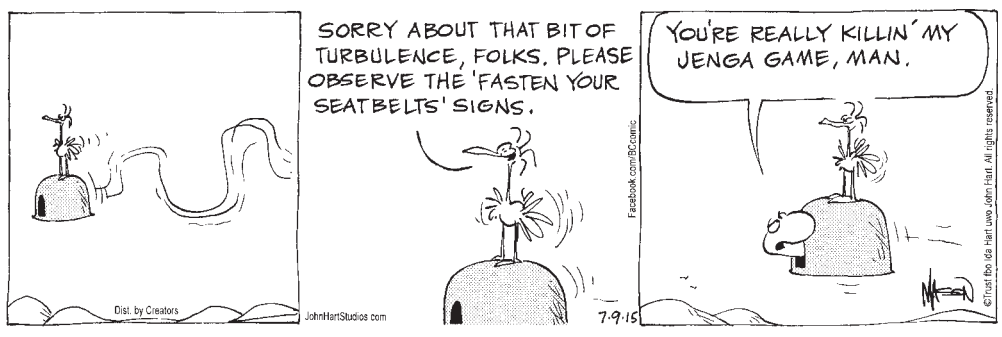


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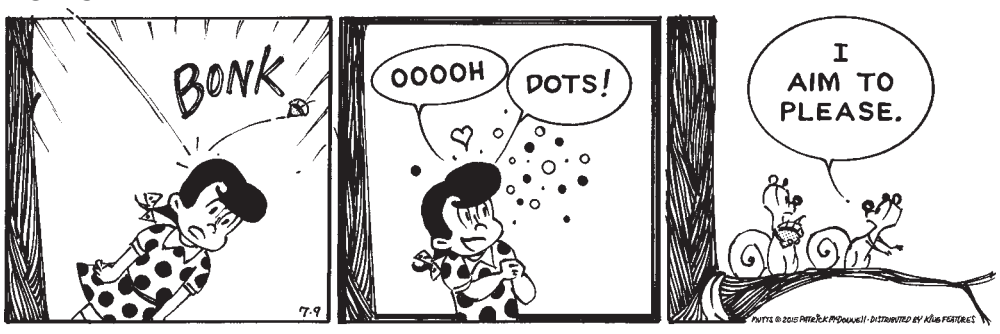


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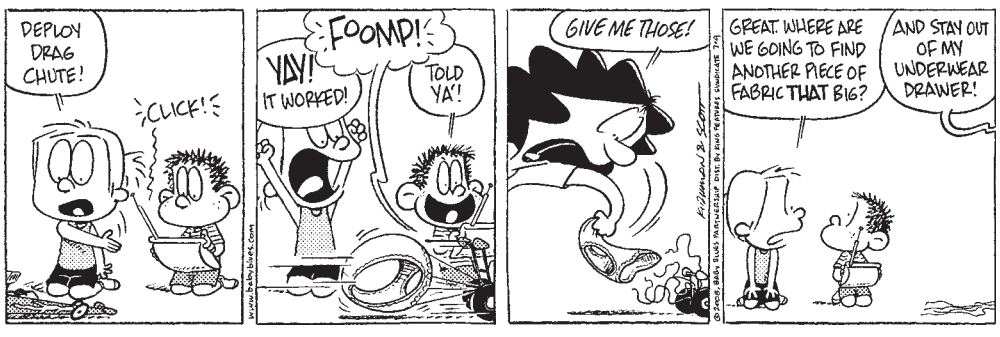


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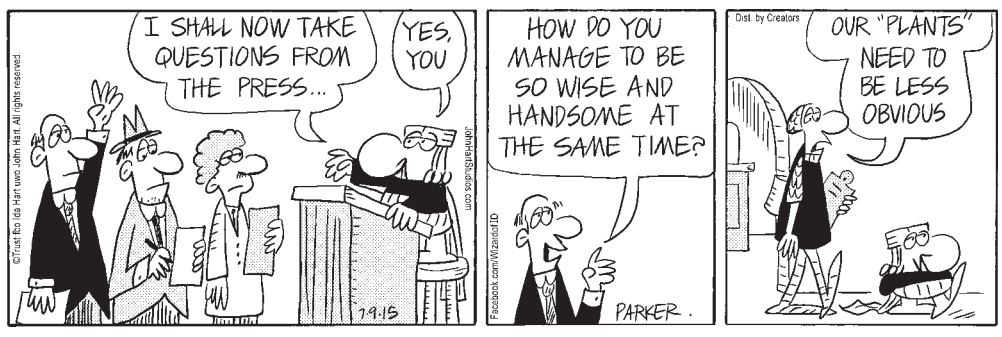


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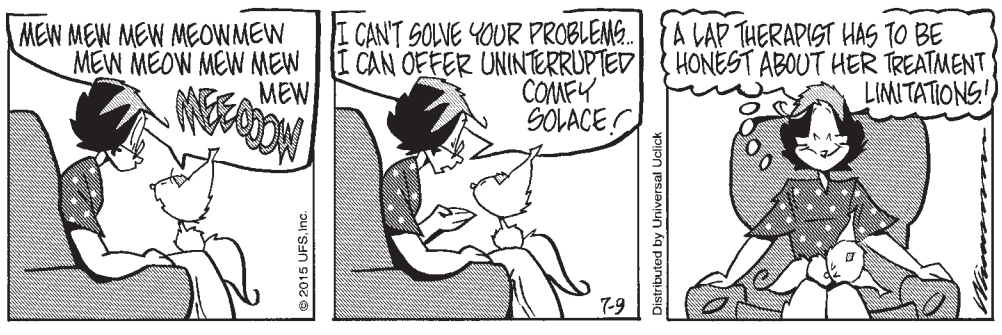
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