

# Date treats brother, not her

Dear Annie: I have been seeing my boyfriend, "John," for more than a year and love him very much. We are in our mid-20s, and while there are no plans to move in together or settle down soon, I see a future with him.

The issue is that John currently lives with his older brother "Zack." Zack has no full-time job, no prospects and no friends outside of those provided by John. Zack is shy in social situations, and covers this by being snide and sarcastic, which leads him to be girlfriend-less. My friends no longer like hanging out with John, as Zack is almost always involved.

Also, John pays for everything for Zack — rent, food, entertainment or any event we go to. I feel like John's second girlfriend. When we go out with other friends for dinner, John will pay for Zack, but not me. And if the three of us go out, John and I split the bill 50/50. I don't mind this occasionally, but my finances are tight and I don't care to pay for Zack. I resent that Zack gets treated to these dinners, but I don't. Even our romantic dates usually involve Zack, and of course, he would come on any vacation.

Annie, I feel stuck. I love John

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



and I have even learned to like Zack, but I don't think I can handle this situation any longer. I've brought it up delicately many times, and John and Zack both acknowledge the need for a change, but nothing happens. I don't feel comfortable trying to get in between brothers, but this doesn't seem healthy. — *Third Wheel on Facebook*

**Dear Third:** John obviously feels responsible for Zack and wants to take care of him. He doesn't feel responsible for you, since you are independent, both financially and socially. Have you asked John privately whether Zack could benefit from counseling? If he is the older brother and still has no job and no social life, he might need some coaching in life skills. He also might appreciate having someone teach him how to handle himself at a party

or attract the attention of a female, and you could be of tremendous assistance there. Otherwise, any "future" you see with John means including Zack in everything.

**Dear Annie:** If people go in together to purchase a gift, should only one of the people receive a thank-you note?

I recently attended a bridal shower where four of us pooled our money to purchase an expensive gift. At the shower, we were all asked to address an envelope to make thank-you notes easier for the bride-to-be. We all did so, but I was shocked to find out that the note was sent only to "Jill," with the rest of our names included inside. Jill phoned the rest of us to let us know.

Have people really become so lazy that they can't write a thank you to each person who gave a gift? It wasn't Jill's job to inform the rest of us. Shame on the bride-to-be. — *Proper Thank You's Please*

**Dear Proper:** The bride may not have realized that a single gift from multiple people still requires individual thank-you notes. But yes, laziness undoubtedly played a part, considering that the guests had to pre-address their own envelopes.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Artificial glory can be bought. It's shiny and brand-specific, and it makes an impression strutting down the street, though often not the impression intended. People, including you, sense real confidence. That's what you respond to today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The early day is filled with imperfect delights. The temptation will be to improve upon them later, although the more artistic choice may be to leave it alone and see how memory enhances the picture.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your way with words is that you're never without them. The words are always right where you need them — well, almost always. Today brings an unfamiliar sensation: the argument getting lost on the tongue. It's for the best.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Just because they can't handle it doesn't make it "too much." You have a different tolerance, a different facility with the subject matter and a degree of confidence you can't expect them all to understand.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If it's important to you, it's important. The same goes for the foolishness of the past that seemed do-or-die at the time. Have compassion for "past-you." You had your reasons, even though you no longer believe them.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** If there's someone you want to know better, ask now while your personal energy is impulsive, assertive and charming as all get-out. Don't think about it too much. Just aim and launch.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Though your most accurate answer to today's questions may be "I don't know," it's not the answer that will move you forward. Resolve to learn what

ever is necessary to succeed with your project.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The good opportunities in the near future will come much earlier or later in the day than you would normally choose to be active, but don't let that stop you from saying you'll be there. It will be worth it to change your schedule.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The village idiot often winds up being the wisest one of them all. That's why you respectfully listen (if only for a limited time) to all of the many opinions wafted your way today.

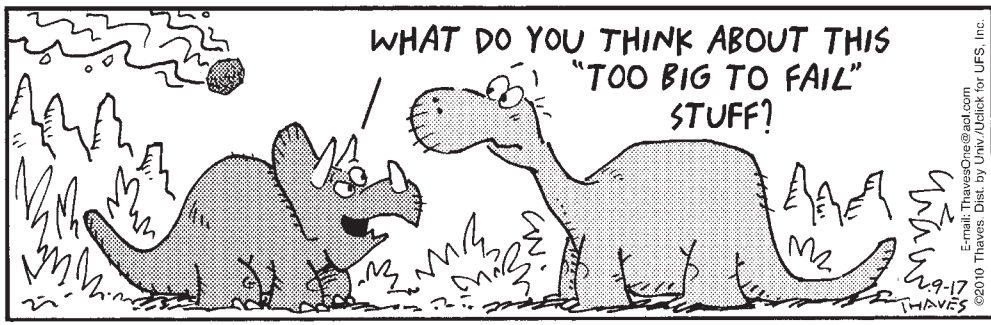
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Being able to entertain views that differ from your own in a reasonable, calm, detached way will ultimately make you smarter and give you an advantage should you need to resolve a conflict of interest.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There are a lot of people you like and feel friendly toward, but truly hitting it off with another person is a relatively rare gem of an occurrence and worth following through on.

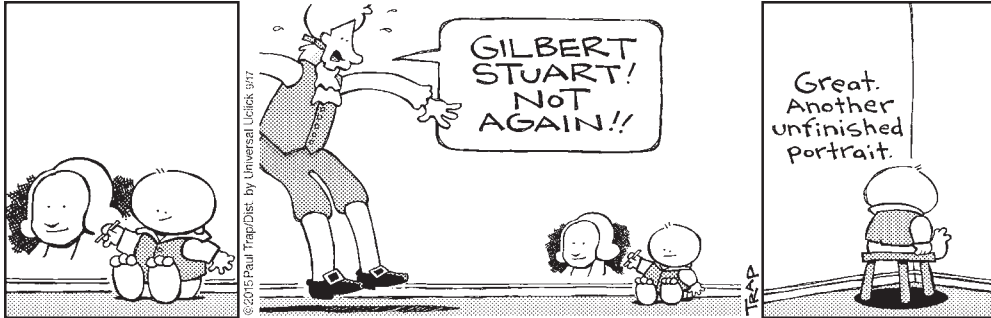
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The exercise routine that's fallen away doesn't need to stay away. Your physical energy may be low, and that's all the more reason to push yourself. The effort won't drain you; it will invigorate you.

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 18).** You're a deep thinker and will be an even deeper doer. Once you start working, you won't be able to stop. The emotional, professional and physical muscle tone you develop will help you make a leap of lifestyle in 2016. You'll turn complicated family dynamics into art. You'll generate a large sum for a cause. Scorpio and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 22, 29 and 16.

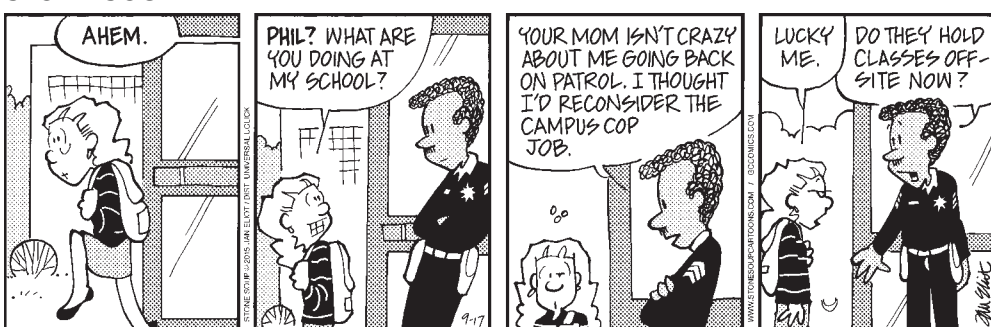
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## THATABABY



## STONE SOUP



## LOLA



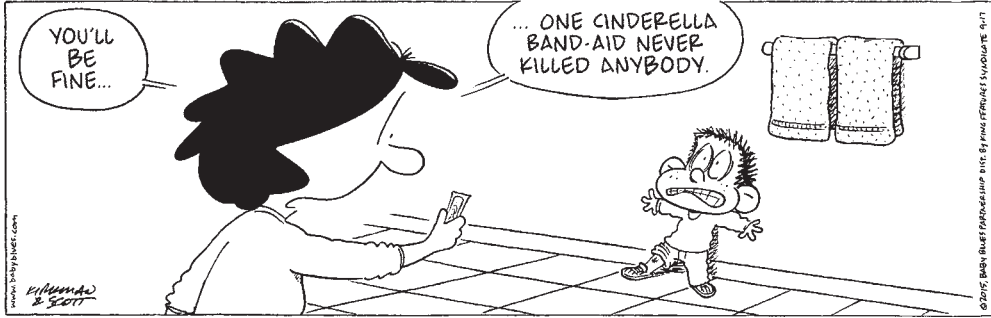
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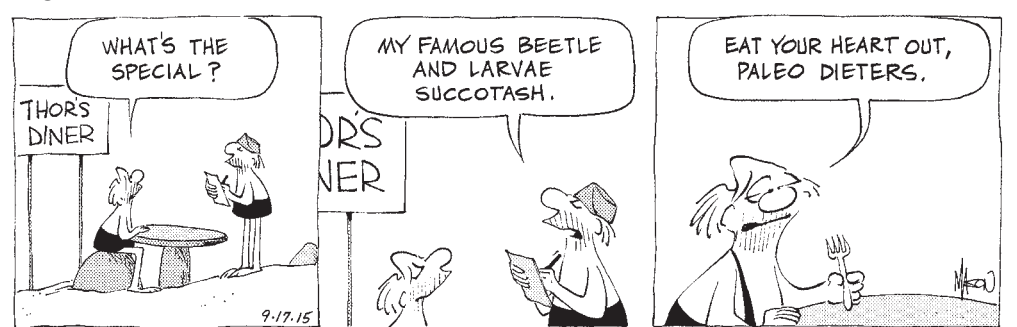
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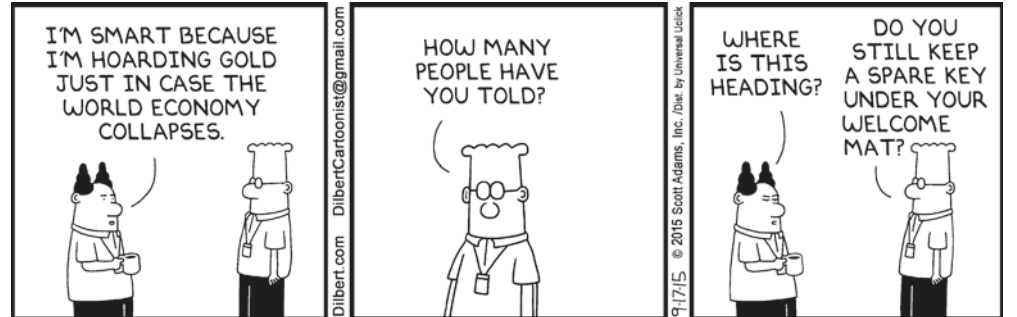
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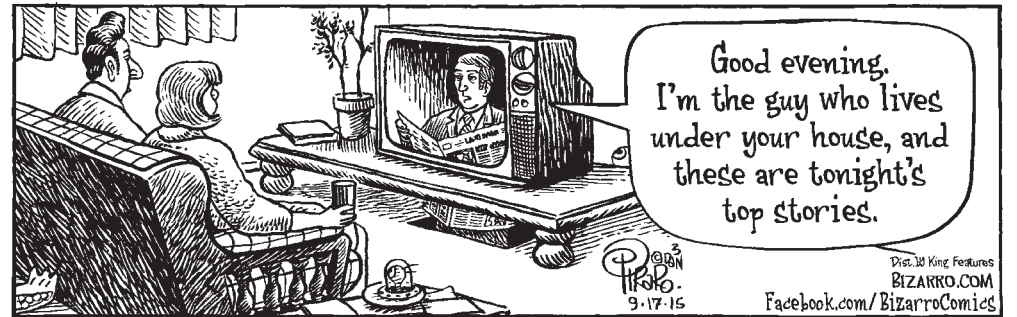
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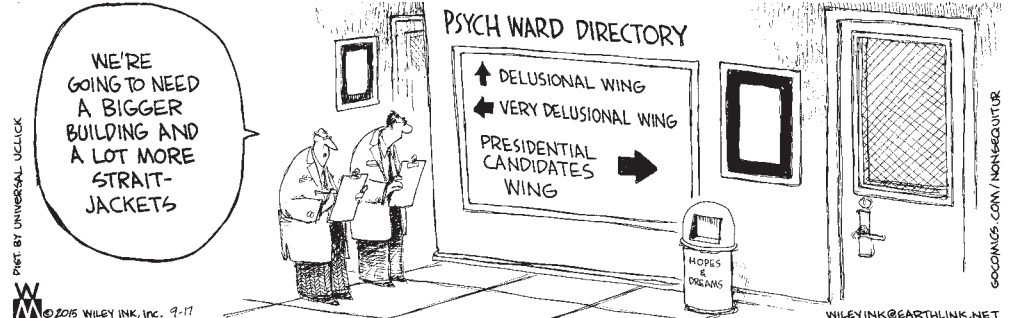
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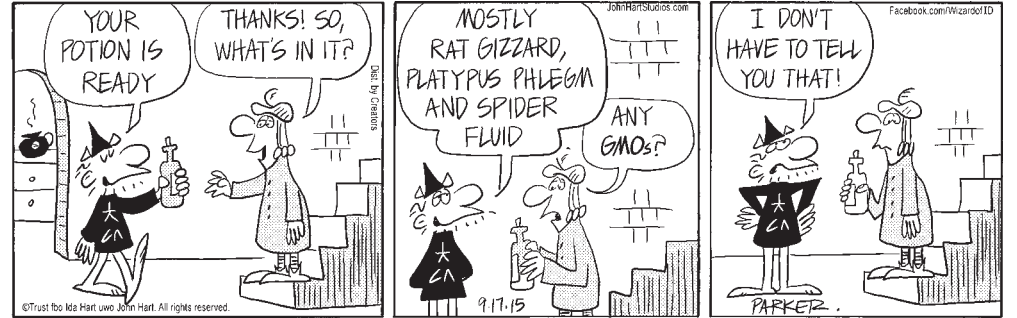
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

