

# Volatile son worries mom

**Dear Annie:** I took early retirement and moved in with my son and daughter-in-law in order to help care for my five grandkids. At the time, my daughter-in-law was attending college and my son asked me to move in. I help pay the household expenses and also do the daily work around the house.

All my son and his wife do is fight and make up repeatedly. Their constant battles make the kids nervous. It has been horrible. Sometimes, it turns violent and someone gets hurt. My son constantly bullies the kids, his wife and me. I stand up to him, but my grandchildren are too young to do the same.

My son came home drunk one evening and told me to get out of his house. He has no appreciation for how much I contribute both financially and physically to the care of his home and his children. I love my grandchildren and fear that without my presence, permanent damage will occur. I can find another place to live, but I am concerned about the grandkids.

**Dear Options:** If your son and his wife are likely to hurt the children or become drunk and abu-

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



sive, you need to call the police and Child Protective Services to investigate. You can do so anonymously. If the authorities find there is a danger to the children, then the kids will be removed from the home. If you have already established another place of residence, then it's possible the children will be placed with you or another relative who can take them in. In the meantime, offer to take the kids as often as your son is willing to let you. It will give the parents time to cool off and de-stress, and allow the grandchildren to be in a more stable environment. Please don't hesitate to put the children's welfare first. You may be their last line of defense.

**Dear Annie:** My son and daughter-in-law were married a year ago. I recently discov-

ered that they have not sent out thank-you cards to any of the guests, many of whom traveled a great distance to attend the wedding.

Is there anything that can be done at his point to make amends? — *Conundrum in Canada*

**Dear Canada:** While thank-you notes should be written as soon as possible, it is never too late to make amends. Your son and his wife should write each one by starting out, "We apologize for the tardiness of this note, but we wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your wedding gift." And then they should write something specific about each present they received. Rest assured, the recipients of these notes will be glad to get them, no matter how late.

Many parents decide to take on this responsibility themselves, because their children are not only delinquent, but also unlikely to send any thank-you notes at all. While it is not the parents' job to do this, we understand those who are mortified that their family and friends have not had their gifts acknowledged and wish to take on the burden themselves. That is entirely up to you.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're not in the mood for a lecture about listening to your heart, making empowered choices, yada, yada, and so let's get to the point. Just say no. Why vacillate and waste everyone's time, especially yours? A fast no is best.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If you compete with a partner, you'll either lose for winning, or lose for losing. Take your competitive spirit elsewhere, however, and you'll enjoy a good game.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Saying the right thing at the right time is child's play for you. Here's the real challenge: Can you say nothing in the moment that tempts you to state the juicy truth of the matter? You can! (But it takes superhuman good taste.)

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You have superpowers of recollection. Your imagination provides the booster that fuels your journey to a pleasant past moment. This journey will impact your decisions going forward.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your resistance to an idea could be a sign that the idea is one to explore further. You wouldn't have such a strong reaction if there weren't something to dispel or embrace in this.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You feel an urgent need to do more than you have done in the past. Perhaps this is because someone needs proof that you care. More likely it has to do with gathering evidence of improvement.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's nice that someone cares enough to present things to you in a positive light. However, right now you want the straight story. The one who can cut to the chase — or even better, the capture — will win your vote.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Don't concern yourself with the secret thoughts of another. You'll never really know. Also, it doesn't matter as much as you fear. Thoughts are like tumbleweeds drifting by. Another moment, and they're gone.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A problem shared should be a problem halved, not a problem doubled. Much depends on with whom you're sharing it. If you team with someone prone to drama, you'll get what you signed up for.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** No experience on the matter? No worries. Your very loosely related experiences will be close enough. The important thing is that you have the confidence to confront things head-on.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're so observant. Who needs to know what you've observed? Not everyone. Be strategic. There are things that people around you aren't quite ready for.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's a good chance the situation at hand isn't as complicated as you're making it. There are challenges out there, but this isn't one of them. Solve it fast, and a much more worthy endeavor will present itself.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 24).** You'll celebrate happy news in the next six weeks and be on the receiving end of lovely attention all through this season. You'll decide on a new and very effective way of navigating your love life. Stellar invites come in November. In January, a new goal will ring you like a bell, and you'll work until it's finished in May. Aquarius and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 45, 28, 4 and 15.

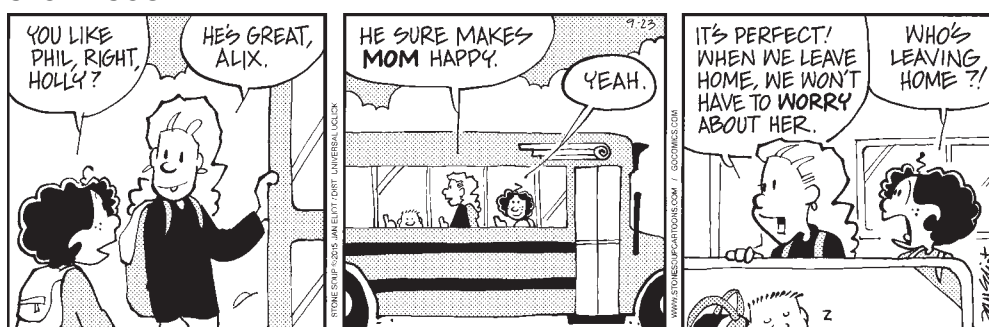
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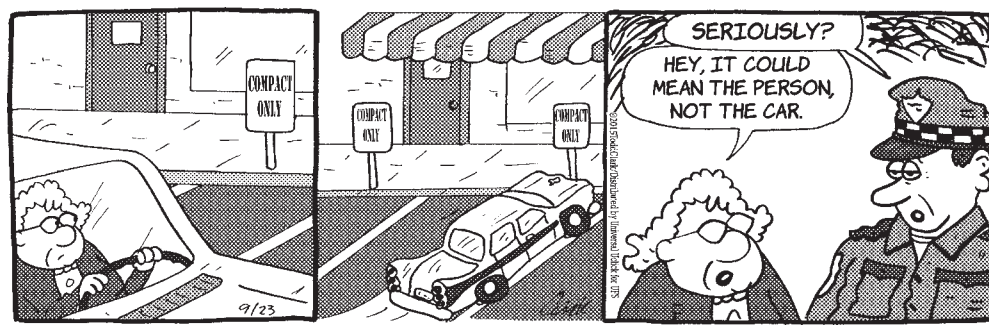
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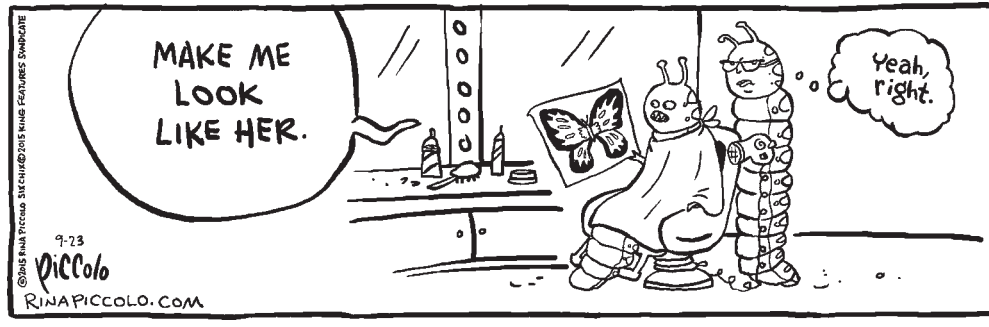
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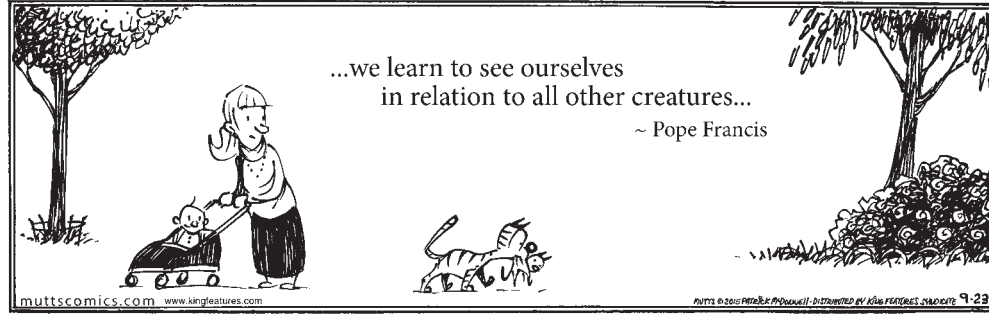
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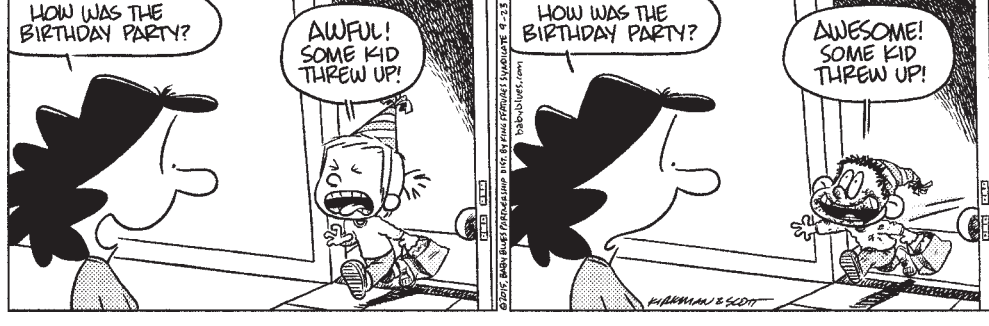
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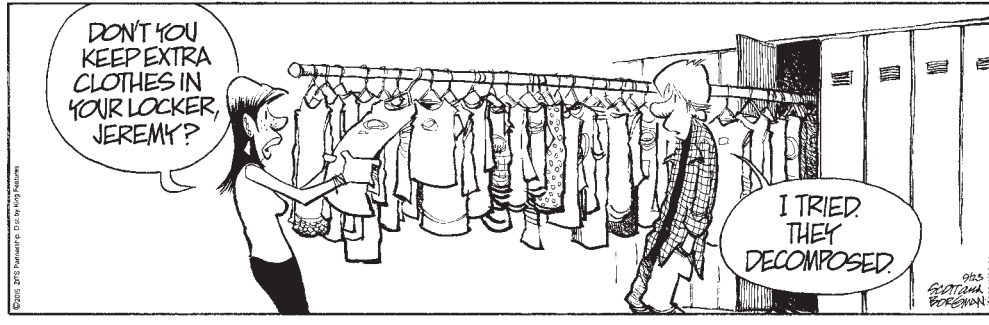
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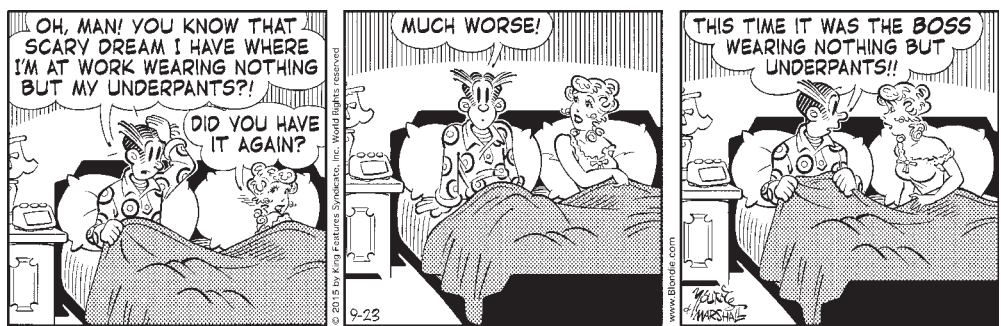
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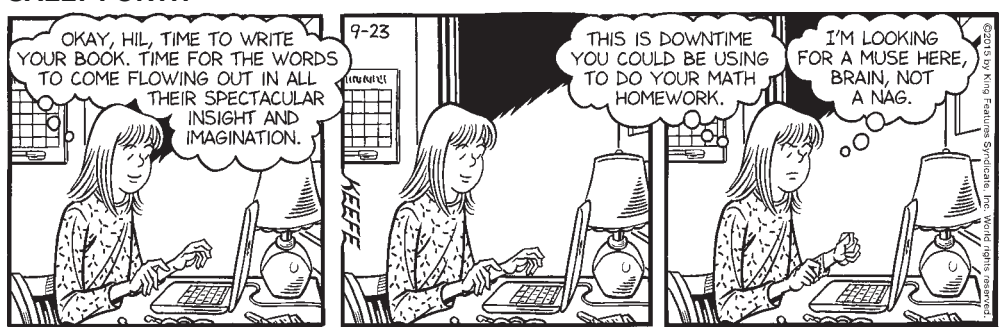
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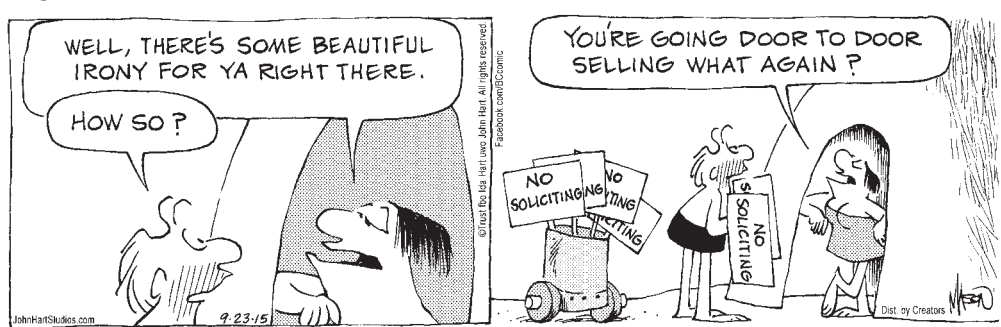
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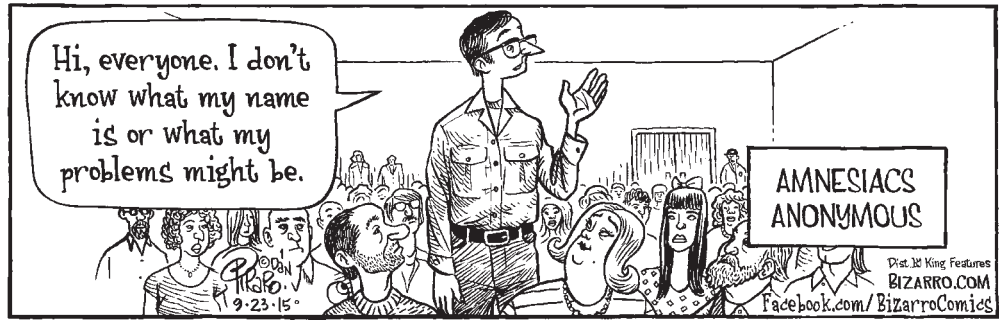
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## NON SEQUITUR



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## ROSE IS ROSE

