

Broken trust hounds man

Dear Annie: I am a 20-year-old male who currently lives with my parents. I just started my first year of college.

Both of my parents have prescriptions to Xanax. When I was 15, I took a few from my dad's bottle. My parents labeled me a thief and an addict. I knew it was wrong and haven't done it since. I thought we had moved on from that incident, but my mother called me at work and asked whether I had taken 60 of her Xanax. I had no idea what she was talking about and said I hadn't touched her pills. She insisted that I stole them and sold them, and wouldn't hear anything other than an admission of guilt.

I honestly have no idea what happened to her pills, but I feel terrible that my mother believes I stole from her. No matter how many times I proclaim my innocence, they assume I'm guilty. What else can I say? — *Guilty by Accusation*

Dear Guilty: Nothing, really. You said you didn't do it, and unless evidence surfaces that someone else took the pills (or they were misplaced), your parents will think you are the guilty party. We suggest you sincerely apologize

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



for giving them cause to mistrust you because of your past behavior. But understand that it may not convince them of your innocence. Once trust is broken, it is difficult to regain. It will take a great deal of time for your parents to see you as a responsible, trustworthy person. Consider this a goal for the long haul. It's worth it.

Dear Annie: Many years ago, you published my piece, "Hold Fast the Summer," that I wrote when my son went off to college. Now a third grandchild is going off to college. Could you print it again for all the parents who are sending kids to places of higher learning? — *Mary W. Abel*

Dear Mary Abel: With pleasure. Here it is:

"Hold Fast the Summer" by Mary W. Abel
Hold fast the summer. It is the

beauty of the day and all it contains.

The laughter and work and finally the sleep. The quiet.

Oh September, do not put your weight upon my mind.

For I know he will be going.

This son of mine who is now a man — he must go.

Time will lace my thoughts with joyous years.

The walls will echo his "Hello." His caring will be around each corner.

His tears will be tucked into our memory book.

Life calls him beyond our reach — to different walls.

New faces, shiny halls, shy smiles, many places.

Greater learning — he must go.

But wait, before he leaves, be sure he knows you love him.

Hide the lump in your throat as you hug him.

He will soon be home again — but he will be different.

The little boy will have disappeared.

How I wished I could take September and shake it, for it came too soon.

I must look to the beauty of each new day, and silently give thanks.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). So, you don't have all the money in the world — but what if you did? It's not only fun to think of fantastic ways to live larger than your budget, but it's also the start of your next creative journey.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The confidence that comes from favorable attention is fleeting. Externally based, it relies on uncontrollable circumstances. You'll earn true and unshakable confidence by doing the work you set out to do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're self-directed. The proof is in your current location. You wouldn't have gotten there had you not pushed through with extraordinary will even when you couldn't see the way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't even know the meaning of the word "downtime" right now. You may even find yourself getting irritated at those with the luxury of leisure. Hang in there. Your break is coming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some of the people you don't think of as competitors have secretly cast themselves in the role. How will you know? Well, for starters, those who aren't threatened by your gifts will encourage you to demonstrate them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Once you get behind a cause, you'll do everything in your power to raise awareness, money and enthusiasm for it. That's why you wisely do what's necessary to figure out which cause is worthy of you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is the kind of day when you want to get lost, but you can't seem to find "nowhere" on your GPS. Somewhere in the rub between the logical world and your fantasy life, you'll find beauty.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were

born with psychic X-ray vision. People need to wear lead vests around you if they don't want you to see right through them. This is an excellent day to work that talent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Strange little glitches in the beginning of a relationship should not be looked at as isolated cases, no matter how attractive the other person may be. A pattern is being established.

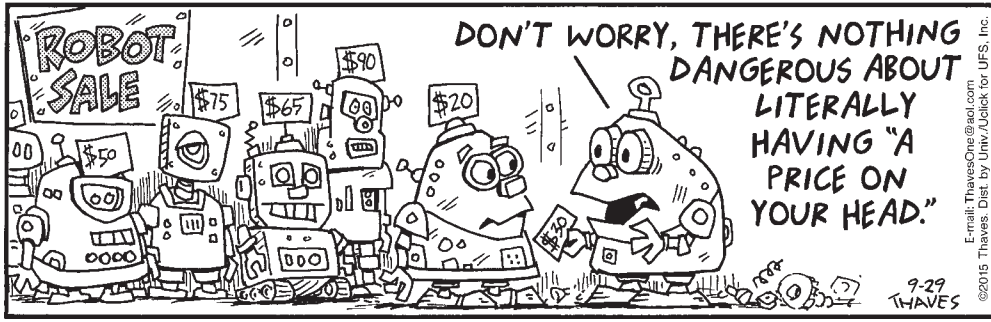
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What if you loved everyone at first sight? That's a stretch. But you at least make an effort to find something to like about people right off the bat, and that's your popularity secret today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you're still not meeting your marks, maybe it's not you. Maybe it's the goal. Maybe it's just not juicy enough to motivate, seduce and persuade you through the low points. Dream juicier.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your goal must be interesting enough to persuade and seduce you even when you've lost energy, momentum and funding. It must be able to pull you through the lows. Keep dreaming until you hit on something really juicy.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 30). The muses call to you this year. With the artistic inspiration pumping, you could take up painting, dance, design ... or have the ultimate artistic breakthrough while reinventing that glorious work in progress: you. November brings family additions. Good reviews turn into revenue sources in February. Capricorn and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 14, 29, 5 and 17.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



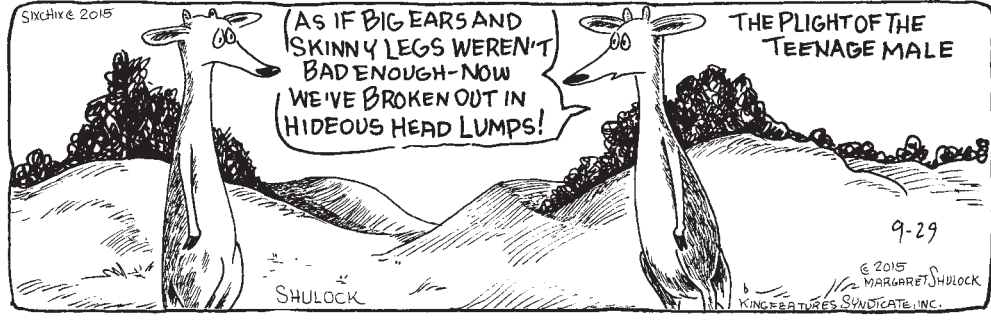
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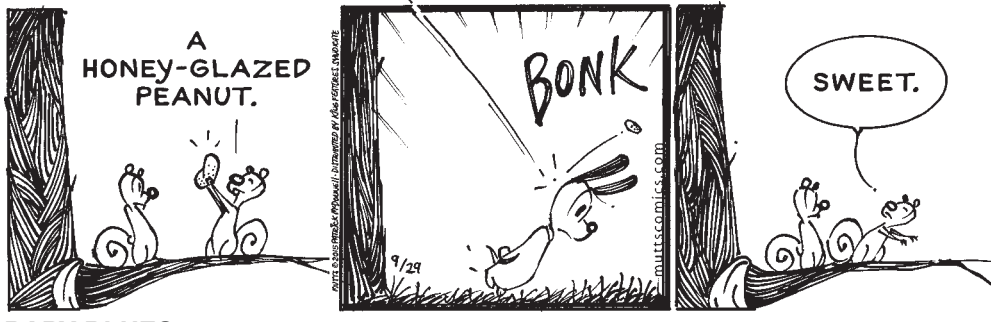
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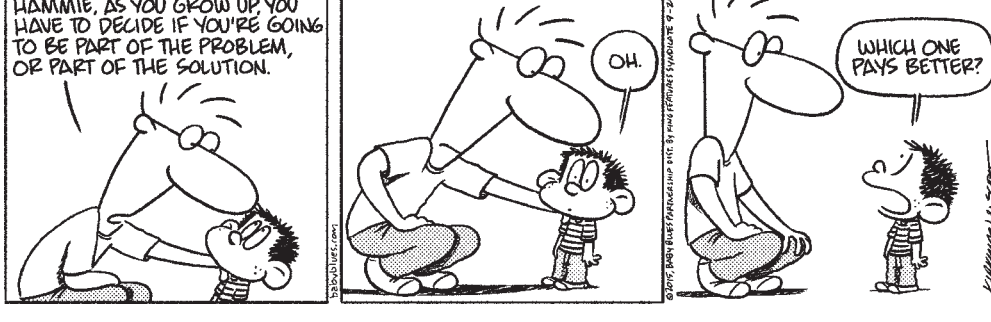
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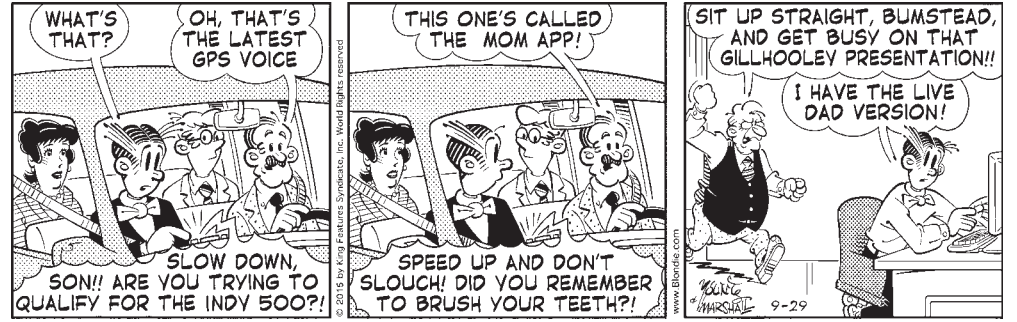
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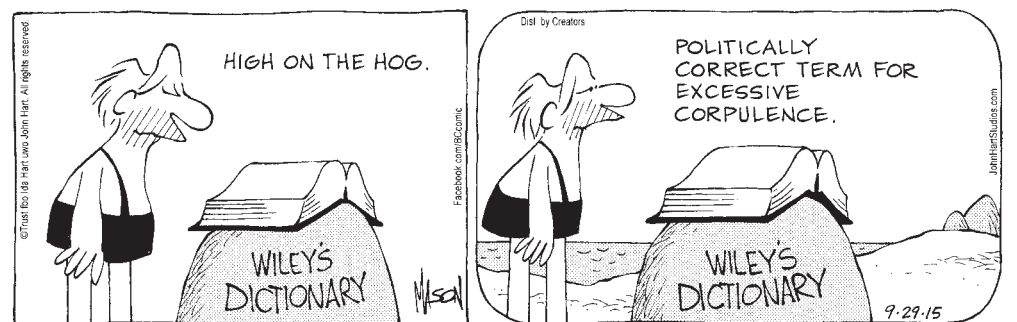
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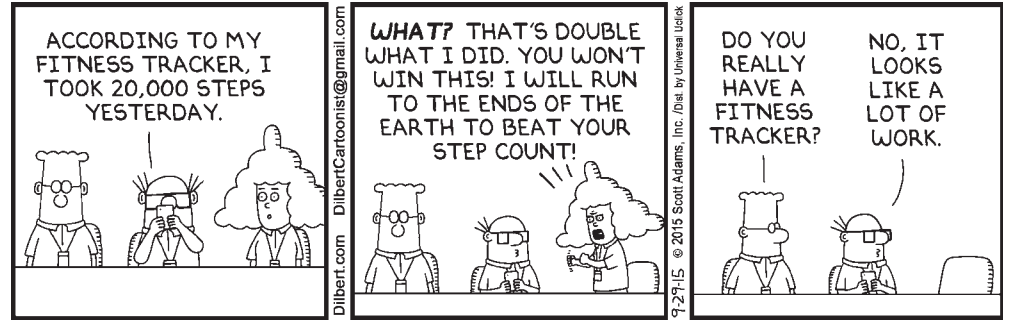
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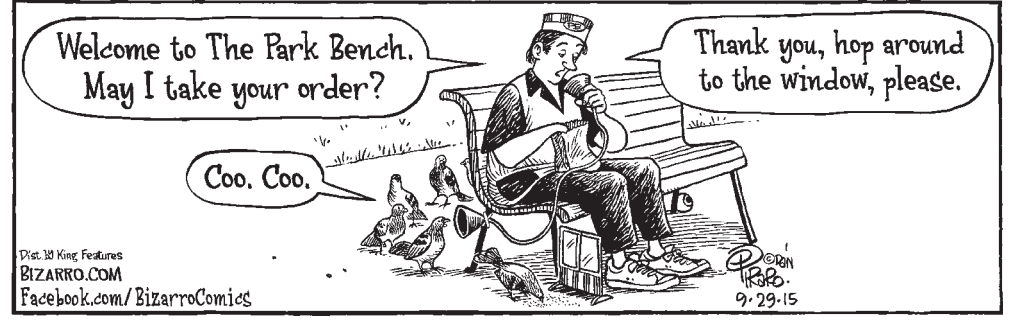
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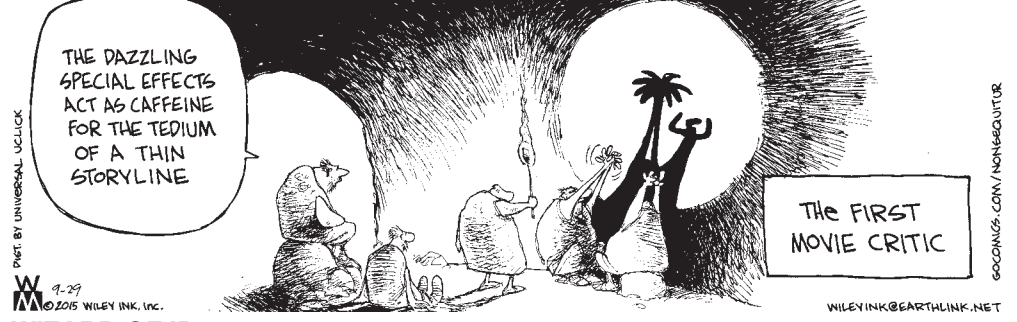
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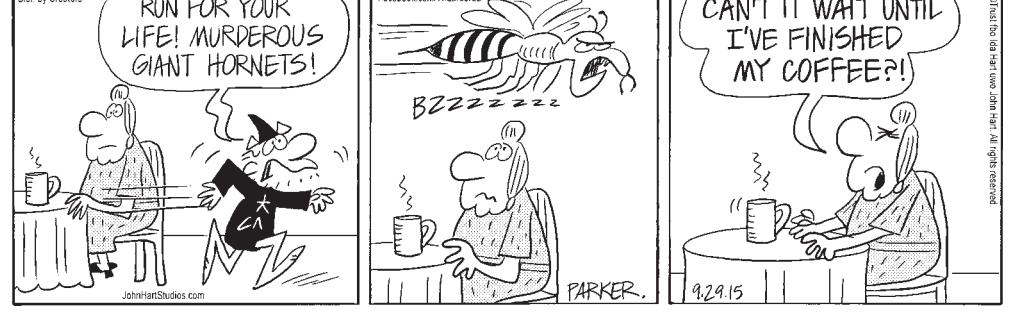
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