

# Poor planning angers child

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I are in our late 50s and have been married for 26 years. I have had the privilege of not needing to hold an outside job since I married, allowing me to be a stay-at-home mom and raise our kids, who are now grown and out of the house.

My husband and I have always been careful with our money, eating out perhaps once a month. We are easily entertained at home. His parents, who have now passed on, lived like paupers. However, upon their passing, they were able to distribute a lot of their wealth to their two sons and five grandkids. The money allowed us to pay off our mortgage and buy some stocks.

My parents, on the other hand, have blown through retirement payouts and the reverse mortgage they took out on their home. My mom has always demanded the best, whether it is fine linens or a pair of jeans. It is beneath her to shop at a discount store. I now face their failing health and am angry about their poor financial planning. Whatever extra money my husband and I have come from his parents' estate, and I agree with him that

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
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Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



this money should not be spent on my parents.

Am I a bad daughter not to help them financially? They dug their own hole. My dad won't even file the paperwork for being a veteran. Having them live with us when their money runs out is not an option. My mother has tried to make me feel guilty saying, "Well, I got a job to provide for MY mother." Her other saying is "The Lord will provide." I think the Lord will provide a state-run nursing home. What do you say? — *Not My Parents' Savior*

**Dear Not:** You do not have to use your in-laws' money to provide for your profligate parents. Nonetheless, that doesn't mean you should abandon them altogether. If Dad needs help (or encouragement) to fill out forms,

surely you can do that for him. You might also offer financial advice, helping them take steps to put away any remaining income. But you are fortunate that there are facilities that will accept and care for your parents when they are infirm and run out of money, and you can visit often.

**Dear Annie:** I have a friend who, after using her dinner knife to cut salad or other items with dressing, sauce, gravy, etc., wipes the knife with her mouth. I have seen her do this in fine restaurants and I cringe every time.

How can I tell her how crude this is without offending her? — *Anonymous, Please*

**Dear Anonymous:** Correcting another adult's manners is problematic. Being able to do so without offense depends upon your friend's sense of humor and willingness to accept criticism. You can say, "Judy, aren't you afraid you will cut your tongue doing that? Please stop, for my sake. I cringe every time for fear there will be blood." But if you don't think she will be amenable, we recommend you grit your teeth and ignore it as best you can.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You are pleasant company in a world that's been hostile to some of your friends. Can you blame them for adoring you so? You'll continue to build the good will through the weekend.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Find out what the other person needs, and you're halfway there. Help the other person get that need fulfilled, and you're golden. The reciprocity will be fun, but it's merely a bonus compared to the giving-high you'll get.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You cater to the person you're with. That's why you can be so different with one person from how you are with another. The one who is your favorite brings out your best qualities. You like who you are around this person.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's a good thing that your sense of what is possible is all out of whack. If you knew better, you wouldn't even try for that mad-lofty goal. Maybe the only targets worth shooting for are the impossible ones.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** While trying to connect with others, many focus so intently on being their personal best that they forget that the most attractive quality a person can have is the ability to make the other person feel attractive.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Routines give you a sense of control, which leads to a sense of calm. For some reason, that seems to bother the universe these days, and things will be disrupted, forcing you to find your calm in a deeper place inside yourself.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're a thought-leader whether or not you realize it and want to be. No pressure, but it means

a lot of people are going to listen to, follow and copy you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It's a day of illusions. The smoke and mirrors will divert your attention long enough for life to pull off a trick or two. And if that weren't enough, there will be real magic, too!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You can't help but think ahead, anticipate appetites and expectations, and hold your hands out to catch what might fall. You're earning someone's trust by doing what comes naturally to you.

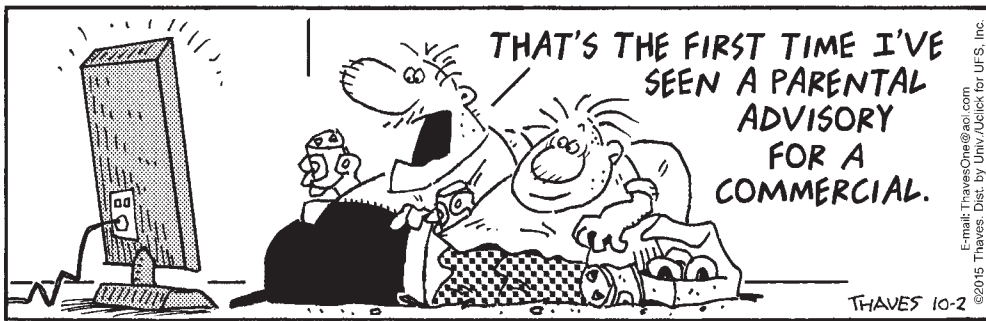
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The best part about the silliness you encounter today is that it's genuine, organic and likely to uncontrollably escalate into gales of laughter. This is what friendship bonds are made of.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** A lot has changed. The way you communicate is different, as are your hobbies, interests and social outlets. As for your ability to make other people feel valued and important, that remains the same.

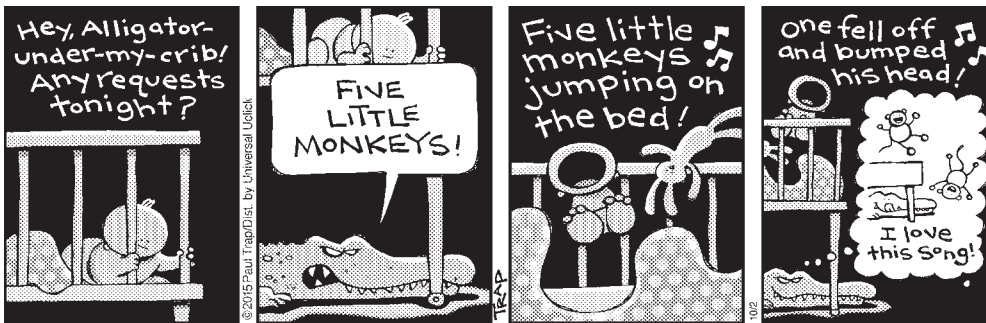
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your heart speaks a language that sometimes even you, the owner of said heart, cannot understand. All will not be revealed in time, but at least you're the type who thrives on mystery.

**SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 3).** It's a year to pursue your own pleasure — everyone around you will find enjoyment in this. The end of the year brings one game after another. You'll win gracefully and lose far less often but with just as much poise. Someone likes the way you think and pays you well for it throughout 2016. Cancer and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 43, 29, 11 and 19.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



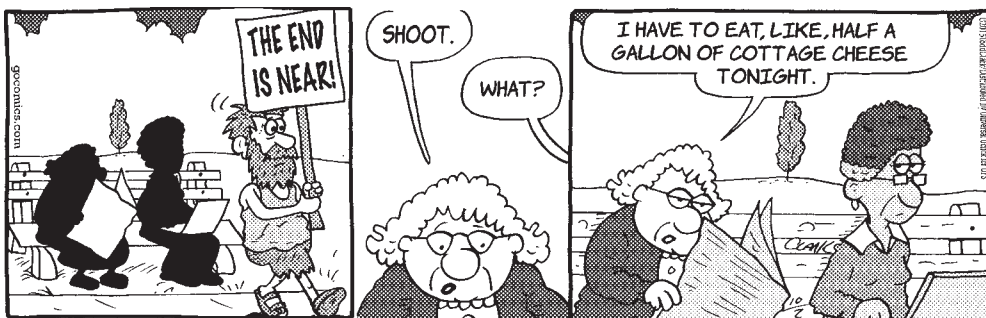
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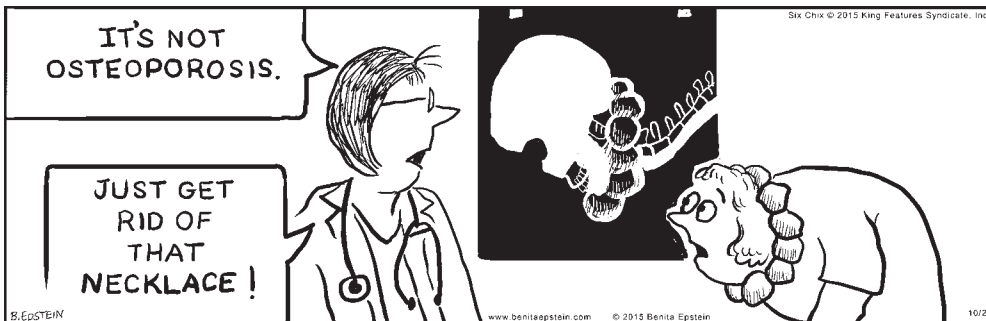
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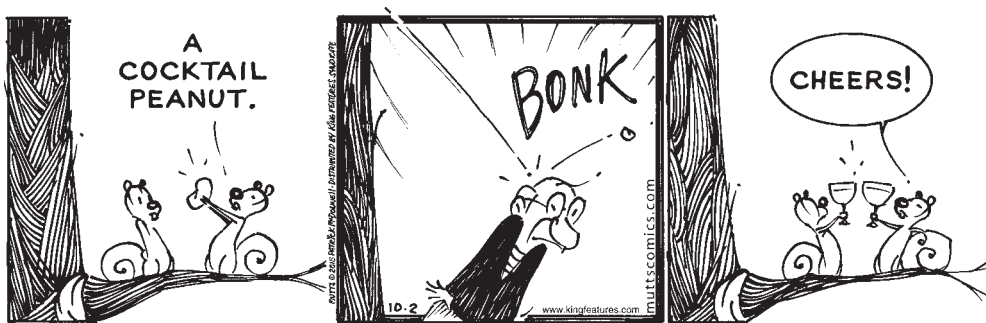
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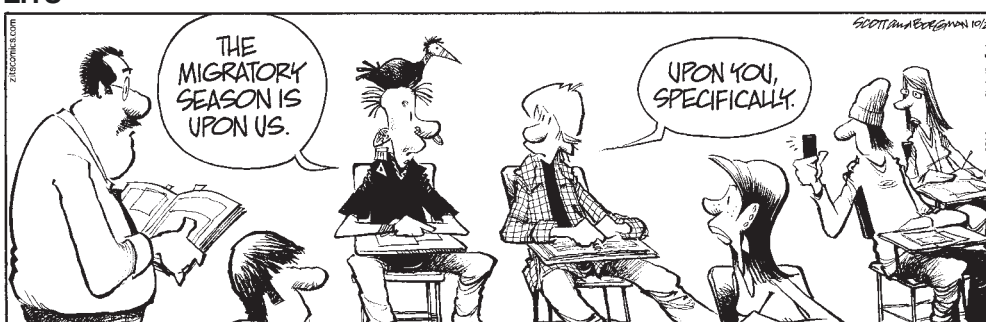
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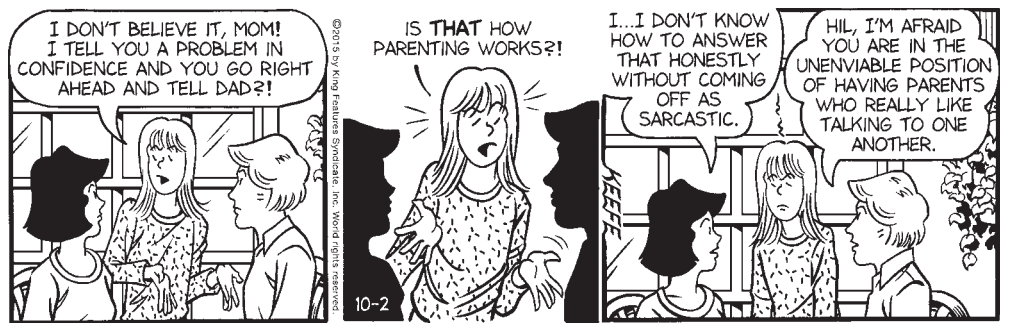
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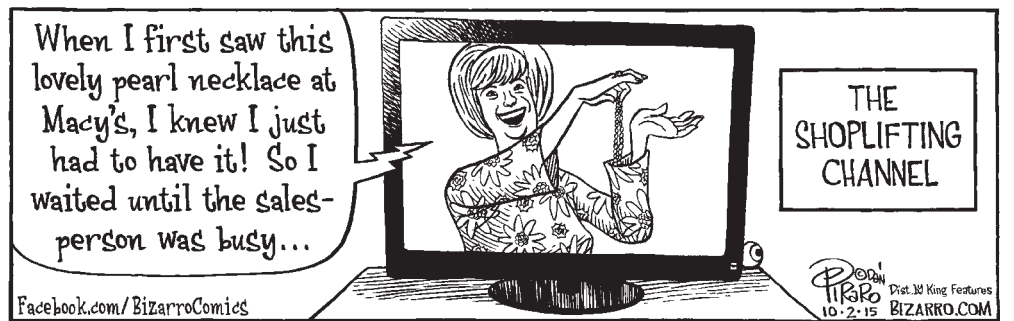
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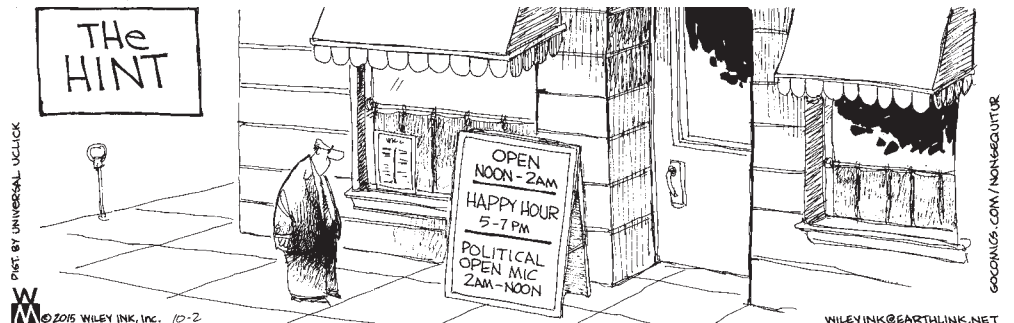
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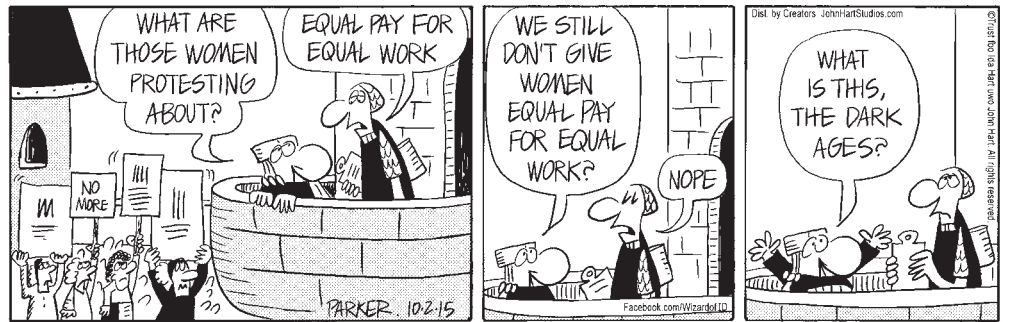
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

