

Adult son is psychotic

Dear Annie: This is written in desperation. I have seven children, and my middle son, "Randall," age 57, is in the grip of psychosis. His late father was a schizophrenic who refused treatment and regularly beat me. I lived with him for years, not understanding what I was doing wrong, until I drew up enough courage to ask a psychiatrist for advice. This doctor told me to leave him before he killed me. I did, and struggled raising my children. I was rarely home because I held multiple low-paying jobs, and the kids grew up in deprivation.

Randall began to use cocaine in the late '80s, when people thought it was cool and didn't realize how addictive it was. He got clean in his determination to be a good father to his now-adult son. He and one of his brothers embarked on an independent business venture, and over the years were moderately successful. Unfortunately, in their last venture, the investors stole money and the business went under. They are in court now.

As a result of this upheaval, Randall has begun using meth and is behaving psychotically. His brother has had to sell his home and his savings are dwindling. He

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



doesn't want to abandon Randall, who is now penniless and cannot support himself or his wife and young child.

How can we help Randall? His insurance has lapsed and no one has the funds to get him back into rehab. My only income is social security, but my late husband was a WWII veteran. Am I eligible for any widow benefits? — *Frantic Mom*

Dear Frantic: Check the website for the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (va.gov) to see whether you are eligible for survivor benefits. Then we recommend you contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (samhsa.gov) at 1-800-662-HELP for referrals to treatment centers or local state services for those without insurance. But Randall must be willing to go. There are also support groups such as Families

Anonymous (familiesanonymous.org) for those whose lives have been upended by drug-addicted loved ones. We hope Randall can get the help he needs.

Dear Annie: I am responding to "Gary" about appropriate dress for a funeral.

A few weeks ago, my sister-in-law died unexpectedly. She was an incredible person. She came from an Irish family, and there was a huge wake to celebrate her life. There was lots of food and an Irish band and a bagpiper. There was storytelling about the wonderful times we each spent with her. The celebration went on for hours. Her family discouraged wearing somber clothing.

The next day, there was a memorial service that was more traditional. I can honestly say that I do not remember what anyone wore to either. — *Carol*

Dear Carol: Thank you for reinforcing the idea that attending the service is more important than what you wear. The clothing one remembers tends to be outrageously inappropriate and calls attention to the wearer. Such outfits should be avoided, because they distract mourners and can cause distress to the family.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Are your spirits lifting for no apparent reason? Other people are thinking fondly about you, and through mysterious channels this has a way of lifting your spirits. They like you more than you might have guessed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is little more satisfying now than reaping the rewards of efforts you made so long ago that you can barely remember them now. If you're on a waiting list, get ready, because your name is nearing the top.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what your weakness is, but they don't. All they see is a person building on inherent strengths. Keep this up, and you'll be promoted inside of this year.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Maturity is your strongest asset now. The thing that made you feel afraid, squeamish, embarrassed or uncomfortable when you were younger will be the springboard for today's power move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It won't feel quite as necessary to give intensely passionate energy to your endeavors as it might have felt yesterday. What makes sense is to embrace the gentler side of life — to focus less on doing and more on being.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's fun to be a part of something, but not when the meetings and administration take up more time than the actual endeavor that's bringing you all together. Reevaluate your involvement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Chances are you're not sure what to do. Make the choice that's going to leave you with the most options later. The others may not like that you're hedging your bets, but ultimately it

will work to your advantage.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you invest yourself in something, you are giving more than money could ever buy. You are seeding your investment with a life force that will extend beyond you in ways you can't anticipate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The thing you wish you were doing is not the thing required of you. It's the norm for most people, but if you really want those long stretches of hours to devote to what you love, you'll find a way to make it happen.

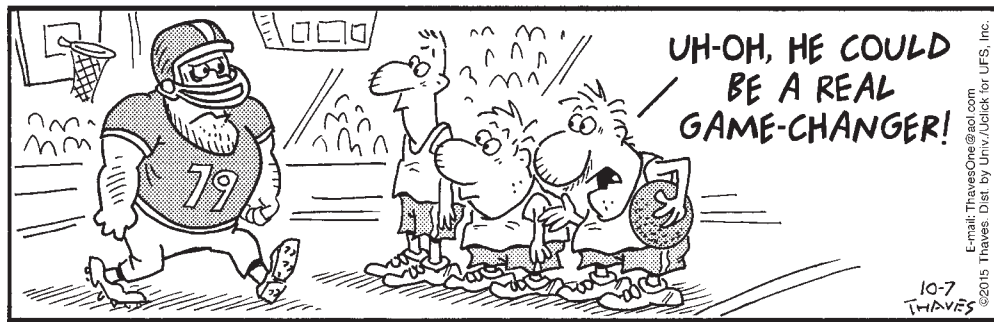
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It might not technically be your problem, but if you can easily solve it, you'll generously do so. As for the more complicated problems of others, you're better off not to get involved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Imagine that everyone is cheering for you. It's not exactly true, but you do have enough fans to push on to greater heights if you'll only connect with them and let them encourage you.

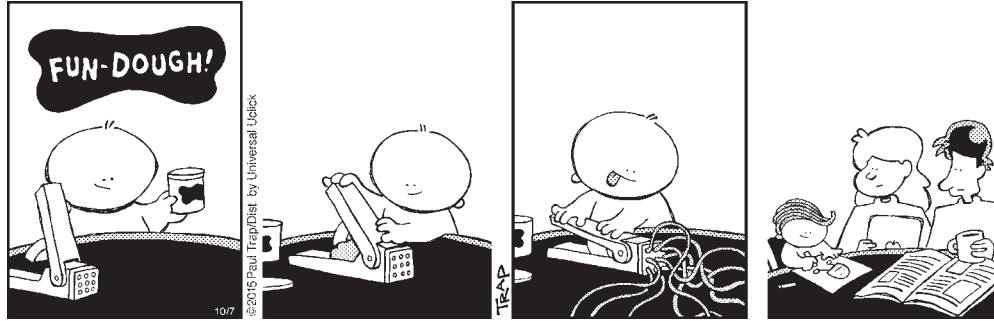
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Most people aren't mind readers, but some people are. You'd be surprised what a certain very perceptive person can sense about you without you saying a word.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 8). On the day you were born, the sunshine streamed into your soul. This year you radiate that same brightness and warmth into the souls of others. The next three weeks show you promoting what you love and making a difference. Your glass-half-full attitude will get you hired or appointed in November. Sagittarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 21, 24, 39 and 11.

FRANK AND ERNEST



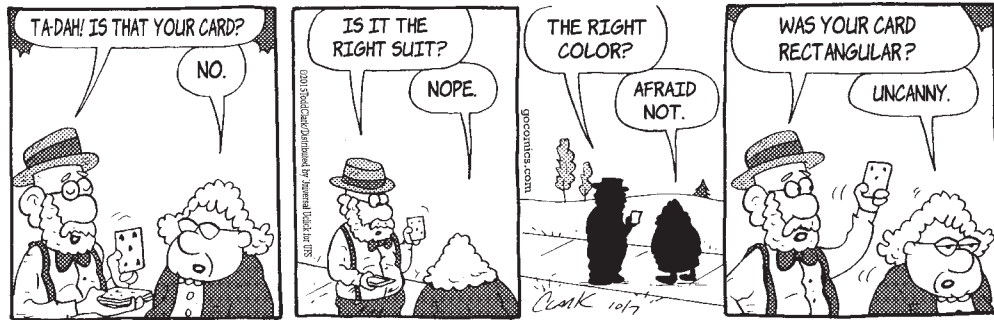
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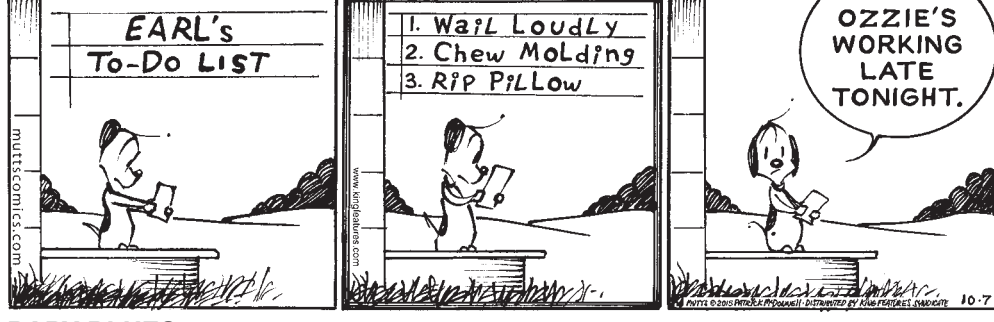
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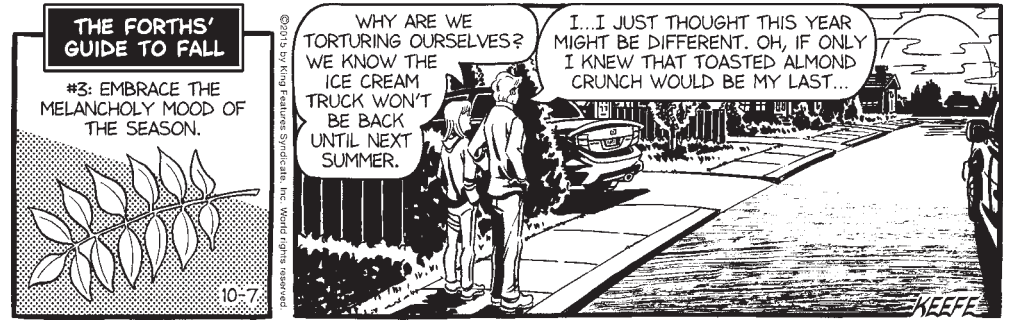
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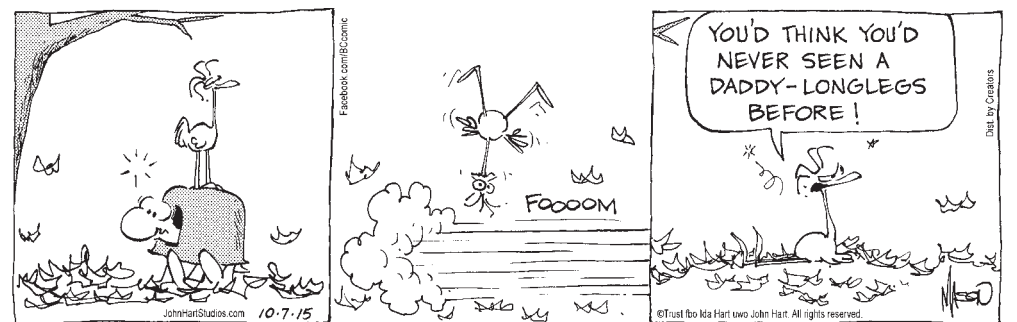
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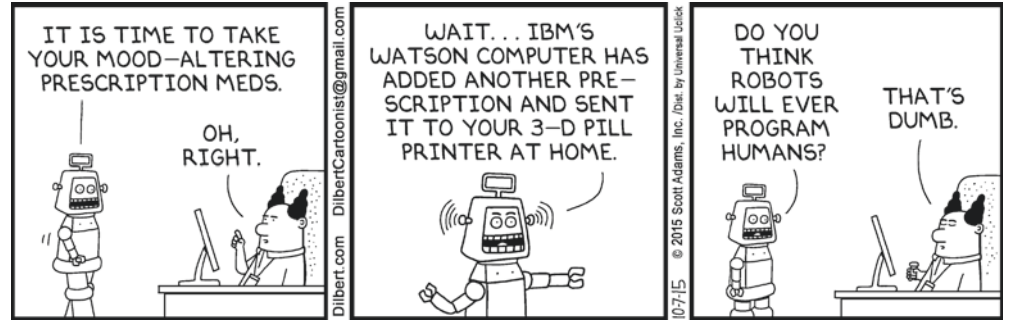
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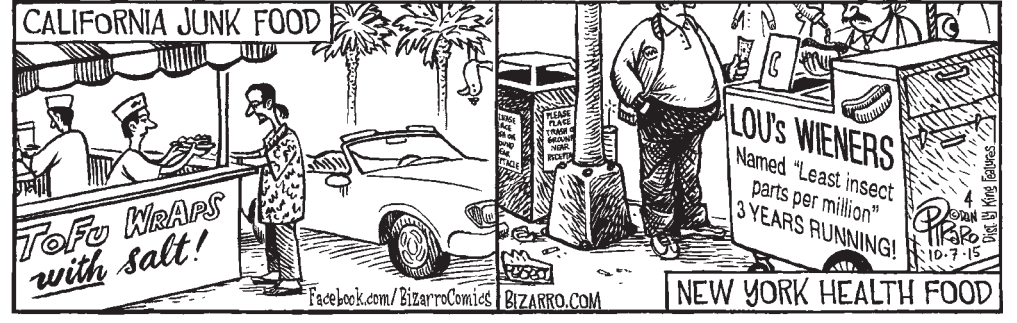
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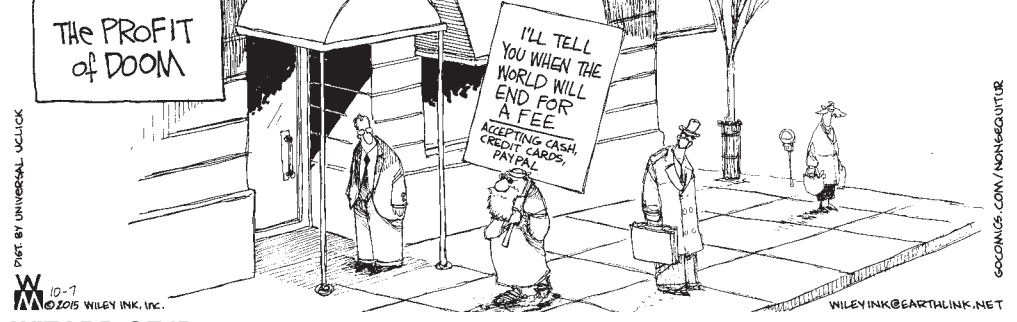
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

