

Not too old for another dog

Dear Annie: My wife and I are in our mid-70s and have no children. However, we have had pets, mostly cats, for all of our 50 years together.

About 13 years ago, we bought an 8-week-old female Boston terrier puppy. A few months later a friend called us about a female Boston terrier that he could not keep and offered it to us. We took it on a trial basis, and since it got along well with our dog (and our two cats), we ended up keeping it.

We loved them both like they were our children. They rarely barked, got along great with adult and child visitors and loved being in the car. They were the best pets we ever had. We loved them. Both dogs were under the regular care of a vet. About a month ago, Spunky died in her sleep. It was devastating to lose her. Then, two weeks later, Petunia died. We are truly heartbroken.

I want to get another puppy or young dog as soon as possible. However, the problem is my wife. She misses these dogs as much as I do, but feels we are too old to get another dog. What do you think we should do? — *Grieving for Our Pets*

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



Dear Grieving: Our condolences on the loss of your beloved animals. Multiple studies have shown that seniors greatly benefit from having pets to love and care for. But do keep in mind that puppies are generally more work than older dogs. Your wife may not feel up to the task. Please discuss it with her and consider the possibility of adopting an older dog. You might also take into account the likelihood of your someday moving into a senior facility that does not allow animals. Some seniors handle this by having a friend or relative agree to take the animals when they can no longer care for them.

Dear Annie: Last month, a dear friend died. He lived in another state, but he was buried here. His family had once been a large part of our community, but none of

them has lived in our town for 30 years.

His widow spent a great deal of money on funeral arrangements and meals for the crowd that she expected to attend. I told her that only a few people would remember her husband, but she didn't listen. In fact, only a handful showed up for the service, including the men pressed into service as pallbearers and the women who helped serve the meal afterward. The widow could not believe that cousins, nieces and nephews from out of state did not pay their last respects to her husband. I reminded her that they, too, were in their 80s and would find it difficult to travel.

I feel terribly guilty that I couldn't do more to curb the widow's expectations of a grand send-off for her husband and prevent her heartbreak. Maybe this letter will remind others to listen to the people who reside in their former hometowns before they make plans. Then I will have done something to avert such a disaster in the future. — *An Avid Reader*

Dear Reader: There is no reason for you to feel guilty. You did your best to dissuade this woman, but she was in denial. We hope your warning helps others.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to know how things work, but not quite as much as you want to know how people work. You'll look for subtle indicators, seek understanding, search for motives and learn quite a lot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Many people like you and want to show you how much. If you are embarrassed by constant, dotting attention, then you should keep 10 paces away from the one you suspect has a crush on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). While looking for fun, don't expect to find it in leisure. All the excitement is bound up inside a knotty problem. The best part will be working things out with the others who are trying to solve this.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though it would seem only fair that the one who does the most work is also the one most rewarded when the work is done, unfortunately, it doesn't always happen that way. You'll have to make it happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This day will spike with excitement, and then — whoosh — fall into lulls of long, flat time. It's a roller coaster you'll find enjoyable once you resign yourself to going along for the ride.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When they don't act right (and they won't in some of today's instances), try to think of the bad manners as a sign of lacking knowledge and training, not as a personal deficit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As many people try to get your attention at once, your powers of focus will be challenged. Though it's nice to be needed and popular, you could also feel harried by all the commotion. Take a breather when you need it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What you most want to do might be something you know is wrong. Just know you're not alone. Being good isn't easy. The average person struggles to do the right thing on a daily basis.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You might not agree with or approve of another person's choices, but your sophistication of mind and your worldly style hinge on the one crucial attitude that peace depends on: tolerance.

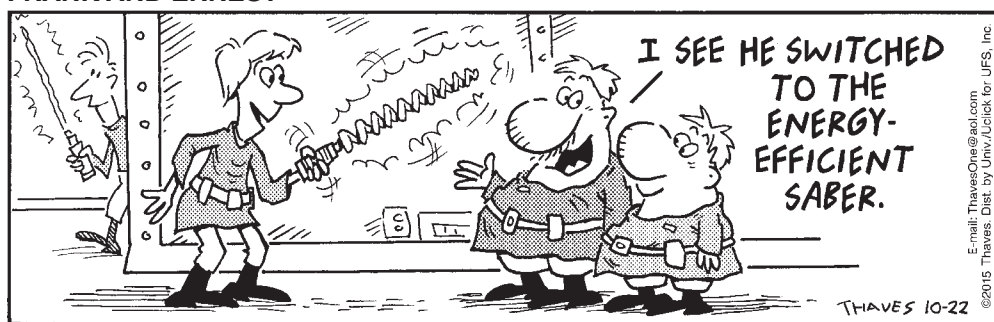
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the same way that bad art lacks an artistic point of view, bad dates lack a romantic point of view. You'll have the most fun with people who know what they like, what they are looking for and why.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's easier for you to meet another person's needs when you know what they are. Ask. If what you learn isn't what you wanted to hear, chances are you'll be willing to adjust your thinking in the name of harmony.

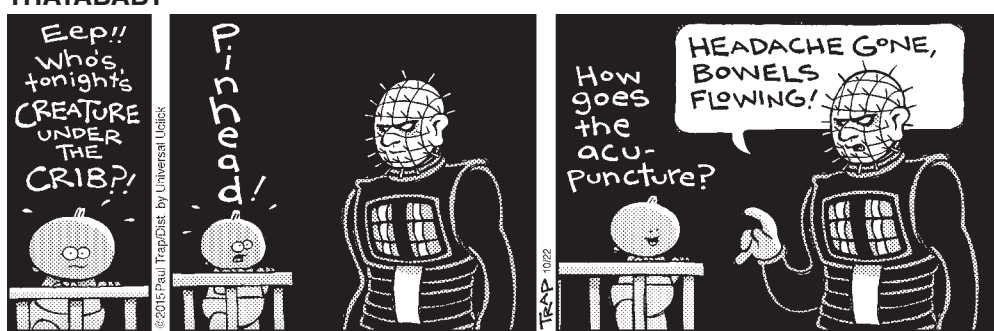
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). So much will go right when you avoid two things: worrying about the future, and worrying about now. Without the anxious energy, you'll enjoy seizing your opportunities.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 23). Dreaming is your forte this year. You will continue to see things as they ought to be, and your idealistic views pave the way for a beautiful future. November brings a big, lucky commitment. Come up with a business plan in the next 10 weeks. A winning performance at the start of 2016 will help you move up at work. Leo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 2, 39, 48 and 16.

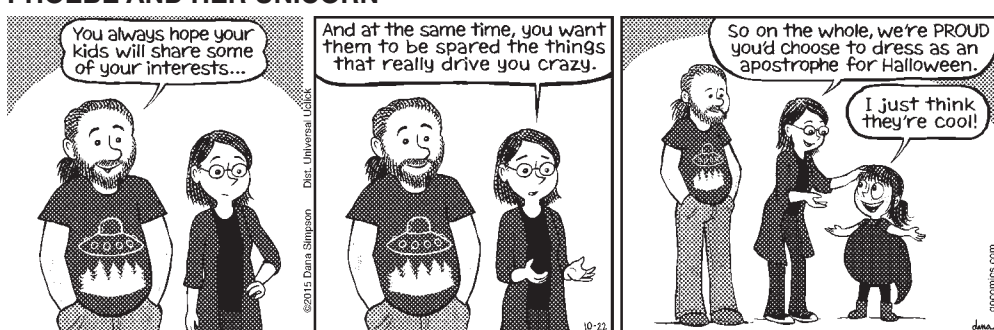
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



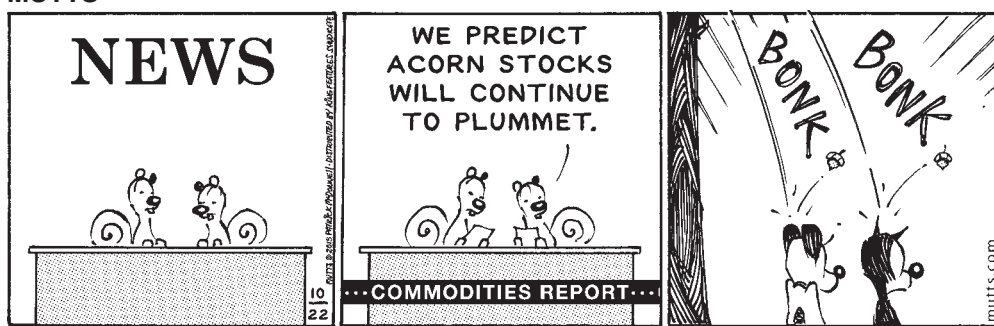
LOLA



SIX CHIX



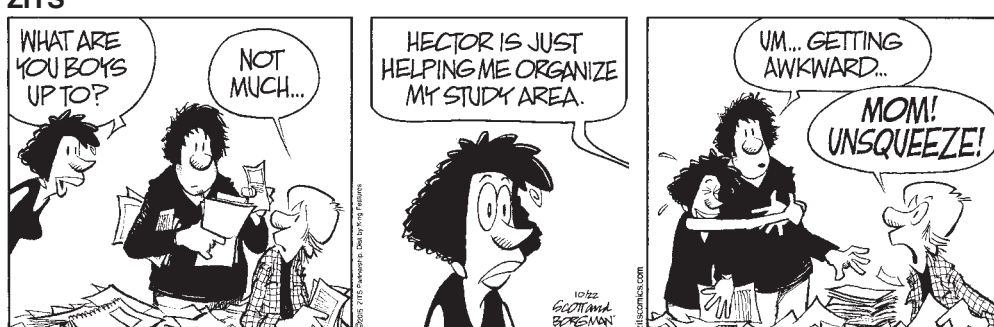
MUTTS



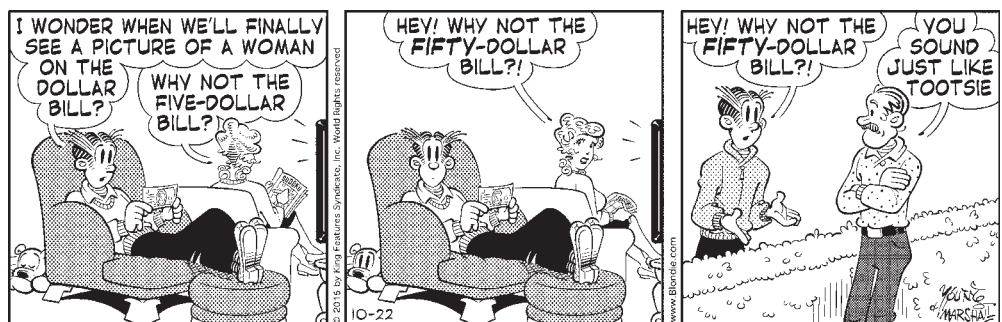
BABY BLUES



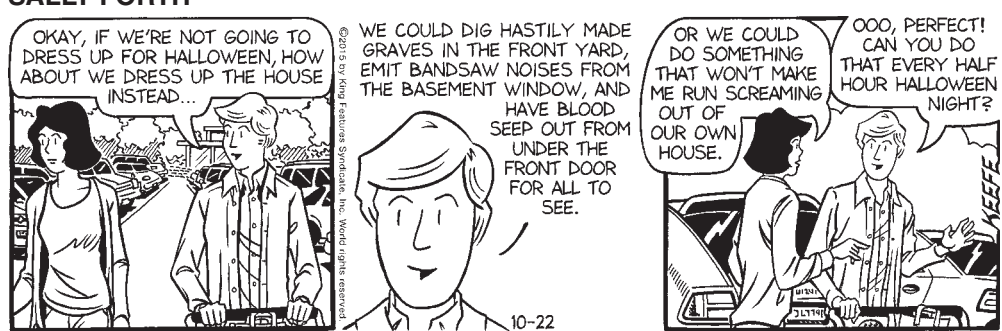
ZITS



BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



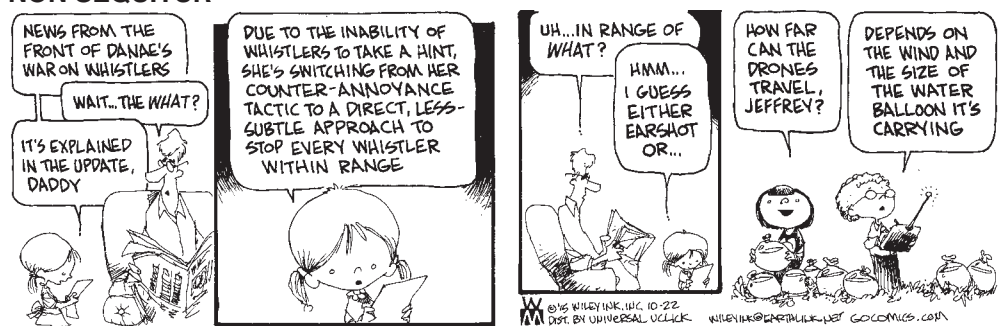
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

