

# Sons wants to share a secret

**Dear Annie:** My father has a bunch of serious medical problems. We've never been close. Dad was a heavy drinker and always yelled at me. He was extremely rude, critical, sarcastic and angry all the time, for no reason. Once, he threw me out of a slow-moving car. I've attempted suicide three times, and Dad refused to visit me in the hospital. I'm still angry about this.

I suspect he could pass away soon, and I would like to have some meaningful dialogues before that happens. I also have a terrible secret I'd like to tell him before he dies.

Since his health problems started, Dad has changed for the better, but we still rarely talk to each other. How do I begin to tell him my secret? — *Scared Son in Florida*

**Dear Scared Son:** Since you and Dad have such a hard time communicating, it might help to bring in a third party to facilitate the initial conversation — perhaps an understanding relative, mutual friend or clergyman. You can always start by telling him you care about him and worry about his health. However, we have to wonder why you are so desperate to tell him a "terrible secret." It doesn't sound as if you seek his counsel on the matter,

## Annie's Mailbox

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only that you are trying to unburden yourself at his expense. Examine your motives. If telling Dad will bring him some peace of mind and make your relationship better, go ahead. Otherwise, please discuss your secret with someone who can be of assistance or support.

**Dear Annie:** I am a 17-year-old junior in high school and get invited to various parties. One girl, "Sarah," likes to show R-rated movies.

Annie, I am extremely uncomfortable with the content of these movies, but Sarah says she's doing me a favor by making me watch them. The synopses of some of these films make me physically ill. I now avoid Sarah's parties (and sometimes Sarah) so I won't be pressured. I refuse to lower my standards, but I am tired of Sarah jumping down my throat about it.

How do I get her to respect my choices? — *Need Suggestions*

**Dear Need:** Every crowd has one person who enjoys tormenting those who are easily flustered. Just because you are old enough to watch R-rated films doesn't mean you have to. Instead of becoming upset with Sarah's shenanigans, try being completely bored. Sigh and say, "Thanks for your interest in my education." Smile. Walk away. She'll tire of it eventually.

**Dear Annie:** I read "L.K.'s" response to "Baby Mama," who wants to get pregnant. L.K. said having a baby at age 19 limits any further education.

I was 19 when I became pregnant with my first child. However, I went on to finish college and now have a BA in education and a teaching career. I agree that it is irresponsible to want a baby just because her friends have one. And it's true that finishing school was a struggle. However, if she works hard, she can still have a good education and a career. — *Managed It*

**Dear Managed:** Those who truly want an education can achieve that goal. But we worry that young women like "Baby Mama" don't see any further into their future than nine months.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Things run their course. Be fine with the ending, and embrace the new beginning. This will involve accepting your own definition of "success" instead of some generic definition imposed by people who don't know you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'll like operating in a group. It reminds you that you're powerful but not all-powerful. Therefore, when it goes right, there are others to credit. When it goes wrong, the fault should be shared.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Until you come up against an equal and opposite force, you won't know your own strength. That's why you welcome competition and adversity, too, for that matter. You'll get a little of each today.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's not a time for counseling yourself, as you're unlikely to listen. Talk to a mentor or a potential mentor. You need quality leadership from someone on the outside.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You might be astounded at how your train of thought can jump the track. You have every right to change your mind. One minute you might want to give someone the key to your heart; the next, you might want to change the lock.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Feeling guilty isn't necessarily a bad thing. It proves you have a strong moral compass. But there's a lot you blame yourself for that simply isn't and never was your fault. Can you let it go now?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Once upon a time, you wanted something badly and didn't get it. An updated version of this want still remains. You're going about it much differently these days. The wish is only hours from be-

ing fulfilled.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Someone believes in you. Knowing that this person is expecting big things, you will deliver even more than you thought you could. This is done by building on each gain.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your loved ones dominate your schedule in delightful and not so delightful ways. Stay aware. You need time to yourself, and you'll only get it by laying down some boundaries.

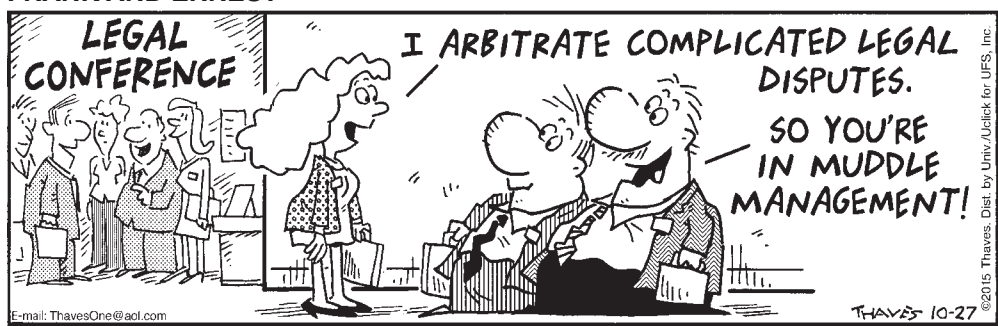
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The myth needs dispelling if the truth is to come out. Doubt, question, poke around. Anyone who doesn't want you to do this has something to hide.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Many of the thoughts that cross your mind did not originate there. Your cosmic gift of the day is an improved ability to monitor your thoughts, as well as to develop a train of thought you'll enjoy traveling inside.

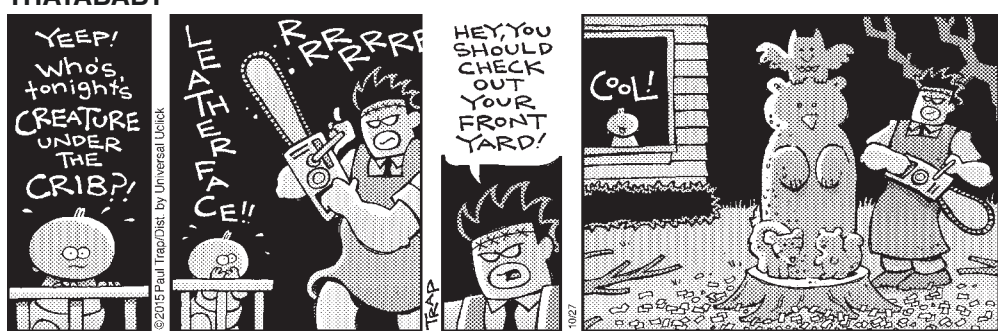
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Life is moving so fast for you these days that it's difficult for you to keep up with all of your relationships. It helps when you can check in quickly and without a lot of guilt! You appreciate your lighter friendships today.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 28).** When it comes to business, you're no-nonsense with killer instincts. However, it's the kindness and compassion you extend that will start a cycle of good karma that resonates on and on in ever-widening ripples. January opens a colorful social arena. You'll get creative in solving family problems in February. Aries and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 19, 27 and 1.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



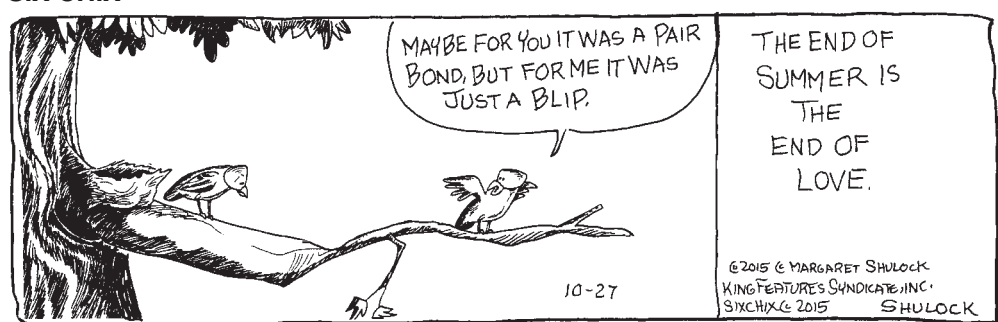
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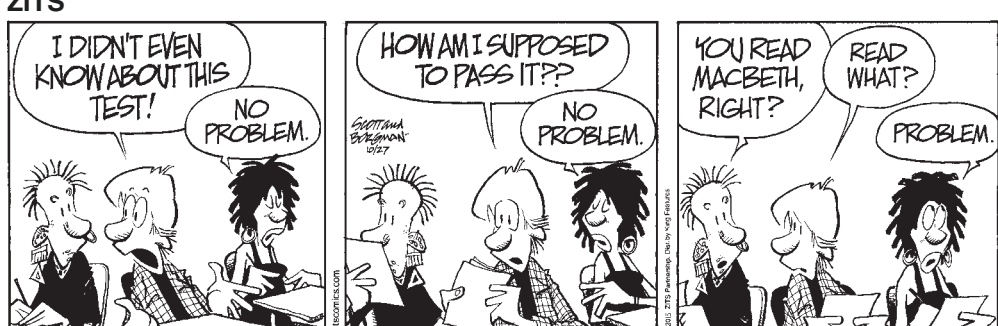
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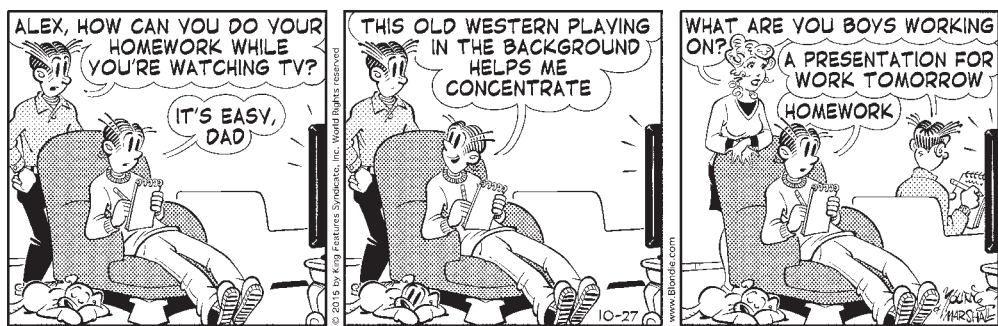
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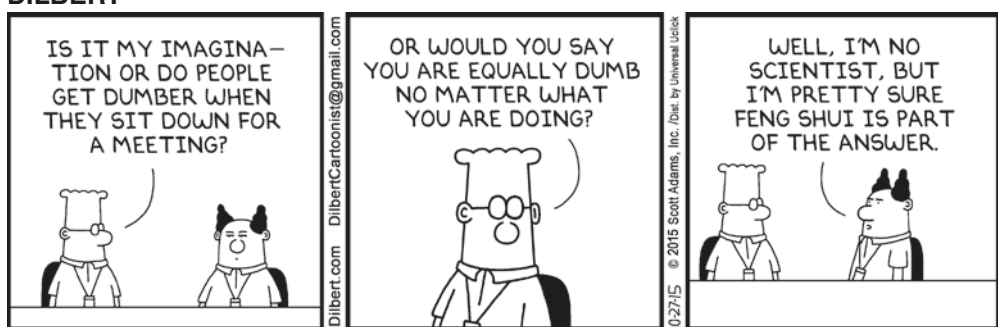
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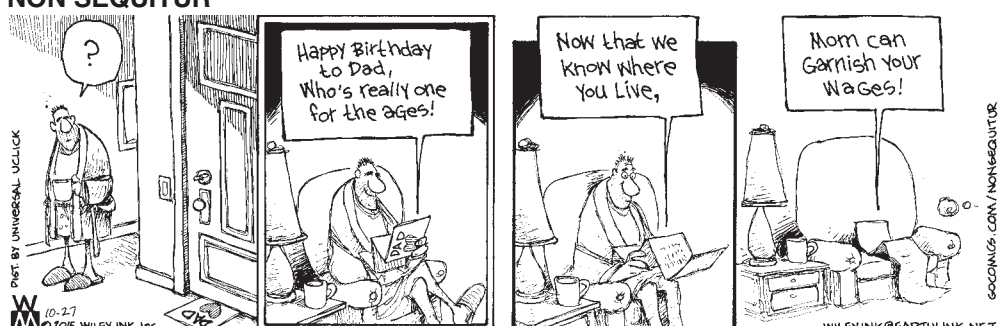
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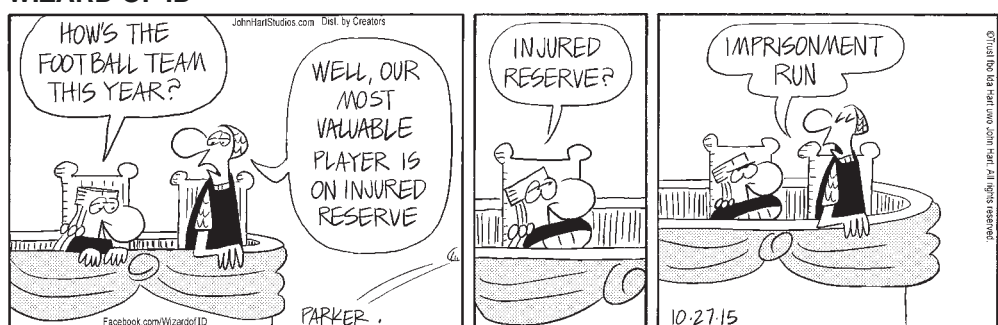
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

