

Mistake could cost her job

Dear Annie: I am a good person. I always try to do the right thing. But I did something stupid, and it could cost me my job and the respect I have earned.

For 10 years, I have been the director of a preschool. Every member of the staff has to take 18 hours of learning in-service. One of my staff members was absent during one of the in-service exams, so I took the test for her and signed her name.

I could get fired and probably should be. I am sick about it. I knew it was a mistake as soon as I mailed it in. Please tell me what to do. Should I tell my boss upfront and resign? Or do I live with the stress and pray I don't get caught? I will never do it again, but I doubt anyone will care about that. — *This Is Not Me*

Dear Not You: We don't think you will be able to live with the stress. It's already eating you up inside, and you will forever anticipate the truth coming out. Did the absentee woman ask you to take the test for her? If so, she could lose her job, as well. You made a terrible mistake and will have to face

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



the consequences, but there is a possibility that if you are forthcoming and sincerely sorry, you will be given another chance. You might also wish to talk this over with your clergy person or counselor and ask for guidance.

Dear Annie: Can you settle a dispute between my husband and me?

"Lenny" is retired and does the majority of the housework and taking care of our cats. On weekends, I like to get up early while Lenny sleeps in. One cat prefers to be fed at the crack of dawn, but the other two sleep late and aren't hungry. I usually feed the one cat but not the others. I also pick up the caked-on dirty cat dishes and put them in the kitchen sink to soak. I always intend to wash them, but often get busy doing

other things. When Lenny gets up and goes into the kitchen, he sees the dirty bowls in the sink and has a cow.

I think he should be glad I'm getting a head start on the cleaning, but he thinks I don't appreciate him because I leave the bowls in the sink for him to wash. That is not the case. I was taught to soak dirty dishes because it helps in the washing. Who is right? — *Dirty Debbie*

Dear Debbie: Soaking dishes is always a good way to remove crusted-on food, but your husband interprets it to mean you want HIM to wash them. And since he inevitably ends up doing so, we can't argue with his logic. This could easily be resolved if you soaked the cat bowls before going to bed and washed them when you got up in the morning. Or, when your husband sees them, he simply tells you that the dishes have soaked long enough and then YOU jump right in and take care of it. This is a minor dispute, and we're certain you can find a way to make it less annoying. Too bad you can't teach the cats to clean their own dishes.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may notice that people tell you much more than they would reveal to others. They'll let loose of hidden truths, memories lodged deep in the heart, long-forgotten stories. It's like they've been waiting for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know how unique and special you are and don't need anyone to point this out. Today it will be easier for you to see the commonalities you share with others than it will be for you to see the differences.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). First impressions last, and right now it's better if people receive you with gentle warmth. That's why it's better to steer clear of controversial subject matter and stick to mildly upbeat topics.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your brain sometimes tricks you into thinking WAY more than is necessary for the task at hand. This causes interference. Physical exertion will help calm down the overactive parts of your mind, leading to improved performance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness, when shared, is doubled. You'll be the recipient of a similarly auspicious sort of cosmic math. Set your own logic aside to make room for a little magic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loneliness isn't a function of who is around; it's a function of how connected you feel to them. With this in mind, reach out. Make more bridges! There are so many gaps.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once your mind becomes convinced of something, it can be very difficult to change it. That doesn't make the thing you are convinced of

any more correct. It's good that you're slow to come to a conclusion today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You already know how necessary your role is, and you have tangible evidence of how effectively you play it. While you don't need an award to validate your work, it sure will feel nice when you get one!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your current endeavor is of utmost importance. Your vision is the single driving force of this. While a vision is not all that you'll need, it has real power to bring together the other elements.

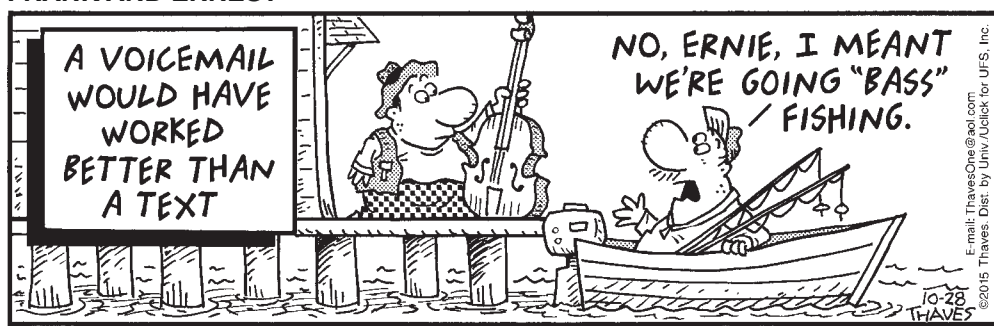
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The evils of the world don't need any more attention. Distract yourself from the negativity that you can't do anything about. Create your own bubble of safety.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Exciting and spontaneous people attract you — probably because you also have these qualities, though perhaps you have lost track of them lately. You'll love the fresh influence.

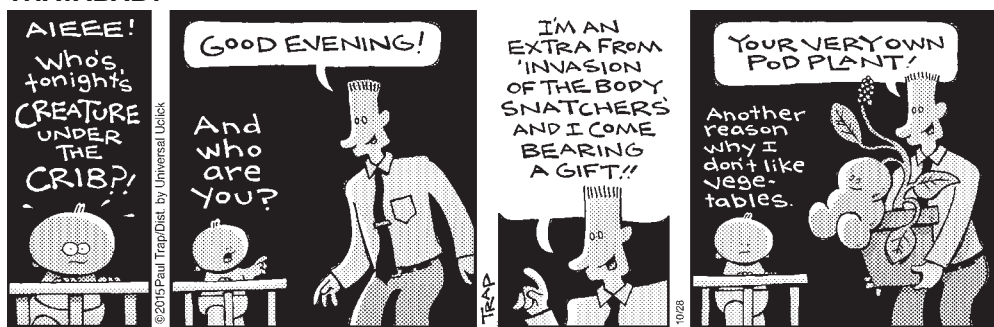
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The attitude of optimism you learned as a child will color your world. Try to soar beyond the level of optimism you were taught. Belief makes things real.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 29). Romance unfolds organically, and you'll love the pleasant rhythm of your personal life from now through the end of the year. Next year will take more conscious effort. Tap into your creativity to build supportive relationships. You'll need them as you tackle a fantastically rewarding challenge in March. Libra and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 38, 26 and 42.

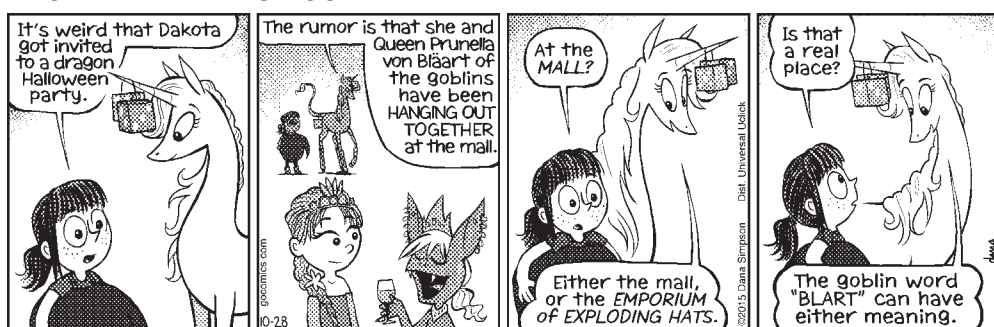
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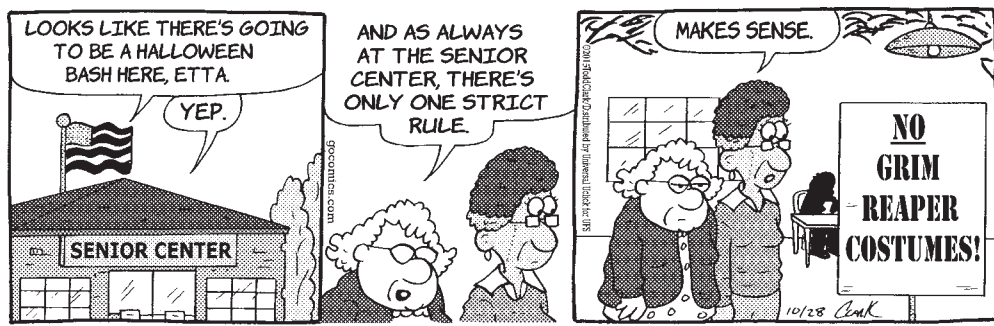
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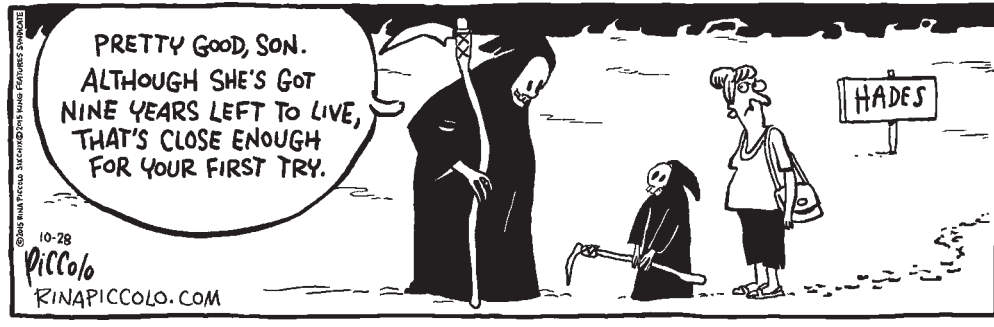
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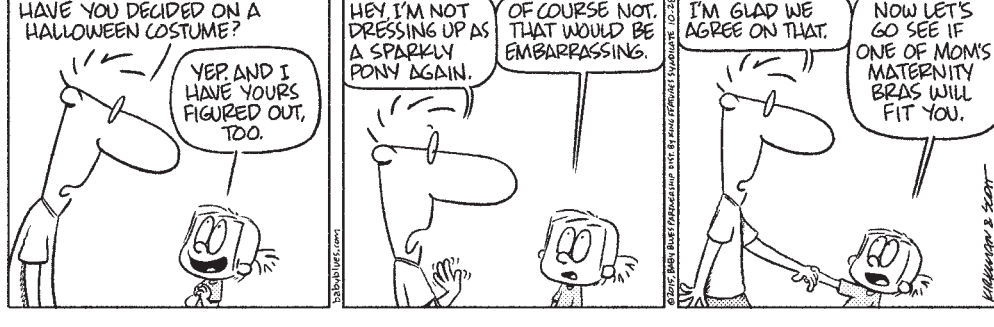
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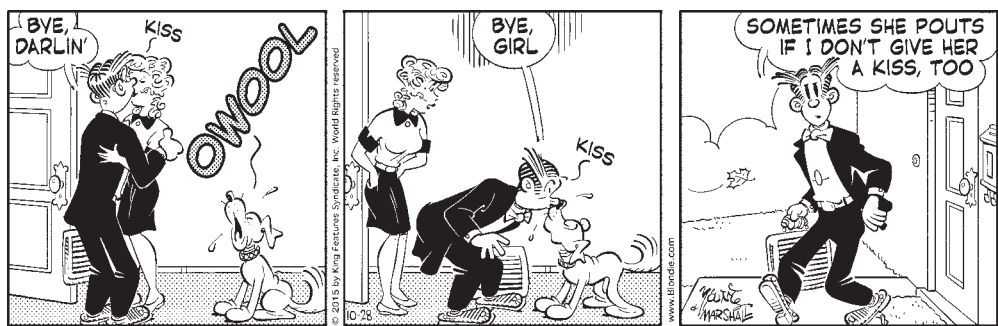
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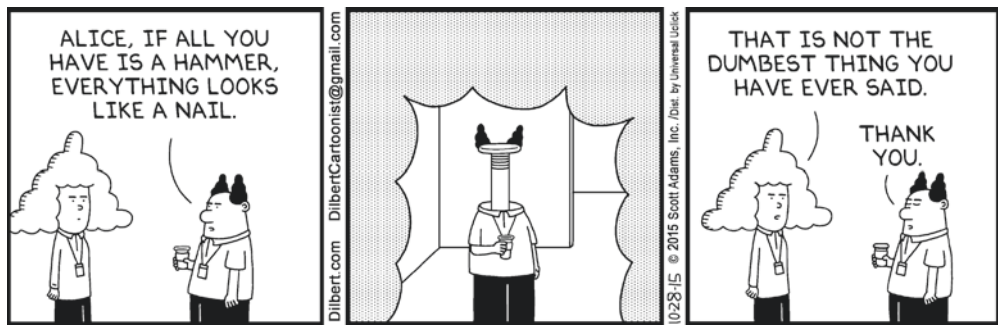
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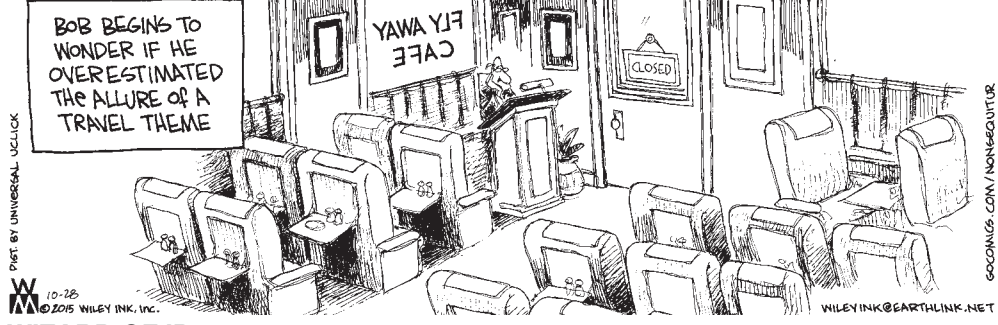
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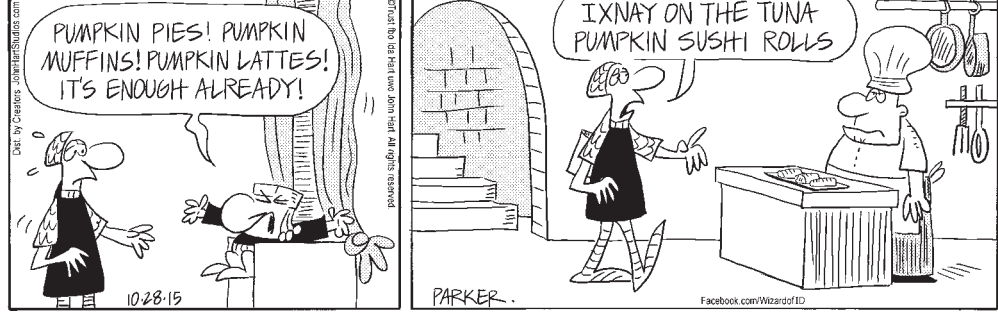
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ROSE IS ROSE

