

Daughter tired of taking care

Dear Annie: I have been taking care of my mother since I was 17 and she was disabled from a car accident and unable to work. I am now 47, and Mom is 72. Her health is getting worse, so my husband and I recently moved her in with us. My husband and I both work full time. I have caregivers who come in during the day when we are at work, and we take care of her at night.

Annie, I'm so tired. My husband and I can't go anywhere overnight. Our sex life has gone downhill, because we are both so exhausted. Mom has become mean and combative, which makes our lives miserable. She doesn't sleep much at night, which means neither do I. There are no other family members around to help.

I have tried to find a skilled nursing facility or other assisted living place, but am having a hard time finding one that she can afford. I want her somewhere safe, but I also want my life back. I know this sounds awful of me. Any suggestions would be helpful. — *Drained and Frustrated*

Dear Drained: Being a full-

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



time caregiver is a tiring job, and you've been at it for most of your life. It is perfectly natural that you are exhausted and ready to find another place for Mom to live.

Most nursing homes will accept Medicare when Mom's money runs out. Please call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 for information about the available resources in your area. But first ask about resources for respite care for yourself. You deserve it.

Dear Annie: A good friend of mine has a very rude daughter. "Susie" got married two years ago and I attended the ceremony and gave her a monetary gift. She never thanked me. Within months, Susie dumped the husband and immediately got pregnant by another man. She had a

baby shower, which I attended, and I gave her a nice gift. Again, no thank-you note.

Susie is getting married for the second time and I am invited to the wedding. I have no desire to give her yet another gift that will be completely ignored and unappreciated. What do you say? Do I have to give her something? — *Thank-You's Still Appreciated*

Dear Thank-You's: If you attend the wedding, you are under an obligation to give a gift, although it doesn't need to be as generous as the first one. If you do not receive any thank-you note in three to six months, it is perfectly OK to call Susie and ask whether the gift was received. You'd be surprised how often such things are lost or misplaced, especially when the gifts are brought to the wedding instead of sent to the bride's home. This includes cards with money inside. And thank-you notes can also go astray.

Of course, if Susie did receive the gift and is simply too rude to have sent an acknowledgment of any kind, she deserves to squirm a little when you ask her about it.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You need to relax, but not completely. Right now one eye needs to stay wide-awake, focused on your next move. Otherwise, you'll miss a rather rare opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you have many hobbies it's easier to find ways of distracting yourself from negativity. That's why, even though there is little negativity in this day, it's still a fine time for cultivating new hobbies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need a bigger team. This is the bottom line, the top line, and everything in between today. Get more people. You support so many! You deserve your own cheering section, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your fantasy life is rich now, but instead of planning your escape to a paradise island, use the augmented powers of imagination that are currently available to you to see some magic and wonder in your current scene.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's something you used to love, follow or ritualize that no longer seems to have a natural place in your life. It happens. You're different, it's different — things change. This is a good day for moving on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your mind will drift to things you said and did long ago. For better or worse, these things cannot be changed. When a loved one needs you in the moment, you'll snap right back to the now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Venture out alone and you'll succeed. Listen up and you'll hear the powerful and knowing voice of your own instinct. There's another voice around you now, as misguided as it is prolific. Block that one out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll get more than one chance to make a deal, though you should know that it is more favorable to act on the first one. Fresh enthusiasm will create momentum.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships are your gold. You're like an artist creating a masterpiece of personal connection. Tonight, new ideas will pop over your head like bubbles in a glass of champagne.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In those moments when you feel lost, try to remember that even the most confident people are not certain all of the time. Pause for a breath. It won't be long before you realize that you know more than you thought.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You expect something else from life than others are hoping for — nothing better, just different. Regardless of these differences, your interests will coincide nicely with the interests of those around you.

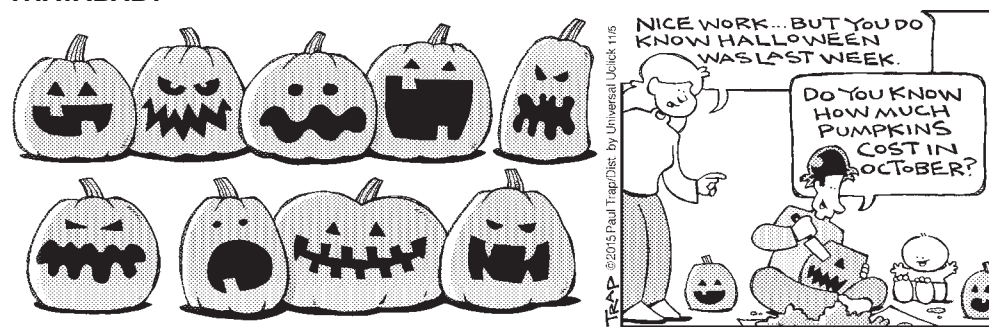
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Only time will tell whether today's move will bring you closer to the goal, but it won't matter. Either you believed in it or you didn't. You won't do anything until you're absolutely sure you can stand behind it.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 6). Inspiration strikes this month. All you have to do is relax and listen to others with an open mind, and perfect solutions will come. In December you'll fulfill someone else's needs while trying to fulfill your own. The new year brings romance and fireworks. You'll be acknowledged for a professional achievement in June. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 38, 1, 22 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



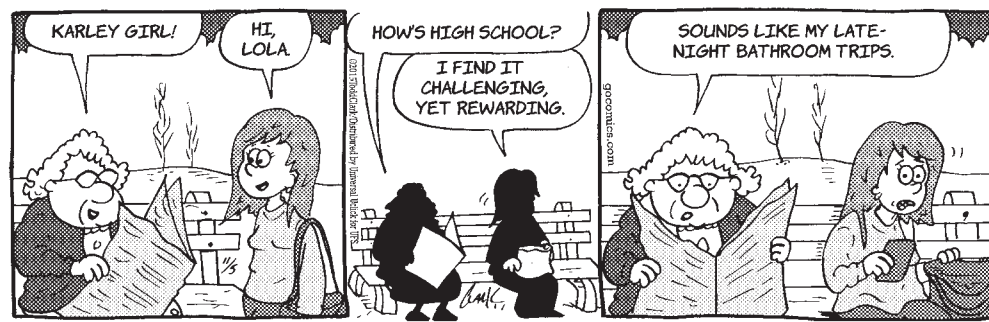
THATABABY



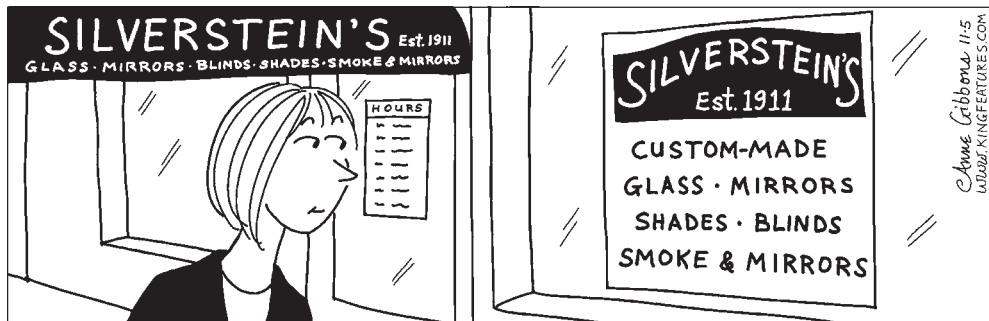
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



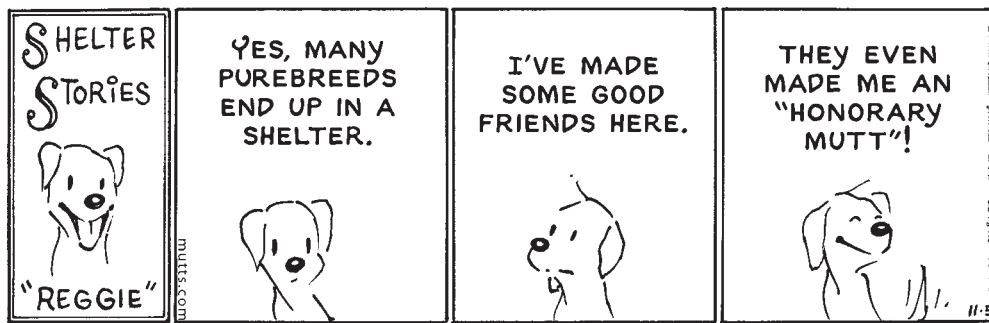
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



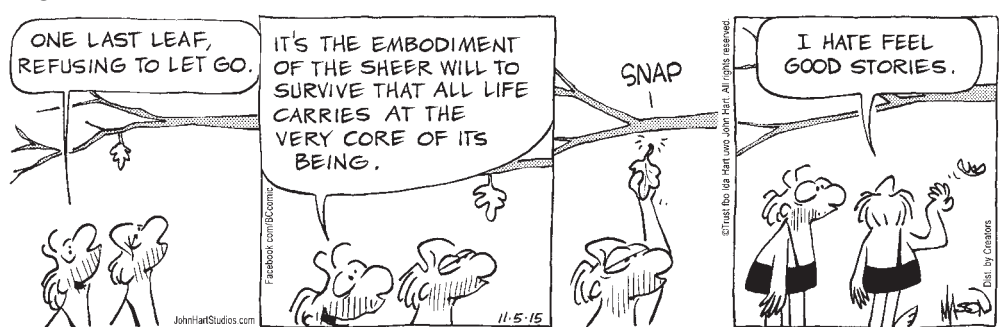
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



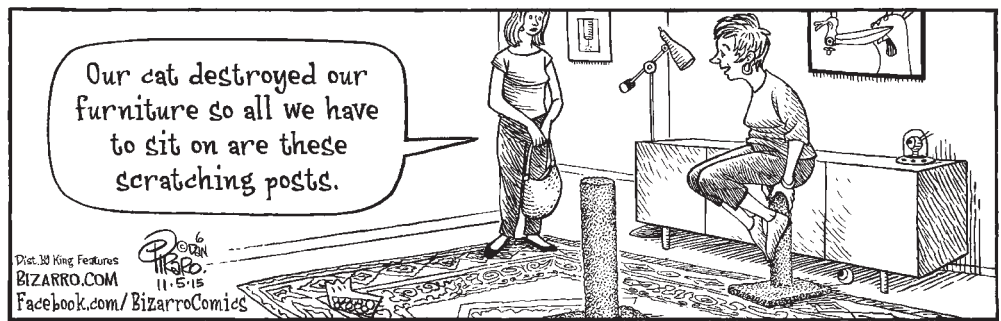
B.C.



DILBERT



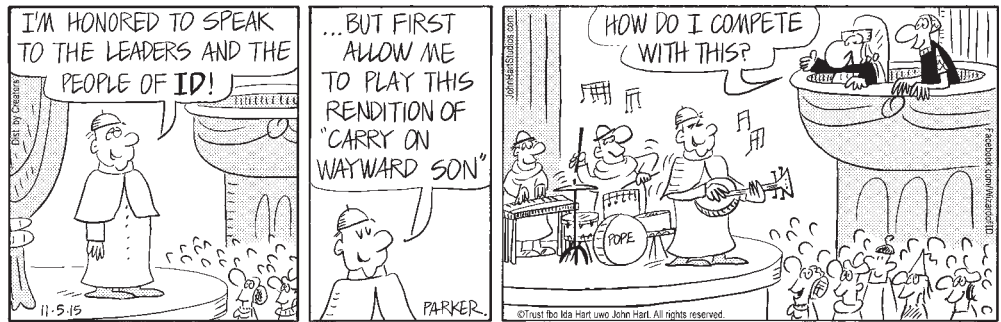
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

