

Mom-in-law baffled by silence

Dear Annie: My 28-year-old son, "Jack," was married six weeks ago. He and his bride have known each other since high school, so I thought I knew her pretty well.

Her parents paid for the majority of the wedding, and during the planning, I made myself available for any task that came my way, offering to take care of many odds and ends. My three best friends gave the bride an elaborate shower at my home. My brother volunteered to become certified to perform the ceremony and they eagerly accepted. It was a destination wedding, so we all had to set aside a few days for the event. My husband and I went there two days early to help set up and to assist in any way possible without butting in too much.

Everything was going well until the day after the wedding, when the bride stopped all communication with me. Before then, she would call and text, and often ask to get together to do fun things. She even asked for my opinion. Now, nothing.

I have never been a clingy mother to any of my sons, and I am baffled by this. Am I wrong to think she should have called

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



a few days after the wedding to thank us for everything we did and maybe ask if we had a good time? I don't expect a reward for our help, but what happened to common courtesy? Maybe a little show of appreciation? I've seen my son a couple of times since the wedding, though there has been no mention of the estrangement.

What did I do to turn her against me like that? — *Hurt Mother-in-Law*

Dear Hurt: First of all, both the bride and groom should have thanked you for your help, but not all couples think this is necessary. Many assume that helping (and paying) is the parents' responsibility and requires no expression of appreciation. They are wrong, but we hope you will let that go. The more serious problem is the

bride's sudden lack of communication. Have you been texting her? Calling her? Did you tell her what a beautiful wedding it was and that you are so happy she is your daughter-in-law? You should be doing these things instead of waiting for her. If she still refuses to communicate, talk to your son and ask what's going on.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Lonely, Not Lusting," the widow in her 80s who went on a date with a man who groped her afterward. Now she doesn't know how to stop the man from calling her.

Many years ago, I worked in a bank and befriended a widow who was also in her 80s. "Mrs. G." confided in me about a similar date she once had. She told me that at the end of the date, the man kissed her and put his hand on her breast. She looked him squarely in the eye and said, "That ship has sailed. Sorry. I am not interested." And that was that.

It's short, simple and to the point. — *Mrs. G's Young Friend*

Dear Friend: Not everyone has the presence of mind to come up with an appropriate phrase when surprised. We'll hope our readers will remember this one.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know better than to move just to look busy. Your activities have to mean something to you or you're unlikely to carry them out. There's a huge difference between activity and achievement.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your sense of justice is aligned with that of the great forces of the universe. It will all work out in a way that you think is fair. This is especially satisfying when it has to do with your love life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Happy things will happen. Upbeat people will assist you, friendly advice will prove sound, and, best of all, the one you are attracted to will give you evidence that the feeling is mutual.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are those fascinating people you'd like to follow around, just to see how they do it. Actually, you might be surprised by how many people feel that way about you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It feels good to get positive feedback, but it's not nearly as helpful as complaints are. When your ego is small, your ability to take negative criticism and transform it into a winning edge is huge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your roles today will tend toward the extreme, such as the sweetest friend on earth, and the world's greatest romantic. But beware: once you're known in a certain way, you'll be expected to keep it up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Expect some inner turbulence, likely triggered by one who has no idea what your triggers are. Remind yourself with a loving action that you are an important and cherished member of

the human race.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Act on your sensational ideas and you'll debunk the myth of the tortured artist. You live the life of a completely sane, happy and productive creative dynamo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As usual, Lady Luck plays a key role in the good fortune that befalls you over the weekend. As a bonus, this lady favors you and she doesn't require or even want you to pay her back.

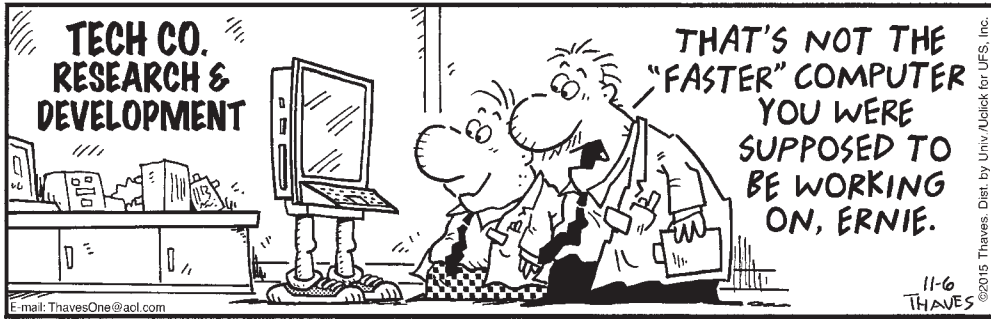
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As you continue along this path, certain landmarks will look suspiciously familiar to you. No, you haven't passed this way before, but your prior journeys prepared you for this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You treat them like royalty and they adore you right back. That's what makes the next 24 hours lovely, though it's possible you won't totally appreciate this until you look back on it several months from now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Unlike some people, you don't need an hour's notice to leave the house. Hear a good idea? You'll be ready in a flash! Your organized and methodical nature makes it possible for you to be spontaneous.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (NOVEMBER 7). Word on the street is that you're kind and generous. You'll be approached with opportunity in December. You'll make money because you help others make money. Venturing into unfamiliar territory will be lucky for you in December. You'll create optimum health through your actions in February. Pisces and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 11, 24 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



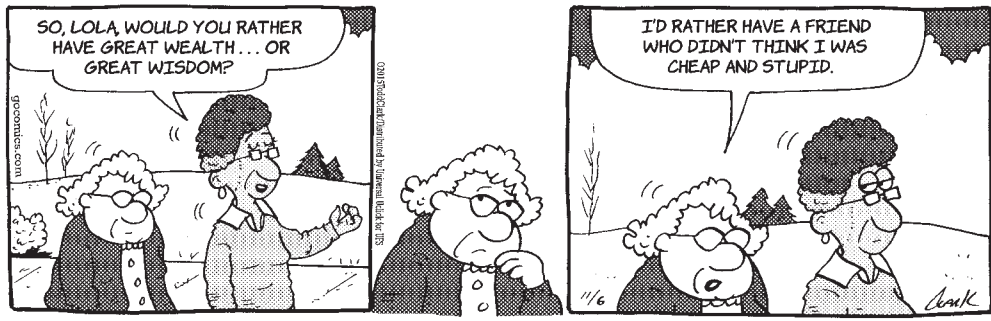
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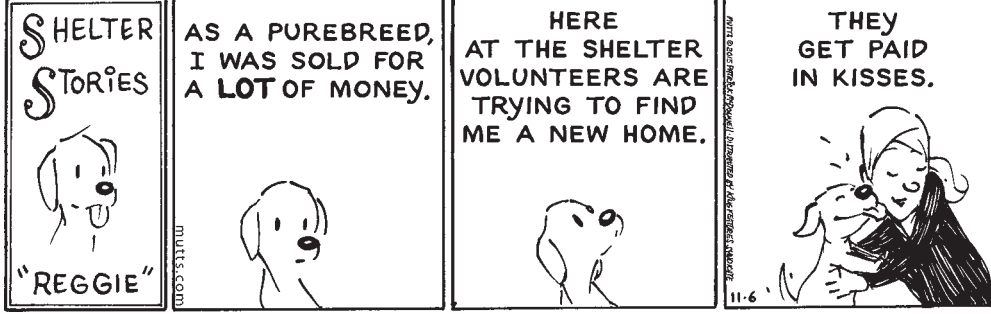
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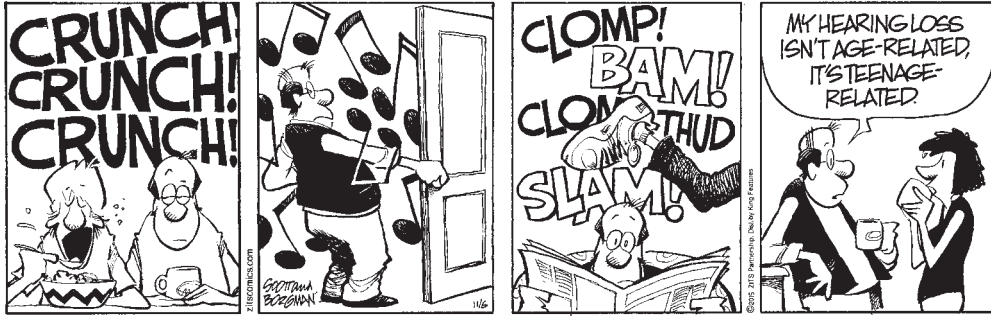
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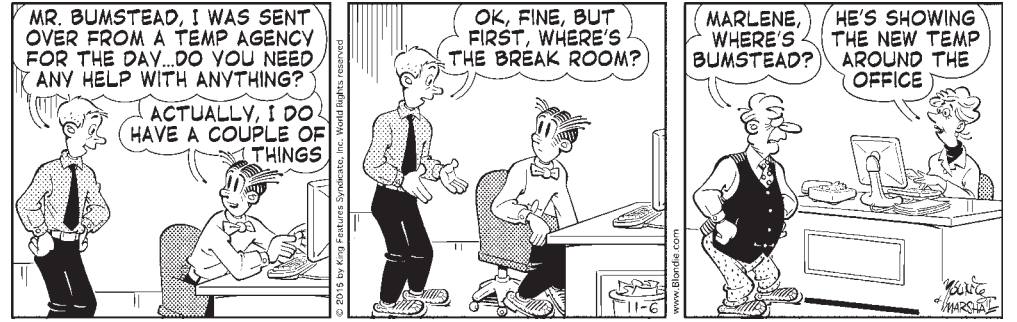
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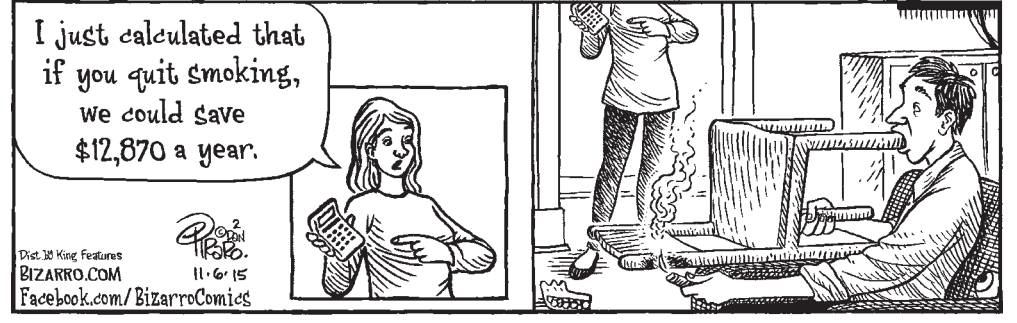
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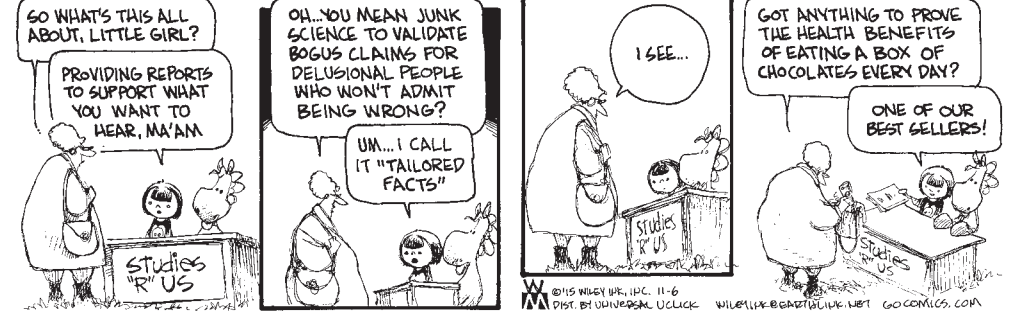
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ROSE IS ROSE

