

Mom worries about adult son

Dear Annie: My 35-year-old son, "Edgar," has been diagnosed with major depression and is receiving disability. He currently lives in an apartment on my parents' property.

Since Edgar is currently vehicle-less, I've been helping him with grocery shopping, etc. Last week, after a bout of extreme allergy symptoms, his depression escalated, and he texted me, saying, "I don't care about anything anymore. My life is worthless." He claimed he had no food left, but refused to let me bring over groceries. He said he didn't care if he wasted away, although he promised not to kill himself.

Over the weekend, I texted him, but there was no response. By Monday, I was frantic. I reached out to his physician, leaving a message with the assistant, emphatically stating that my son promised he would not harm himself. He just didn't want to eat. I told the assistant that it was crucial that I speak with the doctor before an intervention. Well, this inept nitwit conveyed the wrong information to the doctor, resulting in a call from the police inquiring about a welfare check. And instead of talking to me, the doctor phoned my parents.

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



Then Edgar called, ranting that I have totally messed up his life because I told his doctor he was suicidal. I phoned the doctor, who apologized profusely for the confusion her assistant had caused and assured me that she would call my son and straighten things out. I waited another day and then sent Edgar a text, wanting to open communications. He replied, "Forget it, the damage is already done. I can't go back to that doctor." He said he was going to move far away where no one could find him. What do I do? — *Drama*

Dear Drama: You need to give Edgar some breathing room. Although he may actually be grateful that you care, this much attention to his mental health might be overwhelming him. Send a calm text, saying you love him, you're sorry you upset him, and that you hope he will get back in touch soon. We

know you are worried, but there is only so much you can do without his cooperation. Meanwhile, please contact the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 1-800-950-NAMI (nami.org).

Dear Annie: I had to response to "Tom," whose husband was desperate to stop his daughter from marrying outside their religion.

Two of my four children married someone of another faith. Their partners are perfect for them, and they love each other very much. I can only hope my other two children find people who love and cherish them as much.

Religion isn't everything. It's only part of who a person is. If they want to have a relationship with their daughter, they will have to be more open-minded. — *Happy Mother-in-Law*

Dear Happy: We agree. But we also understand that many parents react to this as though the child is rejecting not only their parents' faith, but also the parents themselves, and it is painful for them. It takes time for some parents to accept that people of all religions (or lack thereof) can be part of a loving family. We hope both "Tom" and her husband will do their best to remain close to their daughter.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In Hamlet, Shakespeare suggested that nothing is either good or bad, "but thinking makes it so." You'll frame today's events as neutral or positive and this will considerably reduce your stress level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Remember when you felt trapped? You freed yourself only to wind up in a similarly restrictive situation. This time, seek reform from within. When you feel inwardly free you'll stop getting into restricting situations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The past and present do not equal your life. Your dreams for the future are a large part of your personality these days. Share your vision and you'll learn who is really on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've a very real concern for injustice and stand up for those who are not being treated fairly. Just make sure you have the whole and true story before you begin your defense.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You berate yourself too much for errors that come with the territory of being human. You're doing your very best. Mistakes are normal. Let it go at that. Besides, perfection is boring.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It may seem appealing to re-create the passion you once had because you already know the territory. Be honest, though: Has this cycle run its course? Are you just resisting the end because you're afraid of the unknown?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While you're known for indecision, there are some decisions you make practically automatically. You know the answer with every fiber of your being. "He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind." — Leonardo da Vinci

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're once again getting that feeling of being cosmically connected, like your parents are the Earth and the sky, your cousins are the animals and your journey is as effortless as an orbit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get on your own side. You owe it to the rest of the world to be confident and content in whom you are. The one who is friends with his or her own mind will have many friends indeed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's like you're pressing on the walls and bookshelves searching for the hidden door to the secret chamber where the mystery will finally be solved. You will find no hidden door because the hidden door is you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll test and re-test theories. You'll poke to see where the possible holes in the story are. You want to believe, though you won't be able to until you've put the idea through your judgmental paces.

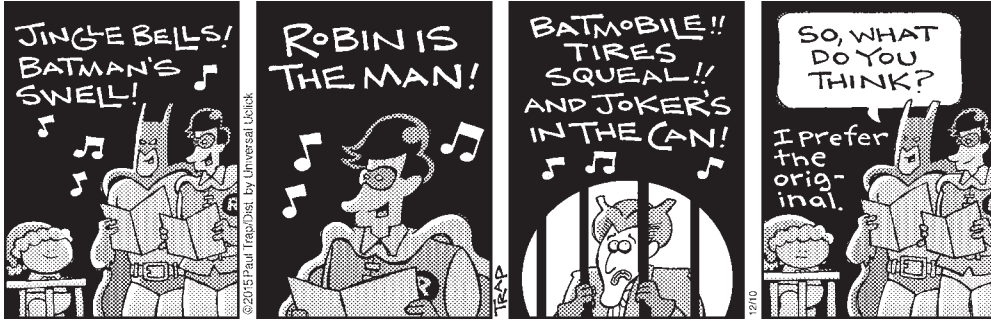
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing what you want to do for money and doing it well — it's not something to be taken lightly. Many aren't lucky enough to fall into such a fantastic work groove as the one you'll hit today.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 11). An abiding wisdom will guide your year. Lasting love will be worth the sacrifice and effort; your gentle tenacity will pay off. You will have deep gratitude and reverence for the gift you are offered in February whether or not you can accept it. Money and fun in March are the start of a new social chapter. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 17, 2 and 19.

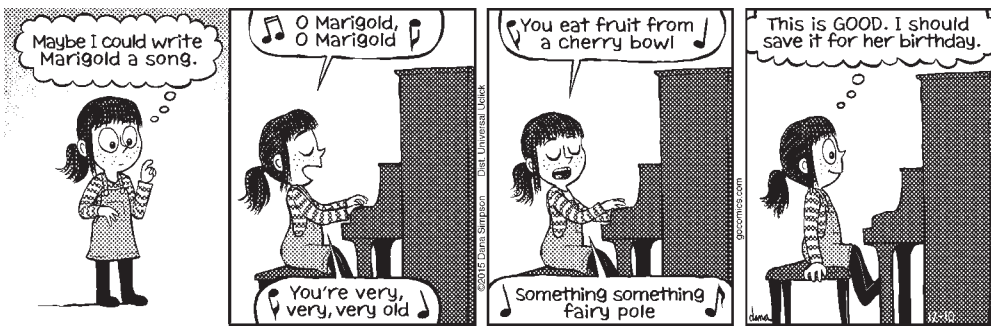
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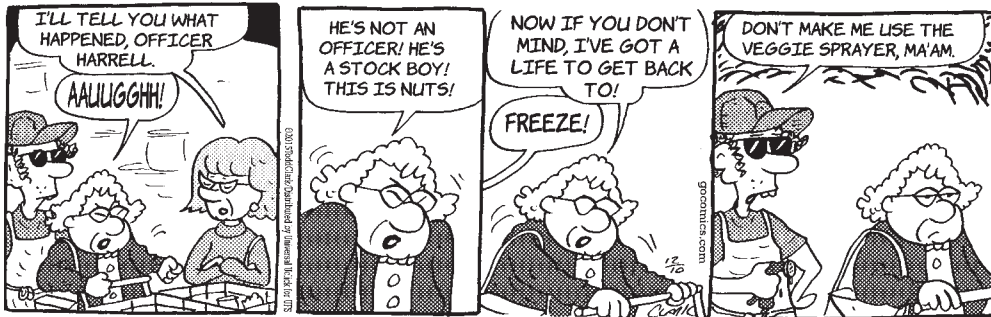
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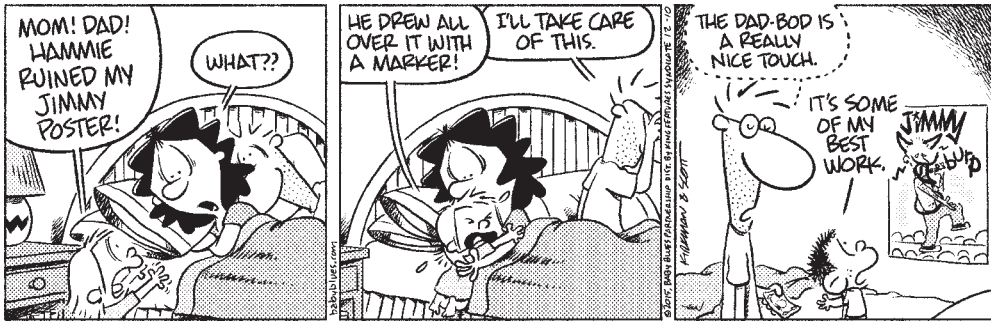
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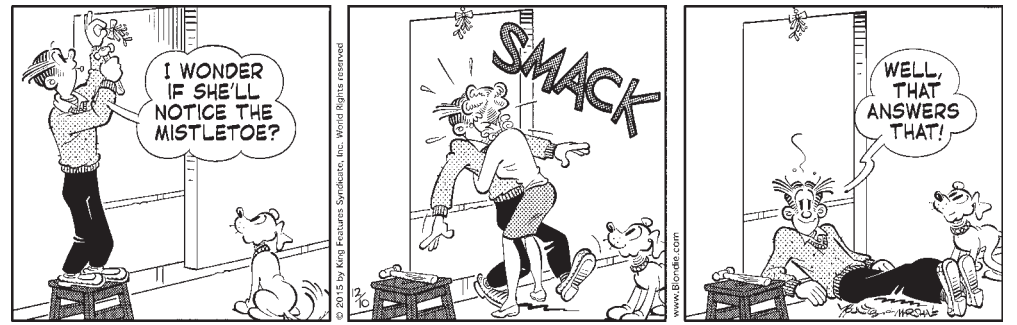
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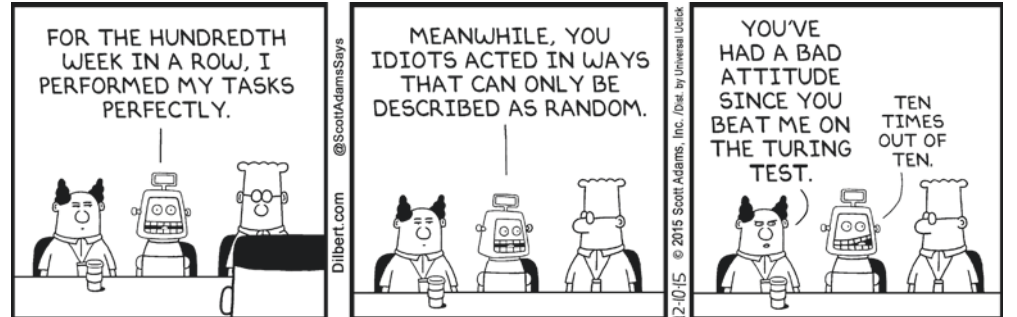
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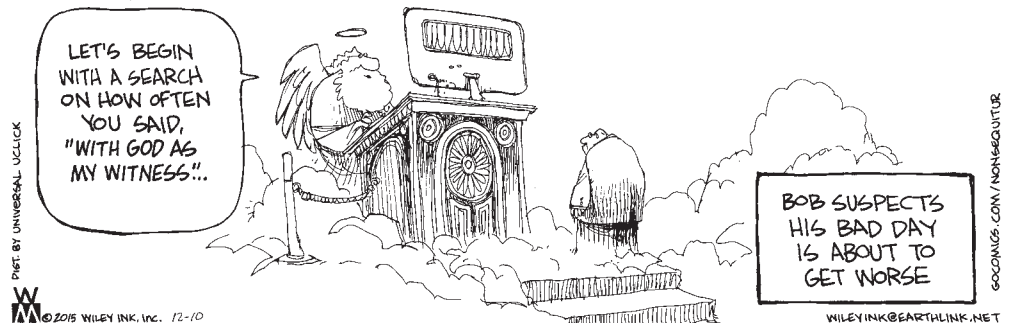
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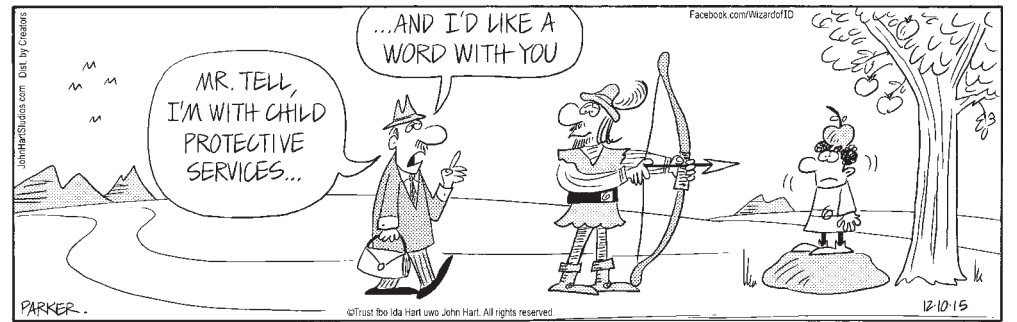
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