

# Mom-in-law favors ex

**Dear Annie:** My mother-in-law has a decor that was personalized for her by my husband's long-term ex-girlfriend. Every time I go to her house, it's the first thing I see and it really bothers me. The problem is, I don't feel I can say anything to her because after all, it's her house and the decorating was a gift. It's not like I can tell her, "Hey, get rid of it."

The second problem is that my mother-in-law already feels that I'm a "jealous wife" due to our past conversations (which turned into arguments) when she told me about all of the things she caught her son doing with the ex and what a "cute girl" she was. It made me angry, and I said so.

Any suggestions about the house decor? — *Bothered Wife*

**Dear Bothered:** Yes. Control your reaction and leave it alone. You are right that this is not your house and you have no decision-making control over what's inside. Until Mom wants to redecorate, which can be pricey, speaking up about it will only confirm her opinion that you are jealous. And she won't change anything. She might, in fact, enjoy your negative reaction. So don't give her the satisfaction.

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



Your mother-in-law may have made an emotional investment in the ex and isn't ready to move on and accept that her son chose differently. Instead of silently fuming, try to win her over. Admire some of the decor (it will make her less attached to it as a knife to twist). Tell her how lovely her home is and that the ex did a good job. Ask Mom to help you out the next time you are shopping for a new lamp or arranging pictures on your walls. You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

**Dear Annie:** Like the wife of "Embarrassed," I am one of many with an incontinence problem. I thought I was keeping my house and myself odor free until my daughter told me otherwise. (My sense of smell has diminished.)

First of all, she should use panty liners made for this problem and change them when necessary.

Change any clothing that may get wet, and thoroughly rinse and dry them before putting in the hamper. Dispose of the pads in a closable plastic bag and when it's full, place the bag in the outdoor garbage container.

I no longer have the odor in my house or on my person. I was also embarrassed, but thankful my daughter told me. — *Anonymous*

**Dear Anonymous:** We heard from hundreds of incontinent readers and those who love them. Here's a sample:

**From New York:** I have a similar problem, and I wear the newer adult diapers that are thin and look like regular underpants. No one can tell. If she's too embarrassed to buy them, her husband can do it for her.

**California:** "Embarrassed" complained about the smell because his wife doesn't launder her undies fast enough. How about if HE does the laundry?

**Coping With Aging:** "Embarrassed" can use a deodorizing spray like Lysol. It's not an accusation, he's just taking care of it. She may appreciate his efforts, and begin to feel more comfortable coping with her situation. He can express his love (in sickness and in health) by giving her a little practical TLC.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** In these early stages of a relationship or project, you may be in the mood to conceal your thought process. After all, what gives them the right to know everything that's going through your head?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's no getting around it; mad notions inspire crazy reactions. Your best bet is to steer clear of those who tend to rope you into bad situations. Also, know that you won't be able to dip but a toe in. Consider this a rip tide.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** As for this relationship, you'll understand it in retrospect, but you have to live it forward. Remember this and turn your brain off for a while in favor of enjoying togetherness without so much chatter in your mind.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** When people get more animated (or even more upset) than you're comfortable with, just remember that it takes a great debate to stir a great passion.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your fears about what's next will be allayed with the entrance of a friend who is doing exactly what you want to be doing in five years. This shining example will cause a change in your priorities.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Are you discovering yourself or creating yourself? The answer is: both. Don't be too self-conscious about it, and keep going until you're out of this awkward middle stage.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You can say the wisest words ever uttered to a fool and it wouldn't register, as the very nature of foolishness is that it doesn't embrace wisdom. In light of this, perhaps you should save your breath.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Here's a radical idea: When the fun part starts, instead of pulling out your phone to document it, open your eyes, throw out your arms and fully live it instead!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The truth is that you could do and be more if you had the support system to push you to higher places. Go on; create that for yourself. Ask for it. You deserve big love and tender care.

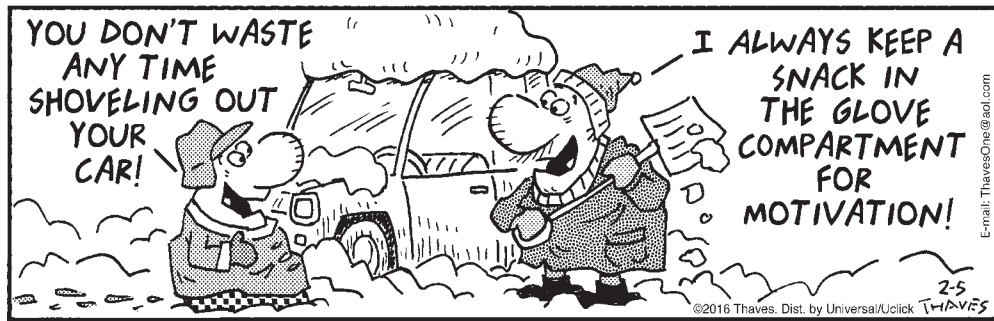
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're always looking for new ways to apply your talent, give your creativity and use your intelligence in the world. It helps that right now there is someone around you who deeply appreciates who you are.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Yours is not a hot head or a quick temper. Still, you have your moments. Tensions may rise around a Scorpio or Sagittarius or around anyone who you believe is judging you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The saying goes that it's better to starve with the good than feast with the evil. You're in a position of eating moderately well with people who have a little of both in them, which makes things more complex.

**SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 6).** You thought you'd given a relationship your best, but you'll surprise yourself in the next six weeks. You have more to give! Practice and be disciplined about it through April. The project depends on your superior input. There's a move in May. Once you settle into the new way, you'll plan an adventure for November. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 48 and 31.

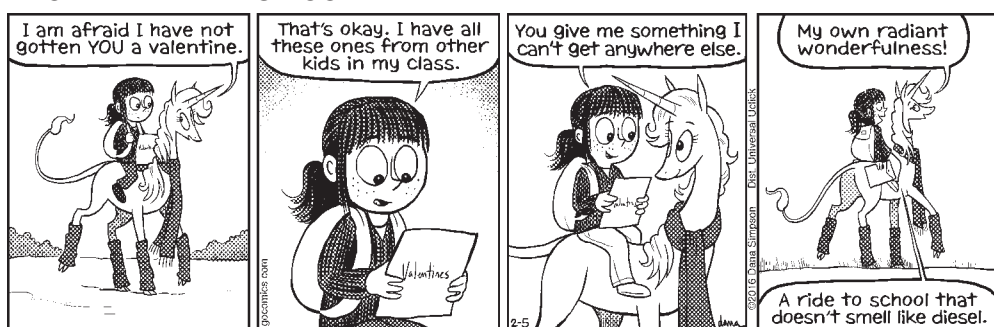
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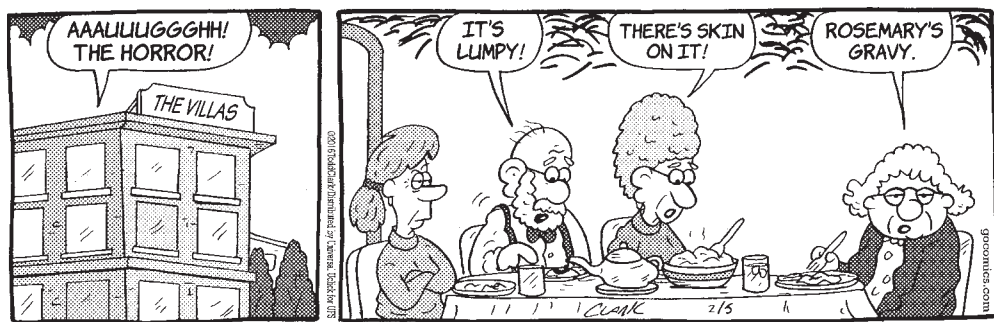
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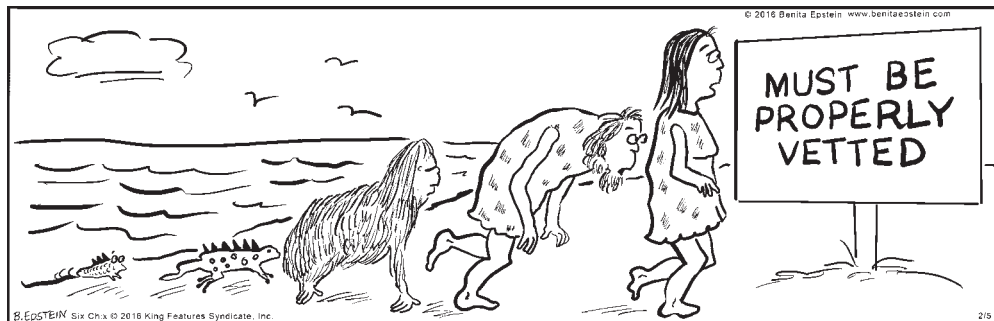
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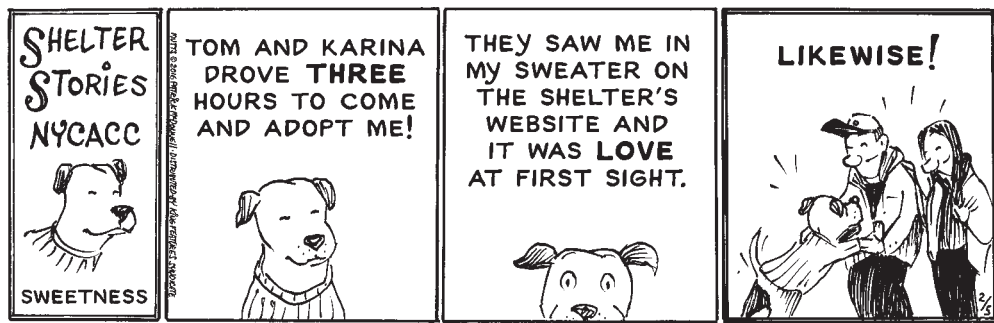
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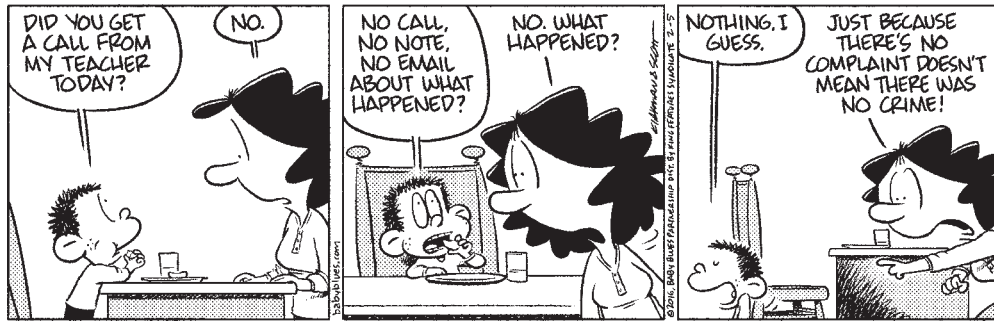
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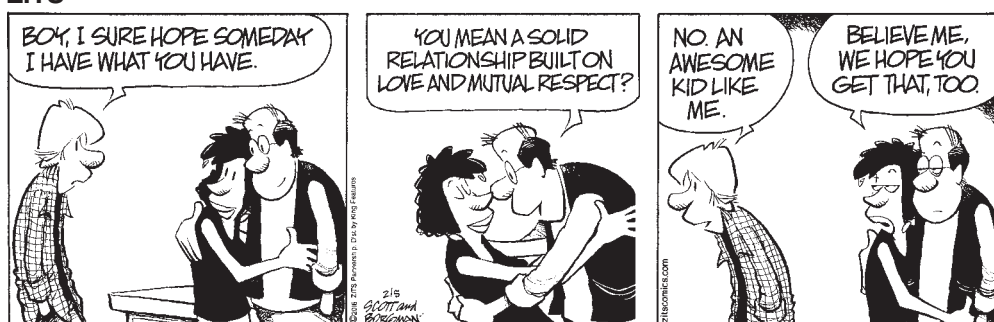
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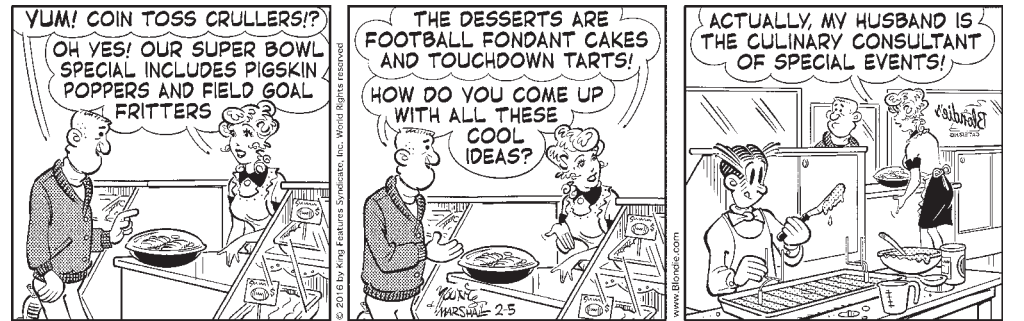
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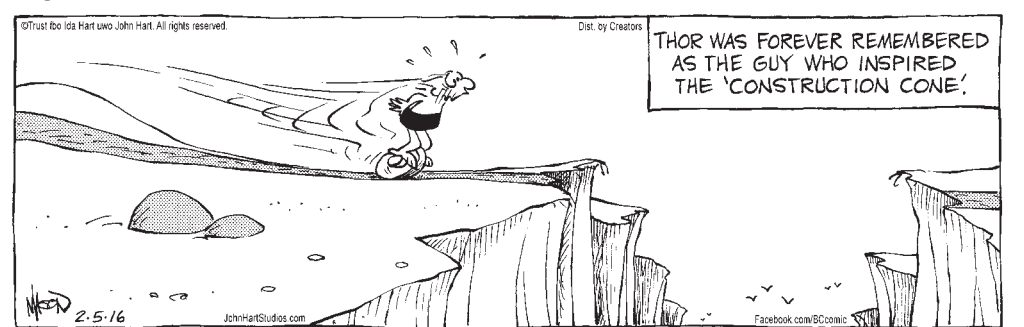
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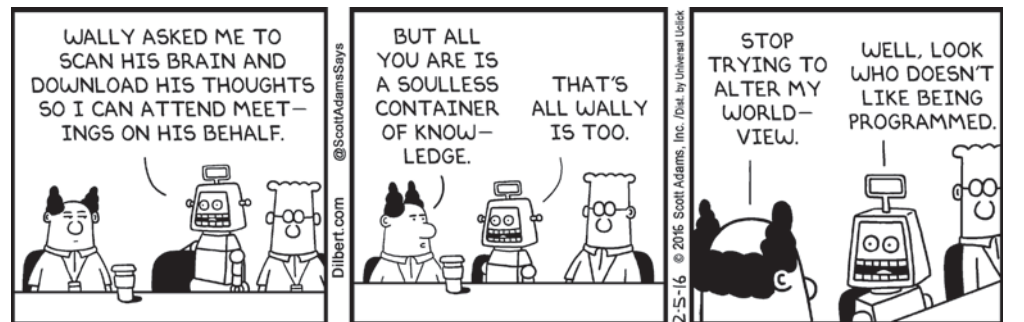
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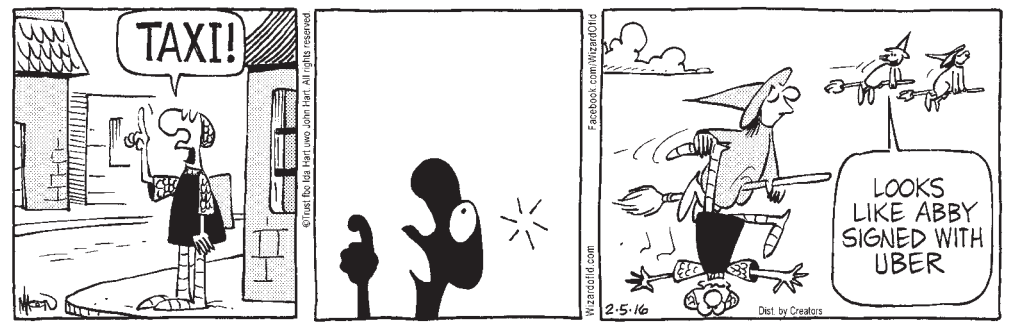
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

