

# Focus on things, not son

**Dear Annie:** We raised our son in the Midwest, and paid for his tuition to follow his dream to go to an Ivy League college where he met his future wife. Now that he is married, he lives in a large east coast city and is surrounded by his wife's family. We barely hear from him.

Our son and his wife go on luxury vacations with her family and spend time with them at the holidays. On those rare occasions when we do see him, he is not particularly nice. This has caused some problems between my husband and me, because he accepts the reality of the situation better than I do.

I am truly heartbroken. This was a little boy that I adored. I never imagined that the later chapters of his life would cause me so much sadness. I have no idea what to do and instead try very hard to keep him out of my thoughts.

How is it possible that boys raised in loving homes can so easily leave them behind? Any suggestions? — *Mom of Three*

**Dear Mom:** It is terribly sad, but not uncommon, for young men to marry women who discourage closeness with the husband's family. And based on your son's reaction, he has grown accustomed to it and may even prefer it that way. There

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



is no point crying over it or criticizing your son repeatedly because he doesn't spend more time with you. This will only make every interaction unpleasant and reinforce the same behavior.

Here are our suggestions: All conversation should be positive. Ask about his wife and children with genuine interest and caring. Keep your jealousy in check. Send short, newsy emails, so your son doesn't feel distant from his family. Get involved in local organizations and activities to fill your hours with interesting things and have something to talk about with your son that doesn't involve your constant disappointment. If you can afford it, visit him periodically, without expecting him to entertain you. Surely there are things to do — museums, plays, walking tours — and you can try to meet up for lunch or dinner. And

please make a real effort to concentrate on your other children and the things that make you happy.

**Dear Annie:** My beautiful 20-year-old granddaughter loves her motorcycle. She is a sophomore in college, with a full-time job, both of which are now on hold. Monday night, she was riding to see her boyfriend, when a guy made a sudden U-turn. He hit her, tossing her like a rag doll over the handlebars. She's currently undergoing her second of multiple surgeries. She has two broken wrists, a broken elbow, a fractured pelvis and a fractured femur. It will be three months before she can stand.

I know accidents happen. But please tell your readers to be careful. She shouldn't have to pay such a high price for someone's negligence. She has wonderful family and friends for support, which is a blessing. This will be hard to handle, but we will all make it through this difficult time. — *California*

**Dear California:** We are so sorry to hear about your granddaughter's accident. She is fortunate to have such a loving family to help her get back on her feet. Your letter is a reminder to all drivers to pay attention to their surroundings at all times.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The task at hand may be basic, but that doesn't mean it's undeserving of your best quality of attention. Judging the work is pointless. Instead, make it your goal to engage in the work as intimately and as freely as possible.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Another reason to make yourself happy is that after a smile broadens your face it will broaden your whole world. Unhappiness, on the other hand, renders your life narrow, thin and isolated.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The old dream is no longer a good enough fit. Time to go back to the drawing board to map out the vision and goals that you wish would define your life these days. The step after that? Cut out the wishing.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Guileless simplicity, mindful frugality, selfless compassion — these are the virtues that will hold you in good stead today. There's no one who needs to be impressed and nothing to gain from showing off.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Healthy relationships are founded on excellent communication. It's hard to change the tone of the relationship once it's set. With that in mind, be as honest as possible. How good is the communication really?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A few phone calls will start the day's action. Interesting opportunities and special connections abound. Like an expert salesperson, you feel drawn to the places where the leads are.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Different people bring out different sides of you. You'll like the side that a Capricorn or Taurus highlights. These signs need your social savvy. This is a rare occasion when you actually should give

unolicited advice.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Busy, in-demand and a little over-worked, you might be overlooking some obvious bit of healthy living. Are you drinking enough water? Sleeping enough? A small effort will get you back on track.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** While doing the same thing you've been doing for months now, you'll suddenly get a rush of attention. This is fun, but why now? That part is out of your control, so don't ask, just enjoy it.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The goals that are right for you will not require you to alter your values or change your cherished routines. Just know that however tall the order, it's the lowly things you hold to that will ultimately deliver it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** More often than not, life's tests are pop quizzes. Embrace the surprise; do your best. However this is graded, the results will bring a deeper understanding of what you know and what you still need to learn.

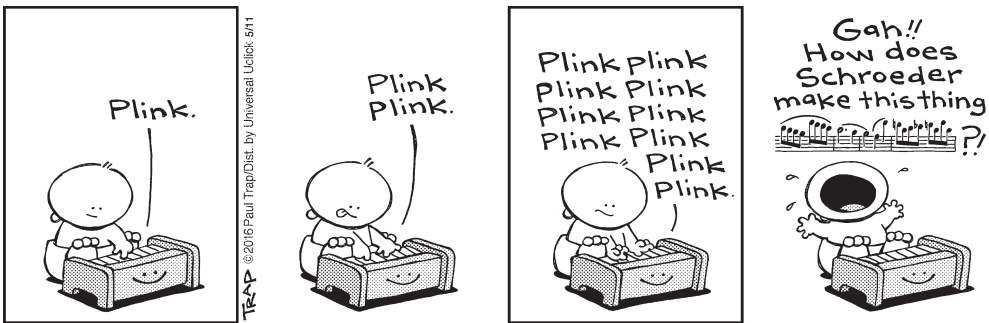
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Are you really going to remember, with great satisfaction and pride, the instance in which you resisted great temptation? Perhaps. But it's more likely you'll quietly and unmemorably avoid trouble.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 12).** You have a very free approach to relationships this year, allowing for people to be vividly themselves around you. This lifting of the rules will result in great breakthroughs, adventures and general ease. Financial resources multiply this month and next. July shows you finally victorious in what has been a long trial. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 15, 4 and 9.

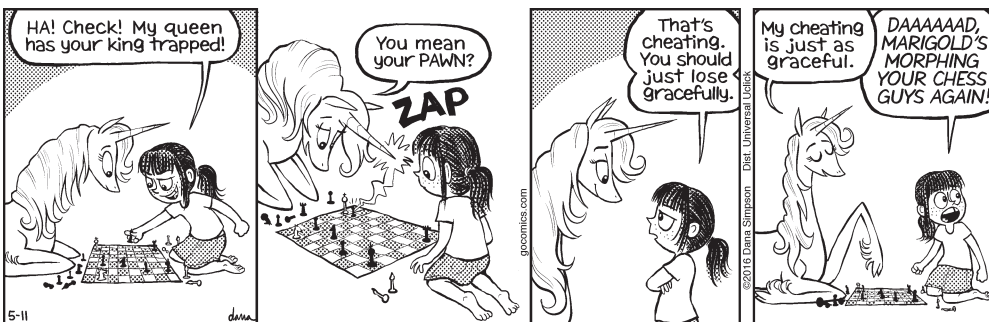
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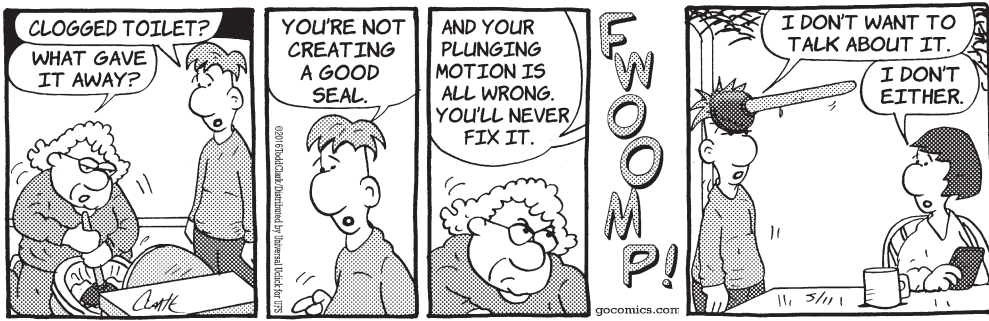
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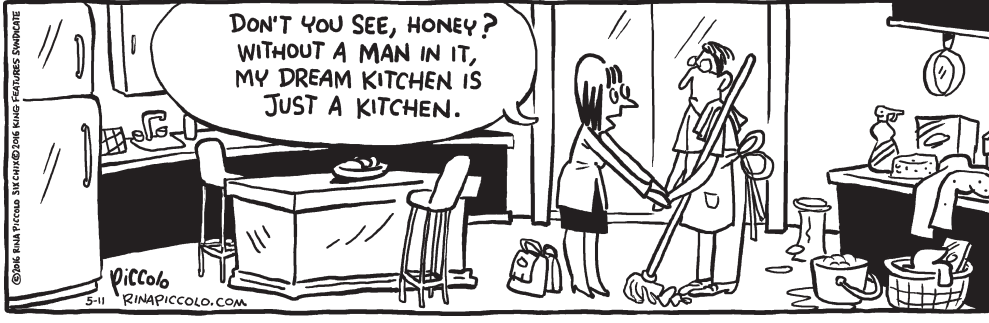
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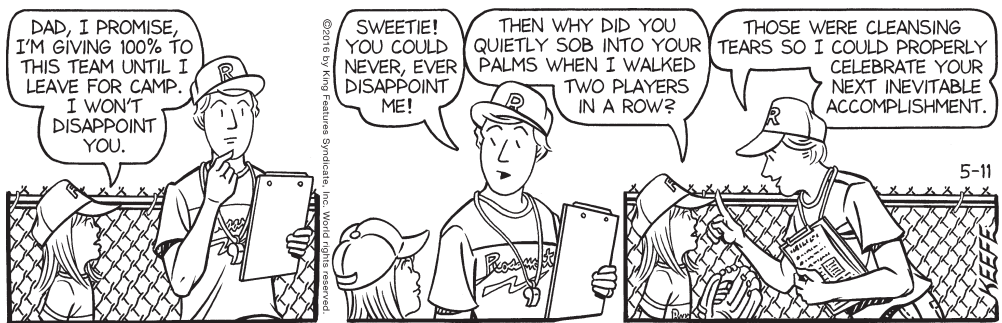
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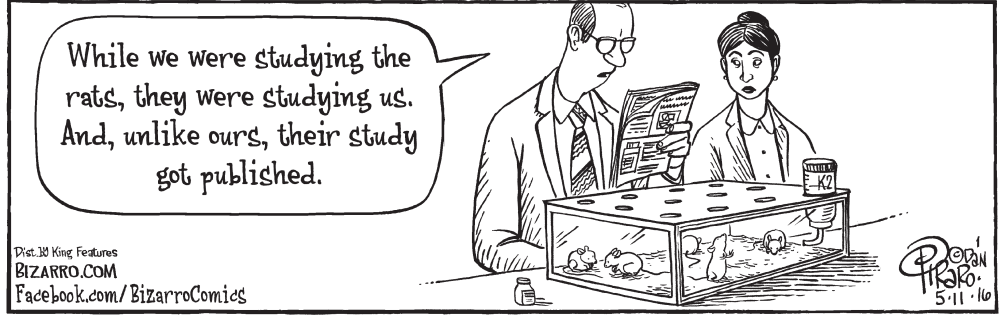
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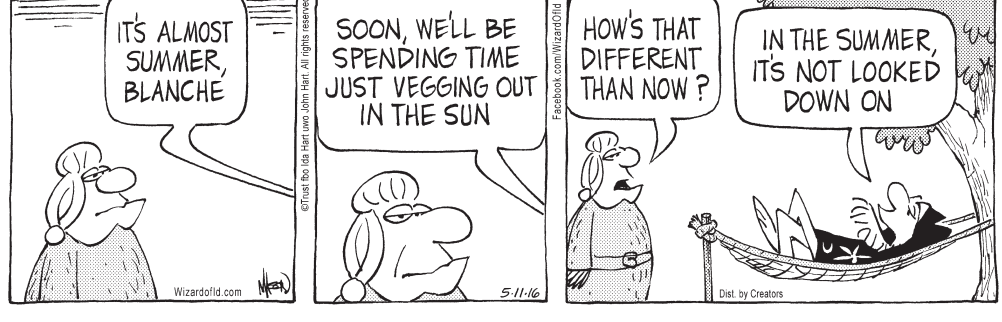
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## ROSE IS ROSE

