

Mom hurt by son's anger

Dear Annie: Until two years ago, I thought we had a loving family, even though my husband and I are divorced. We have two grown children in their 50s.

Two years ago, my son asked me to co-sign a college loan for his child. When I declined, he said he was "done with this whole family," and has not spoken to any of us since.

I live several hundred miles away from my son. My thought now is to leave the bulk of what little I have to my daughter, because she will end up being my caregiver, selling my house and deciding my future medical care. Of course, I would leave my son a small sum, so he knows he has not been forgotten.

I see no repair to this family, as I do not foresee my son changing. What advice do you have for me? — *Hurt Mother*

Dear Hurt: Be grateful that you are close to your daughter. You were under no obligation to co-sign a loan on behalf of your grandchild. But your son's reaction was totally out of proportion, and it makes us wonder whether something else may have been going on. Perhaps he

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



felt you were somehow showing favoritism to his sister or her children. If such an accusation has merit, please examine your behavior honestly to see what you can change.

Is anyone in touch with your son — a relative or family friend? Perhaps this person could intercede on your behalf and find out whether reconciliation is possible. It may require counseling, in which case, we hope you both would agree to go. Otherwise, whatever you do with your estate is up to you.

We hope, in addition to whatever you were planning to leave your son, you also include a letter to him expressing your love, without judgment or blame, and your regret that the relationship wasn't closer.

Dear Annie: My heart hurts and I don't know how to fix it. I am in my late 70s and my adult children rarely call. I call them.

We have had no disagreements or other issues. I feel they are waiting for me to die to get their inheritance, and have no real interest in me as a person. They rarely celebrate my birthday or holidays, saying they have to work and will come another day.

I am always sad when I hear about my friends celebrating special occasions with their families. What can I do to mend this broken heart? — *K.*

Dear K.: Some children become so wrapped up in their own lives that they forget to make time for their parents. Please don't wait around for your kids to value you. Be as active as you can be. Join a book club, theater group or choir. Do volunteer work where your presence will matter. Get a part-time job if you aren't currently employed. Take an exotic trip with that inheritance. Maybe your kids will find you more interesting. If not, at least you'll be living your life instead of waiting by the phone.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Dreaming and scheming will be among the most pleasurable uses of your energy, even better than a dessert buffet, or a shopping spree, though not quite the high you get from philanthropy.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Instead of going where the people look, talk and think like you, diversify! The problem that's been baffling you will be easy for someone else to solve.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your team will get you at your best. Your high energy will be vital to the success of a group. Your best trick for keeping yourself up isn't a trick at all: You start when you're wide-awake, and you quit before you get tired.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Let go of some of the finer details, because they are holding you back from maximum production. Sometimes it's done when it's done, but most times it's done when the time's up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Anything keeping you from your goal could be called an "enemy." Love your "enemy" by figuring out what makes it work as an obstacle and then disabling that capability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your body knows what your mind won't tell. Direct questions to your stomach. Its comfort level will relay to you the information that will serve you best in regard to the entire situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are reluctant to change now and rightly so. There is so much going well with the way things are. But what if you thought of the change as an experiment you're doing for a limited amount of time — just something you're trying out?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been in charge of you all these years and yet you're still figuring out how to properly feed yourself. Your needs and tastes are always changing, after all. It's better to experiment and fail than to get stuck in a rut.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Time with creative people will inspire you to use your imagination for the good of a project or relationship. Truly there's nothing that can't be improved with a sprinkle of your sparkling wit and ideas.

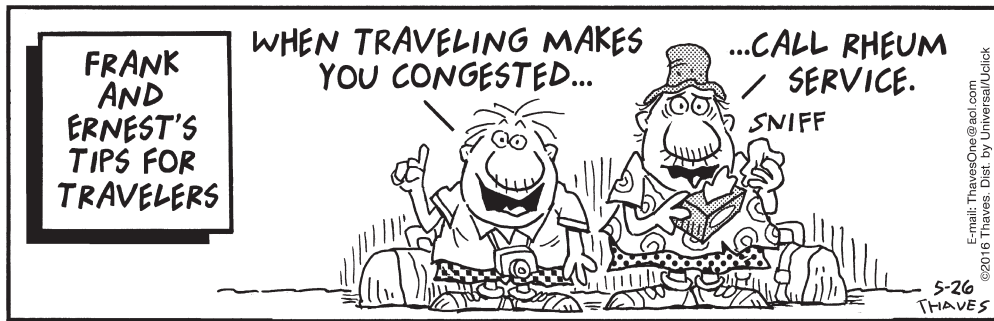
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To expect life to come at you in neatly defined terms is simply a setup for frustration. Nothing completely fits its definition or fully occupies its role. Life is filled with contradiction and approximation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have excellent taste and great ideas, so call the shots. Go ahead and wield entertainment the same way a person might use aspirin to mitigate a headache. Curated amusements ease the pain.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't need to come across as special or chosen or important. To be genuinely interested in others is far more attractive. Your friendly ease will win affection.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 27). In one regard you've always felt that you were missing out. Well, this year you remedy the situation. You make up for lost time in June. Try and meet as many people as you can over the next seven weeks. One winning personality match is all it will take to start a wildly successful project or business. August travel is favored. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 1, 3, 33 and 11.

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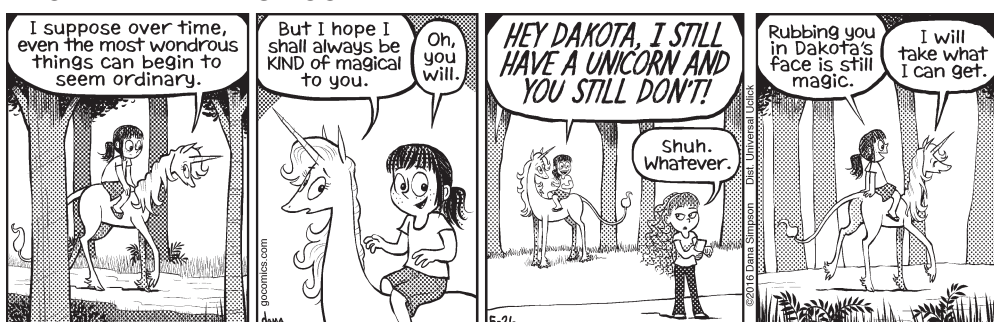
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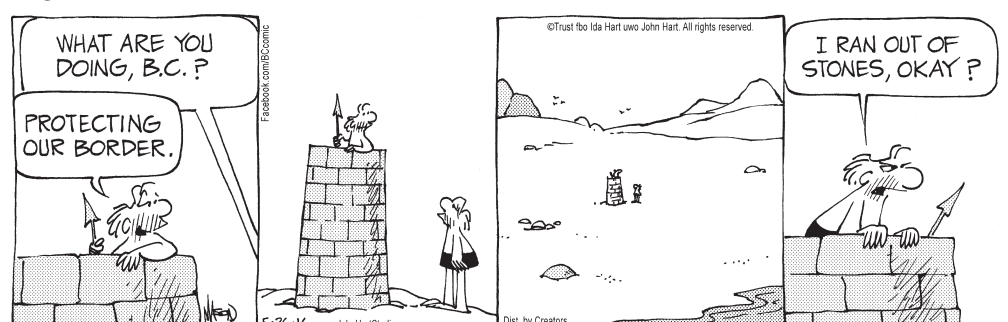
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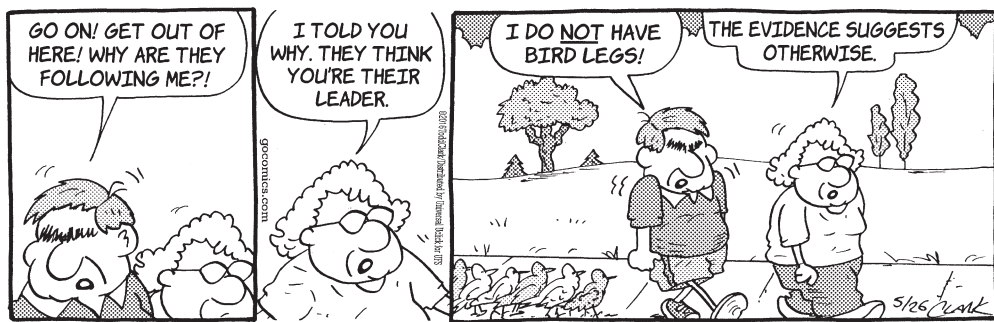
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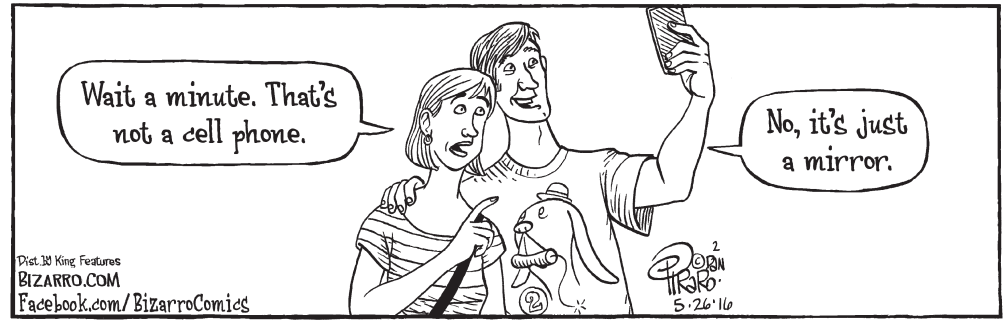
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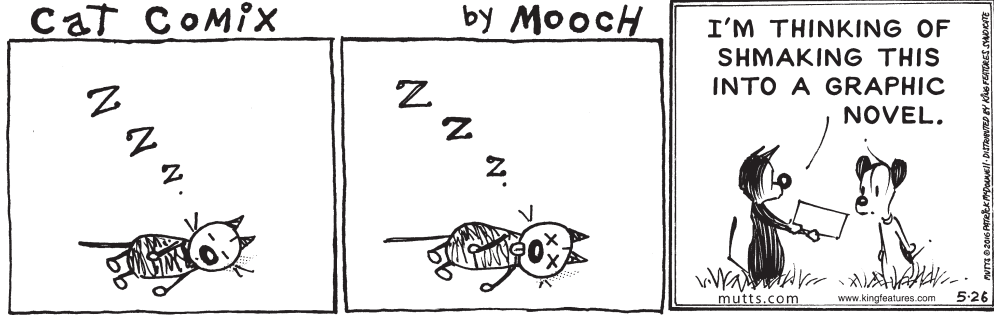
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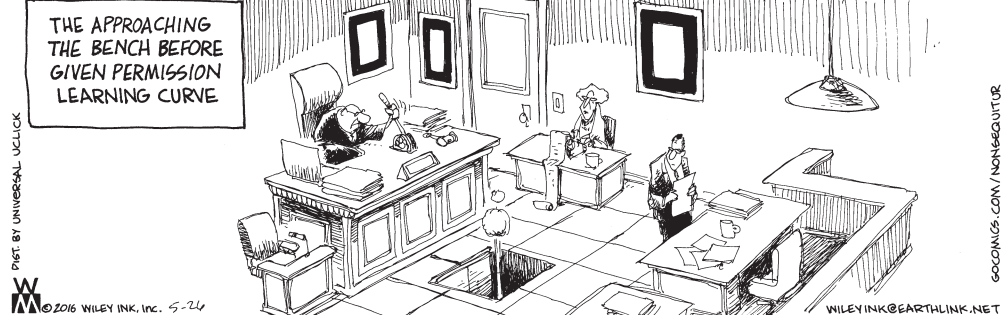
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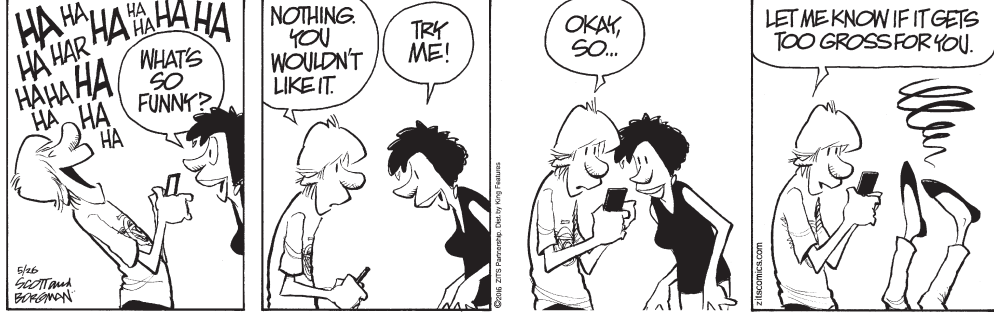
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