

Siblings argue about mom

Dear Annie: I am the eldest of four children of our soon-to-be 88-year-old mother, who has been sent home to hospice care.

She needs 24/7 care, and all four of us still work full time. A family meeting before her release produced a level of animosity and stress beyond imagination. I recommended a 90-day stay in a rehabilitation facility to get plans in order.

The doctor stated that Mom no longer has the mental capacity to make her own decisions. A family vote was 3-1 in favor of taking Mom home. Of course, I voted for the facility. It's expensive, but money should not be a factor when it comes to her.

All in favor of taking her home said that we could hire health care workers in addition to the hospice workers and that they themselves would fill in when needed.

It's become apparent to me that my siblings are primarily focused on saving their share of the inheritance. We're pitching in about 20 hours of care a week. Mom needs more help. We have a wonderful caregiver who is being limited to 25 hours per week. She would gladly work 40 hours each week. We also need to hire weekend help, which is available. This is Mom's money, not ours. We need to spend what it takes for quality care.

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

your mom took care of you all practically her whole life. Now she's depending on you.

However tense things get, keep the lines of communication open. Perhaps you could sit down with an outside mediator to evaluate what your mom needs. Hang in there, and don't neglect your own health.

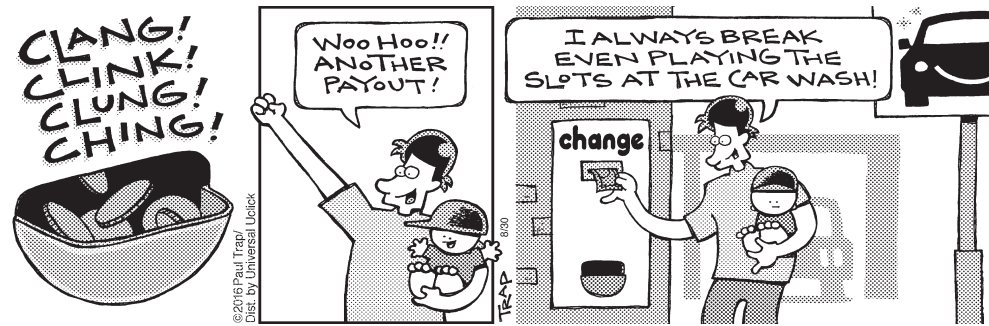
Dear Annie: I am an Adult Protective Services investigator and disagree partially with your answer to "Defensive of Dad," who wants his dad to stop giving money to a lady friend in her 50s. You stated that as long as his father is of sound mind, he has the right to make his own decisions. I would agree with that part of the answer. However, I do not think that your answer went far enough to protect his father.

I, too, believe that this woman is bullying him. It is important that his children stay involved. I would further suggest that they call Adult Protective Services in their state to start an investigation into the matter. In some states, they could make a report without the investigator's revealing who the complainant was. Many children are afraid their involvement will continue to push the parent away, but children of elderly parents have an obligation to do all they can to protect them.

FRANK AND ERNEST



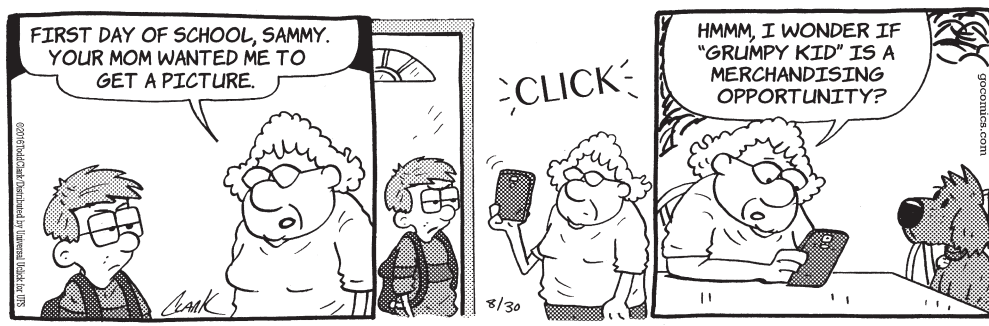
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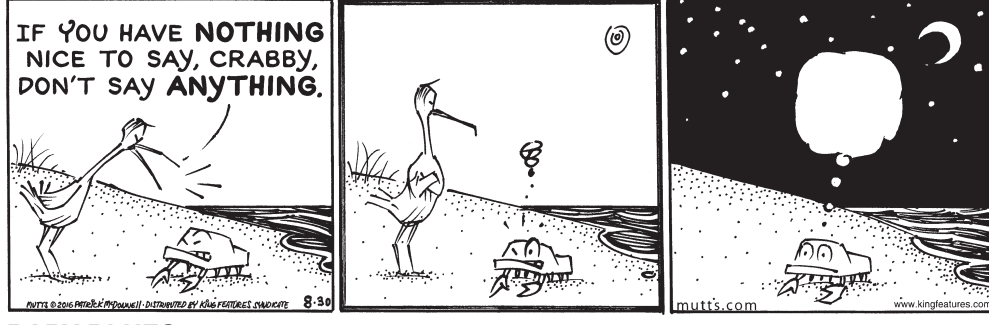
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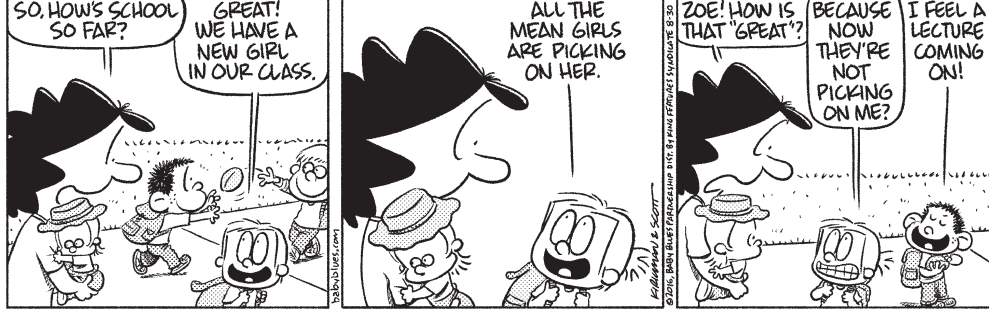
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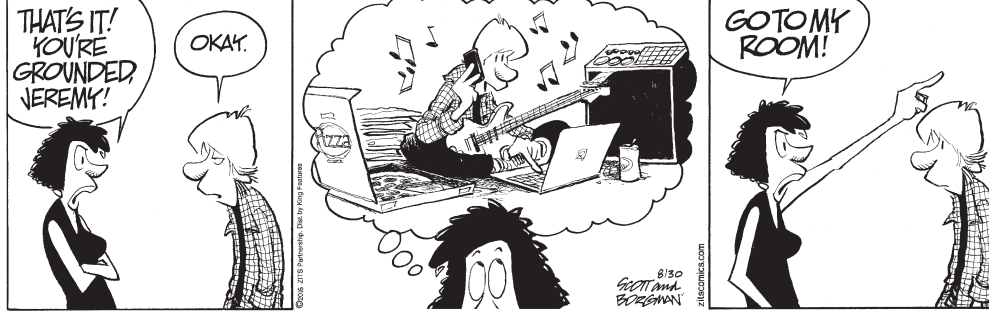
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Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone needs your agreement in order to move forward. The question is: Can you give it in good conscience? Politically it may help, but something about this is setting off alarms for you, and you'd be wise to heed the warning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have to be the best player on the scene to get in the game and have some fun. With your stellar attitude and sincere respect for the game, you'll do well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Each environment has its own language. There's a benefit to using the same vernacular as those around you. This translates to dress, as well. Some degree of conformity is polite. Don't worry; you'll still be you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). By pursuing your wide array of influences and interests, you've enhanced your chances of striking up a fascinating conversation or connecting in some small but meaningful way with a stranger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There won't be time to talk about what you're going to do. Lead the way; do it. It will be obvious to you which actions will lead to health and prosperity and which are just superfluous nonsense, counterproductive or destructive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Do not invest in the broad education of the "what" today, because everything you need to know is in the details of "how." The one who can give you specific help will open new opportunities for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You revel in your Venus-ruled advantages but will also benefit from adopting some of Capricorn's powerful attributes today — namely having to do with the

shrewd management of people and money. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Seeing clearly gives you the optimum advantage so you can quickly get where you want to go. Your cosmic gift of the day is excellent spiritual visibility that comes by way of a bright, nearly enlightened ally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). That thoughtful gesture you received a time ago still sticks in your mind as one of the more special things that someone has ever done for you. You'll get an idea today as to how to pay it forward.

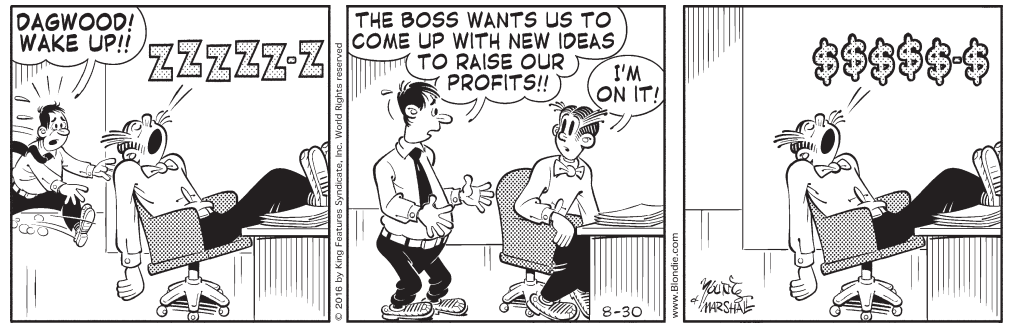
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). All couples are weird. People make each other happy for reasons often mystifying to everyone outside of the relationship. You're in a position to either tolerate someone's relationship or (futilely) object.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). True love is almost impossible to hide. Passion burns just like a mountain on fire: Don't be surprised if people smell it and see it from miles and miles away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There will be a stall in the action. Sweet! This is your lucky break. It's exactly the pause you needed to shift into a higher gear and take off rocket-style. Seize the day.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 31). This year offers you more accurate and holistic ways to measure success, resulting in your exponentially escalating happiness. The next 10 weeks show you learning the intricacies of a new pursuit. You'll sock money away in September and March. October is for trading promises. Adventure sets sail in June. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 3, 33 and 28.

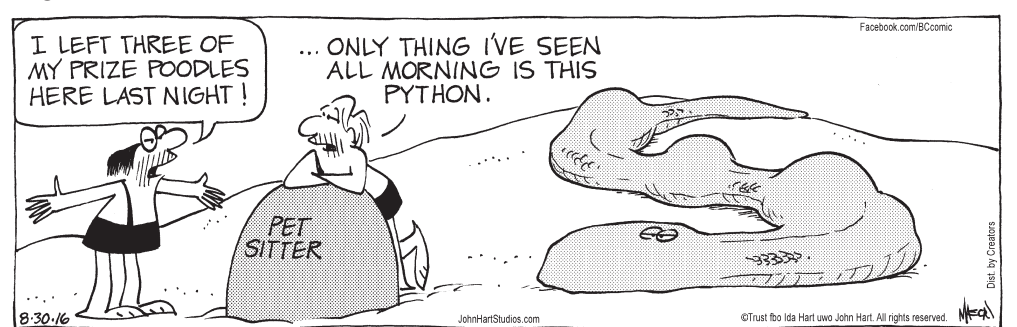
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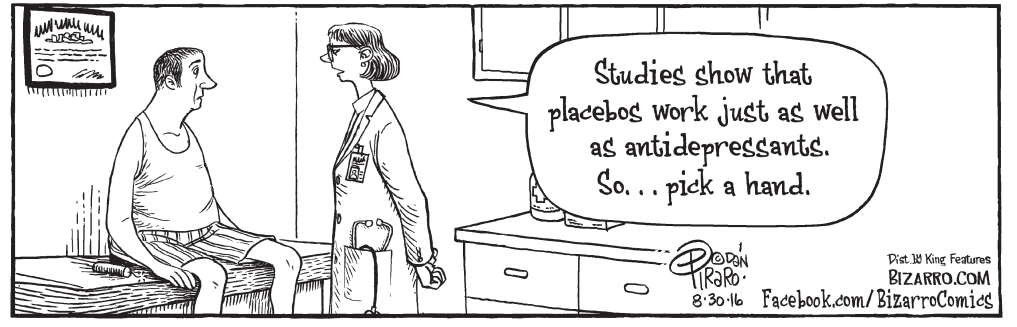
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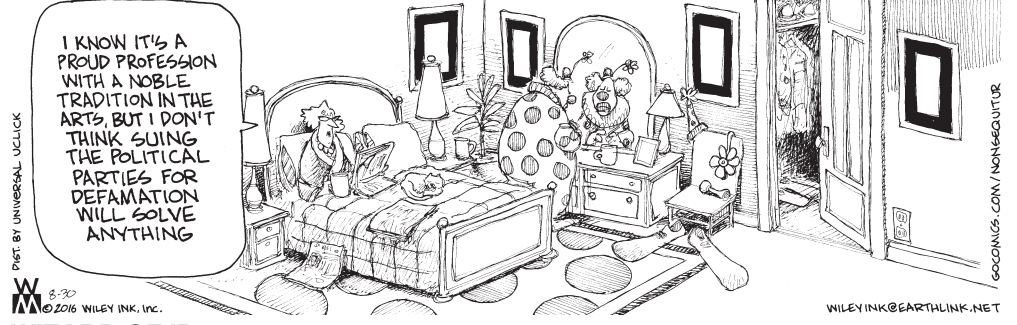
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