

# Pastor seeks appreciation

**Dear Annie:** I am the pastor of a beautiful church in a small community. Because we have a beautiful sanctuary, we get a lot of requests to have weddings in our church. Because I think it's important for every human to know a minister to whom they can turn in the case of an emergency, I am willing to do these weddings and have never charged a fee for doing so.

At one time, the couples I married appreciated this effort and sent thank-you cards, small gifts or honorariums. However, the most recent couples I married did not even bother to send a thank-you note. These are people who spend \$15,000 on a wedding and apparently don't think the minister's time is worth appreciation.

Please, for the sake of ministers throughout the country, would you remind your readers that churches do not pay their pastors extra for weddings and it is considered good manners to make some effort to compensate a minister for the time they put into a wedding. In the meantime, unfortunately, my policy now includes a mandatory fee to cover my time. Blessings to you!

— *Unappreciated Pastor*

**Dear Unappreciated:** It's unfortunate when a few bad apples

## Dear Annie



By  
**Annie Lane**

Creators  
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Inc.

spoil the barrel. I agree with you; it was rude of those couples not to give a donation or even send a thank-you note. You were kind enough to volunteer your time.

The fee sounds like a reasonable solution, and as long as you keep it relatively small, it shouldn't discourage people from getting married at your church.

Whether or not every couple fully appreciates you, I'm grateful there are people like you doing good work in the world.

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I met at a casino in Las Vegas. I was on a bachelorette trip for my best friend, and he was on a bachelor trip for his brother. We were sitting with all our friends at the blackjack table, and we both kept getting blackjack. It turned out we both lived in San Francisco, so it just felt like com-

plete fate. And it was!

For our fifth anniversary, we went to Vegas to celebrate where we met, gambled the night away and had fun. Our 10th year is coming up, and he is asking me to go again. But over the past five years, he has been gambling online a great deal. He has been hiding part of his income from me and gets very defensive when I ask him where the money is going. I've stopped asking because it just causes fights.

I am beginning to think that he has a problem, and Vegas is not where I want to go to celebrate our anniversary, as I don't want to encourage of this type of behavior.

— *Married to a High Roller*

**Dear Married:** It's time to take off that poker face and have a real conversation with your husband about his gambling. This is a very serious addiction and needs to be treated as such.

The nonprofit Gamblers Anonymous provides support for compulsive gamblers who wish to stop. The best anniversary gift for both of you would be his attending one of the group's meetings.

His road to recovery may be rough and meandering. Look after yourself so that his addiction doesn't destroy your psyche.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The work will be hard, but it's the kind of hard you choose for yourself. Because this challenge was one of your own deciding, you'll approach it with a glad heart and a willing hand.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People will tell you that the past doesn't matter anymore. Incorrect. The past matters a great deal. It's the foundation for what you're building now. Sift, sort and reframe it if you have to, in the name of self-empowerment.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're willing to accept that you have to take on some of the dull or difficult work to better yourself. But does it all have to be dull or difficult? Of course not. Get your fair share of fun in there.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Time to drop that person who makes you feel undeserving. You're not doing anyone favors by feeling guilty for wanting to be your own person, live your own life and claim the freedom that is your birthright.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're in a mood to compartmentalize, to devote yourself entirely to what you're involved with, no looking back (or sideways, or forward for that matter). With this attitude, you'll be mightily productive.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** If you have the privilege of spending time with one who has not yet been molded by society in the sense of right and wrong and its prejudices and manners, you will learn quite a lot. The under-8 set can be wonderful teachers.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The most fun you'll have today will be in doing something you're more or less awful at. There's something about knowing it's not going to be good that will set free the laughter of your soul.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** People can

be very unfair, self-serving and just plain strange in what they choose to acknowledge or ignore. If you're not getting the validation you crave it may be because someone is threatened by your fabulousness.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If your relationship is a muscle group, empathy is the dumbbell you need to lift again and again in order to strengthen it. Tired of being empathetic? Set it down. Shake it off. Take a break before you go another round.

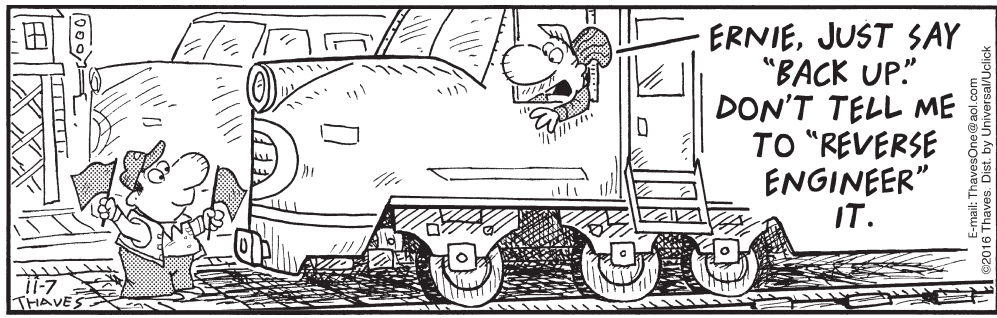
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Hard work doesn't always pay off in the result it was aimed toward, but it always pays off in some way. Character, self-esteem, the attainment of skills and relationships — it will come back to you in some way, believe it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Spend as much time as you can with people who live the way you want to live, who achieve the results you value and who make you feel good about what you have to offer. It's a no-brainer, but it bears repeating.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Serenity and attachment won't go together today. The action of bonding will involve friction. You can still find happiness, though. Either accept that relationships are going to be emotionally taxing or opt for solitude.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 8).** If your life were a novel, this chapter might be called "A Year of Celebration." It's not that you hedonistically seek constant fun; it's just that the blessings keep coming. You find joy in work. Relationships will be healed. New friendships will bring adventure to your world. Bonus money comes in July and September. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 50, 2 and 15.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



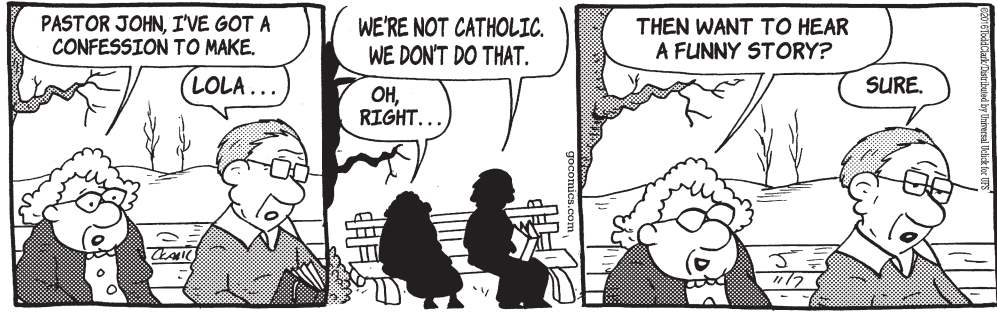
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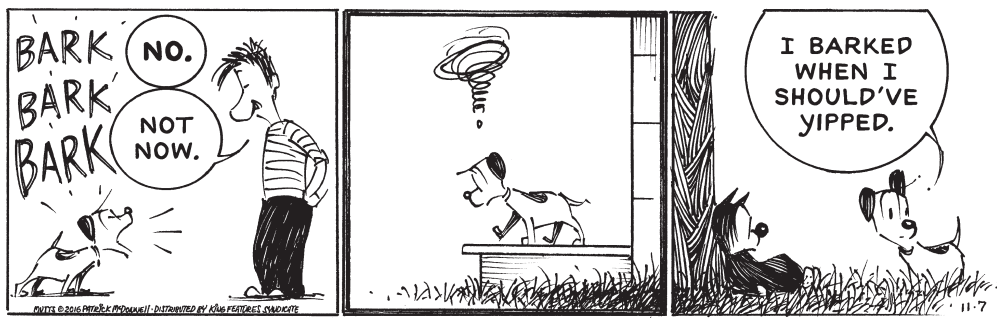
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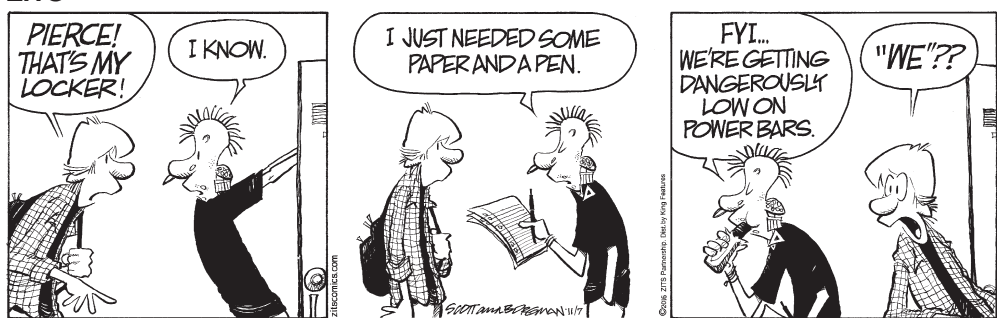
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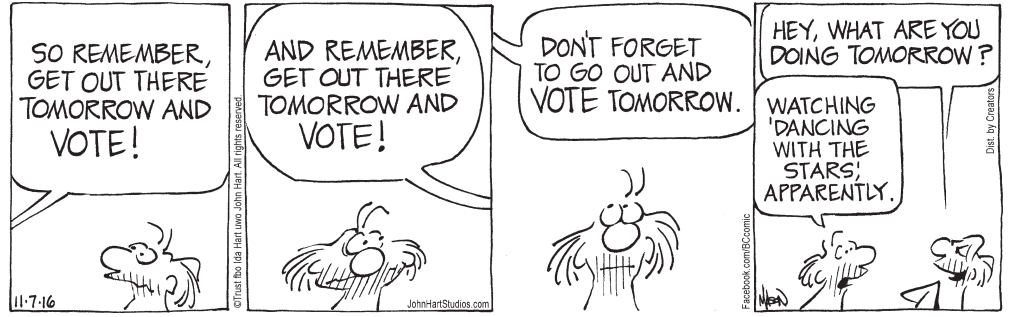
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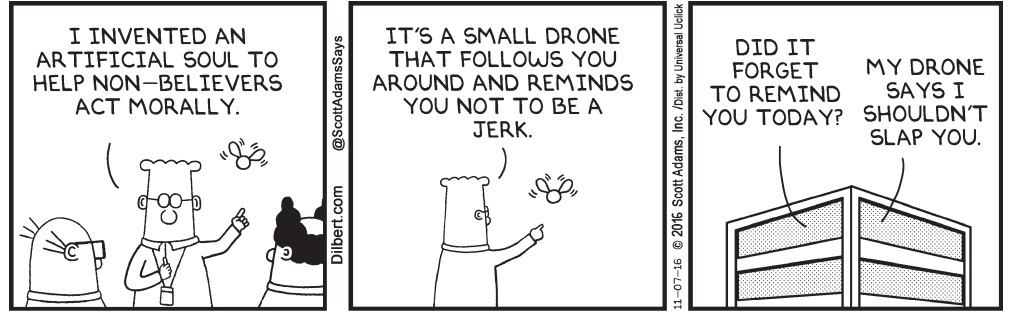
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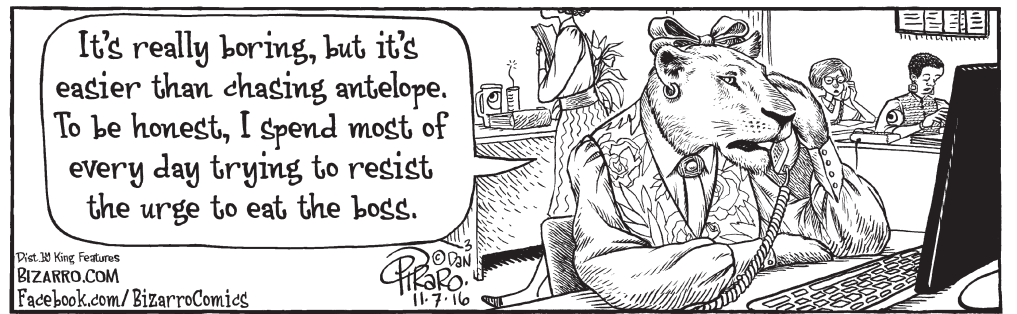
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