

# Don't come to his funeral

**Dear Annie:** This is a problem I know my family will have pretty soon. My mother married my stepfather, "Skip," after my father died 19 years ago. My stepfather had eight children before they got married, so I have eight stepsiblings. My mom passed away a few years ago.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Three of Skip's sons won't speak to him or visit because he gave his daughter power of attorney and they were very upset by that. Anyway, the problem now is that Skip doesn't want his sons at his funeral at all. Besides these three sons, he has another son and four daughters. And he has told all five of them to make sure the other three aren't there.

My question is: What can be done to get them to stay away at the funeral without causing a problem and without getting the law involved? Please help me to tell them how to fix this. — *Very Unhappy*

**Dear Very Unhappy:** You can try keeping the location of the service a secret and let all

invited guests know to keep the address to themselves because it's a private event. If the service is being held on private property, you can explain the situation to the owners and ask for their assistance in keeping out unwanted guests, who would technically be trespassing.

All that said, the onus is on the three brothers to respect their father's final wishes. Should they manage to attend the funeral, keep the focus off them and on remembering and celebrating the life of your stepfather.

**Dear Annie:** I just read your column with the letter from "Sad and Over It, With Empty Pockets." It was about a deadbeat son's not paying his parents back for a student loan. I almost fell off my chair. That is almost the same situation I am in.

About nine years ago, I co-signed a student loan for my granddaughter. She promised to pay it back. She said she really wanted to attend this

expensive school. After about seven months, she quit. She has not made a payment in almost two years. The balance owed is a little over \$10,000.

I get collection calls daily. I explain that I am on Social Security and have low income. They don't care. I sent my granddaughter a letter stating that she has to do something. She told me she isn't working and has two kids to take care of. I tell her to call the agency and arrange to make interest payments. She refuses.

I thought about calling an attorney but was worried that her mother (my daughter) would be upset with me. Well, after reading your reply to "Sad and Over It, With Empty Pockets," I will be calling an attorney this week. Thank you, Annie. You have been a great help to me. — *Empty Pockets, Too*

**Dear Empty Pockets, Too:** I'm proud of you for standing up for yourself. I hope the attorney's letter straightens your granddaughter out and you're made whole. Remember that assertiveness is not cruelty; it's merely self-respect.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You'll think logically and ask, "What am I trying to accomplish here?" but don't get too intellectual on it. Sometimes you just have to feel it and make your move.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're not lazy about work, and neither will you be lazy in matters of love or friendship. You'll go even when you feel like stopping in order to please or help another.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Instead of worrying about how your needs will get met, you focus your attention on serving the people you care about. Service has a way of turning up your personal power — and your mood.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** As you think of the one that got away, know that and this person's unique and appealing qualities are mythically and enormously exaggerated through the lens of memory. Also know that someone thinks of you in this way.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Ideally you would devote yourself to an important cause, although that does get a little complicated, and you may have trouble finding your "in." There's actually more potential in that silly little cause that's grabbing at your attention.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Not everything requires a thought process to move forward. When a thing is ready to take off, it will. Growth isn't always a plan. It's often just what happens in a conducive environment.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You can tell when a person is listening to you but not understanding you, or looking at you but not listening to you. You won't take it personally. Rather, you'll use it as a chance to experiment to find more effective communication.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It seems like good ideas are being snatched up all around you. Actually, they were snatched up long ago, and now they're just getting reworked. There's more where that came from. Seek antiquated inspiration.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If you focus on what's wrong, people will tune out. Also, if you dance around the subject, your message won't land. So be as clear and direct as possible about what you want. Don't forget the sugarcoating, though!

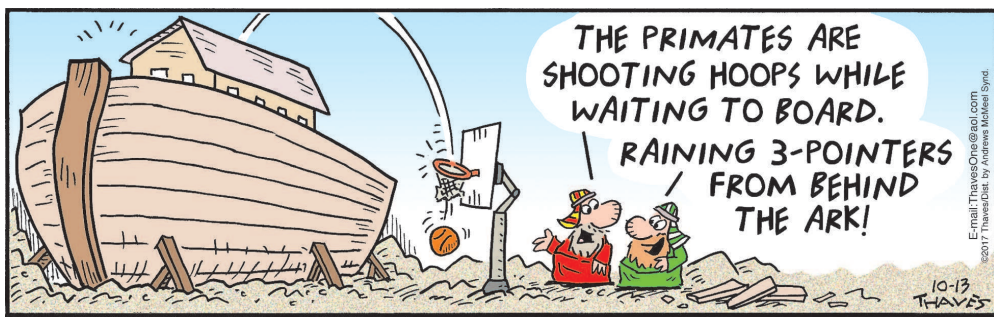
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's a message in joy and a message in pain. Both will point you in the direction of more happiness and enjoyment today, so be quick to pick up on the hints.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your focus will be more inward this weekend and that's an admirable direction that will serve you much better than distractions that keep you from examining your own mind. Building a rich inner life will lead to a rich exterior life.

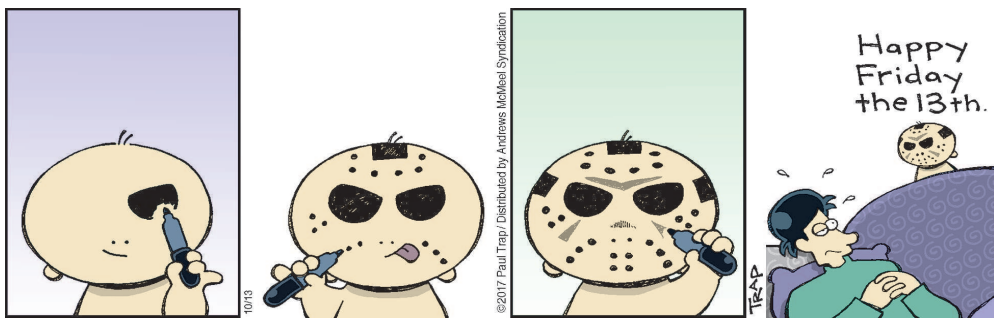
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** This is a day for skipping steps because you need to get quickly to the heart of the matter. For instance, you may assume a warm familiarity with someone you hardly know in order to become fast friends.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 14)** You've kept an attitude of gratitude through seemingly unfavorable circumstances, and something tremendously fortunate came of it. Surprisingly, it will be more of a challenge to keep a grateful heart through the wonderful good that happens this year, such as the windfall next month and January's award. Try, though! Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 40, 33, 12 and 19.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



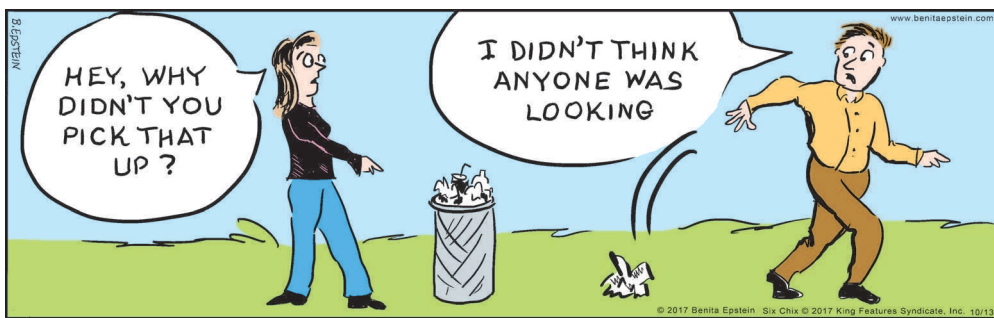
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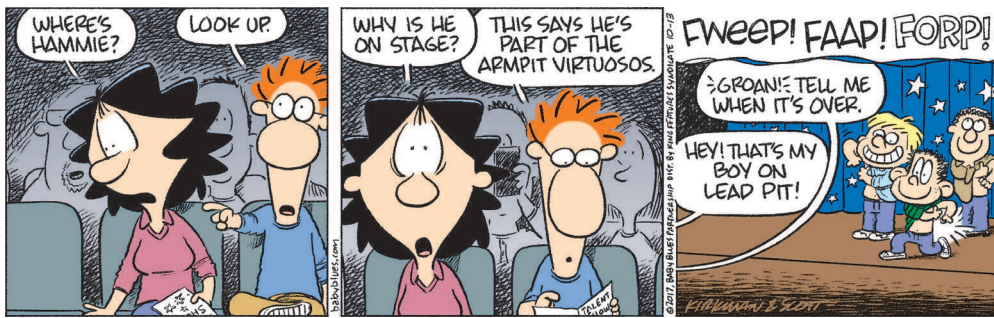
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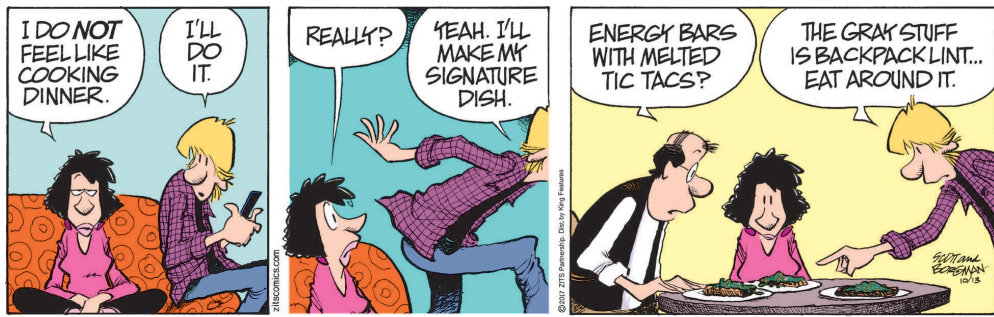
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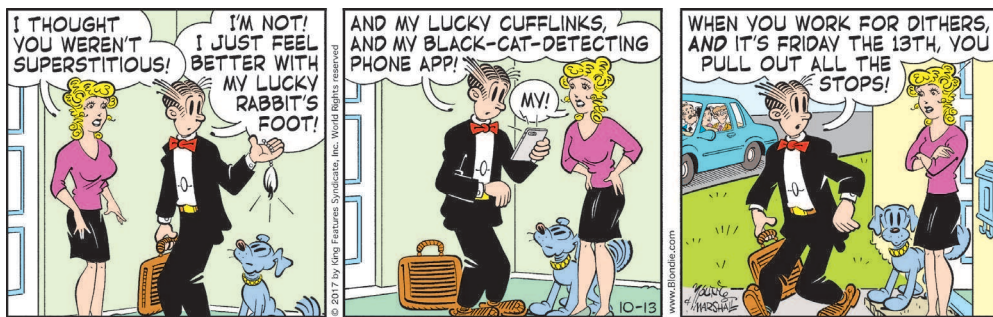
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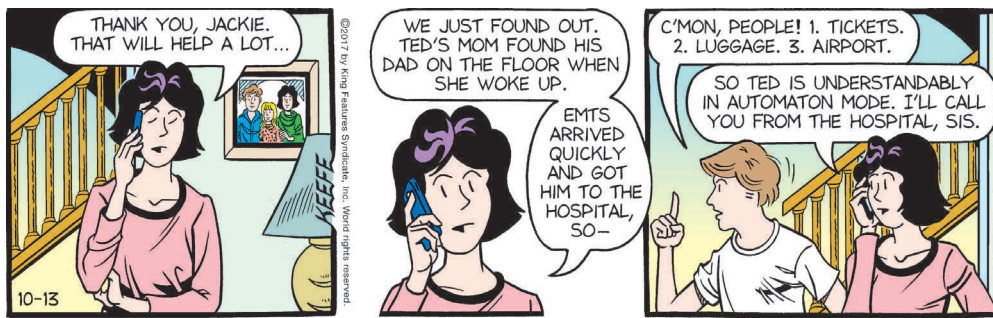
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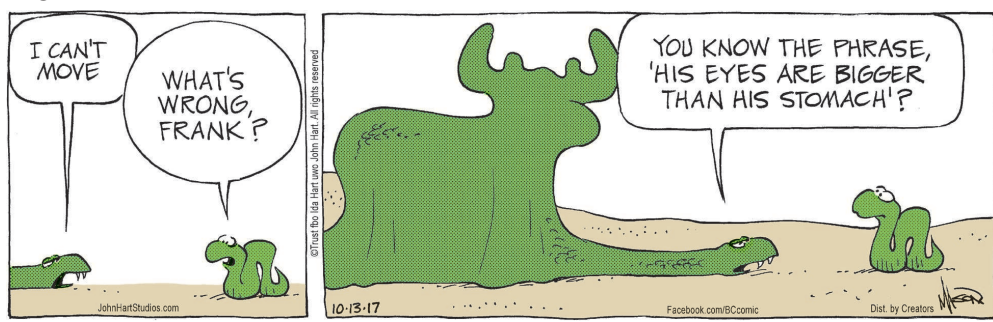
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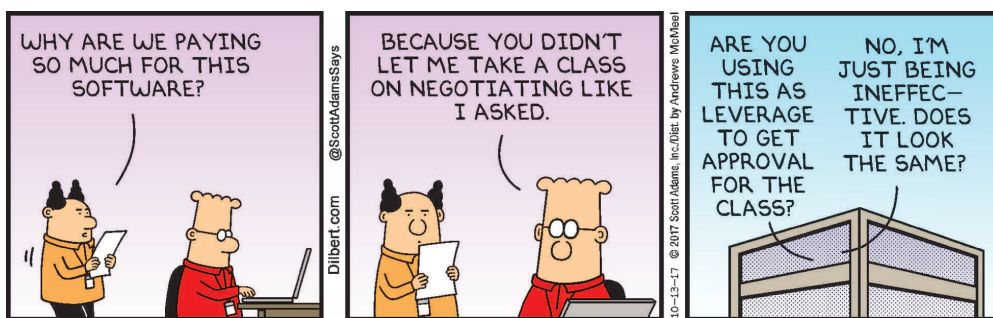
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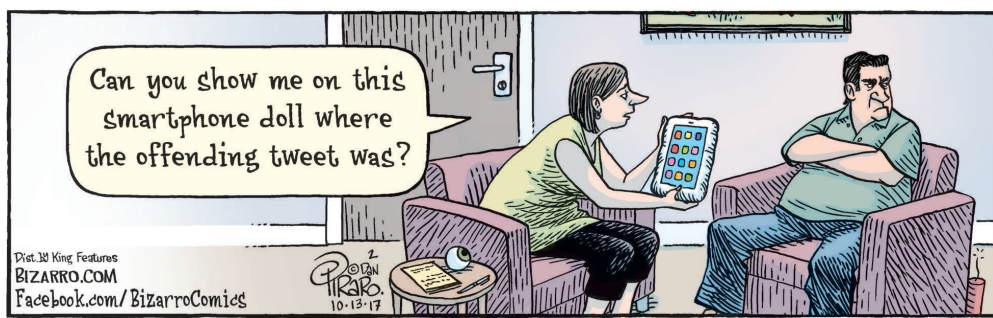
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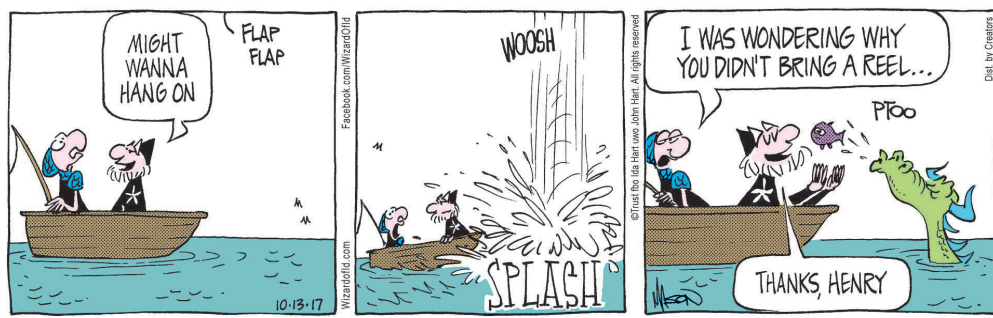
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

