

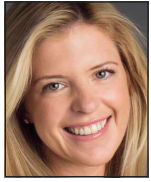
She's shoplifting with kids

Dear Annie: My son and his wife have been married for 11 years, and my daughter-in-law, age 31, has struggled with alcoholism, depression and anxiety for the past six years. She's also attempted suicide a few times in the past three years. She is under the care of a psychiatrist. But who knows whether she is telling him the truth? She also is a shoplifter. My two young granddaughters know that their mother does this. I've spoken with my granddaughters about this, as has my son, and they both know it is wrong and have asked their mother to stop.

She shoplifted again yesterday while we were shopping with my 9-year-old granddaughter. While my granddaughter and I were alone for a few minutes in the store, we discussed what to do if Mommy were to be caught going out the door with the stolen items. The plan was to just keep walking to the car. I did not want my granddaughter to be subject to that. But yet again, my daughter-in-law got away with it. I've not broached this behav-

ior with my daughter-in-law. I did not want to confront her in the store and cause a scene. Any suggestions on how to handle this with her and how to continue the conversation with my granddaughters? — *Concerned for Granddaughters*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Concerned for Granddaughters: It's not just Mom's shoplifting that these girls are dealing with. Even if they might seem too young to understand what's going on at home (alcoholism, anxiety and clinical depression), I'd wager they're picking up on more than you realize.

Broaden the conversation to be not just about the shoplifting incidents but also about their lives and feelings in general. Include your son in these conversations. You might privately suggest to him that he set up an appointment with a child psychologist. If they're internalizing the stress of their home lives right now, it could impact their development and have lifelong effects.

Dear Annie: I have a friend who has been married for many years and is in a loving relation-

ship with his wife. For some reason, over a decade ago, his wife ended their physical relationship. There was no reason for this abrupt change.

After a few years, he casually mentioned to his wife that he had noticed that there had been no physical contact for a while. She began to cry and promised to "do better." It was a very short conversation, with no recriminations, no questions as to why this had occurred, just acceptance.

Years went on, and there was still nothing. For some, infidelity, counseling or even divorce would have been the next step. None of those was acceptable to my friend. Instead, he unilaterally decided that his wife was no longer his wife. He would now spend the rest of his life living with his former wife, now his newly discovered "long-lost sister." He still loved her just as much as before, still enjoyed living together as friends. It was a "no mess, no fuss, no bother" relationship-salvaging solution. — *Hope This Helps*

Dear Hope This Helps: Partners can enjoy a strong sense of companionship without physical love.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Soon you'll go from stealing the show to having your own show. But you're not quite ready for either one just yet. Quiet observation and careful listening are the skills you most need to employ for now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People have unspoken demands of one another, and the agreement to those demands is often also something that is never discussed. But when it's time to change the deal, as it is now, the way to do it is with words.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need to express yourself. The added pressure you put on yourself about whether that expression is good enough is really unnecessary and could actually be quite harmful if you let it stop you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you can't figure out the business side of a problem, it's perhaps because the other sides of it are a little murky as well. But the good news is, as you sort through, organize and get clear, all sides improve at once.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The stumbles and heartache and sacrifices — they weren't for nothing. You'll solve the problem, win the project, save the day. At the very least you'll have a better idea than you would have come up with last month.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'd like to believe that people always get what they give, although it just doesn't seem to happen in some cases. Even if it's only true some of the time, it's still worth putting into practice. Your life is richer for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The ego gets smaller the same way the body does. Don't feed it as much. Don't give it everything it wants. The ego will serve you best when it's strong but

lean.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you're the one in charge, it's easier to say yes. That's why effective leaders have to be people who aren't afraid of being unpopular and declining the proposals of their constituents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A slow, gradual approach will be very favorable for this leg of the journey. You'll be stronger and more certain by the time you get there, and you'll be received with confidence and trust.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To regret wasting your time is an even further waste of your time. So instead, you'll take action. You'll plug a leak, break a chain or erase the board and start all over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It will be difficult to get anything personal done if you involve too many people. When it comes to working alone, motivation is the hardest part, but after you get motivated you can work much faster than you would with a group.

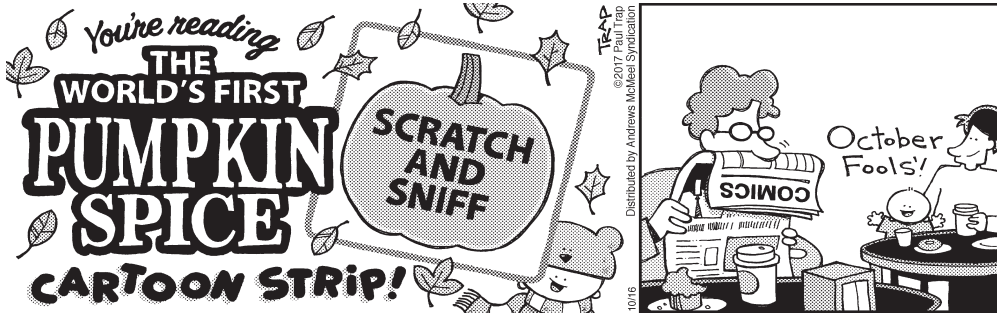
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A large gesture creates a big impression. That it's the right impression is more important than its size, though. Think about what you're trying to accomplish, and make a plan instead of rushing forward with the first idea.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 17). Because you know that the minutes go by regardless of what you've put inside them, you are ever vigilant to fill your time with what has meaning and value to you. You have never been so in touch with what moves you, and new inspiration and motivation comes each and every month of your next solar return. Aquarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 11, 40, 2 and 9.

FRANK AND ERNEST



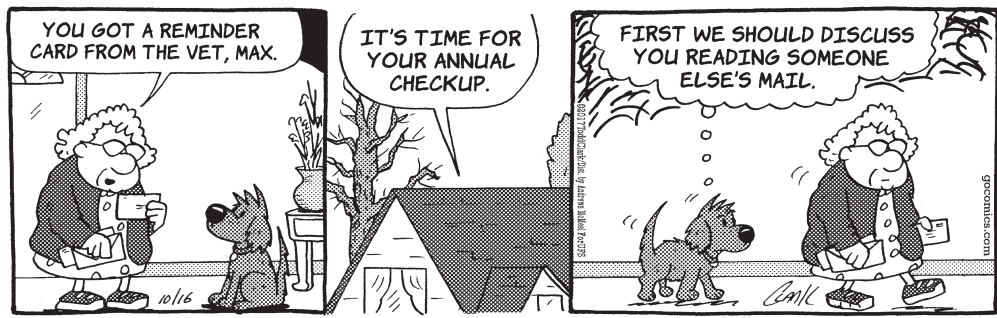
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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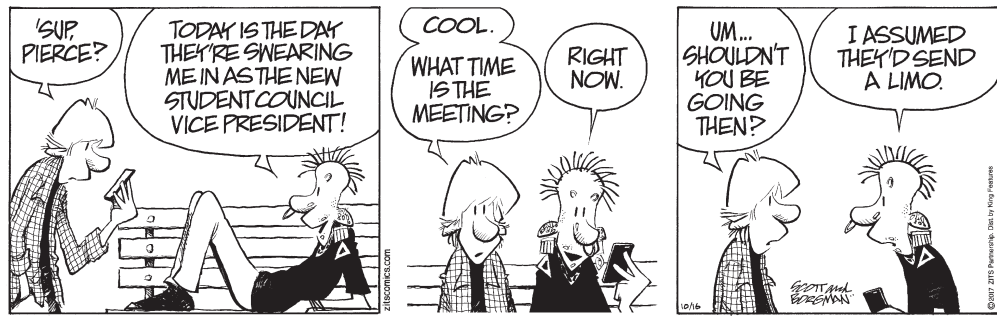
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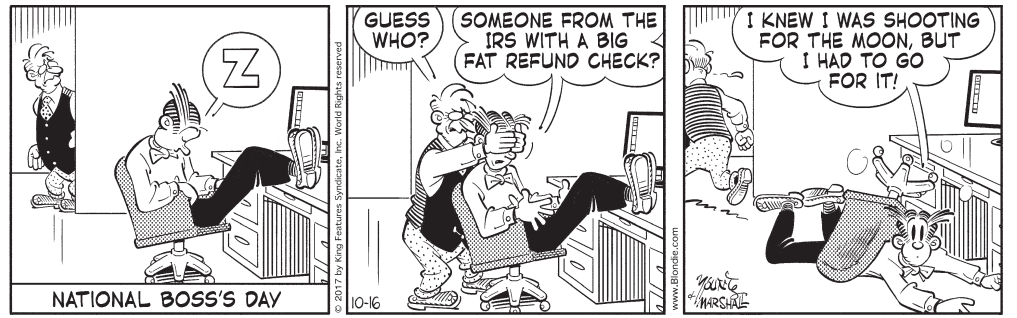
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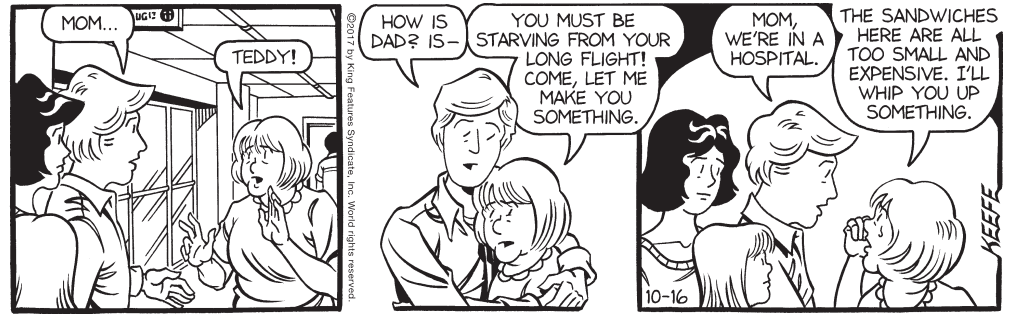
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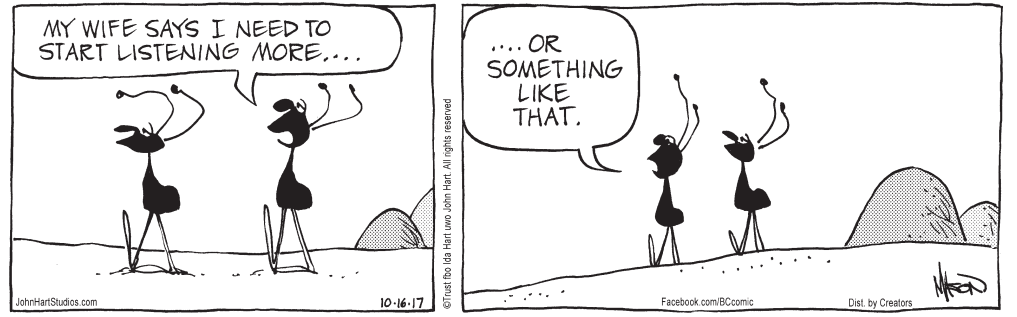
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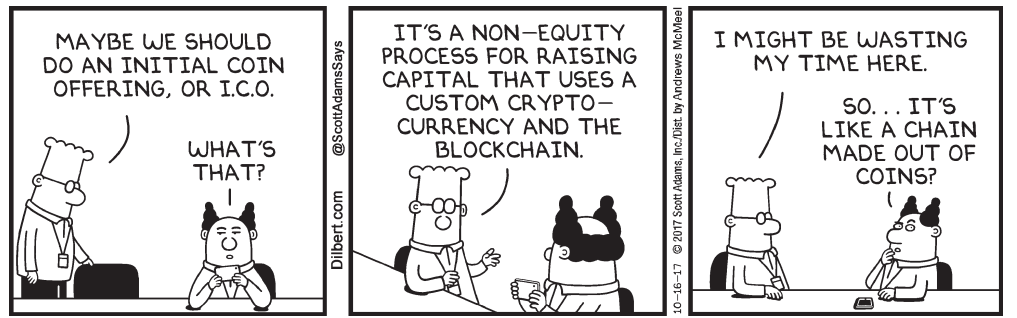
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

