

# Family wedding woes

Dear Annie: Your help is needed to resolve a family problem. One of my granddaughters, "Mackenzie," called to say she is getting married in a few weeks. This will be a small wedding, as she and her fiancé do not have a lot of money. Only 45 guests are invited. Now the problem: Mackenzie is not inviting my son and daughter-in-law, as they do not have a close relationship and she has not seen them in two years. I was upset with the news; he is her uncle. She also said that she will not be notifying him to tell him he is not invited and that if I want, I can call him to inform him.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

I understand this is her wedding, but this exclusion is really upsetting me. Now the question to you, Annie: What does one do in this situation? — *Angry in Connecticut*

Dear Angry: As you said, this is your granddaughter's wedding, so she can invite whomever she'd like. But she's also in charge of informing family members that they're

not invited. Don't let that fall to you. That said, if the issue is truly just the expense and you have the means financially to help, you could offer that option to your granddaughter. She might really appreciate the help, and your son and his wife would no doubt appreciate being included in their niece's special day.

Dear Annie: I'm 64, so in six more years, I'll be in my 70s (if all goes well). Writing from that perspective, I disagree with your advice. Telling people our age to "lose (themselves) in helping others" is a way of suggesting that our own interests don't have value or validity.

I'm not saying there's anything wrong with volunteering; people of any age are free to do so. But the belief, often stated, that old people should putter around doing volunteer work and focus solely on helping others is selling us short. It's like telling someone who's dissatisfied with being a housewife

and raising kids who are almost grown that she just needs to have more kids or adopt foster kids or something along those lines.

A sense of purpose can also come from doing creative work. We could paint, draw or sculpt; write stories, novels, screenplays or memoirs; spend time with friends and family; hike and build our health; travel and explore this wonderful world; or join groups that are working to "heal the world."

None of these activities is focused on giving up on our own interests. Call me selfish if you will, but I'd like to go on living my own life for as long as I'm around. The notion that we need to lose ourselves in helping others suggests our lives aren't fun anymore or aren't worth living. A strange attitude, in my estimation. — *Sarah M.*

Dear Sarah M.: I'm printing your letter because you make a great point. There are plenty more ways for retirees to spend their time than just volunteering, and self-enrichment isn't selfish in the least. Thanks for writing.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Innovation is not everyone's first inclination. A lot of people would rather try small improvements first. It will benefit you to stay open-minded about all possible paths, conventional and unconventional alike.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You've a good plan, but life will throw a wrench in it anyway. Consider that a cosmic gift. Because what could be duller than a plan that goes off without a hitch?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your usual effervescence may be temporarily muted by a few borrowed troubles. No worries. All you have to do is return those troubles like a library book, and don't check them out again.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Advertising is a part of life. You're selling you. You compose the "ad" in the way you dress, talk and position yourself: It's all part of your pitch. Have fun with this today. You're both the creative team and the product.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Many will vie for your attention. Some genuinely need you. Even so, cater to your own needs first. This will put you in the position to deliver the best you can.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You change environments just by being in them. Complete strangers will notice your influence. Your presence is, in a sense, a responsibility, because wherever you go, you want it to be better because you were there.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** With all the changes going on in your part of the sky, you may be uncharacteristically sensitive. So protect yourself. Put up a layer of emotional padding, or, at the very least, emotional sunscreen.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When you can make someone laugh, it makes you feel smart, even if you're playing the fool while you're doing it. It's good to know you can reach people in that very nuanced and sophisticated human place call humor.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You don't have to point out everything that's false — not to them, not to yourself, either. As your sign mate Mark Twain said, "Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live."

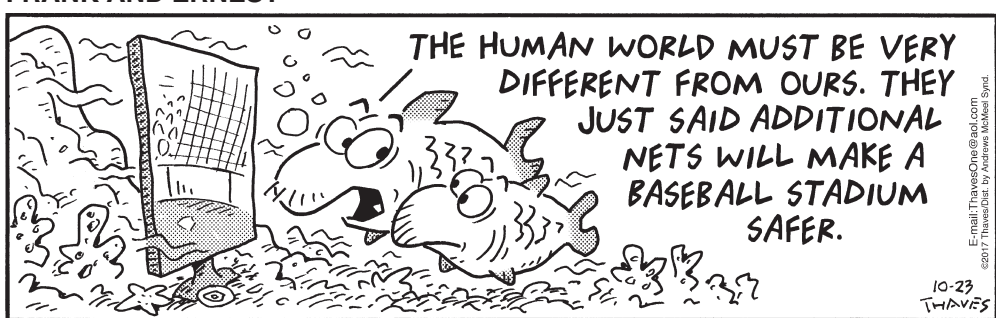
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You have good intentions and no plan. That's fine for today. It's one of those rare times when your purpose is your plan. You're here to improve things, and that's exactly what you'll do.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It's fun to be the new person in the group, and you'll make an impression by being there, even if you never go back and become part of it. Your presence will add a certain vigor to the proceedings.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As ethereal as you are, you're still pretty grounded, in the sense that you cannot imagine believing in your own superiority to the other people of the world. Unfortunately, you'll have to tolerate those who really do think they're better.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 24).** You do want something that's hard to get. Few have it. The path will be difficult. You'll have to recommit over and over. So what? You have the grit! You can make it if you keep going. Your polished work will get you noticed. You'll be paid well, but you have to ask for it first. People believe in you and root for you. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 1, 4, 9 and 13.

### FRANK AND ERNEST



### THATABABY



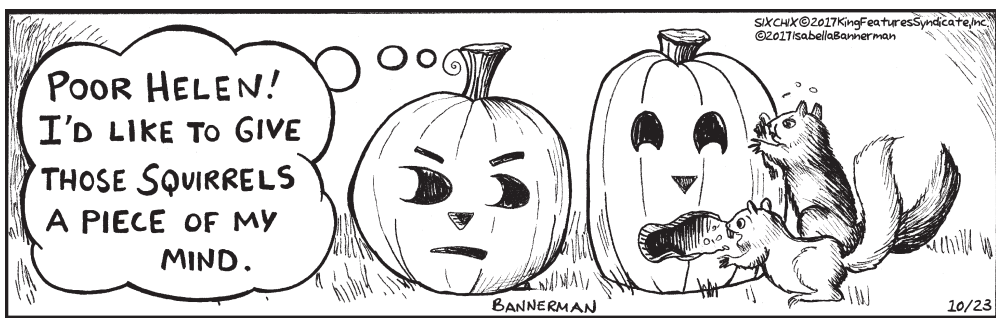
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### LOLA



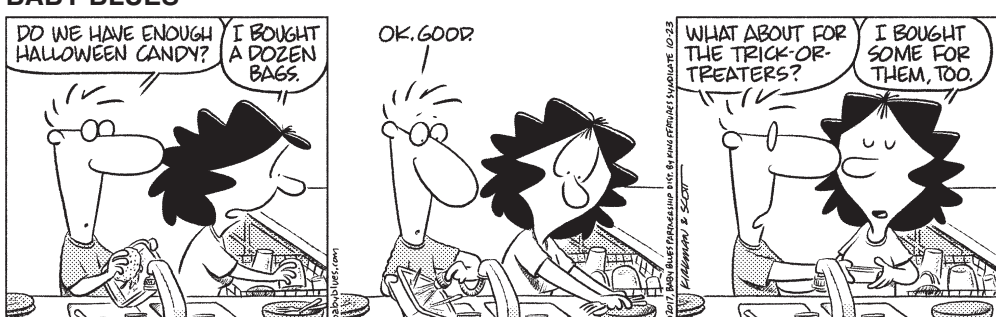
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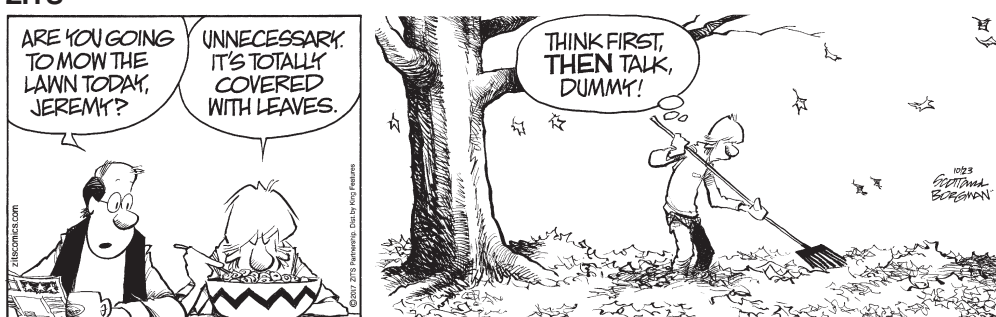
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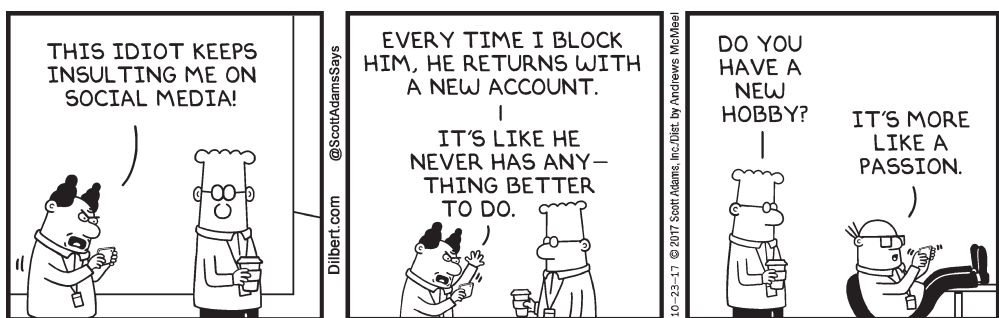
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### B.C.



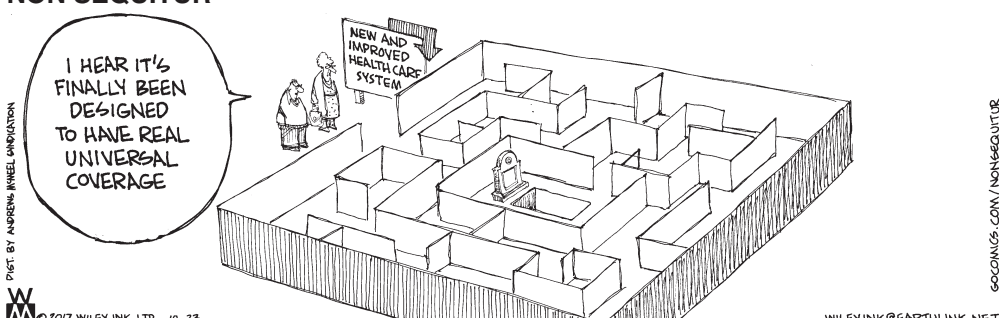
### DILBERT



### BIZARRO



### NON SEQUITUR



### WIZARD OF ID



### ROSE IS ROSE

