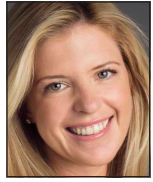


Little brother is a mess

Dear Annie: I've spent years watching my youngest brother tear my family apart, and now I need to make it stop. Coming into high school, he was bratty, angsty and entitled, but he was also the baby of the family and, let's face it, a teenage boy.

I just think he is selfish. But now it's coming to a breaking point: He turns 18 in a month, and his principal just called to say that if he makes one more mistake, he'll be expelled. How far can rock bottom be?

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Fast-forward to four years later, and he is never sweet, never thankful and never kind. My parents both work multiple jobs to keep our family afloat and are nothing but kind and understanding. All they want is their son back. But he is a nightmare, both in and out of the house. He won't keep a job. He won't do his schoolwork. He won't respect my parents. He takes money from my mom's wallet and has been caught with drugs and alcohol. None of their punishment has ever worked; he just refuses. I've struggled to keep my mouth shut over the years, because they're the parents, not me. They've even tried therapists and counselors, but that hasn't made a difference. Honestly, I don't think he is ill.

My sister moved away because she can't handle it, but I can't watch my parents' hearts and spirits break any more. What can I do to fix this mess and keep my family sane? — *If He Only Had a Heart*

Dear If He Only Had a Heart: The first thing you can do is to take that enormous burden off your shoulders. Though I commend your kindness and concern for your brother's behavior, it is in no way your responsibility. The last thing your parents need is two unhappy children. Perhaps you could stage an intervention in which each of your family members writes your brother a letter saying how much he is loved but firmly laying out how he is hurting himself and the family. If drugs are the problem, he may break down

and ask for help. Worst case is that he will have to hit bottom before seeking help. But knowing that he has a loving family is a major plus.

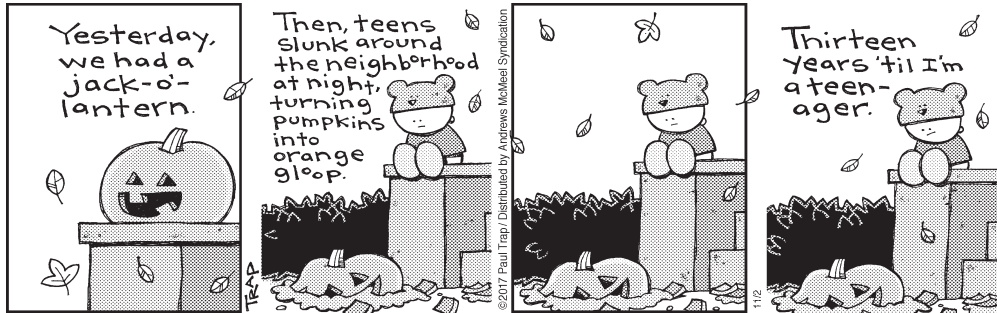
Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Toddler Turbulence," who was bothered on a recent flight by a young child slamming his fold-up tray against the seat back over and over. I know how she feels. I am in a wheelchair, and people don't understand that when they bump into my chair when they walk by me or hit my chair with a drink cart — even just tapping one of my wheels — it shakes my entire chair and hurts me. I very kindly ask them to be more careful and not kick my wheels. On a plane, some just don't realize what they are doing to the person in front of them or behind them. I hope that next time, "Toddler Turbulence" will say something to make future flights more enjoyable. — *Eileen From Pennsylvania*

Dear Eileen: I'm printing your letter to encourage everyone to be conscientious on airplanes and especially careful not to bump anyone who is in a wheelchair.

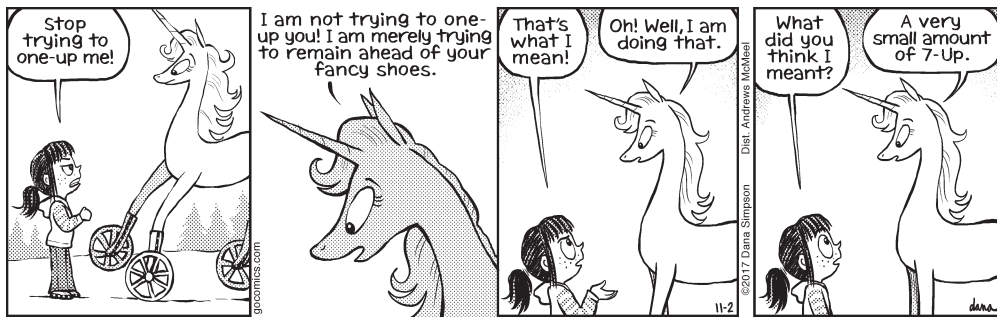
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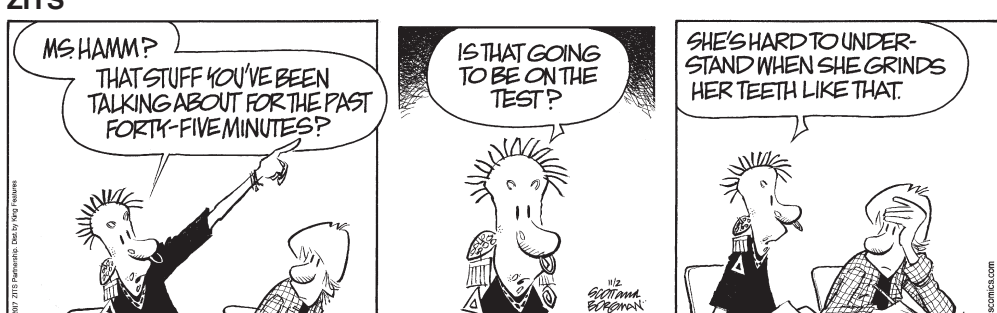
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Of course you're interested in what affects your needs and goals. If you can't figure out what's in it for you, naturally you'll lose interest. Knowing this is how things work, you'll craft something irresistible for you and yours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll lead with your generosity of spirit, though you still must act out of self-interest in many matters, as it would be irresponsible not to. Self-care is a duty and a public service.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've undergone so many incarnations in your lifetime already, and you're about to add another to the story. Follow your curiosity wherever it may lead. If you're not sure if you should ask, ask anyway.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Maybe you started late, or maybe you don't come from the same place as the others. Whatever makes you different, lean into that. You'll succeed without having to hide anything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's futile to fight against the waves of change. They are so powerful, and you'll only exhaust yourself. Stay relaxed, and provide no resistance. Eventually, out of the turmoil, you'll start moving steadily in a direction that makes sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no time to waste on hating the experiences that led you here. That will cause you to fall back. Instead, affirm: Here you are, shaped by what happened and also by what might happen. Fall forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Each stage of your life seems to demand you to be a little different from who you were. And now you're busy figuring out what stays and what goes for the new version.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The sands of time don't stop for drama, and neither should you. Take a quick scan to assess what's relevant to you then move on. Avoid gossip. It's good to satisfy curiosity unless that curiosity is of the morbid variety.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). "Sky above, earth below, fire within" — this creed has served you well, though you really could use a water sign influence to balance it all out. Today you'll get just that.

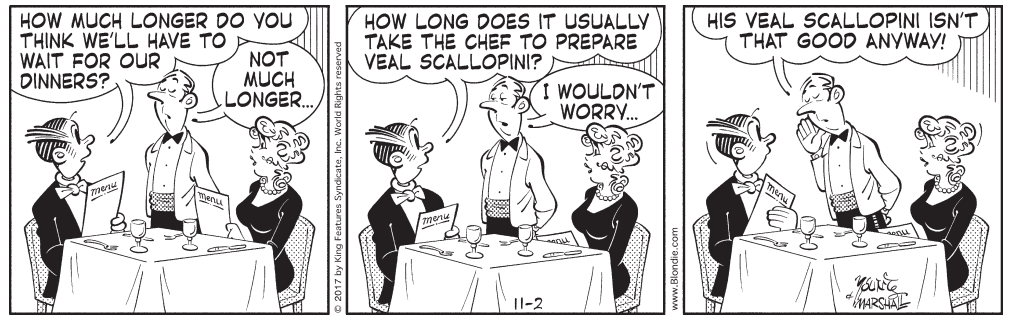
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not sure if the project is finished, the job has ended, or the relationship is played out. Make no move. Wait to see what else comes up. Punctuate this with a semicolon instead of a period, because there's probably more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A relationship is changing again. You've already been strangers, friends, enemies, friends again and more. And now you are back to being a little unsure of what the other person will do. Keep up your guard as you find out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You definitely won't master the whole project in a day or even a month. Anyway, big thinking can be overwhelming and can bog you down now. Focus on being the master of this hour, then the next and the next.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 3). You'll do it by yourself, for yourself, over the next six weeks — with amazing results, due to your habit of breaking things down into small steps. Plans will change to accommodate someone who needs you. Ultimately, it's a lifestyle improvement! In 2018 riches come from teamwork and community spirit. Capricorn and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 20, 3, 15 and 28.

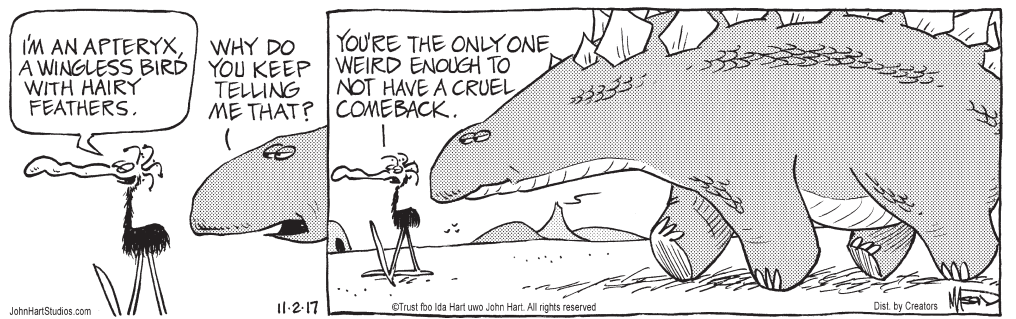
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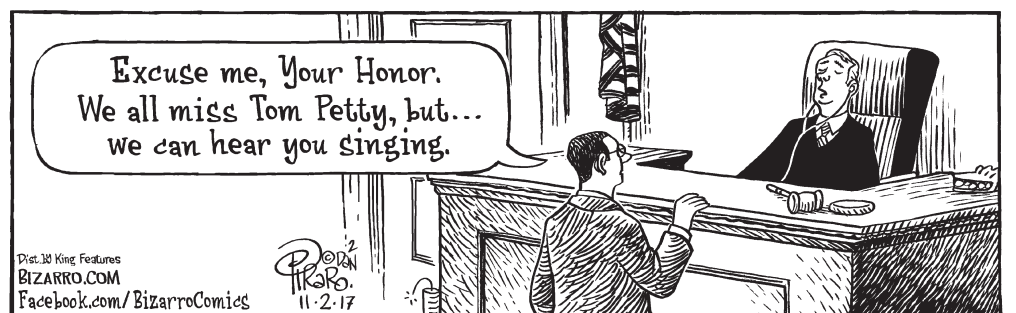
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ROSE IS ROSE

