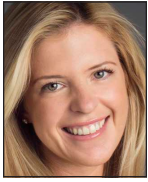


# American Legion out of control

**Dear Annie:** I have witnessed a change in a local American Legion post over the past several years. I support and commend anyone who has served our country. Originally, these posts were established by veterans and run by elected veteran officers and veteran executive board members. These posts were founded with bylaws and rules supporting the motto, "For God and Country."

At my local post, the commander would make a better follower than he does a leader. He backstabs his officers to try to make himself look good. Officers are drunk at some meetings, which is very inappropriate, yet this is allowed by the commander, who should be observing and enforcing a code of conduct for the meetings. Minutes that prove that items were voted on are suddenly lost or misplaced. Married officers are having sexual affairs with the hired staff. There is stealing of items that belong to the post. Bartenders drink while on bar duty. Pay increases to certain staff members are given without the board's approval. Non-members come in and do what they want.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

When one member makes comments to re-establish what the post stands for and who should be making decisions on everything that is going on, he is critiqued for it and often chastised, told that it's none of his business, even though he's an elected member. Is this what "For God and Country" stands for? — *Concerned Legionnaire's Wife*

**Dear Concerned Legionnaire's Wife:** Certainly not. But even the most virtuous motto falls flat without good men and women standing behind it. It's time for your husband and any other upstanding members to take action. He can contact the American Legion's internal affairs department at 317-630-1330 for guidance.

**Dear Annie:** I have been a special education teacher for over 20 years. The students in my class have intensive needs, and therefore we have a high staff-to-student ratio. I have an exceptional assistant, and we have dedicated aides.

The reason I am writing is I believe that parents have difficulty with giving gifts at the holidays and the end of the year. Certainly, any gift is very much appreciated, but in

the special education world, parents can be overwhelmed by the number of people involved in educating their children and often feel as though they need to send in something for everyone. Though that is a very nice thought, I also know that raising a child who has special needs is expensive, and I see parents spend so much more than necessary. I just wanted to offer a few suggestions to your readers who may find themselves in this position.

Gift cards for coffee, a basket of snacks to be used on a staff development day (or just a tough day!), a jar of miniature chocolates, homemade sweets that can be shared among a group of people — any of these would do. You could also contact a couple of other parents and purchase a gift card together to buy lunch. I always enjoy homemade ornaments or magnets. Even a card with a note to say how much someone's hard work has meant to your child's development is a treasure. There is no need to break the bank to make someone feel special. — *Anonymous*

**Dear Anonymous:** Your dedication and thoughtfulness are inspiring. I'm printing your letter now, in advance of the holidays. Thank you for the perspective.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You've plenty of hustle to apply and just the right circumstances to apply it. You're about due to fall into the kind of sweet luck that happens when a hard worker meets a soft opportunity.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Some people show strength to the world, overcoming their obstacles and achieving their goals publicly. Stronger still are those who quietly fight private battles that no one will ever know about.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You don't have to know steps 10 through 100 to get started. All you have to know is step one. Although, a general knowledge of steps two through nine would be extremely helpful to your momentum.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Seasons change. Don't confuse the season for a fact of life. This is not the way it's going to be forever. For better or worse, this moment will pass. Let that inform your priorities today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It might be hard to see at first, but take a step back and view it again and you may notice that you have much more power in the situation than you're using. Things will continue on just the way you allow them to.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There are consequences to every action: some foreseeable, some not. You'll drive yourself crazy trying to project an end result before you make your choice. This is a situation where you really have to go with your gut.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The desire to raise your voice can seem to happen after you're already yelling. But you've extra powers of awareness and restraint to use to communicate on a higher, not louder, level.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You know what it's like to be encouraged, and you also know what it's like to be torn down. That's why you build up the people around you whenever you get the opportunity to do it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The tone of this day might not be consistent enough for you to ever get comfortable, and that's a good thing. You'll stay alert and you'll see what others miss. You'll cut trouble off at the pass.

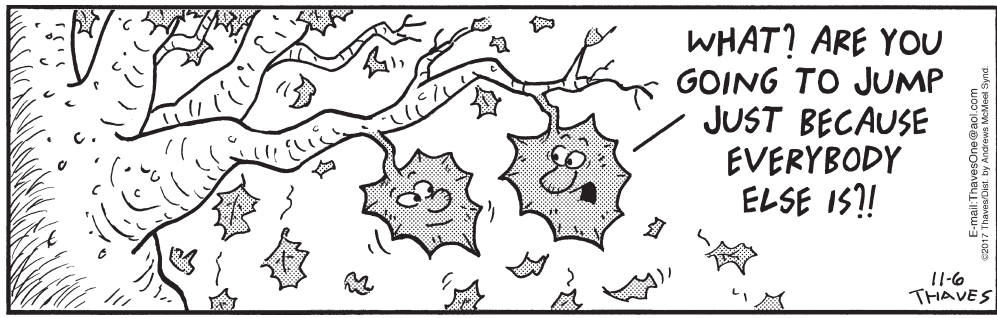
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The first time you go somewhere is usually the most exciting because you don't know the way. Feeling unsure and lost is part of what makes the adventure great.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You can trust people without being naive. The way to do this is to trust with accuracy — to learn the nature of the other person so that you can predict future behavior and to put your trust in that particular expectation.

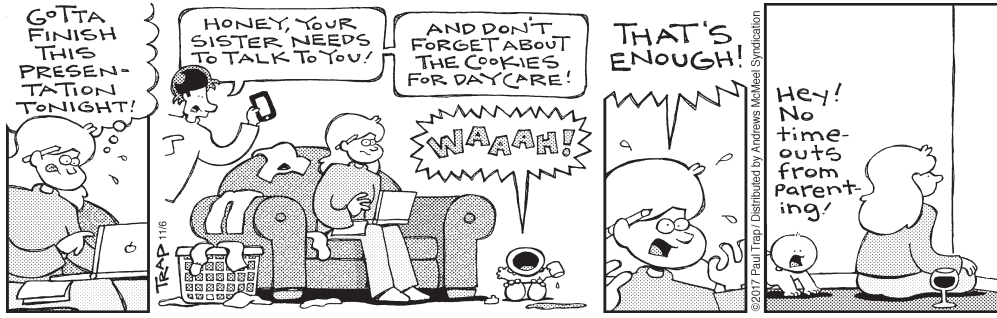
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You may have to go far out of your way to make the situation work today, but don't let that stop you from taking on the work. Like a glow stick, you'll have to do some serious bending before you shine.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 7).** Emotional baggage falls by the wayside as you get the love and respect to help you move beyond old ideas about yourself. This month you'll spot an excellent opportunity and move quickly to realize its potential. At year-end, you'll be part of a group that makes a difference. A stellar deal will go down in February. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 14, 23 and 18.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



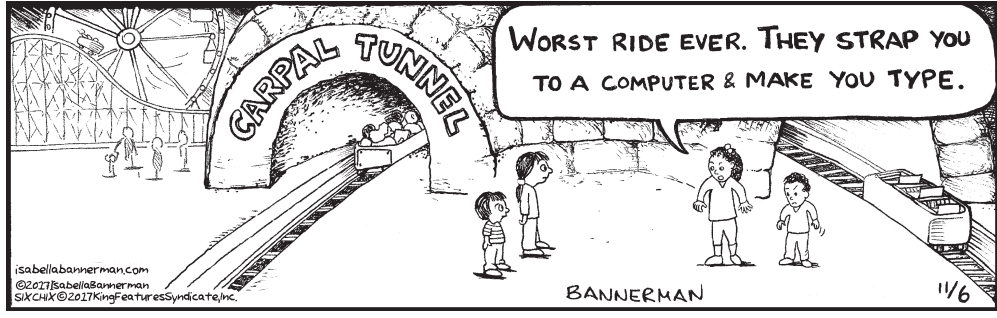
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## LOLA



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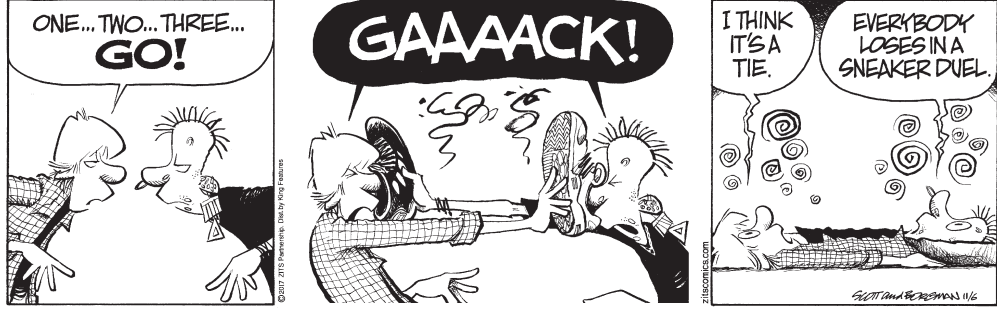
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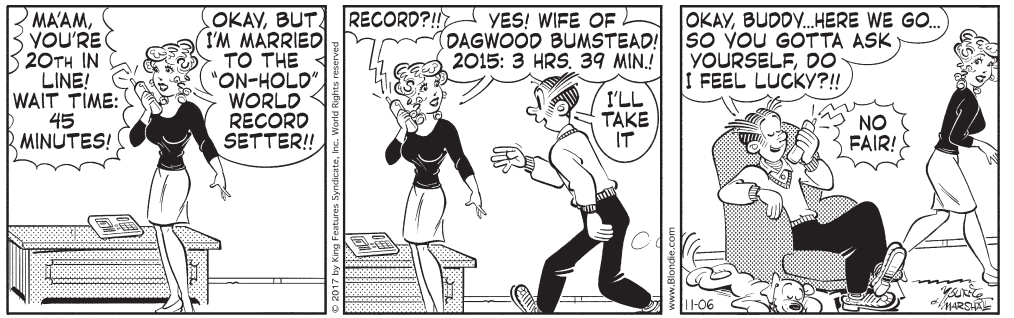
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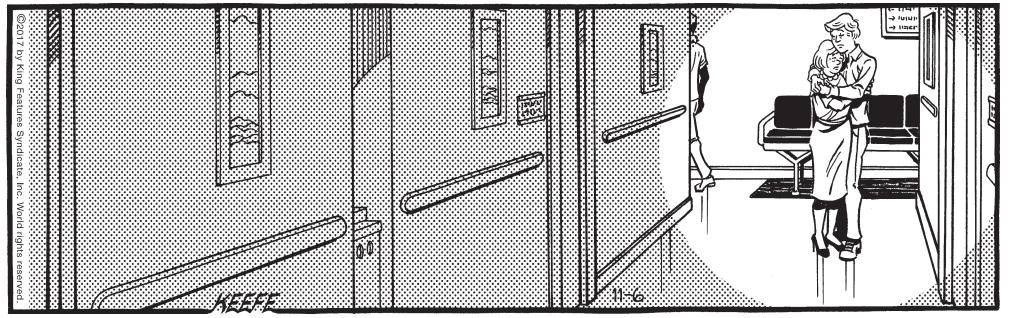
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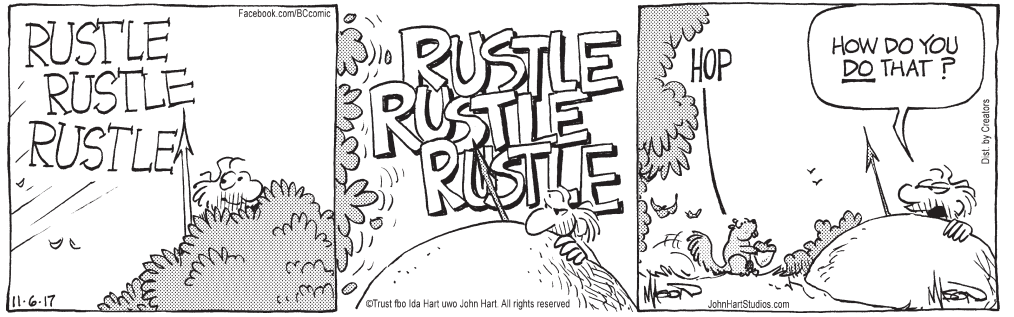
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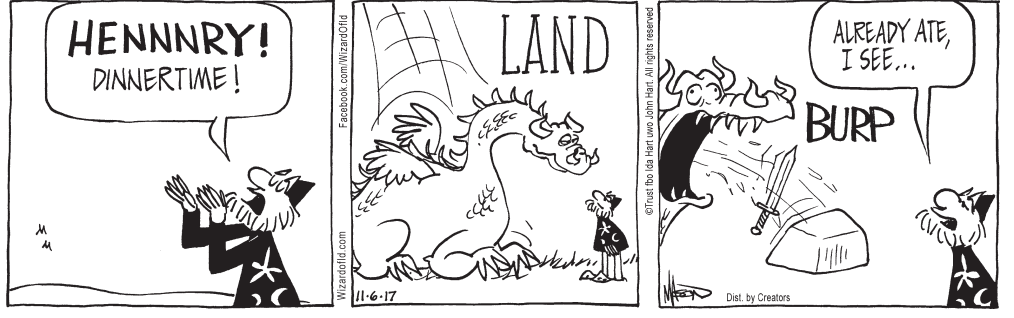
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

