

Taker in form of a giver

Dear Annie: My brother-in-law, "Tom," is 70 years old and a totally disabled Navy veteran. He has been duped by a con man, "Mack."

Mack lived upstairs from Tom in an apartment building. Mack started a friendship with Tom, doing errands for him and otherwise helping him. Tom trusted Mack with his debit card, and Mack would go to the grocery for him and pay some of Tom's bills.

Well, a year and a half later, we found out that Mack had robbed Tom of all his savings, leaving him penniless. In that time, Mack had moved in to another apartment complex. Tom was paying for Mack's rent, gas, groceries, utilities, dates at restaurants and big TV set, because Mack would take large sums of cash out of Tom's account. What do we do? The problem is that Tom would agree he gave Mack the debit card and knew about paying some of Mack's bills. Tom is softhearted and really not thinking clearly. We can't afford a

lawyer. My husband is 15 years older than Tom and not well, either.

We closed Tom's account and opened another one, putting cash in it for him and trying to pay down some of his bills to keep him from losing utilities. We are sick and frustrated about this. Should we go to the police if Tom won't cooperate? He doesn't understand what has happened and may deny what "friend Mack" has done to him. — *Frustrated Family in Florida*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Frustrated Family: Tom's soft heart has landed him in a tough situation. Because Tom knowingly has been giving Mack access to his accounts, your options for recourse are limited. Additionally, it doesn't even sound as if he's too interested in recourse. If he's not of sound mind, you might be able to make a case that Mack is exploiting him and this is a form of elder abuse. Call Adult Protective Services (800-962-2873 in Florida) for guidance.

Dear Annie: I think you were so right to tell 13-year-old "Greg" that he should hand the issue of dealing with his mean biological father over to his parents. I'd like to add that Greg should consider handing his letter to his good stepfather, "Derek." I can pretty well guarantee that Derek would put that letter in his billfold and pull it out and reread it so many times that it would become ragged and illegible, which wouldn't matter because he'd have memorized it by then. The best people don't realize how good they are, which is why it's so important to tell them. And speaking of that, Greg needs to hear what a good kid he is, too. His letter is full of empathy and intelligence and conscientiousness. And if the friend helped write it, gold stars for the friend but also for Greg, because good people have good friends and recognize good advice. — *I'd Love to Be His Grandma*

Dear Love to Be His Grandma: I love your letter. I am printing it as a reminder to tell the good people in our lives just how much we appreciate them.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Creativity happens in a state of overflow. You'll make something beautiful out of an emotion that is flowing over, even if that emotion isn't particularly lovely in and of itself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If everyone can have it, you're not sure it's worth wanting. Plus, you're searching for meaning, and that's very personal. It's why you're focused on getting something that is catered only to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Shakespeare once wrote: "Love all, trust a few, Do wrong to none." You definitely love some — maybe most. But it won't be easy for you to love all. The second hardest part of this equation will be knowing who to trust.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Considering that thoughts are just electrical impulses sent from one part of your brain to another, they really needn't be given free run of your experience. When your thoughts aren't helpful, put them to the test or ignore them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Often, who you meet is a matter of timing. But these days, you really want to meet someone, so you'll make it happen instead of waiting for destiny to stick the two of you together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The best thing a loved one could give you today is the space to have a guilt-free time to do the things you find enjoyable. Drop a few hints! Such a gift could very well be afforded to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Of course you can't be expected to get it right all, or even most, of the time. You're learning, just like everyone else, only you're doing it from the helm of the operation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is often the case that beautiful things don't ask for attention yet attention is lavished on them. Put your energy into making something beautiful and you won't have to advertise it all that much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You keep adapting to your circumstances and becoming more skilled. When you get totally out of your element, it will seem like you're suddenly bad at everything. But go for it anyway; it's part of the learning curve.

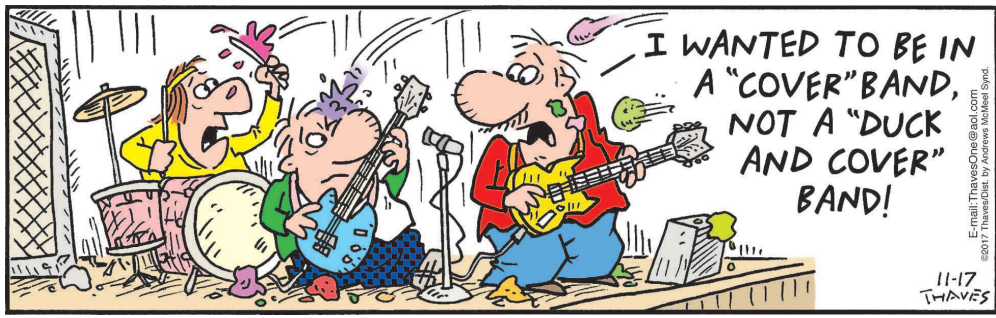
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Eye contact is more intimate than words. Keep this in mind when someone won't look you in the eye. Also, think about what it means to the one who lovingly returns your gaze.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's ridiculous to want people to know things about you automatically, through some kind of magical osmosis, but that is something we all do. Tell people what you want them to know. Or, better yet, show them.

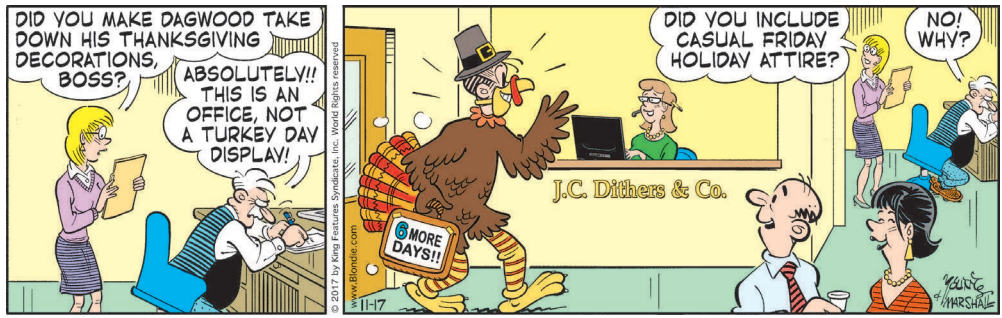
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If there are no landmarks, it's hard to know which way is forward. You've come to a part of a project that is rather featureless and disorienting. But if you keep putting one foot in front of the other, you'll get somewhere.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 18). You'll be content, yet you won't stop improving yourself. Your winning smile will open doors and melt hearts. However, it's what you do after that counts. Follow-through is your middle name in 2018. It's why you have to be super careful about what you say you'll do and what you'll make a goal. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 1, 22 and 35.

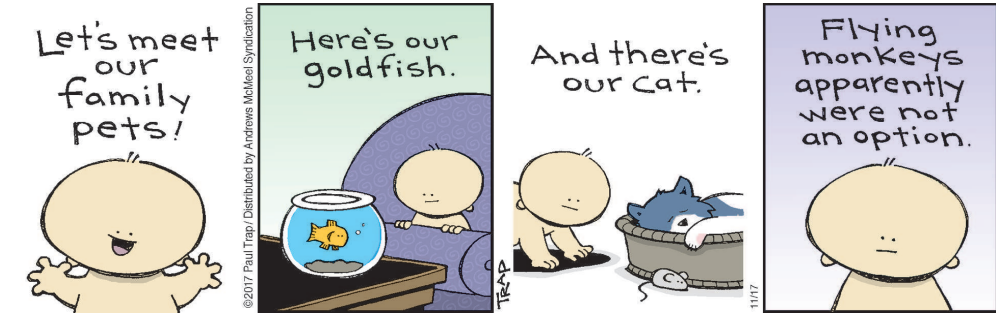
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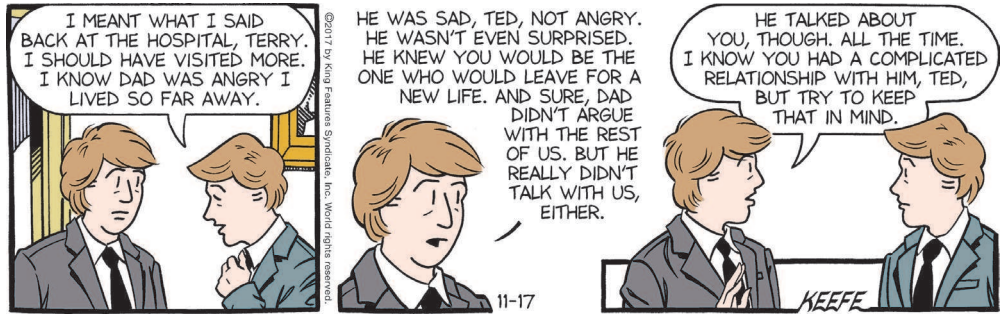
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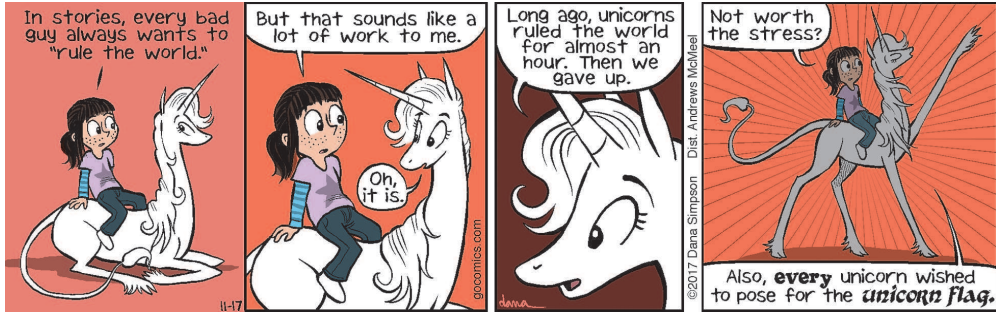
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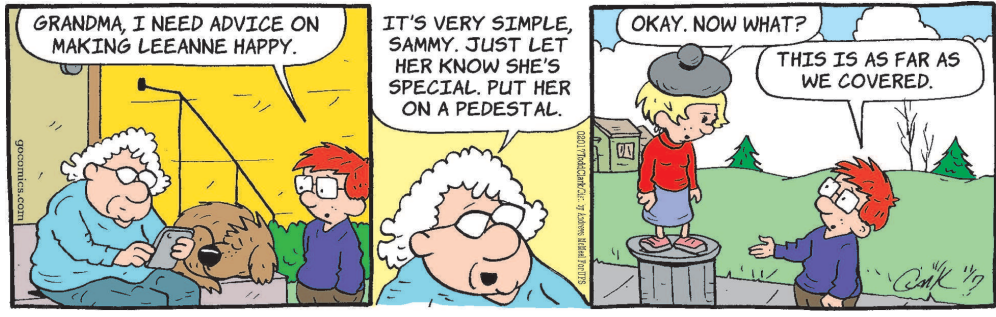
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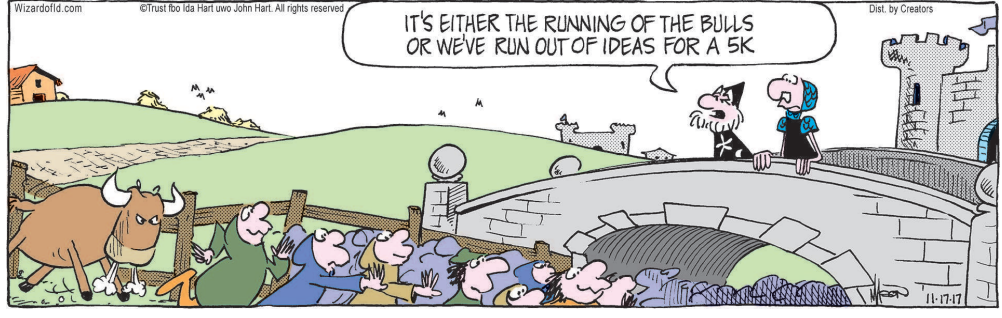
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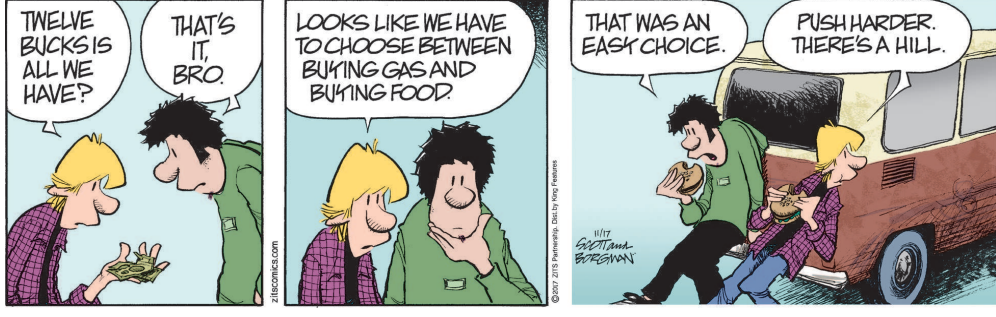
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