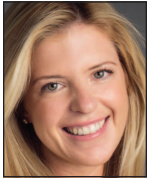


# Husband is enabling his son

**Dear Annie:** My stepson, "Dale," lives off benefits from the government and his father — my sweet, loving husband, who is in his 70s. Dale has not worked for five years, and his dad bails him out of every scrape and crisis he gets himself into. Dale has been fired from every job he has ever had. He has spent time in rehab. He lies, steals, is involved in risky behavior and may be back on drugs. The final straw is that his landlord has kicked him out.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

There is a history of depression, and he is on medication, but physically he is fit and able. As a couple, we have attended National Alliance on Mental Illness meetings (a great organization) and ongoing marriage guidance sessions to try to agree on boundaries, etc., when dealing with this situation.

A parent always loves his kids, but when is it time to say "enough is enough" and let them go? I will not have Dale come and live with us in our tiny home. The real problem is that my husband is Dale's enabler. When will my husband wake up and accept that he is being taken in, lied to and manipulated on almost a daily basis? My husband's view remains,

"What if I didn't do enough and he harms himself?" My husband needs to give himself permission to say, "I tried!" — *Frustrated Stepmother*

**Dear Frustrated Stepmother:** I agree that your husband needs to give himself permission to detach with love. But your husband must decide this for himself, just as Dale must decide for himself that he needs help. Attempting to rush your husband to this realization won't help — and in fact might backfire.

I'm so glad you're both in therapy and attending NAMI meetings. I would also urge you to attend a 12-step family program, such as Families Anonymous, Nar-Anon or Al-Anon. Hearing how others have learned to put the focus back on themselves might inspire you and your husband to do the same.

**Dear Annie:** I work with the public and would like to remind readers not to carry their Social Security cards in their wallets, because if a card is lost or stolen, a person could become the victim of identity theft. On numerous occasions, I have had transactions with an elderly gentleman, and each time he opens his wallet, I see his Social Security

card prominently displayed under a window sleeve. On one visit, I very nicely mentioned how the card should be locked in a safe in his home and why. He said he sometimes needs to give out his Social Security number. I told him it should be memorized and it's never necessary to actually show the card. I've waited on him several times since, and I still see his card on each visit.

Please, readers, make sure your loved ones do not carry their cards on them and they are locked away in a safe place. Unfortunately, in today's world, identity theft is very prevalent, and crooks will stop at nothing to find their next victim. — *Waits on Customers in VA*

**Dear Waits on Customers:** I second your plea. According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, "identity theft springing from a stolen Social Security card carried in a wallet or purse is among the most common ways people become victims." If you've lost your Social Security card — even if you don't believe it's being used — call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213. If your card has been stolen, contact your local police department immediately, and visit <https://identitytheft.gov> for more steps you can take after the fact.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Anything and everything can be taken to extremes, including the smallest things. It's why you're very, very careful about what you get started these days. When in doubt, toe the straight clean line.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Something's not right in the setup. You can either go along with the program or raise your hand. "There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth: not going all the way, and not starting." — *Buddha*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Identity is more fluid and nuanced than most people think. But as the twins of the zodiac, you already understand that each person is often a subtly different person for every fresh situation.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Invisible cords entwine your soul with the soul of each person you love. Today, you can send and receive messages through these cords regardless of where the other person is in the world or beyond.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Even though you're not entirely happy in every moment with where you are, in many ways the setting of the day will feel ideal. Windows sparkling with promise, decorated doors of opportunity, intrigue at every corner ... it's a good place.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your best guess is a good one but it's still not good enough to act on. A scientific approach is going to bother your teammates and slow down the action considerably. Oh, and it will also keep you from future regret.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Just when you think you're doing better in a certain area it gets worse in another. Growth can be strange like this, but you can count on the

fact that it's all building in a positive direction.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** On the one hand, you love yourself enough to get the things you want. On the other hand, this involves sacrifice and work you don't feel like doing. So be a good coach to yourself. That's what's needed.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You'll experience luck so uncanny that your actions may seem to be guided by an invisible finger of fate. Don't waste this one — believe the impulse, act on it and follow through with next steps.

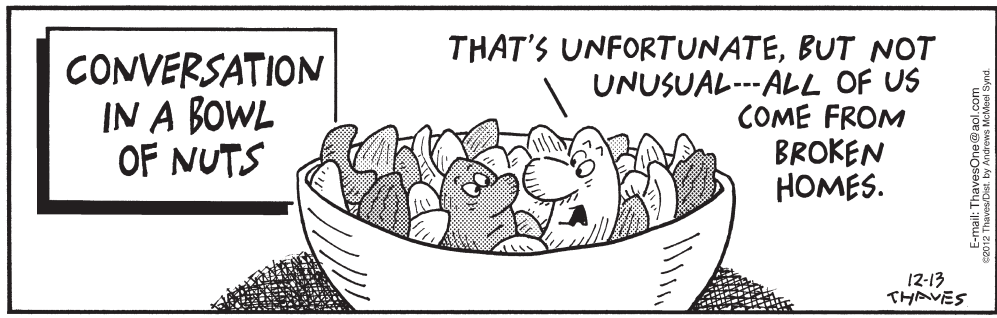
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You hold the people around you to a certain standard, and then you hold yourself to another one that's much, much higher. This hardly seems fair, but it will work out for you and keep you from disappointment.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You might get nostalgic for the moment you're living right now. Love does this to you. You realize that you're in a very sweet, shared part of life passing through your fingers like a handful of sugar.

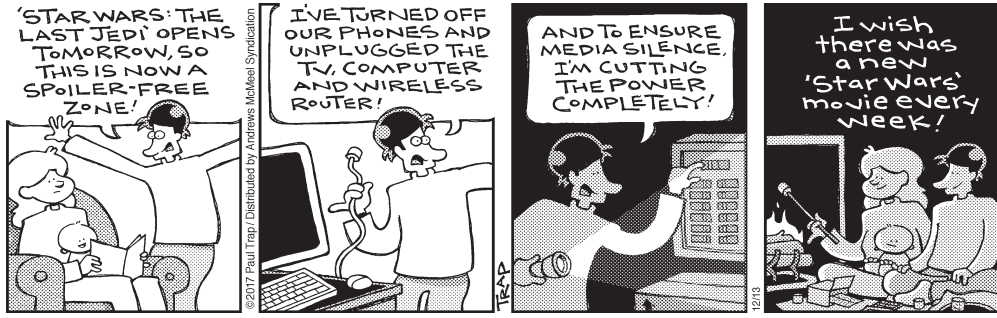
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll become increasingly self-sufficient as this solar return progresses. A kindly stranger comes into the picture in early 2018 who can forward your interests.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 14).** Your attuning with nature will be more than a hobby; it will be a path to physical vitality, better relationships and there may even be professional facets. There's a fun social development at the start of 2018 that will help your family. Travel in March; invest in April. Perks of friendship will enhance the summer. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 20, 1, 28 and 33.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



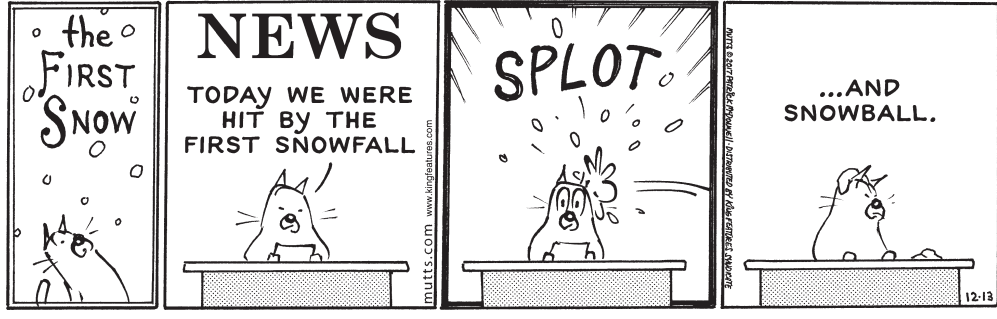
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## SIX CHIX



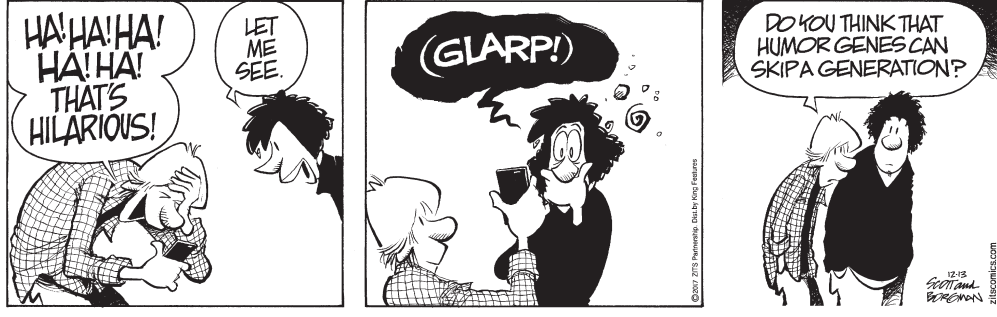
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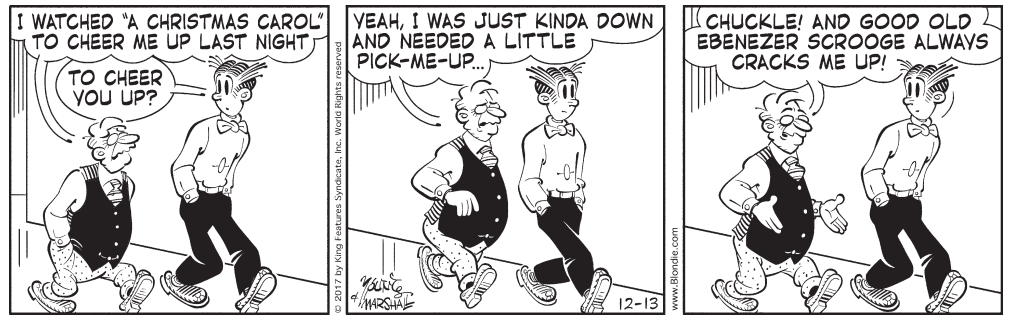
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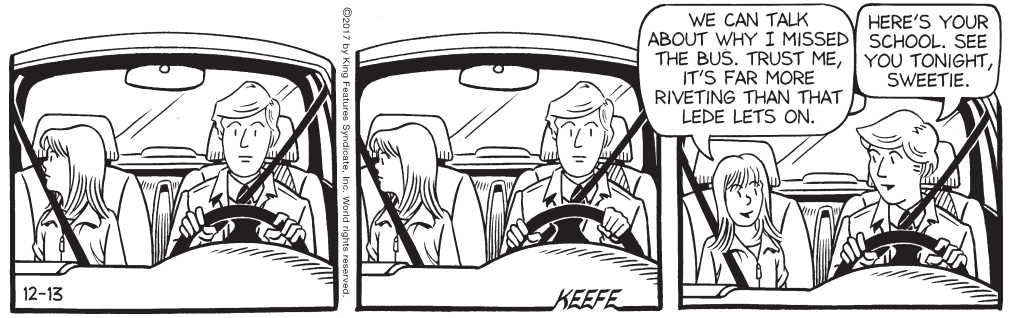
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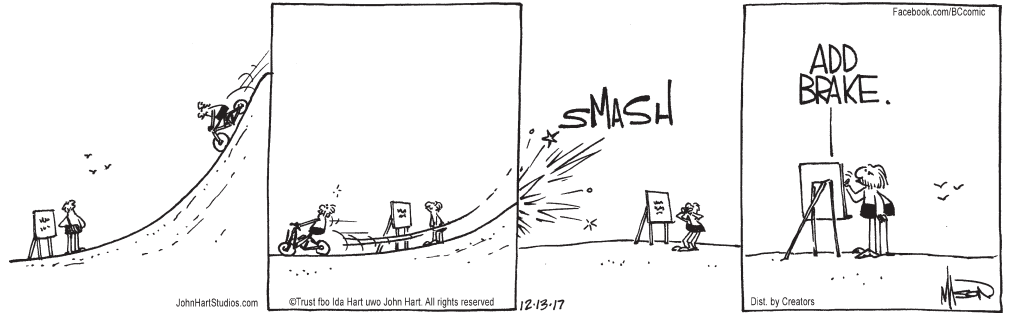
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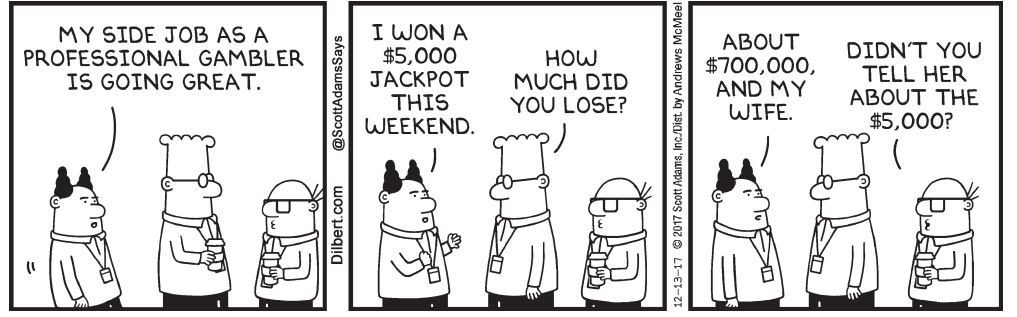
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

