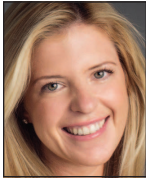


# Leftovers thief in the family

Dear Annie: I have had this issue with a certain family member, and I am hoping you can advise me on what to do. When the family of one of our sons visits and eats dinner at our house, his wife cleans up afterward, which is appreciated, but the problem is that she takes 90 percent of the food for herself and her grown children without asking. If they were having financial problems, I would gladly give it all to them, but this is definitely not the case. One year, she wrapped up the remains of a 5-pound ham. I am now stopping the meals and offering only dessert, which I feel bad about. I feel worse about her taking what isn't hers to take. Help, please. I will be watching for your reply. Thank you so much for listening. — *Longtime Fan*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Longtime Fan: You never know what goes on behind closed doors. Maybe they are having financial problems. Regardless, she is feeding your grandchildren. If it really bothers you that she takes all the leftovers, perhaps you could set aside a plate of leftovers and put a cute name tag on

it for her. Either way, I would be extremely reluctant to cut her off from taking home some of the food — and don't settle for serving only dessert when you and your family would prefer a real meal.

Dear Annie: Up until six months ago, my 96-year-old father was active. He was driving, helping with farm chores and even driving the tractor in the fields to assist with harvesting. We are a long-established Upper Midwestern farm family. We have a wonderful community of loving people. Mom (who passed away many years ago) and Dad were vibrant. Dad was a leader in many ways and respected in all areas of his career, church and community. Until recently, he was visiting shut-ins and helping others any way he could. Now he is the one who is a shut-in — suffering from a stroke and unable to take care of himself.

I am so angry with those people he loves so much who cannot find the time to visit or send a card or make a phone call. Don't ask me how Dad is doing! Visit him. Take

him a cookie or a cup of ice cream. Let him know how much you have appreciated him over the years. Share a good story. Even a short visit means everything. His whole world has changed. He knows he is declining. "Busy" isn't going to matter when your loved ones are gone.

Annie, thank you for your platform. I am appreciative of every minute I have with my father and wish that all children could feel that emotion. I was away from the community for most of my life and understand how day-to-day living can diminish family history and heritage. When our parents are gone, it seems that so much tradition is gone. — *Daughter in Wisconsin*

Dear Daughter: Your message will be relevant to many families, so I'm happy to provide a platform. But if you're trying to get through to your family members, this isn't the most efficient way. You need to communicate to them how lonely and isolated your dad is feeling and what direct actions they can take to help. Sure, ideally, they would have sprung to action on their own accord, but in reality, it might take a wake-up call. Pick up the phone.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** To be able to give someone a good referral is a gift in and of itself. So if you can't help the situation but you know someone who can, linking the two up could be a huge favor.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You were chosen because you're the best person for the job. Someday the position will be handed to a newcomer. Knowing this is the inevitability of all things, you do your best to make the maximum positive impact.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** With careful conservation of personal energy and resources you'll make it to the triumphant end of a long slog. The first step in this victory will be in realizing that you are indeed on a lengthy journey and not a short race.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Try to explain a television drama to someone who's never watched it. The plot sounds confusing! Yet when you watched from the beginning all events flowed naturally. Today, trust yourself, and don't explain your choices to others.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The sign that says "You are here" is the most clarifying and orienting and the best kind of start to the journey. So take stock. These signs don't just come on mall maps. Sometimes they are reflected in the eyes of others.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** To an outsider it may seem that you've got quite a lot figured out, and yet you don't feel that way on the inside. Many things you wanted fell through. Consider that it was for the best. And look at all you have now!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Much will boil down to this: which problem are you trying

to solve? Find one that's resistant to solution, because it's an exciting place to start and because you're up to it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Keep an open mind, because your first idea isn't always your best one. And you'll have lots of stellar ideas if you let yourself play around, experiment and stay curious. Don't worry, your aha! moment is coming.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** People associate nervous behaviors with dishonesty, and sometimes this is the case. But the truly dangerous people are the ones who aren't the least bit nervous about their lies.

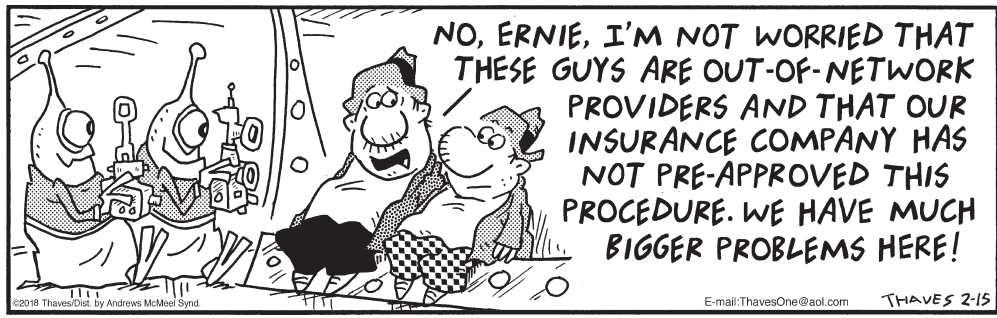
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** How do you know if you're coming up against reality or a mistaken belief about it? Does it change when you change? Does it bend to your will? Reality won't — ever. And anytime you fight with reality, reality will win.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** If you want to spin in circles instead of move forward with life, worry is absolutely the way to do it. Analysis and speculation will also help. To move forward, lighten up and do some experimenting.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Here comes a magical sense of flow. It's like time stands still and its rules just doesn't apply to you: You're totally engaged with life. This is what you were meant for. Get more of it.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 16).** It's said that you can't lead where you haven't traveled — patently untrue. Look at all of the exploration missions that have proven otherwise! This year will be such a mission. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 9, 32, 48 and 8.

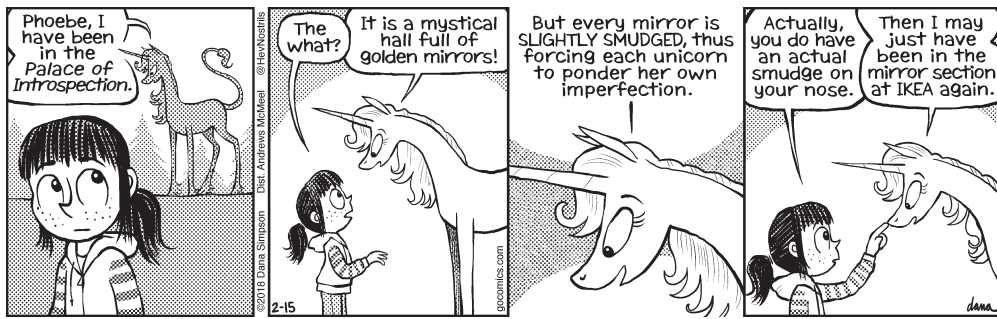
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



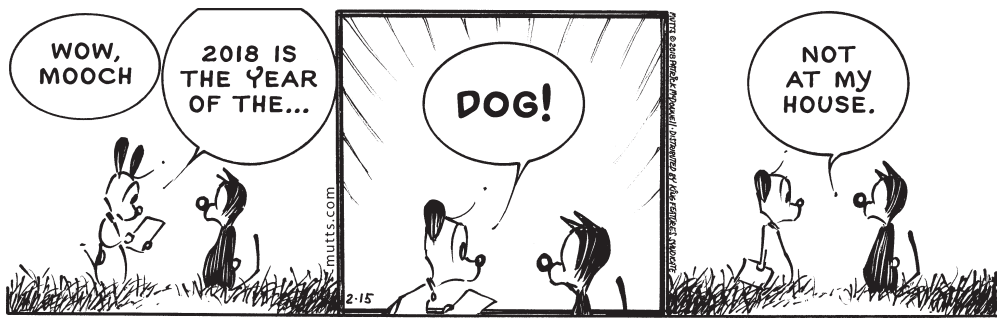
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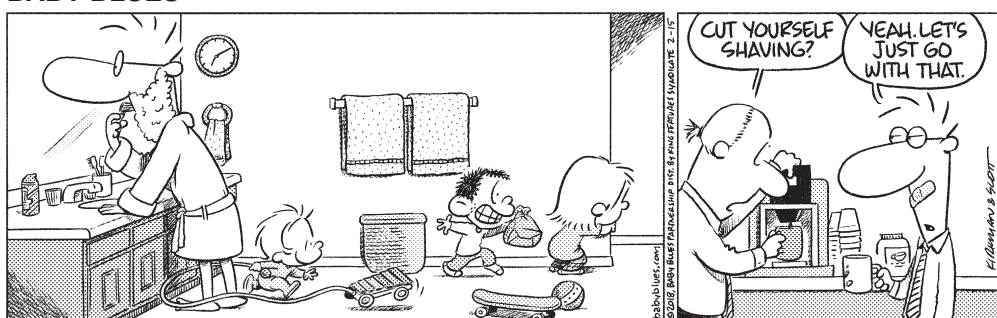
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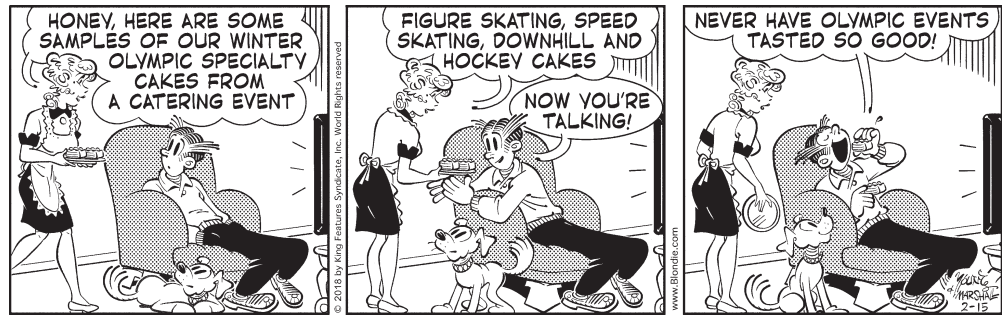
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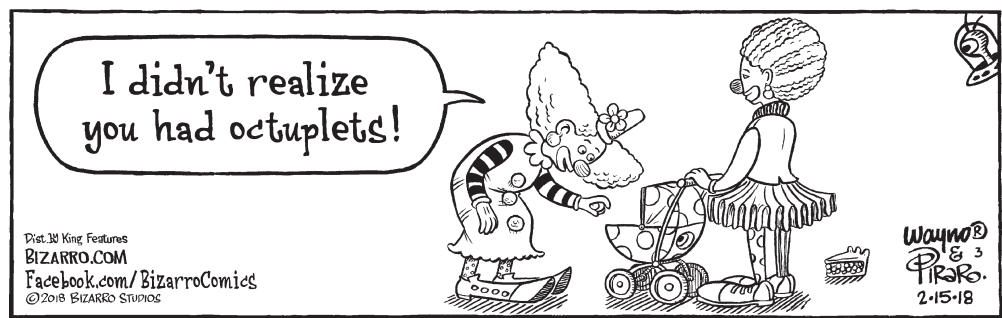
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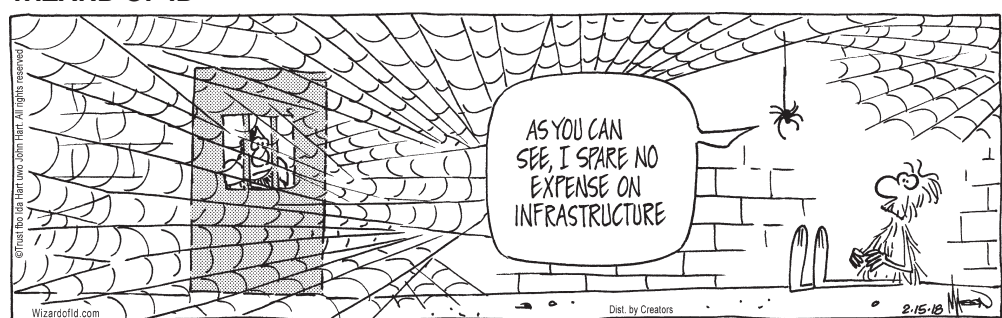
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## ROSE IS ROSE

