

Immature grandpa

Dear Annie: I love being a grandpa, but it seems all my fellow adults have a totally different impression of what a grandfather is supposed to be. My wife says I should be a role model and authority figure, which to me translates to being stern and official. Our daughter says essentially the same thing as her mother.

Our grandchildren are 7 and 8 years old, and when I am with them, I can't help but act like someone their age.

When I make jokes that involve potty humor, the kids love them. It never gets old when I say something like "pull my finger" and the kids just break up laughing. This makes me feel so good — and close to them.

But my wife says I am acting so immaturely that it is ridiculous. My

daughter and son-in-law say that my jokes have gotten the kids in trouble with their teachers.

I am in my 70s but feel much younger. Any advice for this old kid?

— *Gramps With a Kid's Mind*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

D e a r

Gramps: Staying youthful is great, but keep it clean. You seek attention and love from your grandchildren, and your youthful enthusiasm with them is very special — as long as your humor and fun show your maturity and age. You know better.

Dear Annie: I am writing to thank you for the poem you printed on Thanksgiving Day.

I am a widow, and I am not looking forward to another holiday season alone, feeling a little sad and more than a little angst. I do have children and grandchildren, but

like so many families, my family has been torn apart by drugs and the ravages of their aftermath. However, this is not what my letter is about.

I look forward to your column each day and love the down-to-earth common sense and caring displayed in your answers to folks' problems.

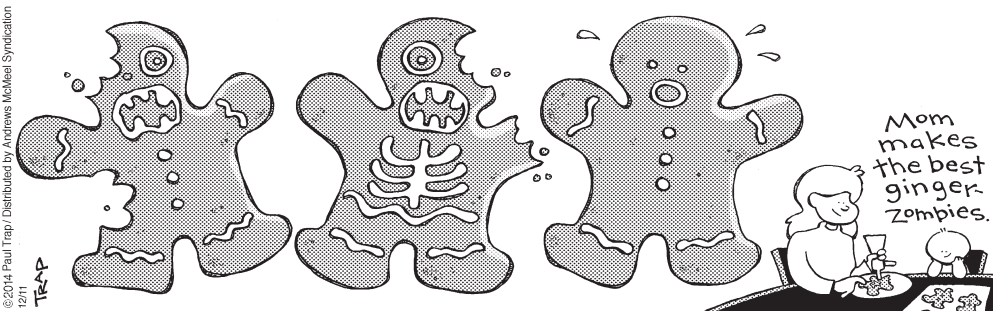
I was a bit down on Thanksgiving until I read that poem, "We Thank Thee." Tears flowed as I read those beautiful words, and as my spirits lifted and my heart filled with gratitude, I thanked you, Annie, for reminding me that love is all around me. I had just lost sight of it for a moment. I will keep this poem and read it often. You are appreciated more than you know. Keep up the good work. — *Grateful*

Dear Grateful: That Thanksgiving poem may have brought tears to your eyes, but your letter brought tears to mine! Thank you.

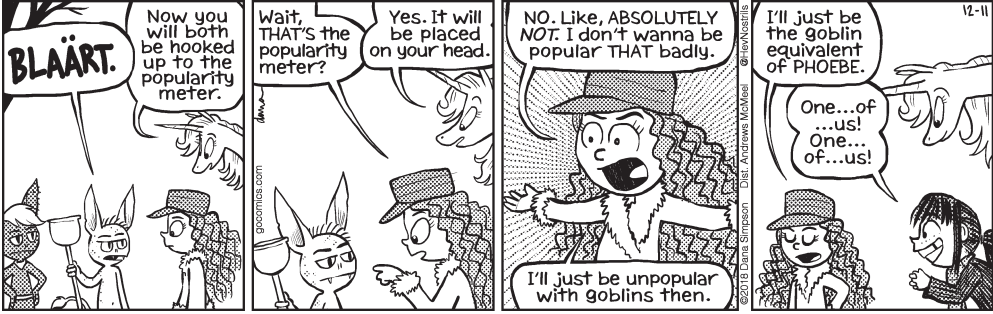
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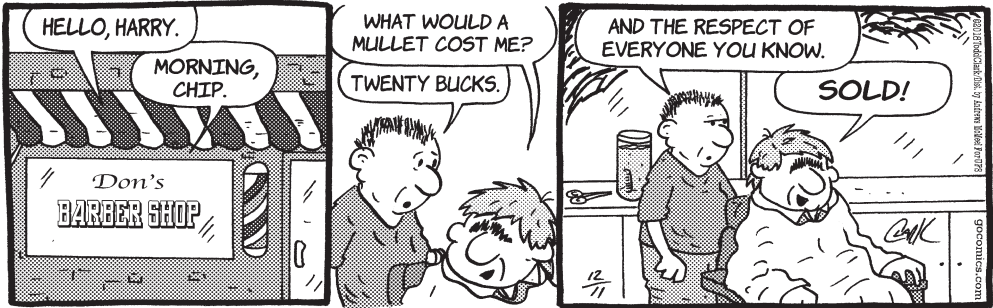
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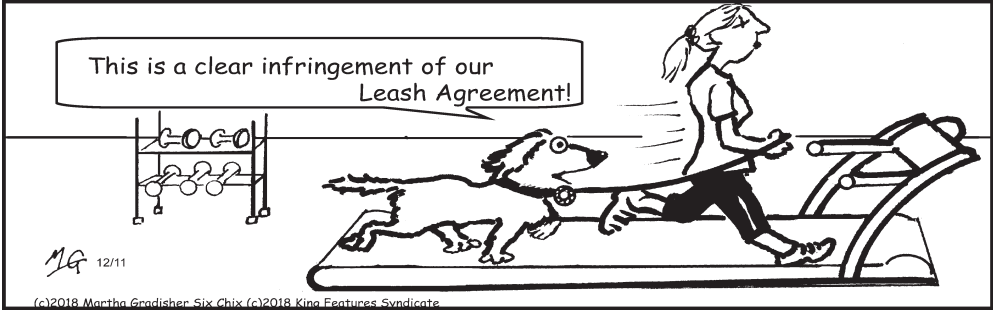
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You give love in many ways throughout the day. Most of the ways have to do with showing up and doing the regular things that the team counts on you to do. Then sometimes it's what you don't do or say that is the most loving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a healthy respect for danger, but you're not about to let fear keep you from taking risks. What's on the table now is an opportunity to get into something totally new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Studies prove that placebos can work even when the person taking them knows they are a placebo. Rituals can be a kind of placebo, too. So the important thing is not in the belief but in doing what works.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're trying to think your way through a situation, and it's taking a lot of energy. It's tiring you out. So ask your heart. Actually direct the question to the beating thing in your chest. Here comes the right answer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Funny cat videos are awesome, but it's time to get more strategic about social media. Who do you want to know better? Who do you want to align with? Controlling what you look at is to control who you're influenced by.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even though you have plenty of time, the best moment to do a thing is when it comes to the front of mind, or when it arises in the process of action, or when you're talking about it. In other words, now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today you'll be given a choice. Good news: There's no correct preference that will prove you have taste or refinement or superiority in any way. So just choose what you like,

what you can use or what you think will work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Work is work. It doesn't matter what the job is; the time and energy you put in must be balanced with rest, fueled with nutrition and recharged with leisure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The reasonable ideas have no more of a chance of working than the wacky ones, so try both. You might be surprised at what ridiculousness works, and if nothing else, you'll get a laugh out of it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A Zen proverb suggests, "If you want to climb a mountain, begin at the top." The rest of the zodiac is turning to you, mystical goat, with question marks for eyes. Can you decipher this one?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Does it feel like you're behind the times? That's not a bad place to be. You'll find something new and novel about a thing that's been "over" for a while now and reignite a spark.

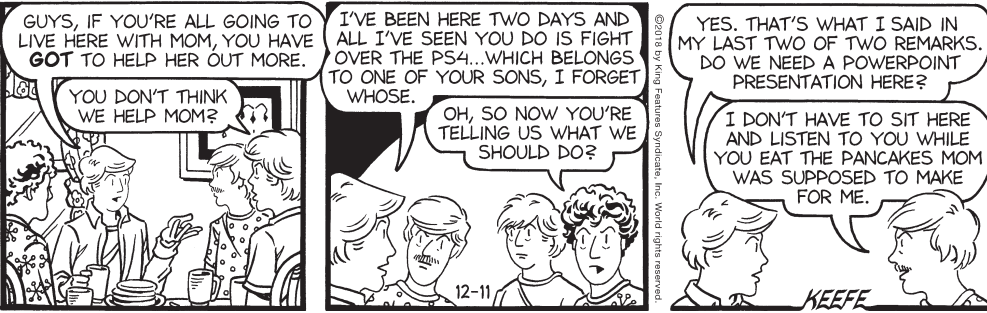
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Are you reaching too far? Probably not. Whether you reach for the moon, the sun or Jupiter, you'll get the same stretch. So reach for what makes you feel the most delight.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12). New people come into your family. And though there's loving support all around you, you still develop incredible self-reliance this year. You've so much drive burning inside you to make your life match up to the picture in your head that you can't help but do the things that will get you there. Those things make you strong. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 39, 2 and 4.

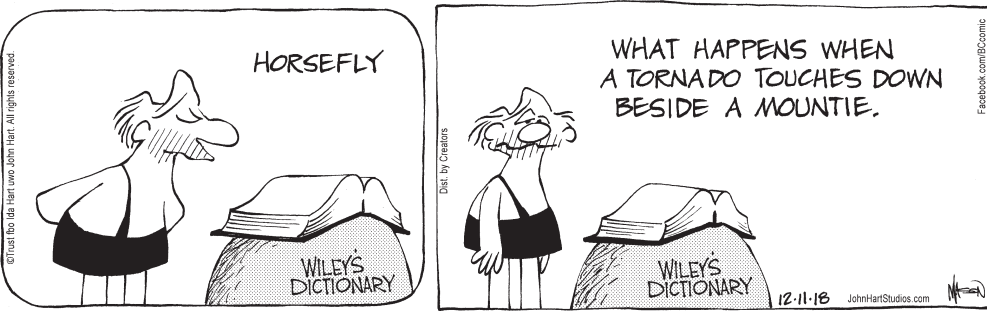
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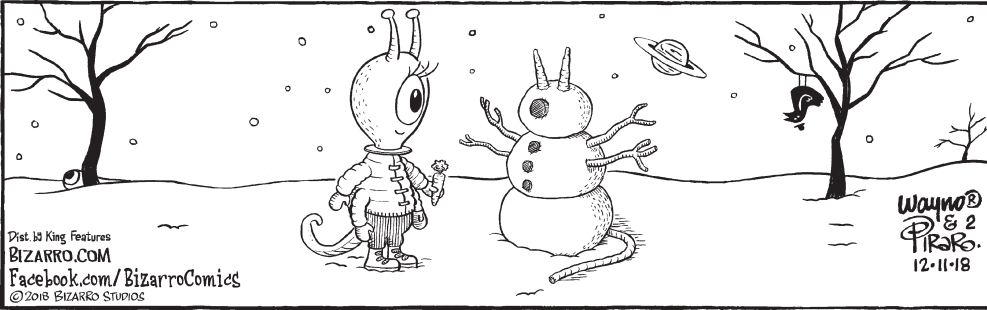
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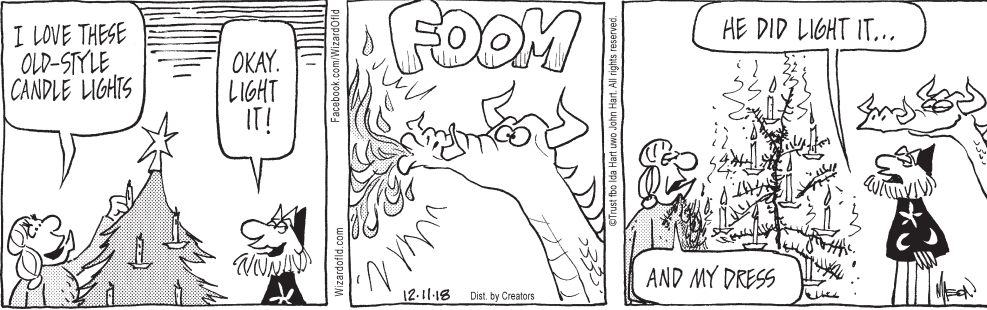
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