

# Who should pay for dates?

**Dear Annie:** Have things changed since I was dating, which was a long time ago? Does the male still pick up the check, or is the female also paying sometimes? My grandson is starting to date, and my daughter has told him that the female should sometimes pay. I was brought up with the custom that the male should pay for everything, but after thinking about it, I guess it only seems fair for the girl to also pay sometimes. — *Grandma*

## DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Grandma:** Your daughter is right. Today it's standard for women to pick up the check at least some of the time, if not half the time. I agree that it seems fair. It's also become acceptable for couples to go Dutch and split the bill 50-50. This is fine if it suits them, but I've always thought a more elegant approach is to just alternate who pays. And on first dates, the person who asked the other out should pay.

**Dear Annie:** I was raised in a home with strict values. I

was to dress modestly and not have sex before marriage, etc. I married, raised a family and have been devoted to my religion, family and country. I am now 68 years old and find I enjoy something I never considered before. I now enjoy being without clothes for short periods of time in my house. It might be before a bath or after or just on the spur of the moment. I find it very relaxing and pleasant. I think I am normal but wonder why this would be something I find enjoyable later in life rather than something I discovered when I was younger. — *Stripped*

**Dear Stripped:** I can't know why you'd enjoy this now versus earlier in your life (though I'd guess that earlier in life, you never had the privacy or the time) — but really, the "why" seems unimportant. Retirement is about discovering new things, relaxing and delighting in the here and now. It sounds as though this hits all three marks for you. No need to overthink it.

**Dear Annie:** I read your column every day. You recently

missed an opportunity to help a self-pitying letter writer see the light.

The person wrote, "In this country, how many young people ever ask for advice from older generations on anything? Almost none. ... The result is that millions of older folks feel invisible, isolated and depressed and that younger folks make some big mistakes."

The younger generations have a lot on their plates! Job prospects are limited. Wages have not kept pace with the economy. And the pressures of ever-changing technology weigh on them. Now they are also expected to keep the older generations happy and engaged? Seems to me it is the reverse. Older people, including me, have the time, knowledge and resources to help younger people. Young people need mentors. If you are elderly and want to be engaged, become a Big Brother or Big Sister, or mentor a new hire at work. There are many young people who need advice and mentoring. But let's not put the onus on them. — *Your Avid Reader*

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You don't need to take the safe path. It's not scenic or more direct. It's not smoother really. The only redeeming thing about that path is that it's known. Take the unknown and less traveled path.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you like a person, you often like how they laugh, sound, look, smell, reason and more. But if even one of those things is off, it can impede the progress of the relationship.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If you feel you know everything about a person, you'll be uninterested in that person until something happens to shake it up and remind you that you can never know everything about a person.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You don't mind being a servant (everyone is in one way or another) but you want to make your own terms for your servitude, and this you should do. Spell them out. Write them down. Understand your rights and responsibilities.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Make a move to show that you know your own value. You are one of a kind. As you honor your unique character, the world will seem to cater to your sensitivities and proclivities.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Critiques are not personal and shouldn't be taken as such. The proverbial red marks on your essay are signals that there's room for improvement. Take the note; get better. Before you know it, you'll be a master.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Doors open and close quickly today. Drink more water. It will keep your brain sharp and ready to jump through the opportunities as they open up, without hesitation.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When one person in the couple is happy, the other is, too. That's love. Compassion takes it one step further — to be happy because another human is happy, perhaps a human you don't even know. That's great love.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Noisy, superfluous thoughts could easily distract you from what's useful and important if you weren't so vigilant. Ways to mentally quiet down include meditation and exercise.

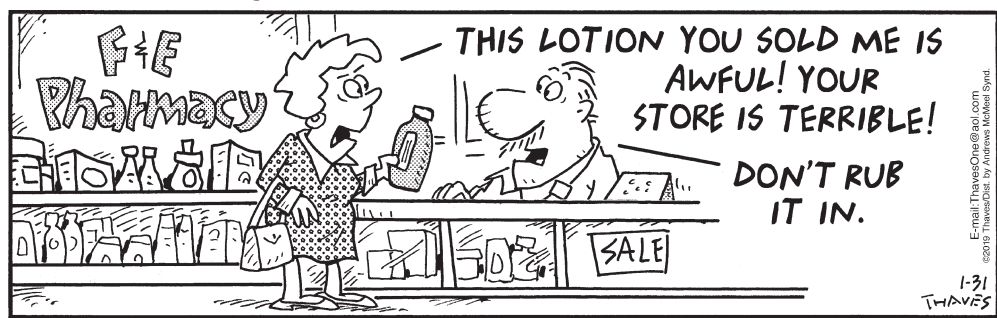
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The new currents will be strong as riptides. How does one keep from getting caught up in something as powerful as that? Don't fight it in a polarized way. That's futile. How can you move sideways?

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** To be someone's soft place to land is a beautiful role. You've needed that in your own life, when it wasn't there and when it was. You know the difference, and so you're happy to provide.

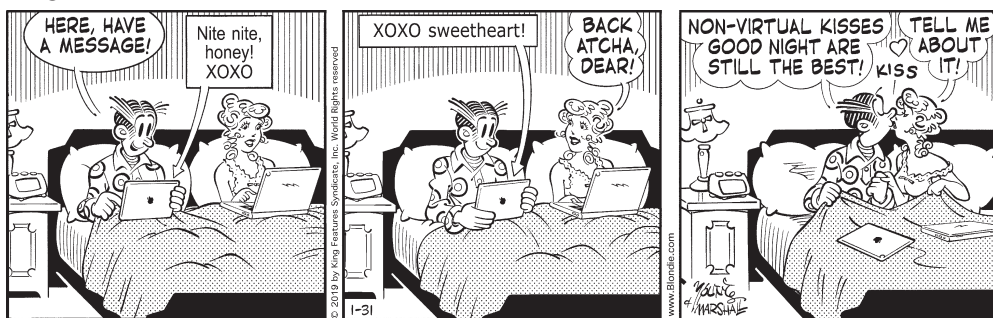
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Sometimes it takes laser focus to progress, and other times, like today, it just takes moving forward in the same direction all the others around you are going, like you're one fish in the school.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 1).** Dare to make happiness a priority. People will mirror your happy state. Because they feel happier around you, you'll get better results, sweeter deals, more pleasing relationships and the satisfaction of knowing you made people's time here better. March shows you in a new position, and you'll be boosted again in May. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 22, 24, 19 and 1.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## BLONDIE



## THATABABY



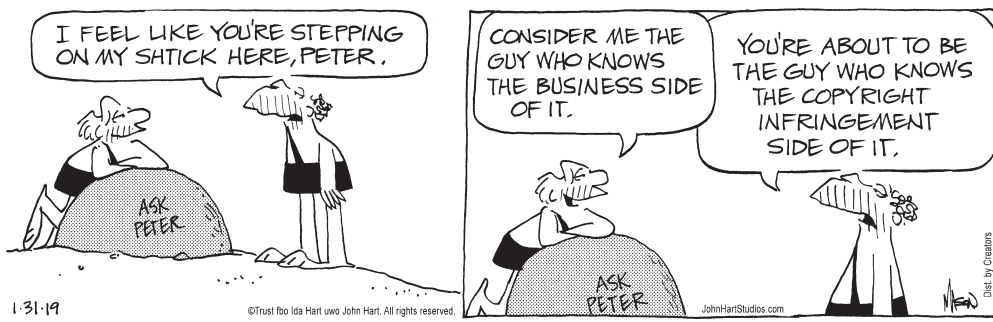
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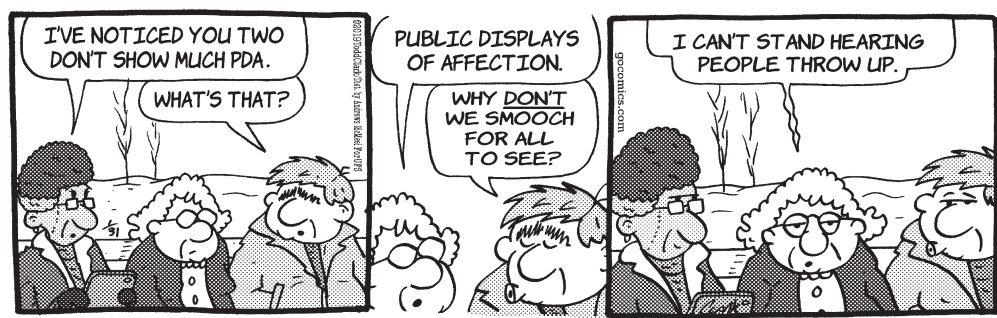
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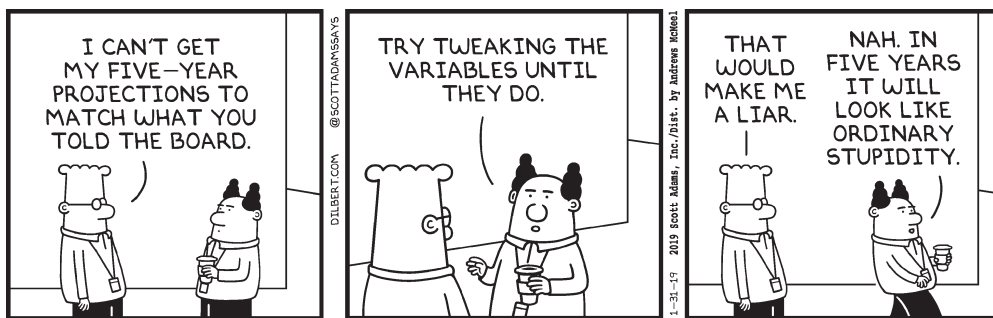
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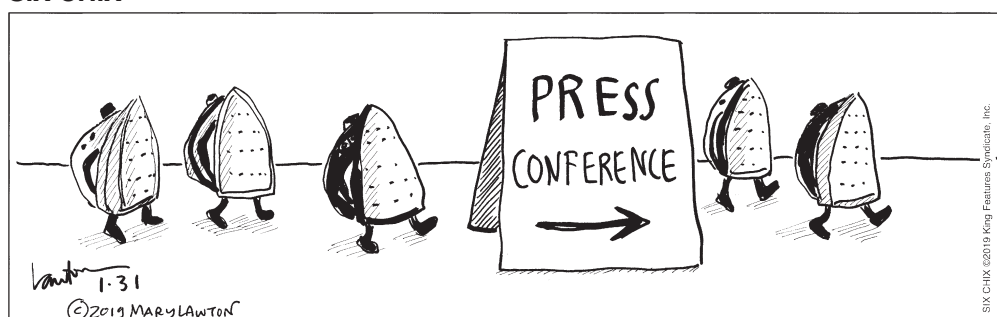
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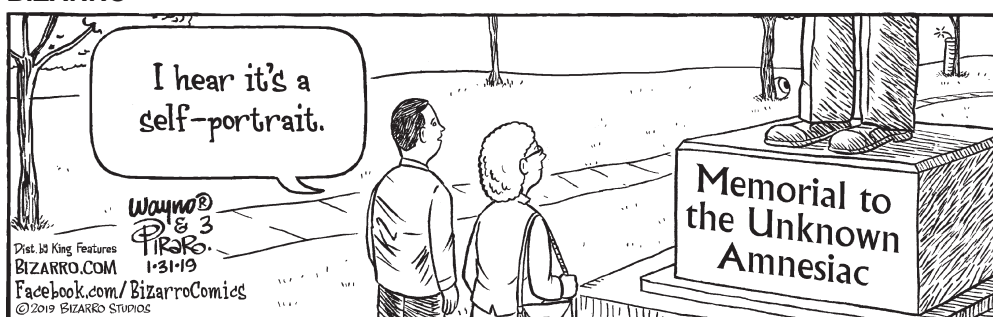
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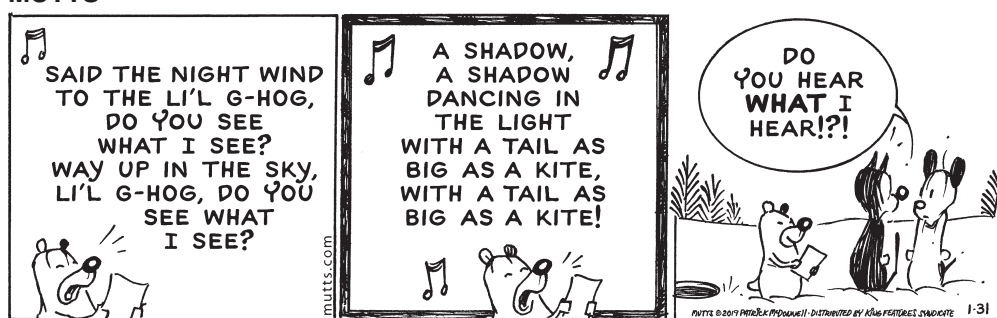
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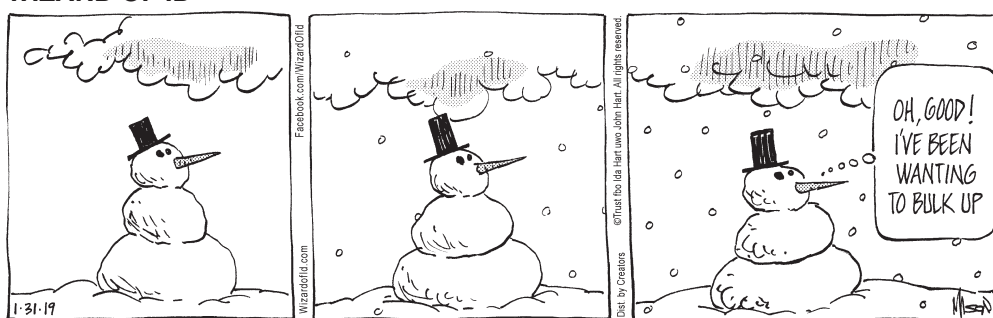
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## BABY BLUES



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE

