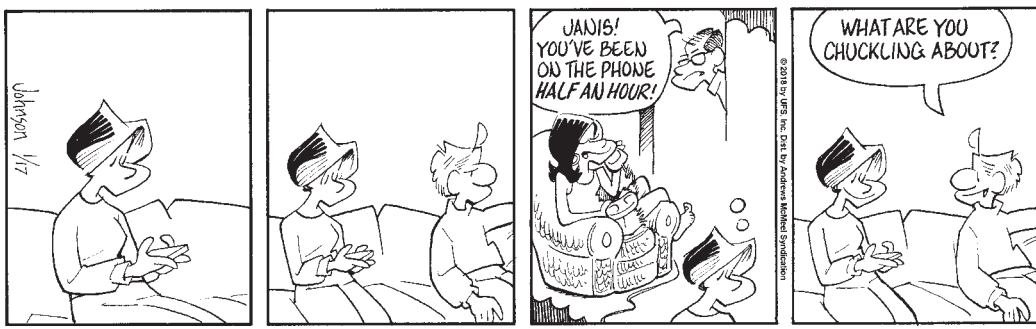
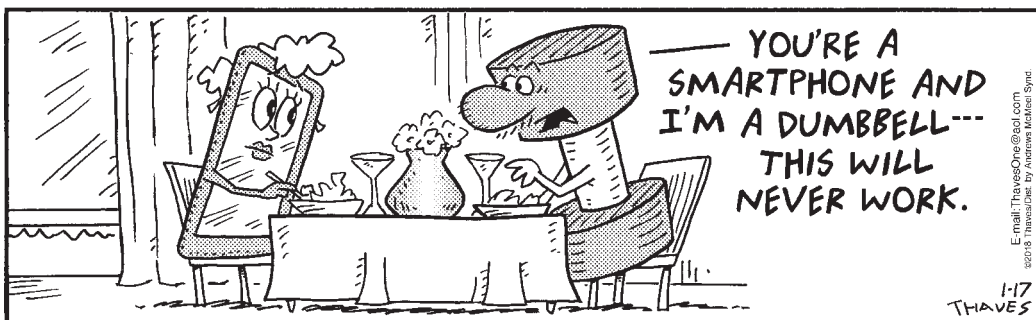


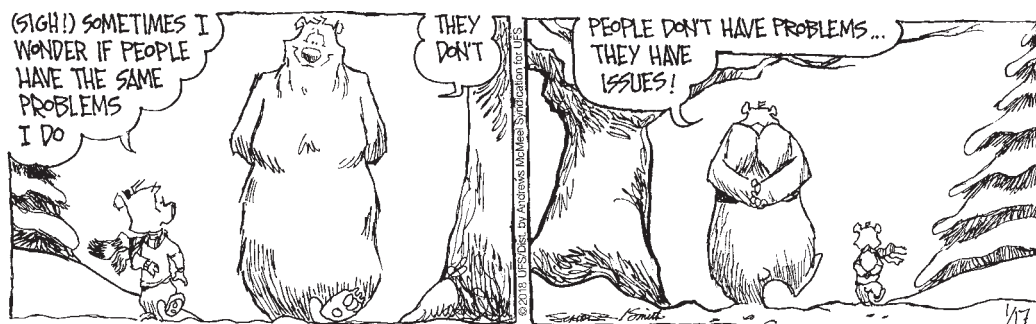
ARLO AND JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



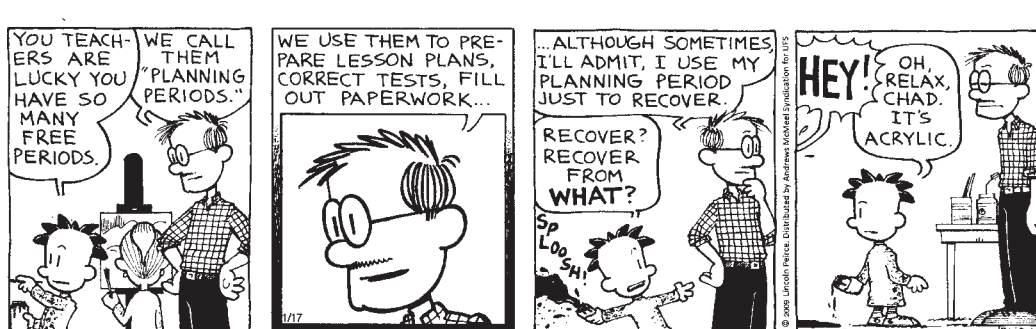
FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



THE GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



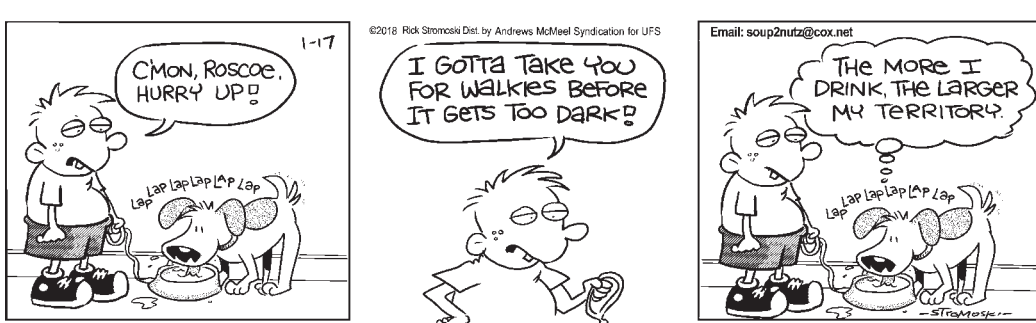
BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce



ALLEY OOP by Jack and Carole Bender



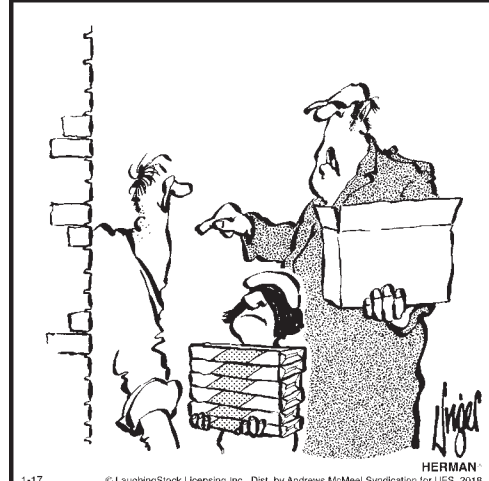
SOUP TO NUTZ by Rick Stromoski



THE BORN LOSER™ by Art & Chip Sansom



HERMAN® by Jim Unger



REALITY CHECK® by Dave Whamond



SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

By Harriette Cole

Mother struggles with eye problem

DEAR HARRIETTE: I begged her to stop. Believe it or not, her doctor didn't even require that she stop, even though he knew she had this condition. How can I help my mother?

For years, I would either just stuff the clothing in my bottom drawer or ask if I could take it back. I know that probably hurt people's feelings sometimes, but I can't help it if we don't like the same things.

I appreciate that my family finally gave me something that I can use. Should I show them what I buy with the money they gave me, or is saying thank you enough?

Start by thanking your family members -- from your mother on down -- for the gift cards. Tell them how much you appreciate the fact that they realize that the best gift is to let you buy what you want. Ask your mother if she would like to see what you bought with the money or gift cards. If it would interest her, show her. Otherwise, just say thank you and let that be enough.

DEAR GOING BLIND: It may be a relief to you to know that macular degeneration does not necessarily lead to complete blindness, even though it does lead to significant loss of vision. Indeed, in the early stages of the disease, many people continue to drive during the day without incident. Talk to your mother's doctor about her condition so that you can be clear about what she is facing. Ask for suggestions for how she can care for herself.

Ask for the signs that she may no longer be able to live alone. When that time comes, you will have to address it with her and figure out how her Social Security and your support will be able to take care of her.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I just learned that my mother is going blind. She has macular degeneration. She says she cannot read well and generally she sees fuzzy. I am so scared for her. She lives by herself and has been independent forever. I have invited her to come and live with me and my family, but she said no. I am afraid for her to live by herself much longer, and we cannot afford to hire full-time care.

DEAR BEST GIFT EVER: Start by thanking your family members -- from your mother on down -- for the gift cards. Tell them how much you appreciate the fact that they realize that the best gift is to let you buy what you want. Ask your mother if she would like to see what you bought with the money or gift cards. If it would interest her, show her. Otherwise, just say thank you and let that be enough.

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(Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.)

CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beats soundly
 - 6 Pool shots
 - 12 Planet courses
 - 14 One-celled creatures
 - 15 Grant
 - 16 Kind of detector
 - 17 Earth-conscious org.
 - 18 Air-pump meas.
 - 19 Musical notes
 - 21 NFL scores
 - 23 Split
 - 26 Party girl
 - 27 Breeze through
 - 28 Know intuitively
 - 30 Dory mover
 - 31 Seashell seller?
 - 32 Autumn flower
 - 33 Pesky bugs
 - 35 Coffee holder
 - 37 Try for office
 - 38 Family car
 - 39 Jr. naval officer
 - 40 Shelley offering
 - 41 CSA defender
 - 42 Actress Lupino
 - 43 Club for GIs
 - 44 False front
 - 46 Make taboo
 - 48 Kimono wearer
 - 51 Soda pop buys
 - 55 Computer language
 - 56 Newspaper staffer
 - 57 Military warehouse
 - 58 Aluminum company
- DOWN**
- 1 Tennis return
 - 2 Vexation
 - 3 NBC rival
 - 4 Paper toys
 - 5 VCR button
 - 6 Pitches a tent
 - 7 Major
 - 8 Stops working
 - 9 Kimono fastener
 - 10 Former Chinese leader
 - 11 9-digit no.
 - 13 Fabric sample
 - 19 Thinner
 - 20 Wear down
 - 22 Regarded as
 - 24 Speech openers
 - 25 Not genuine
 - 26 Feet, slangily
 - 27 Org.
 - 28 Gives in the middle
 - 29 Flying piscivore
 - 34 Hot sauce
 - 36 Not up to
 - 42 Neighbor of Austria
 - 43 Prior to
 - 45 Grill steaks
 - 47 Verdi opus
 - 48 College stat
 - 49 Cereal plant spike
 - 50 Doctrine
 - 52 List ender
 - 53 Milne marsupial
 - 54 Tijuana "Mrs."

Answer to Previous Puzzle

