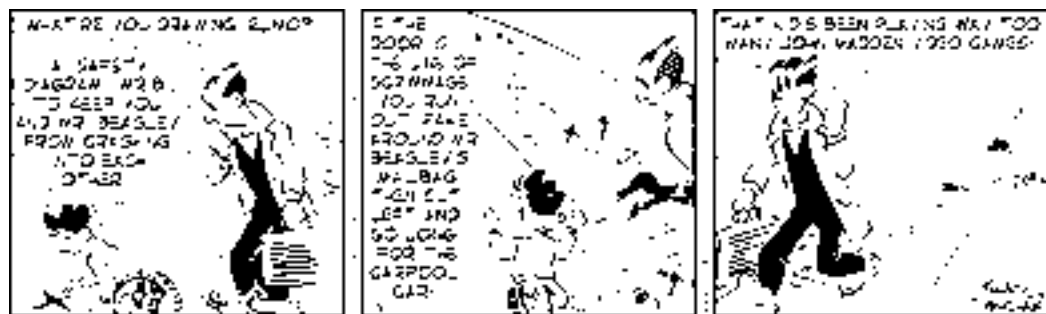


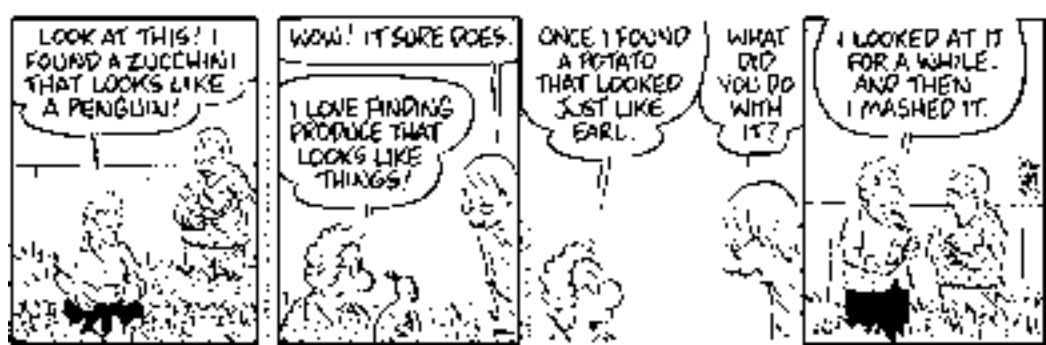
If you have news to report please call us at (785) 242-4700 or (800) 467-8383; or send e-mail to news@ottawaherald.com.

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Blondie



Pickles



Garfield



Classic Peanuts



Beetle Bailey



Baby Blues



For Better or for Worse



Zits



Family Circus



Rubes



I'm not just mom's caregiver!

Dear Annie: Seven years ago, my mother had a stroke. She recovered quite well physically, but has never been the same mentally. My aunts wanted to put her in a nursing home, but my sister and I decided to assume responsibility for her. The plan was that Mom would spend six months with me and six months with my sister.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX



Your Problems

Somehow, my sister's turn never came, and seven years later, my mother still lives with me. The entire time she's been here, family members have never visited, but they will often drive to my sister's home — three miles away — to visit Mom when she is there. They send invitations to family events addressed to my mother at my house and to my sister at hers, but exclude me.

for all the support he has shown me. But I am resentful of the respect my sister gets from the family when they invite her to functions along with my mother, but don't include me. How do I change my situation? — Used and Neglected

Dear Used: You need to be more assertive about your needs. It's possible your relatives think you need a break and this is why they invite Mom alone, so tell them this is not acceptable. Ask if there is something lacking in your home hospitality so you can fix it. Then say you are hurt and insulted when you are excluded from family gatherings. You also have allowed your sister to avoid her obligations. Set up a schedule so she knows when she is responsible for taking Mom to an appointment, and if she refuses, ask her to contribute fi-

nancially so you can hire someone to do the things she is unwilling to do.

Dear Annie: I am 17 years old and the youngest of three brothers. The problem is my mom. She does not like my girlfriend, "Taylor." She says Taylor is too young and immature. Taylor is 15 and very sweet and kind. She's never done anything to make my mom dislike her.

Mom still likes my ex-girlfriend. She has said, "I can't find anything to like in Taylor." But that's because she doesn't want to. Her attitude really hurts me. Mom and I get in a lot of fights over this. How can I make her see my side of things and respect my feelings for Taylor? — Unhappy Teen

Dear Teen: As much as we don't care for your mother's dismissive attitude, we have to agree that Taylor is a little young for you right now. Seventeen-year-old boys can get into a great deal of trouble with 15-year-old girls, and you would be wise to wait until she is 16. Other than that, however, your mother may have developed an attachment to your old girlfriend and is reluctant to let her go. Give it time.

Need to plug? Always ask first

Dear Heloise: I work for a regional transit agency as a supervisor. Our agency also serves as the ticket agent for a national bus line. We are experiencing a problem in our terminal where local and long-distance travelers wait for buses.

HELOISE



Hints

Passengers seem to have some expectation that they can plug cell phones and laptops in wherever they choose without asking permission.

This has included unplugging maintenance equipment, vending machines, etc. The passengers stretch their cords across the lobby and cre-

ate safety hazards. Additionally, cell phones have been taken by others, creating confrontations and anger vented at staff. We have had to put covers with locks on the outlets! — Anne, via e-mail

Wow — who knew? Readers, please be sure to ask before using an outlet to plug in an electronic appliance in a public place. It's nice that many airports have places just for this. — Heloise

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a Saturday's answer 11-2.

Coming Up This Week



Linda Brown Wednesday Hold Me up a Little Longer, Lord



Rebecca McFarland Wednesday Reaching Out



Jason Alderman Wednesday Practical Money Skills



Vickie Moss Thursday Are We Done Yet?

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