

Neighbor disturbs co-worker Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: A few months ago, we hired a lovely young woman to work in our office. "Jen" soon moved into a duplex in the neighborhood and says she loves the area. She has a boyfriend, works full time and goes to school online. She is busy and rarely gets enough sleep.

Jen lives close to the office, so she often goes home to nap at lunchtime. The problem is her neighbor in the adjoining duplex, an older single woman who has become a huge pest. She will knock on Jen's door as soon as she walks in, no matter what time it is. Jen has tried to be nice to her, but is getting fed up with having to "come over and sit" with this woman.

This woman knocks on Jen's door at least five times a day, more on weekends. She asks Jen or her boyfriend to change light bulbs and batteries, fold tablecloths and sheets, you name it. She is not frail or incapable of doing these things on her own. She drives and goes out for dinner a lot. If Jen doesn't answer the door, the woman just keeps knocking, no matter how long it takes.

Jen is chronically tired and at her wits' end. I know she doesn't want to hurt the woman's feelings, but the fact that they live in adjoining duplexes doesn't turn them into best friends. Jen has no interest in hanging out with her. What can she do? — *Frustrated Co-Worker*

Dear Frustrated: We understand that

Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



you feel sorry for Jen's situation, but you seem overly involved in her dilemma. If Jen wants this woman to leave her alone, she simply needs to tell her in plain English that she needs her rest and does not want to be disturbed. It would be a kindness for Jen to set aside a time when she is willing to entertain this woman, but otherwise, she should make herself unavailable, no matter how much knocking goes on, and say "sorry, no" when asked to visit or be of assistance. No one can take advantage of you without your permission.

Dear Annie: I was wondering whether you knew of any guidelines regarding how to address mail to unmarried couples, families with multiple last names, and same-sex couples. This has been a problem for me when mailing Christmas greetings, and I will soon be sending out bridal shower and wedding invitations.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I like to do things properly. — *Still Buying Stamps*

Dear Still Buying: Unmarried couples

are addressed as "Ms. Jane Doe" on one line and "Mr. John Smith" on the next. (Adults who live in the same household, but are not couples, receive individual invitations. Teenagers, too.) Married couples with different last names would be "Ms. Jane Doe and Mr. John Smith" on the same line. Same-sex couples are done the same way, with the names listed alphabetically. If the same-sex couple is using the same last name, it is "Mmes. Jane and Mary Smith" or "Messrs. John and Richard Doe." For informal invitations, it's OK to use first names and "and Family" where applicable. Thank you for reminding us that some folks still care enough to do it right.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Sister-in-Law," who complained that her sister-in-law makes comments about her food. The last straw was when she said, "If they put that in front of me, I would get sick to my stomach immediately."

When I am faced with large servings of food, I feel not just overwhelmed but actually nauseated. It's a genuine physical feeling. So maybe the sister-in-law was not making a negative remark about her companion's food, but rather about her own sensitivities.

Hopefully, they will mend fences and stay on good terms. A good relationship with a sister-in-law is to be treasured. I know because I have a great sister-in-law. — *Feeling Better*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A cherished project will take a detour. Adjust immediately and acquire the skills necessary to roll with this change. Training will be worth the investment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The order in which you do things will be important. Do the hard thing first to get it out of the way, and your whole day will go better. Tonight, relax without feeling guilty. You need the rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Separate what is truly happening to you from the emotions attached to it. Form an objective opinion so the emotions don't even have a chance to influence your positive interpretation of events.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The hardest thing to gain is momentum. But once you get that going, you'll ride the swing of your work and enjoy the rewards along the way. So do the arduous lifting and don't give up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some say we come from nothing and leave into infinity. You prefer to entertain other theories, and you'll give some thought to them today. Deep thoughts lead to better living.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be a conflict of interests, and this calls upon your maturity and inner poise. Walk away and brainstorm about this alone. You can sort it out with a solution that no one else will think of.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It doesn't matter whether your offender deserves to be forgiven or not. By holding on to the grievance, you only hurt yourself. Forgiveness is something you do to set yourself free regardless of what it does to the other person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If love feels like an uncontrollable force, that's because it is. You can't help what you feel, but you can help what you do about it. When in doubt about your next move, get distance and think it over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Life feels vivid. You will notice and remember the kind of details that once escaped you. Spring to a friend's aid; it's a loving gesture that will later be doubly repaid.

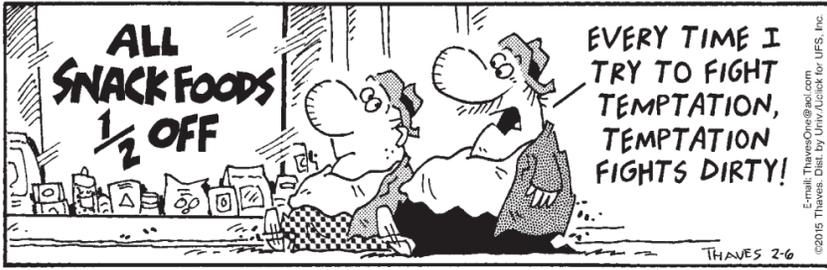
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are times when the idea of a thing is even more important than the thing itself. Cling to the idea that makes you feel hopeful and energized even when the practicalities of that idea are not working out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may find yourself in a pretty pickle, but getting out of it is simple really: Acknowledge the facts of a situation, and then decide what you're going to do about it.

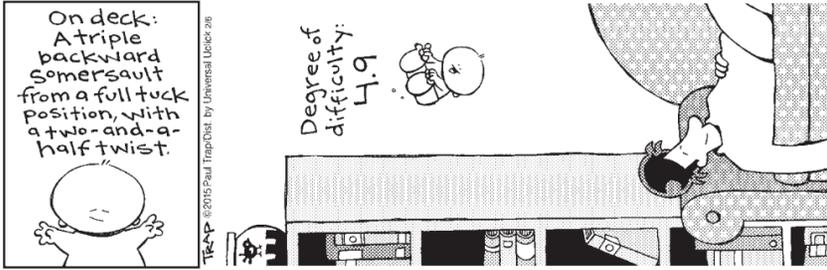
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Excitement and stress have the same symptoms. It would be nice if you could simply tell yourself in stressful moments, "This is just excitement," thereby changing your outlook. Hey, that just might work.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7). The saying goes that you can't have too many friends. The next 10 weeks show you challenging that statement as you try to manage your popularity. Luckily, this widespread acceptance and admiration also is responsible for you being paid well and given special opportunities. April and September bring travel. Leo and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 22, 35 and 17.

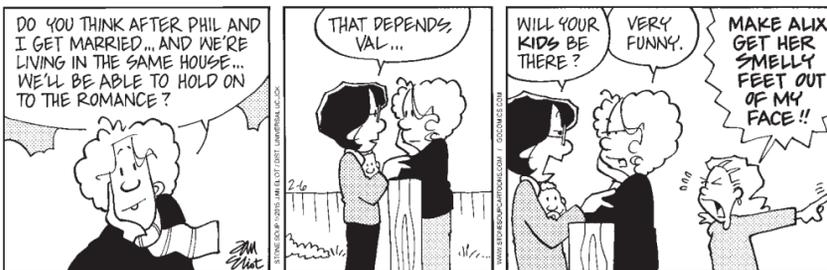
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



STONE SOUP



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



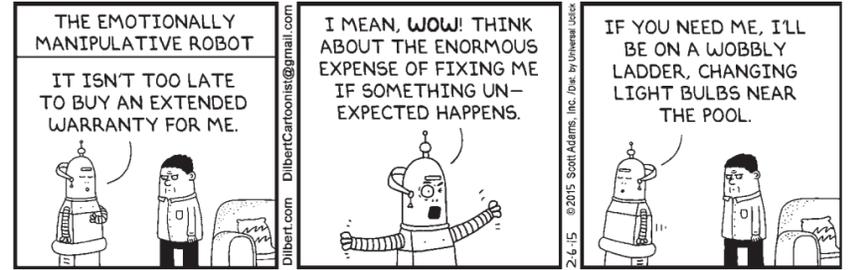
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

