

Why should I replace fillings? Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Can you tell me whether this is a scam? Dentists are now telling seniors that their old fillings need to be replaced. My dentist told me this, and I've never had a bit of trouble with my fillings or teeth. I said I won't replace them until they bother me. I was also told that I need additional, costly work done when I haven't had a bit of trouble with the tooth in question. When I declined, I was told that when I do have trouble, they may not be able to help me.

When the technician cleans your teeth, she picks at the fillings. I am convinced this loosens them. They shouldn't do that. Now my daughter, 55, is being told the same thing, although her teeth haven't given her any trouble. What do you say about this? — *Ventura, Calif.*

Dear VC: We spoke to Dr. Maria Lopez Howell at the American Dental Association. Here is what she said:

"The recommendation to replace existing dental fillings is not based on a person's age. No filling lasts forever, and the older the filling the more likely it is to show signs of wear and tear. Just because the tooth isn't bothering you now doesn't mean there isn't a problem coming down the road. Conditions in your mouth change as you get older.

"Regular dental visits are important to minimize the need for more extensive and, most likely, expensive procedures. Although you may not be able to tell whether



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your fillings need to be replaced, your dentist will check to see if the filling is sealed to the tooth. Fillings that have worn away, chipped or cracked may leave gaps through which bacteria can enter.

"When your dentist recommends treatment, feel free to ask 'why' and say 'show me' on an X-ray or image so you understand what needs to be done. The ADA calls upon member dentists to be honest and trustworthy in providing patient care and to have the benefit of their patients as their primary goal. If you still feel uncomfortable with the treatment recommendations, don't hesitate to get a second opinion."

Dear Annie: My daughter-in-law is mean to my husband and me. She avoids talking to us and only includes us in family events if she has to. She only wants to do things with her friends and her family.

My son says we need to "get on their schedule" way in advance, yet they are always booked up when we ask. Once or

twice a year, our son brings the grandchildren over for a couple of hours. We all have a wonderful time, and the kids wonder why they don't see more of us.

I loved my mother-in-law with all my heart. She and my mother were both great ladies who welcomed everyone and treated them with love and respect. I wish my daughter-in-law would open her mind and her heart to the possibilities. Other than prayer, I don't see a solution. — *Sad Mother-in-Law*

Dear Sad: Your letter voices a common complaint. All we can advise is to do your best to make friends with your daughter-in-law. Be gracious, generous and forgiving. Find something to praise about her and do so. We hope she will come around, and that your son will continue to include you in their lives.

Dear Annie: I am writing about "Louise in Louisville," who wondered whether her 60-year-old boyfriend was cheating, because their sex life had declined. He could be having problems with erectile dysfunction, as well as prostate problems, diabetes and numerous other medical issues.

He could be terribly upset that he cannot be intimate with her, and that's why he closes himself off. Some men feel embarrassed or ashamed when they cannot perform. My husband has similar problems, but we talk about it. There are other ways to show your partner how much you love them. — *Louisville*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You recognize people who are just trying to get through a situation. You've felt like those people before, so let them know that they are not alone. You are, at heart, a soldier, and you will soldier on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Express the love in your heart so others can really feel it. Then your relationships will be uplifting, surprising and fulfilling, and you will finally achieve what you've long been working toward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The eruption of ideas that come to you may not be socially or politically correct, but don't let that stop you from writing down what goes through your head. What simmers under the surface needs release.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This day will be touched by unusual happenings and idiosyncratic people. Enjoy the shakeup like it's a roller-coaster ride. Throw up your hands and scream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Doing something right one or two times will bring you good results. But doing the same things a hundred or a thousand times will make you rich. Establish systems and be consistent.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're usually so independent. This time, before you make a move, deliberate with friends — and not just any friends, but a few well-chosen people who have experience with or ideas on your recent life-topic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some say that the sleep that comes after you've hit the "snooze" on your alarm is the best sleep in the world. That's because it's borrowed. There's something you'll borrow to your

great delight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There will be delightful influences around you, and you will be extraordinarily receptive to the best of them. With your outstanding imagination, you will twist ideas and make them your very own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's not an insect spray out there strong enough to stave off your travel bug. There's a big wide world out there for you to see, and you want to keep moving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Life is part what happens to you and mostly what you make happen. Today the odds are in your favor, and you'll act swiftly to create a dreamy scenario.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe you're not asking for help because you are worried about making requests of people who later will feel that you owe them. If so, call on your angels. They are waiting, no strings attached.

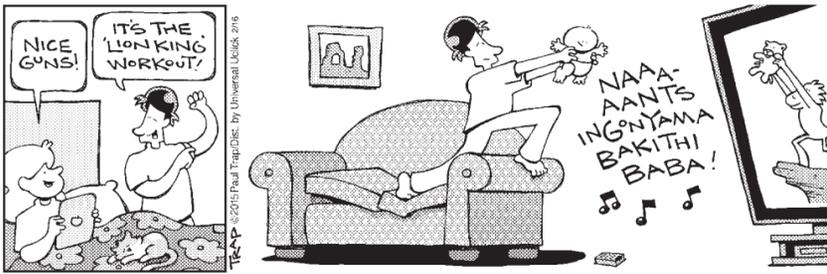
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting lost can be good. It connects you with what's going on right now. When you're trying to find your way back, you are very much in the moment. Finding your way is a living meditation.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 17). With unyielding faith in your plan, you follow through to make this one of your most prosperous years. March introduces you to helpful people. April brings funding for a cherished project. May is a time for travel and reconnection with distant family. Those who resisted in the past will now sponsor your efforts. Love signs are Virgo and Scorpio. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 6, 45, 22 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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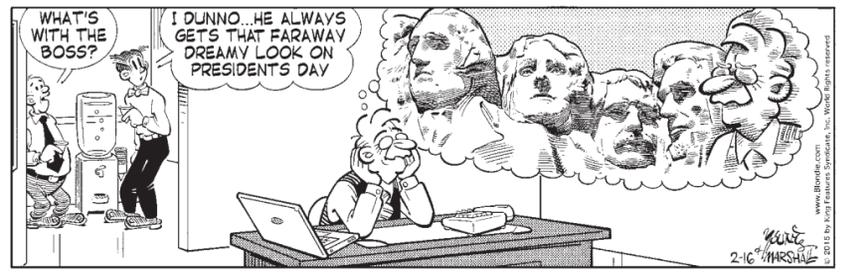
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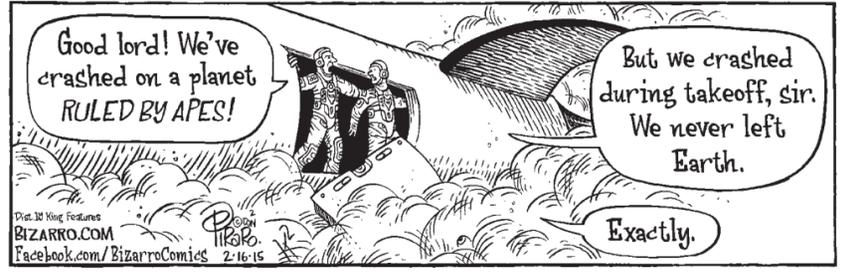
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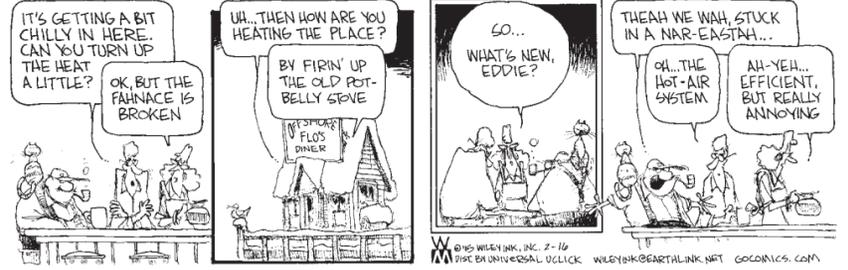
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