

Time to stand up to Big Tobacco

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My grandmother picked up her first cigarette when she was 11, beginning an addiction that ultimately would take her life. Her story is unfortunately common. I became a tobacco control advocate to spread the message that tobacco is harmful. I don't want to see people's lives or dreams destroyed by these products. I am confident that we can create the first tobacco-free generation. It may sound far-fetched, but I believe we are within reach of a day when tobacco doesn't sicken people anymore.

Tobacco kills more than 480,000 Americans each year, the vast majority of whom started smoking as kids. The tobacco industry aggressively markets their products to kids with flashy ads and sweet flavors. Tobacco industry documents reveal they have long targeted kids as "replacement smokers" for the people killed by their products each year.

Enough is enough. Kids are taking a stand against Big Tobacco to say they are not a "replacement," and they will not let tobacco use take over their lives. Young people are posting selfies on social media at #NotAReplacement to say they will not be fooled by the tobacco industry's tactics. March 18 is Kick Butts Day, a na-

Annie's Mailbox

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and
Marcy Sugar



tional day of activism sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. Please urge your readers to visit kickbuttsday.org to learn more about what is being done in their communities to reduce tobacco use and how they can help. — *Magi Linscott, age 19, Harrisonburg, Va.*

Dear Magi Linscott: Our condolences on the loss of your grandmother. So many people still are not aware of the long-term dangers of smoking when they pick up that first cigarette. Thanks to you, we hope our readers will visit kickbuttsday.org to see how they can help.

Dear Annie: I have read letters from parents of ungrateful adult children and always thought, "How sad." Now I know exactly how they feel. My husband and I just celebrat-

ed 50 years of marriage. It has not been the happiest of marriages, but we love and respect each other, and he is my best friend. We have three children. One sent us a frame that said "50th Anniversary" on it. He bought it online, and the enclosed slip wished us a happy anniversary. Another child gave us a large gift certificate at Christmas with the understanding that it would also be for our anniversary. Our youngest totally ignored the occasion.

We have always been generous with our time, talent and treasure to these "kids" and especially our grandchildren. I have so many mixed emotions running through my heart and mind. I have ignored so much in the past, but this just tipped me over the edge. Should I let them know? — *Only Desire Acknowledgement*

Dear Only: Yes. When you say it has not been the "happiest of marriages," perhaps your children don't feel this is truly a celebration — for you or for them. Even so, a 50th is a major milestone and should be acknowledged. Let the kids know that their detached response was disappointing, and tell them how much it would have meant to have received a phone call or personal card. We hope they do better.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There are times when it's better to risk, but not today. Chance will favor you because you make choices not to take chances. It's as if chance appreciates the break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There's a balance to strike between what you want to do and what life seems to keep leading you into. This has to do with a piece of history that needs to be revisited and forgiven.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You'll get the best results because you turn it into a competition or because you realize you're already in one. The challenge will be difficult, uncomfortable, exhilarating and productive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You don't have to be fearful or tense. Your risk will be minimized by a safety net. When you feel like you have nothing to lose because you'll be saved if you falter, you do much better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll enjoy small talk and casual relationships now. A casual relationship that happens on a regular schedule will at times be more intimate than relationships in your inner circle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The family member who is misbehaving will get some of your focus, but try not to dwell there. You have better things to do with your thoughts and better emotions to feel, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): The thing is, you won't know how much kindness is necessary for the situation, but it's probably more than most people are applying. Anyway, you won't be sorry if you give a little too much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Change is

much more strenuous than lazily pulling the covers over our head and staying in the cocoon of the life we've built thus far. This day pushes you up and out because you want the change badly enough.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It doesn't matter that they behave in illogical ways. Your own illogical reaction will be that you try to help and love them anyway. In this case, two wrongs do make a right.

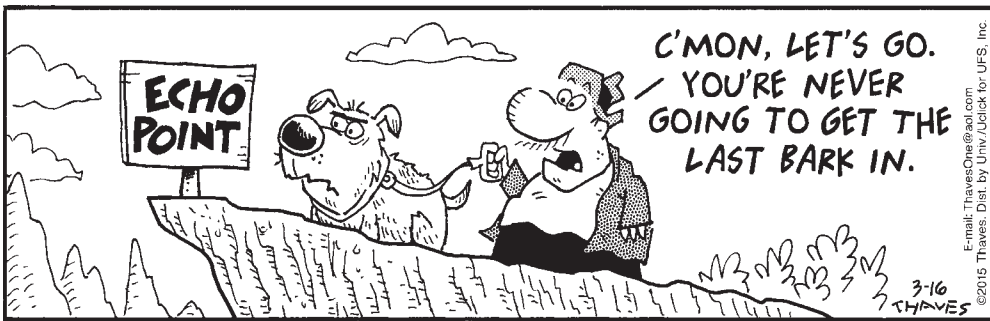
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Getting back on track might simply be a matter of making friends who have as much ambition as you have or used to have or want to have. They are out there. Put the word out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When you let go, you create space for something else to move in to your life. That doesn't make letting go any easier, but it should make it more of a hopeful process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You wouldn't bet against yourself, and that's what you're doing if you project a negative and fearful view of the future. No worrying! This thing isn't as major as your mind wants to make it.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 17): You'll be proud of yourself at the end of this year for how hard you worked and how much you were able to accomplish. Stick with a tested plan for the next seven weeks — that's how you're going to be successful. After that, you can experiment, explore and push the boundaries. May and July are the most romantic months. Cancer and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 33, 37 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



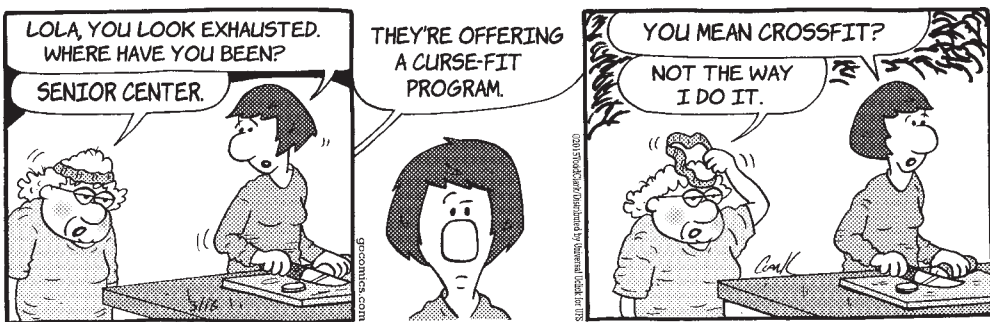
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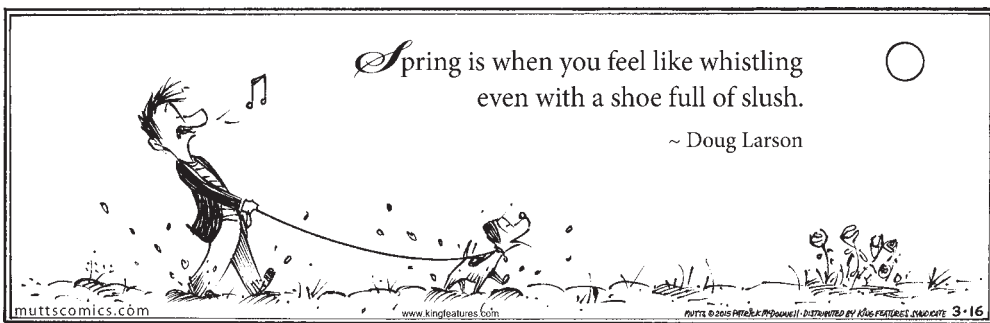
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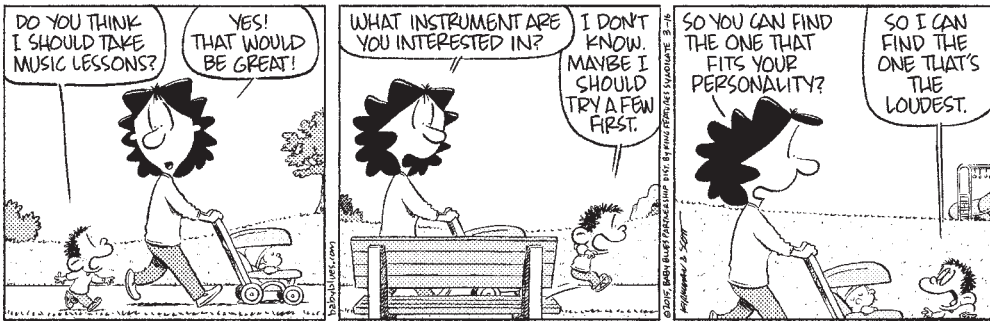
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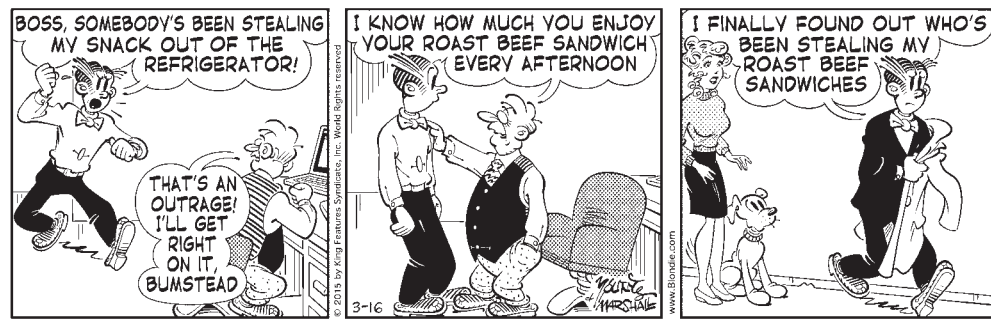
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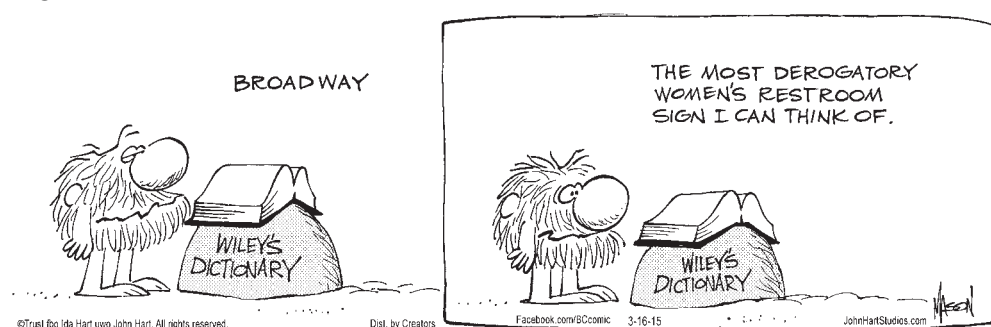
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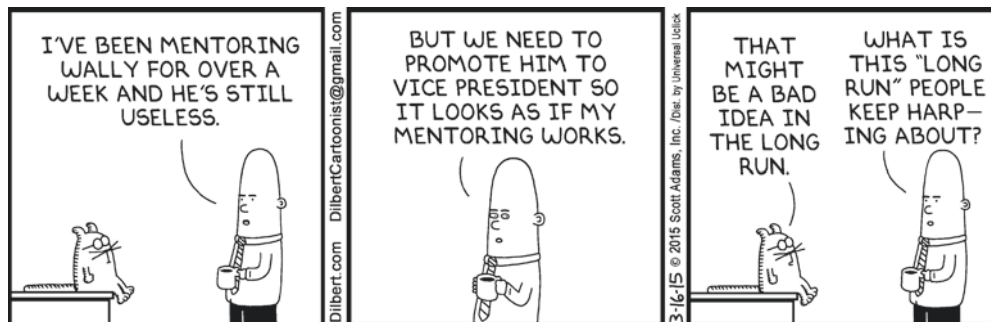
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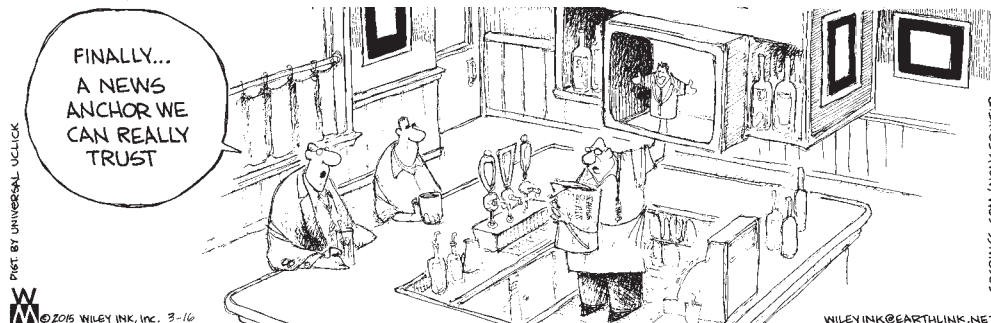
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