

# Woman puts up with verbal abuse Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I have been with "Joe" since his wife died nine years ago. The problem is, we have different styles of communication.

At first, it wasn't too bad. I have tried to analyze our fights to see what I could do differently or what we could do together to make it better. But I have settled on the fact that Joe can never be wrong, and it affects everything. He won't do anything in a new way, cannot say he's sorry for anything he has said or done, won't admit to hurting my feelings, and often won't believe what I say. Worse, when he gets an idea in his head, he won't change it even when presented with new information that proves him wrong. And when I suggest he reconsider, he often makes comments that are below the belt and painful for me. It's frustrating.

Joe is 75, and I am 66. We live together and don't want to move. I know he won't go for counseling, nor will he believe anything he reads that contradicts his impressions. How do I keep my sanity and stop these fights? — *Need Your Help*

Dear Need: Let's understand this. You are willing to put up with what sounds like frequent verbal abuse because you don't want to



move? Does Joe have any redeeming qualities that make up for his stubborn ignorance and disagreeable nature? We don't see love here. We see fear of being alone. You cannot make Joe become a better communicator unless he works at it, which he won't. Only you can decide whether you are willing to tolerate this in order to stay with him. Some counseling for you alone might be helpful.

Dear Annie: Why do people pay so little attention to the proper pronunciation of certain words?

This morning, I received a telephone call from a salesclerk, who informed me that something I had ordered was no longer available, but she had "fount" a similar item if I cared to substitute. I'd like to substitute "found" for "fount."

Also, I've heard several people say "ax" when they mean "ask." An

"ax" is something you use to chop wood. If the speaker had "axed her," she wouldn't be able to answer, now, would she? "Ask" should rhyme with "task."

Last week, for the umpteenth time, I heard someone say, "We are having a sells event." The word is "sales." You are having a sale where you hope to sell things. You are not having a "sell." And why do people continue to say "I done this" or "I seen that" or "they come over yesterday." These people have been to school and presumably learned the proper tense for verb usage.

Why are we so careless in our speech? OK, Annie. I feel better now. — *Shepherdsville, Ky.*

Dear Shepherdsville: Glad to help. Some kids don't pay that much attention in school. And how your friends and family members speak can be a greater influence than what you learn in a short class. Rules of grammar, if not reinforced at home, often go by the wayside.

Standards have relaxed a great deal, but still, people who cannot correctly pronounce words are considered uneducated or worse, and it can affect the jobs they get and the people they attract, which shapes the rest of their lives.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Just when you think it can't get better, it does. The same goes for the opposite dynamic. You can count on the universe pushing you another mile in whatever direction you're traveling.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** For today, there's no feeling like the feeling of accomplishment. Knowing that there was a time when you had nothing except the gumption to make something substantial out of it is priceless.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Everyone you know finds this ground unfamiliar. Go forward anyway — you'll be a trailblazer. Your sophisticated taste eventually will move everyone into the future.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You're a humanist. You don't want to make fun of the world; you'd much rather make fun of yourself. That's what makes people laugh the hardest, and today they'll relate to your vulnerability.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Hard to believe, but there are actually some people who find the colloquialism "whatever" to be a curse word. Avoid the expression today, as your people will be even more sensitive than usual.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Here's the recipe for a stellar day: Do something for yourself, do something for a friend, and do your duty. Once those three are covered, you'll be feeling pretty good about the world.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You can't do it all in one day, but at least you can list it all so that you won't forget later. Otherwise, the less pressing (but possibly more pleasurable) items might fall through the cracks.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** What you have is not what you want. That's fine, because you're finding a way to make it work. Do the business at hand, and the business you wish for will come.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Interrupting is immature and disrespectful, and yet many people have this annoying habit. When you get interrupted once, you'll chalk it up to the other person's excitement. Twice, though? Maybe it's time to walk away.

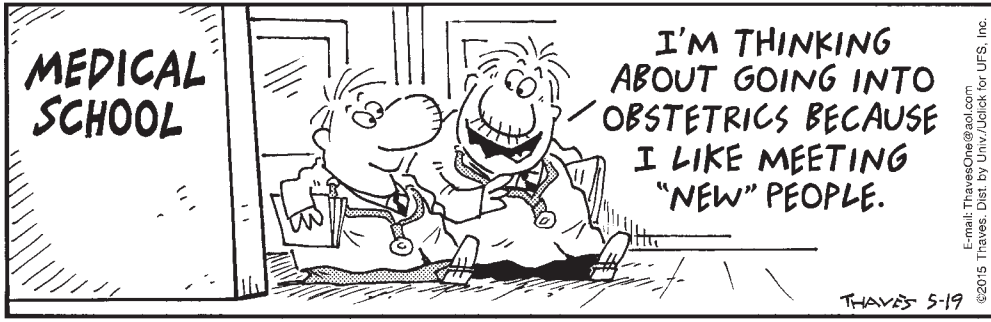
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll be doing what it takes to be the bigger person and rise above it — whatever "it" happens to be for you right now. You don't mind trying a little harder than the others, because you have a feeling it will benefit you in the end.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** A daring person will inspire you to break a few rules. It's how you become a vivacious renegade. Later, you'll look back on today and note that it was a turning point.

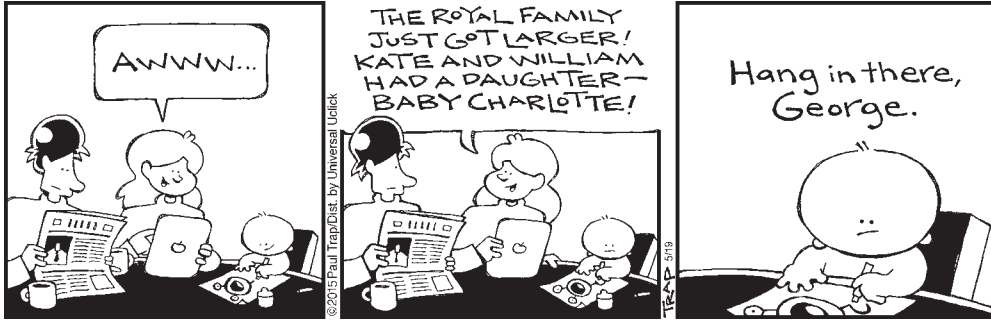
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Multitasking will be an exercise in silliness. What you do while trying to do something else will be, of course, ineffective. One thing at a time will get it done.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 20).** It's your year to make things official. Celebrate the successes you achieve in June. In July, you'll be reaching into new emotional territory. A VIP will come into your life in August. The sale of your possessions or property will bring about a big and welcome change in September. January will bring strong love. Aquarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 13, 29, 14 and 50.

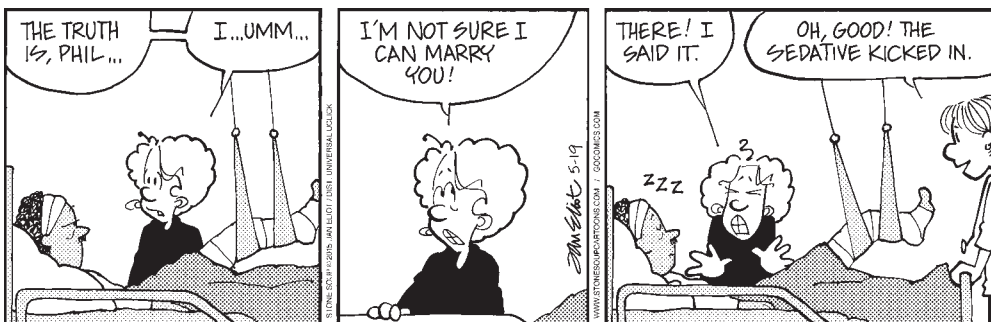
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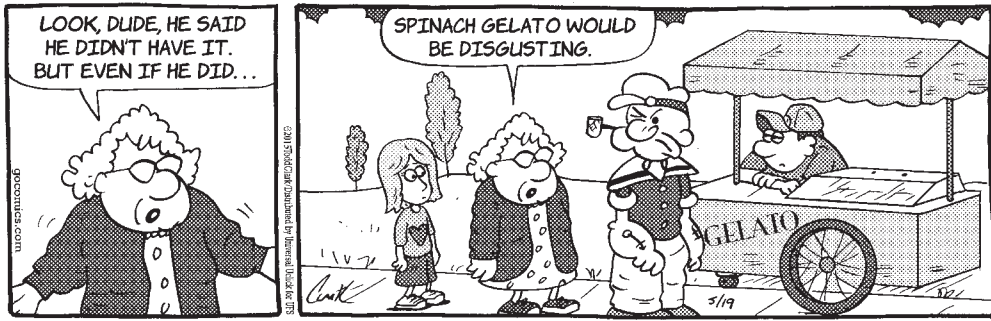
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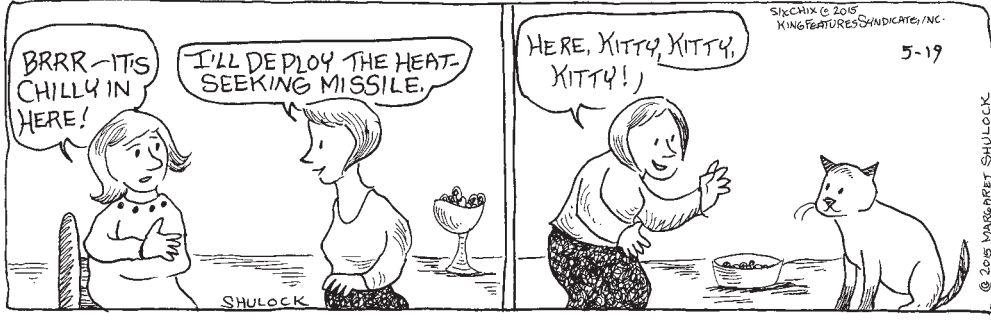
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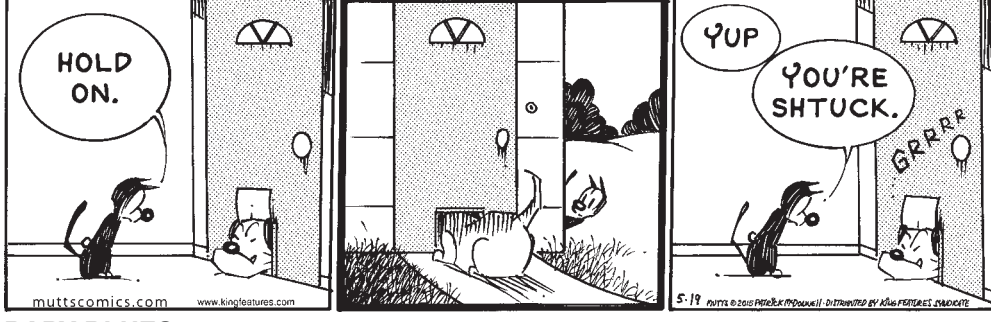
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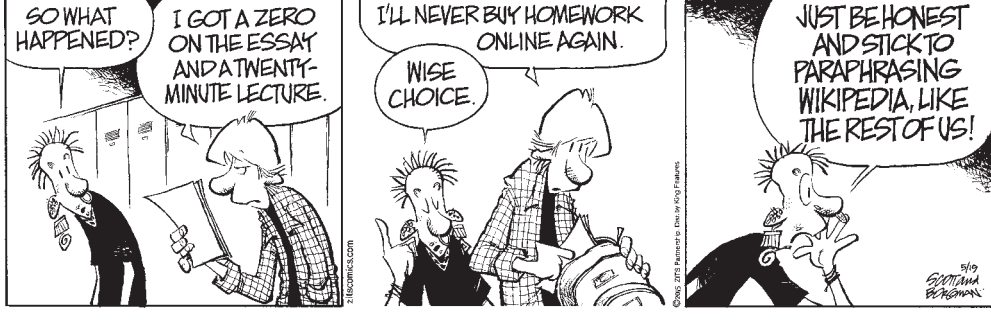
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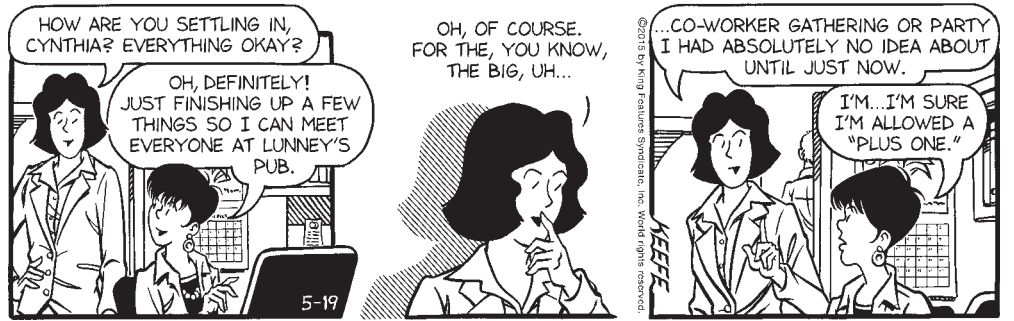
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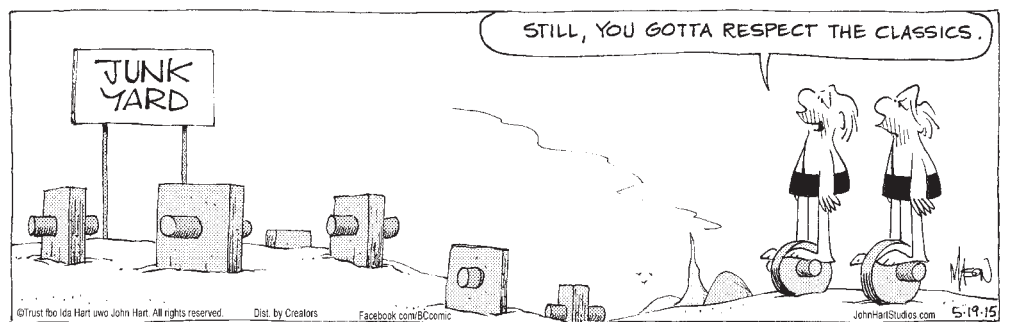
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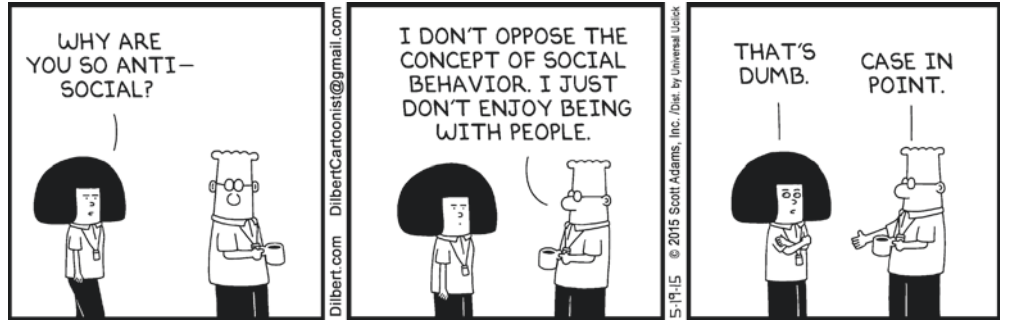
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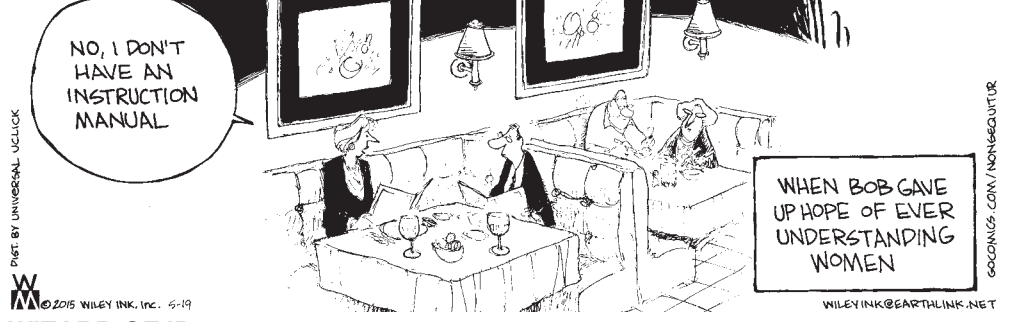
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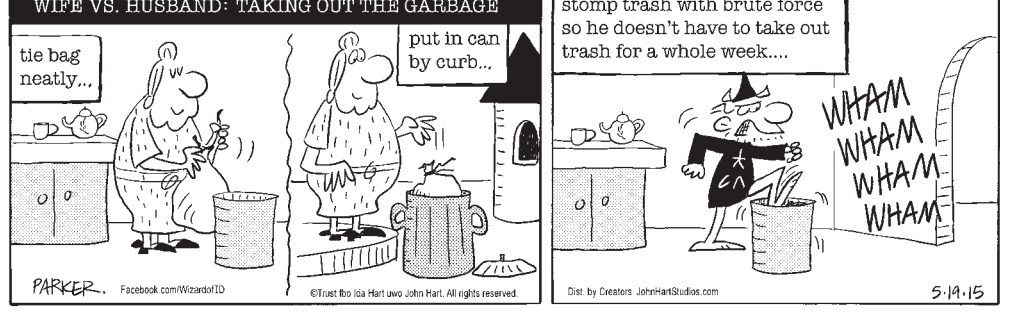
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

