

Sister deserves kindness and help

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My heart is breaking for my sister. She has been married to the same man for more than 30 years and he has never been kind or respectful toward her. They have two married sons and a grandchild with health problems. My sister loves that grandchild more than life itself, but she rarely gets to see him. Worse, her sons treat her terribly and I have no idea why. The younger son takes advantage of her, and the oldest acts as though his parents are beneath him.

I have several siblings and although none of us is perfect, we have all tried our best to be good parents. My sister has recently developed medical problems, but she is so depressed about her life that she doesn't care about her own health.

I am worried about her. She deserves love and respect and has sacrificed herself for the men in her life. Should I write a letter to my nephews and open their eyes? — *Big Sister*

Dear Sister: If your brother-in-law has treated his wife disrespectfully their entire married life and she has tolerated it, then her sons will treat her similarly. That is the pattern they grew up

Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



with and they see nothing wrong with it. Your sister needs to assert herself and demand more acceptable behavior, but we suspect she doesn't know how.

If you want to write letters to your nephews, by all means do so, but be aware that it might not help and could estrange them from you. Can you enlist the help of your nephew's wives? Men who treat their mothers disrespectfully often repeat the pattern with their wives. We also hope you will offer to go with your sister for counseling, not only so she can learn to stop putting up with such disrespect, but to help her move forward and take control of her life and her health.

Dear Annie: Eleven years ago, when my father passed away, the funeral home gave my mother an American flag, since Dad was

a veteran of WWII. As per his wishes, there was no funeral and my father was cremated. This flag was never used and my mother put it away in a closet. Now my mother is in a nursing facility and I have the flag.

Annie, we already have a smaller flag that hangs by our front door. Dad's flag has no sentimental value for me, but I have no idea who I can pass it on to or what else can be done with it. I can't just throw it away. Do you have any suggestions? — *Daughter of a Vet in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*

Dear Daughter: Are there nieces, nephews or grandchildren who might like to have this flag? Please ask around. Here are some other ideas: Contact your local historical society to see whether they will accept this item, perhaps along with your father's other war memorabilia if there is any. Also offer it to nearby schools, the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, your local fire department and the VFW to see whether they are interested. Finally, please contact the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (cem.va.gov) to donate the flag for use in the National Cemetery.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A "who-done-it" situation arises. Note that the innocent have a clear conscience, and so it's easier for them to remain calm when accused. Also, it's easier for them to apologize because of their lack of attachment to the deed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your mind is alive with images taken from the outside world, some of which do not apply to you in the way the advertisers are trying to make you believe they do. In fact, it's entirely possible that you're perfectly fine the way you are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Marvelous strategies and ingenious solutions are part of the fun. Note that the answers don't always have to come from you. You'll enjoy trying it someone else's way, even if it doesn't turn out to be right.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll employ that wide range of social and technical skills to maneuver through the increasing pressures of the day. Keep in mind that the only reason you're being challenged like this is that you can handle it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You avoid talking about problems for fear the focus will make things worse. However, you need to identify the exact sticking point. Once you do, you can settle on the improvement that would most help you and focus there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Those of superior character are often well versed in the fine art of finding something to like about an unlikeable situation. The secret is creativity and focus. If you can master this, you can do anything.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be proud of what you've done in the name of a paycheck, and mentally account for all of it. The odd, arduous or distasteful tasks you handled in the

past prepared you for the dreamy job in your near future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been learning differently lately, picking a bit here, there and everywhere, perhaps unsure of what it's all leading to. The whole picture comes together today, and you'll understand why recent lessons were necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you're feeling worried, it's because you're living in a time other than the present. Bring yourself to the current moment. It's the only moment in which you can do what needs doing.

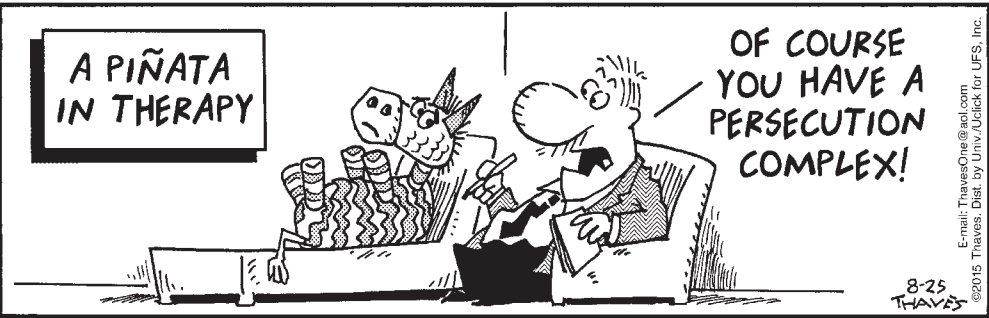
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The things you do just for you will affect others in ways you can't foresee, and so be sure that you really believe in your choice. Would you make the same choice if you knew you were doing it on camera for millions to see?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know what's going on. You're in step with the trends, hip to the buzzwords and in sync with the prevailing style. The best part is that you don't even have to show off to profit from all this savvy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your thoughts link together like a railroad. All it takes is one railroad switch to head you in an entirely different direction. Today is for installing the thought switch that will get you to a brand-new location.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 26). You're a rebel this year, pushing boundaries in the most creative ways. September and March will bring a financial bonus. In October, you will earn the cooperation of a group, and your influence will grow with every project. November sees you laughing with the one with whom you share a special chemistry. Taurus and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 29, 1, 24 and 16.

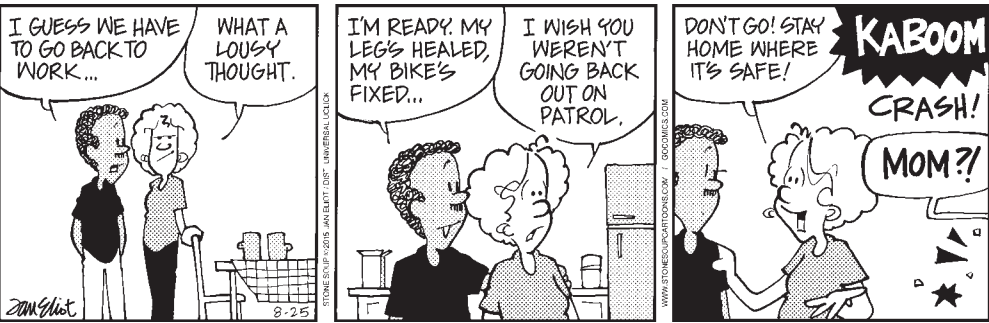
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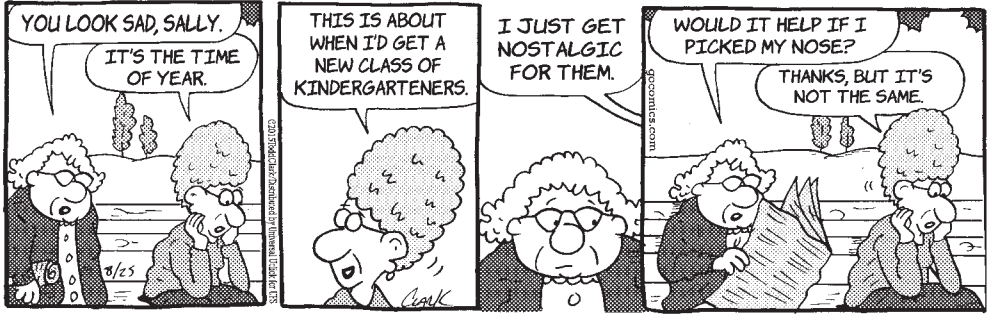
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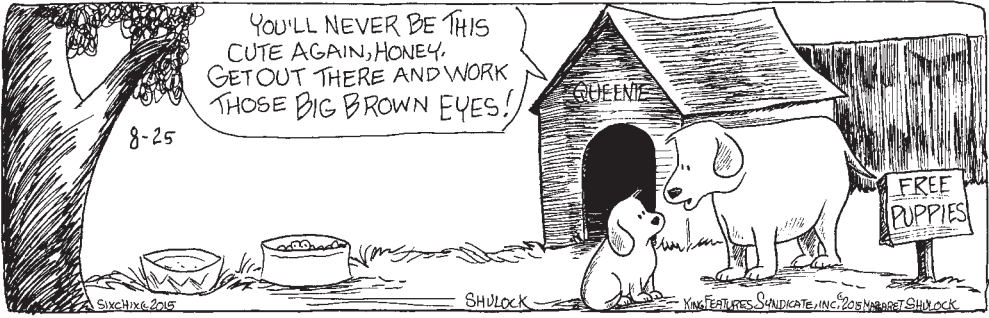
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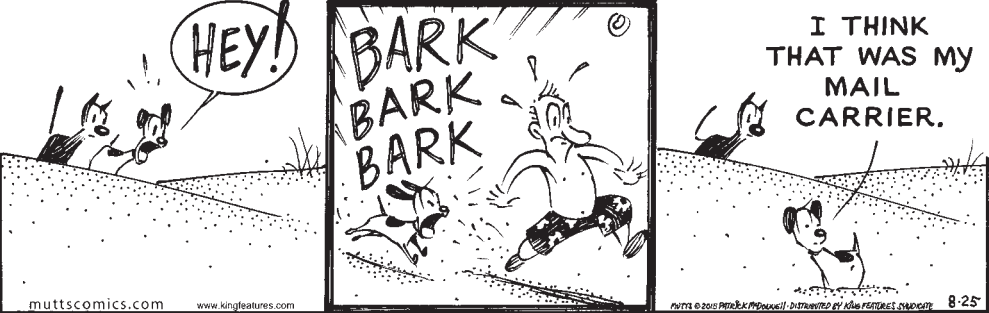
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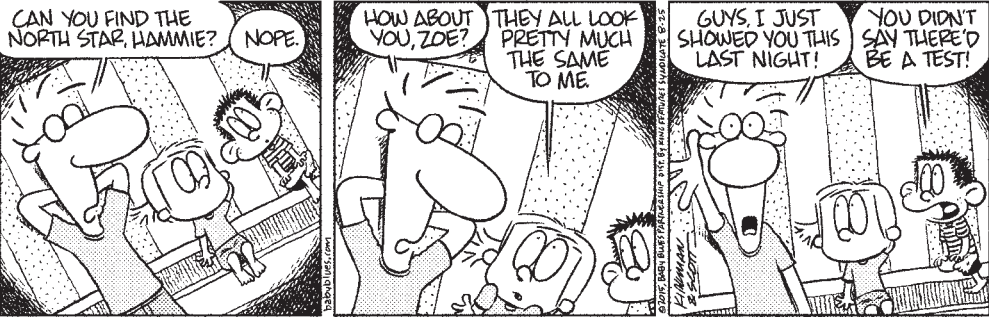
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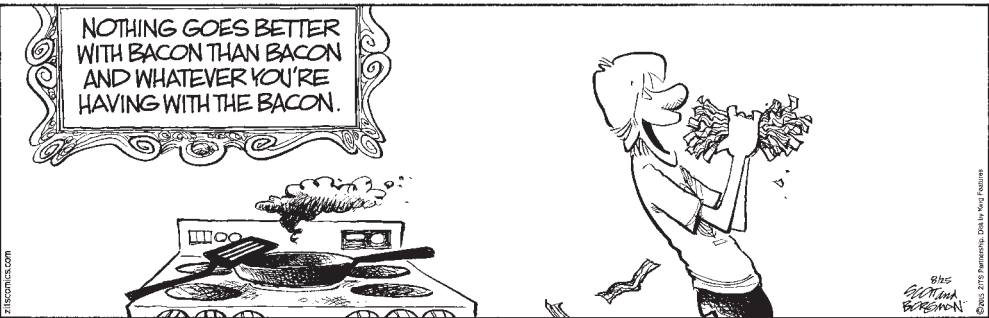
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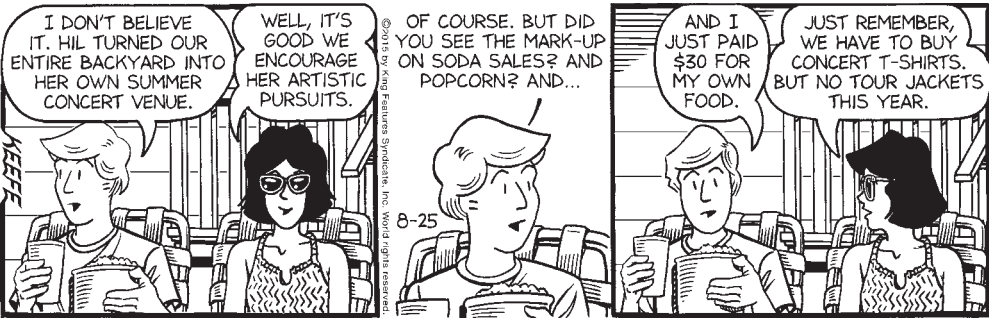
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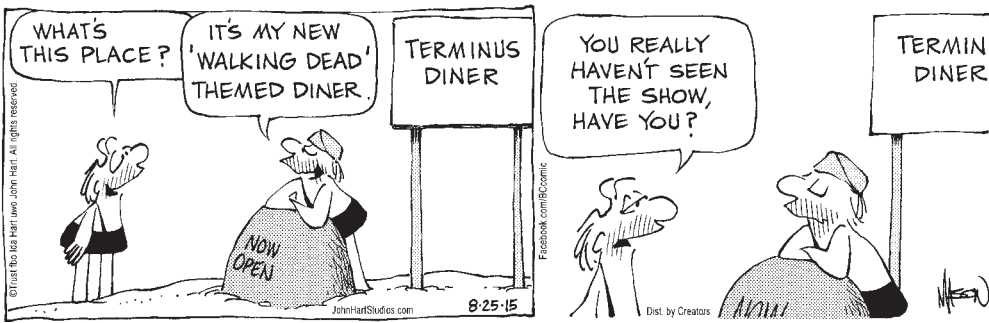
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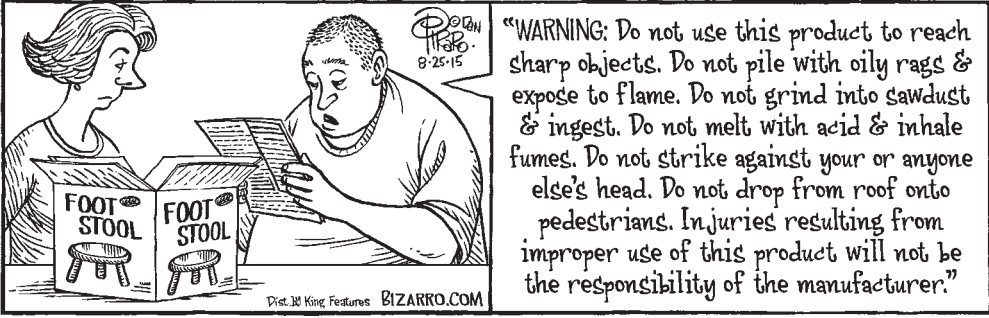
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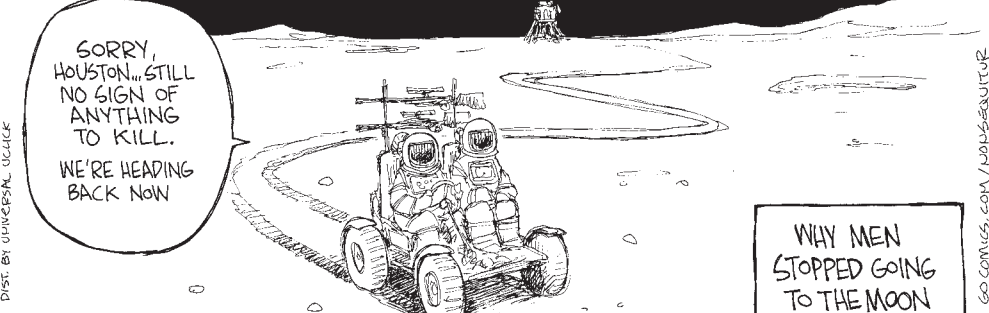
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