

# Upset about lack of concern

**Dear Annie:** In October, I visited my family in France. Three weeks after I returned home, the terrorist attacks occurred. My husband was out of town and I was all alone. My family in France, thankfully, was safe.

I consider myself a loyal friend. However, only one person called to ask about my family and about me. That person was actually a business acquaintance. I am deeply grateful for that call, but truly surprised and disappointed that there were no others. A family member phoned two days later, saying he had been so busy with work that he didn't hear about the attacks until later. I was polite, but seriously, people would have to be living under a rock not to have heard the news immediately.

It was an extremely difficult time for me, and I am terribly hurt and angry that no one else took a few seconds to ask whether my family was OK or to find out how I was handling things. I received a Christmas card from one friend who wrote only to brag about her job promotion.

Annie, all of these so-called friends are well aware that much of my family lives in France. I no longer wish to associate with these people. What can I say if any of

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



them call and want to get together with me? — *Still Hurting*

**Dear Hurting:** People tend to be self-absorbed and sometimes don't think of another person's specific situation when they hear about a tragedy far away. Please give your friends a chance to make it up to you. If they call, tell them that you were hurt and disappointed that you didn't hear from them at the time. Give them the opportunity to apologize. You will be much less angry and upset if you can grant forgiveness and start fresh. Of course, if they offer feeble excuses and make no attempt to say they are sorry, feel free to stop responding to their calls.

**Dear Annie:** As my mother got older, she used to worry about her faraway friends when she didn't hear from them at Christmas. She thought maybe they had gone into a

nursing home or were homebound and unable to correspond. Or maybe they had died.

So when my mother moved to a nursing home near us, I decided to make sure this didn't happen to her. I wrote a newsy letter about how she was doing, and added where she was living, along with the address. I printed it on Christmas stationery and sent it in the first part of December.

Well, Annie, I want to tell you that the response was overwhelming. She received Christmas cards from nearly all of her friends. Some wrote long, newsy letters of their own, and a few of them even wrote letters to me.

It was very rewarding and gratifying, and Mom felt that she was still a part of her friends' lives. I thought you might like to pass this on to others so they will know to do it during the next holiday season.

— *Grateful Daughter*

**Dear Daughter:** This is a sweet idea and an excellent way to keep others apprised of Mom's situation and encourage them to contact her. Seniors, especially those who move away from familiar surroundings, often feel isolated. Thank you for providing a lovely way to stay connected.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** When you hit the mid-day slump, one happy memory is all it takes to connect you with inner magic. Remember the situations, people and things that bring you joy. The spark of that thought will get your energy going again.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You may have to change an agreement; do so at the earliest opportunity. You won't exactly be met with enthusiasm, but, if you wait, things could get worse. Renegotiate as soon as possible.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** No, you're not dreaming this or fabricating it: You actually do have healing powers. Your touch, your listening ear and the love in your gaze all send soul nutrition right where it is most needed.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** When you have a mystical mindset, the world is filled with sprites, imps, trolls and the like. It might help you to think of the people around you as specific creatures, each with unique attributes.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** One man's triviality is the whole world of another. You do not share the same passions as some of the people around you. Even so, your respect for what they love will keep you in good stead.

**VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Modesty is a primer for the mind. It makes for optimum receptivity and quick learning. Head into that potentially educational environment and leave all prior knowledge behind.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Segal's Law states that "A man with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure." To eliminate doubt, narrow down your options considerably.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Choose your company according to tone, not experience. The upbeat people may have the wrong answers, but that's something that can be sorted out with the right attitude.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The shape of the physical world changes. Forms expand, contract, sag, implode — but feelings are immune to forces such as gravity. The durability of feelings will work for you today. Use it.

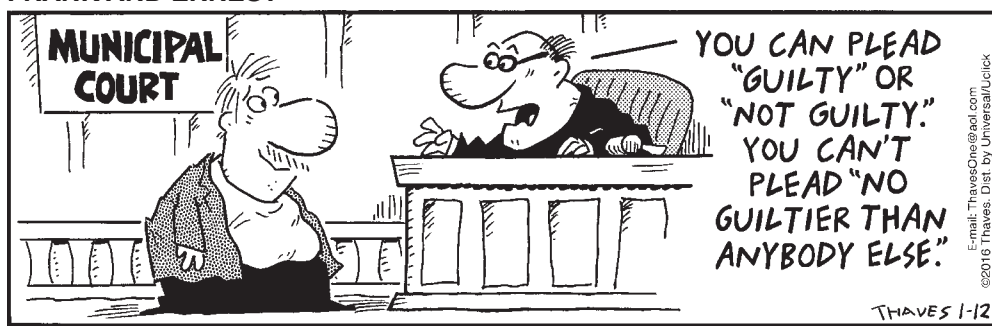
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** For deeply evolutionary reasons, good memories are harder to hold on to than bad ones. You'll set the balance right and make yourself and others happy by recording a memory through writing or pictures.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Of course, you have much better things to think about than your reputation and/or effect on others. And yet there is something you want that will be much easier to obtain once you align your public image with it.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The one who becomes a master of his or her time will become a master of many things. That said, the extra moments you give to a loved one may put you back, but you'll never regret the expense of those minutes.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13).** Do not doubt the power of love. One nourishing relationship will change everything in the first trimester of the year. February brings a happy development in the realm of health and fitness. A work cycle ends in March and new exciting projects start. July and October bring financial bonanza. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 22, 28, 15 and 19.

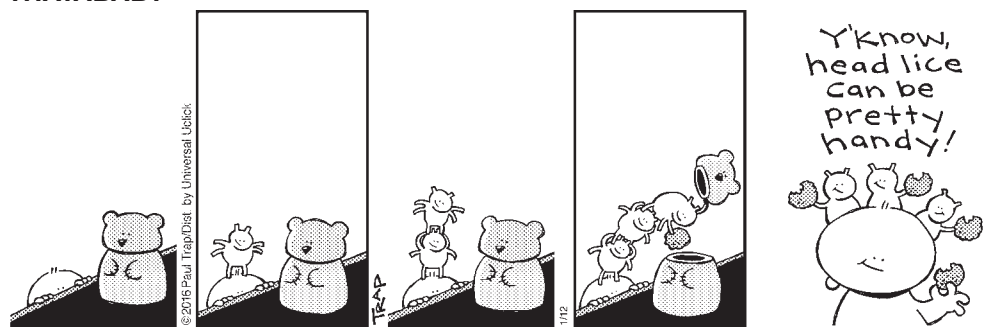
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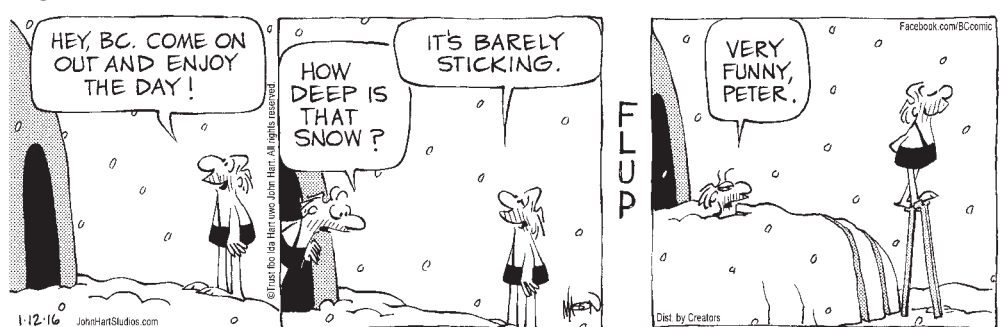
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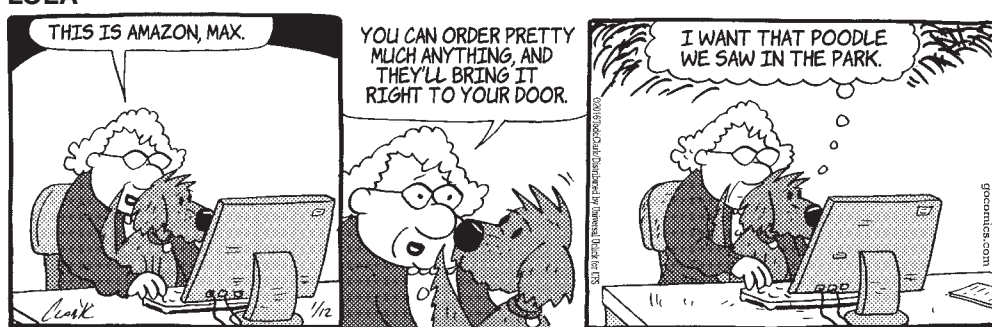
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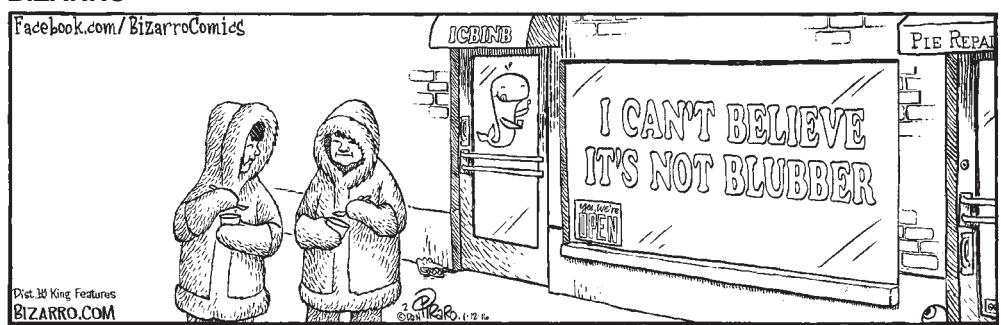
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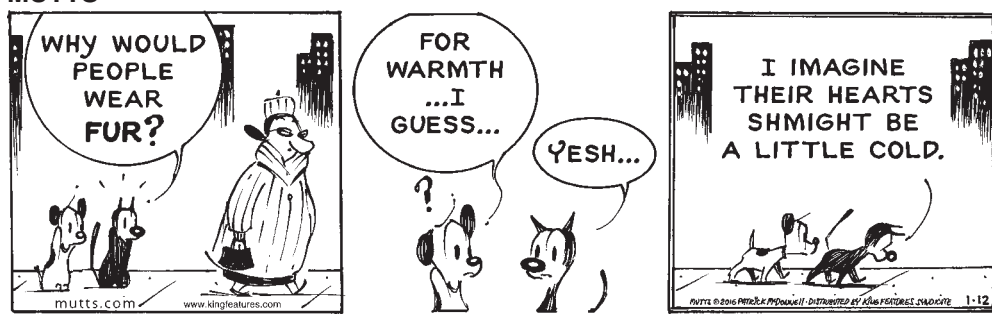
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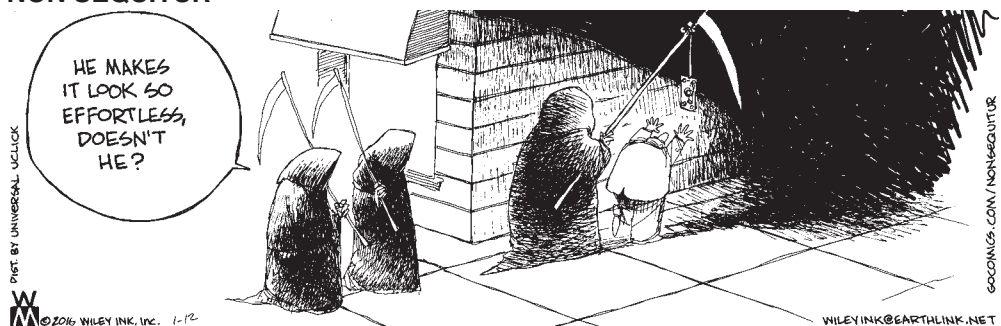
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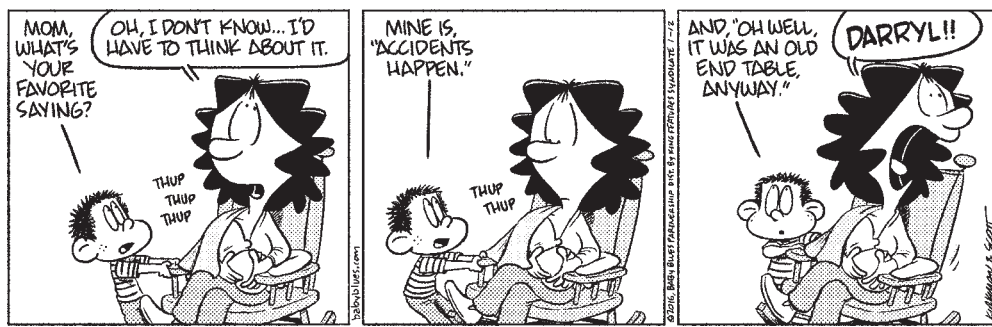
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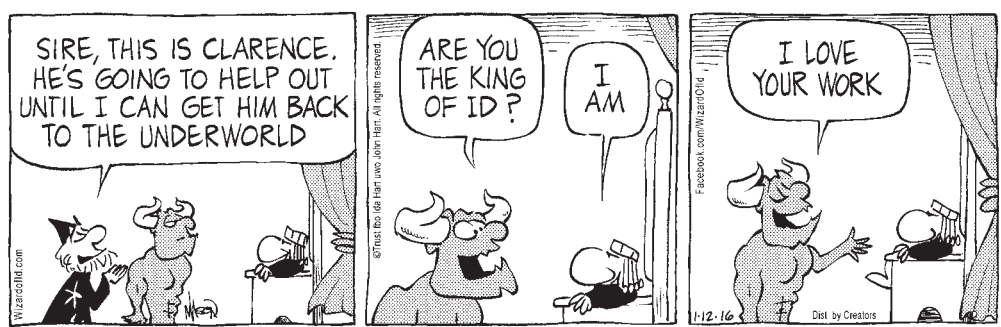
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## BABY BLUES



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