

# Siblings favor one over the other

**Dear Annie:** Several years ago my brother-in-law died. He had been married to my older sister for 50 years. They had no children. She did not want to live alone, nor did she want to live with a roommate. In order to solve the situation, I sold my home and bought a duplex where she could live in one unit and I would live in the other. This arrangement has worked out very well for both of us.

Here's the issue: My siblings never visit with me, even though they often come to see my sister. I always learn of their visits after the fact, when my sister tells me about them in conversation. At first I was puzzled by their lack of consideration to take a few moments to say hello to me, at least periodically. But then I realized they had made a choice as to who they would visit and who they would not.

If I happen to be at my sister's place when one of my siblings stops by, I am always very cordial. I spend a social amount of time in conversation with them and enjoy their company. I do not overstay my visit in order to allow them time to visit with one another.

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



They have never communicated with me much, and I have accepted this as the norm. I have reached out in the past to call them and sometimes go to their homes to visit so that I am not accused of failing to remain in contact. But it doesn't seem to be reciprocal.

I harbor no ill will toward them and realize that I have no control over their behavior. I'm simply confused as to why this situation developed. I continue with my life and my friends, hoping someday I will understand. — *Bewildered Sibling*

**Dear Bewildered:** You could ask them why, when they are so close to your home, they do not stop by to say hello or phone ahead to have you join them at your sister's. You could also ask your sister why she doesn't sug-

gest they visit you when they are at her place. You and your siblings seem to have a rather detached relationship and there could be any number of reasons for it, but you won't know unless you ask them directly whether there is any way to close the distance.

**Dear Annie:** Can you please explain the difference between unconditional love and enabling? I see so much enabling in the name of love. — *Frustrated*

**Dear Frustrated:** Unconditional love means you love someone regardless of their behavior, while not necessarily condoning what they say or do. (For example, your daughter steals from you. You are angry about it and no longer trust her, but you still love her.) Enabling is acting in a way that allows the loved one to continue behavior that is damaging either to himself or to others. (You make excuses for your alcoholic husband when he's too hung over to show up for work.)

A lot of folks can't tell the difference. And it is often easier to be an enabler than to hold someone responsible for their behavior. But "easier" is the wrong choice.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The complicated problems of the past look simple in retrospect. Remembering one of them should help you maintain a healthy perspective on the current situation. Keep affirming to yourself: I deserve to be happy.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Regarding today's challenges: Good fortune follows your decision to depend solely on yourself. If others come through, it will be a cherry plus sprinkles on your sundae. Just don't count on it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** When you like someone, you plan, scheme and put your most imaginative energy to the task of delighting that person. Someone will do the same for you today.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Just because someone is in charge doesn't mean that person is the right one to get something done. If you're feeling it, take it on. Passion and drive matter more than authority and power.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your lucky number, five, has resonance now. In fact, it will help you to plan your day in five parts. For major productivity, pick an amount of time and stay focused the entire duration of the cycle. Keep your energy contained.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll probably come to understand that you don't yet have the skill necessary to get the job accomplished in the way you would like to see it happen. Rest assured that there are plenty of resources available for your education.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Forget the competition and run your own race. Whatever your last "time" was, you'll be able to beat it today. That said, there is far more that matters in this than the numbers.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your best

idea will be highly implausible. That's why perhaps it's better not to share with all of those reasonable people you know who care about you very much. This one is between you and your heart.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When you assert your personal rights, you are also asserting your human rights. In some way it will count toward the evolution of humanity. If you knew the rest would be profoundly affected, what would you do?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You respect them; they feel it, and they respect you back. But when it's time to hash out the contract, other elements (lawyers, maybe?) could complicate things. Keep reminding yourself of the original goodwill you built up.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** As sound as an opportunity may be, if you're not excited about it, there's nothing good that will come from taking it. Leave it on the table for someone who will be genuinely thrilled to take advantage.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You want something done. You want it changed. You want it working in a totally different way with completely different results. You're in the mood to overhaul, but wait: All that's needed, really, are a few tweaks.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14).** You put people first — before money, power or anything material. In choosing this, you choose your soul. Your excellent judgment and a few stellar decisions will make this year one for the ages. Destiny will be cast in February. Your beautiful smile will attract love and friendship in March. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 22, 18, 4 and 16.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



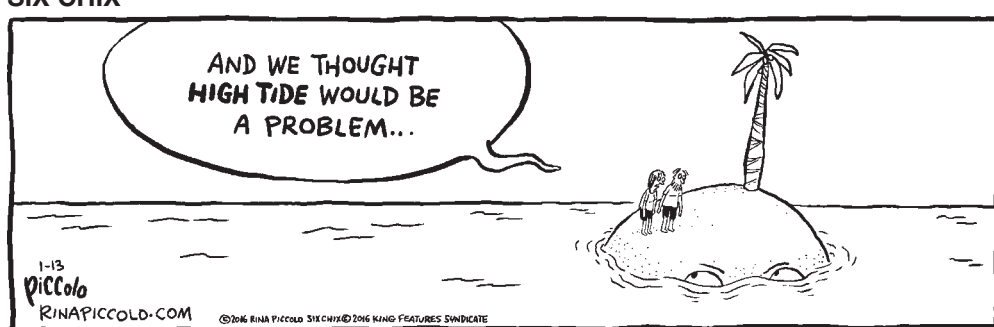
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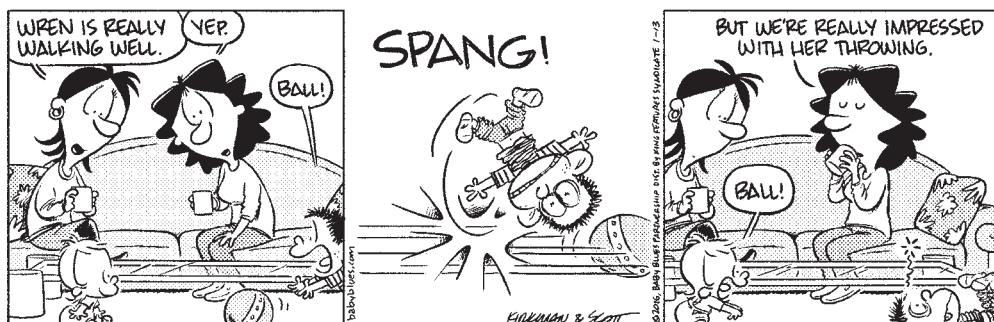
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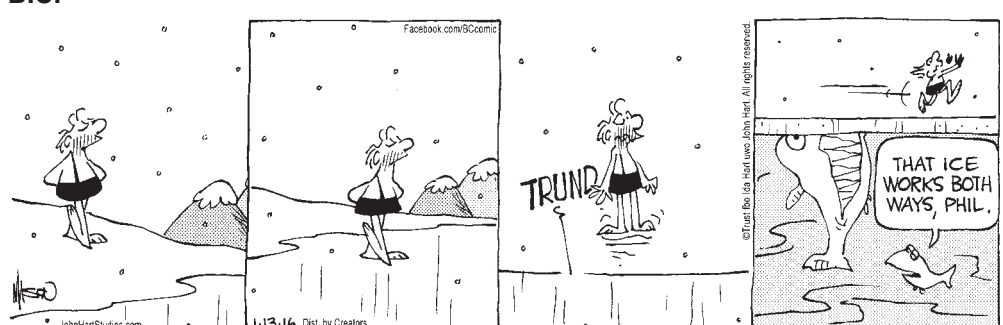
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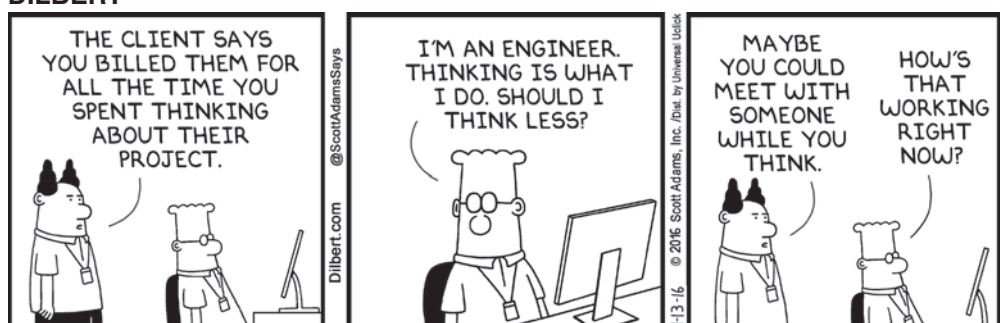
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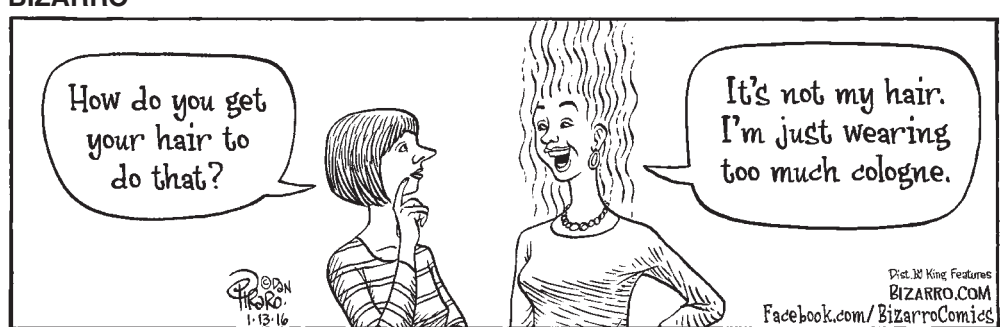
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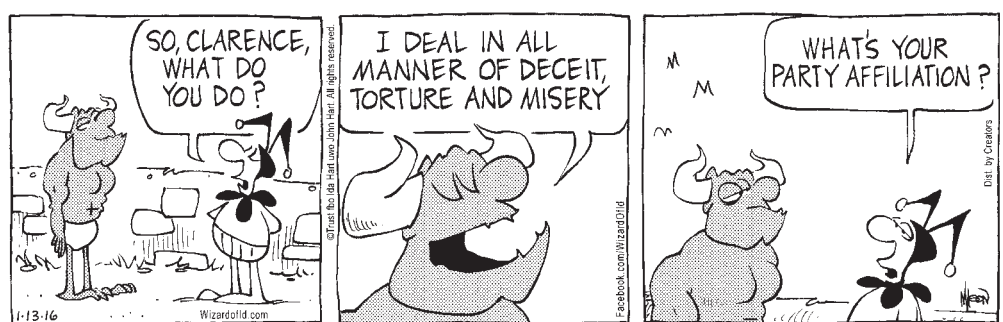
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

