Husband worried over funds

Annie's Mailbox
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

Dear Annie: I am hoping to retire in six years. I have been investing some money through my job and have accumulated a comfortable amount. My wife had a similar fund at her job, but took the money out a few years ago. She says she doesn't know where she spent it, but I'm pretty sure it went to her daughter (from another marriage), the same place the rest of her money goes. We have our own checking accounts, because I was tired of being broke all the time.

When I retire, I would like to move to North Carolina. I know that my wife will never leave her grandchildren. I can't take money out of my retirement account without her signature and I have no idea how she managed to empty her account without my signature, but she did. Can you give me some advice before the time comes? — *Soon to Retire in Florida*

Dear Florida: We aren't sure what you are asking. You already know that your wife is not going to abandon her daughter and the grandchildren. So, it seems you are willing to leave her, but you are concerned that she won't release the money from your retirement account. If she gained access to either retirement account without authorization, talk to someone at your bank or to a lawyer. But ask yourself whether moving to North Carolina is more important than your marriage. And if you divorce her, would the money in your retirement account be split anyway? Is there room for compromise?

Please tell your wife what your wishes are regarding your retirement and ask for her input. Would she be willing to come to North Carolina part of the time? If so, would that be a tolerable arrangement? You seem to have a less-than-loving relationship that you can work on if you choose. A lot can happen in six years.

Dear Annie: You printed several responses to the letter from "Please Leave Animals at Home," about service animals in public places.

I work in a clinic and am well-aware that there are service dogs and other types of therapy animals out there. Service animals have their place. However, let me point out that a "service vest" can be ordered online (as can a doctor's note), and that there are many people who just want to bring their pets everywhere, regardless of whether it is healthy for others. We are told not to ask whether the animal is a service animal for fear of offending the patient and being accused of discriminating against those with disabilities.

Having an untrained animal in the clinic is not healthy or sanitary. Many of our patients come in with real medical problems, and are then subjected to a waiting room with an animal circus. The trained service animals that come into our clinic are welcome. I wish the others would be kept at home. — *Train Your Animals*

Dear Train: Service animals are trained and acceptable (and legal) everywhere. The problem is untrained comfort animals, still a gray area. Who gets precedence — the person claiming an emotional disability requiring a comfort animal or his neighbor in the condo with a serious traumatic aversion to dogs? Or a child with a life-threatening allergy? We don't have the answers and right now, it seems no one else does, either.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The saying goes that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Put your energy into making sure that the people around you feel comfortable and cared for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You appreciate that others know and have experienced things that you haven't. That's why you listen much more than you talk today. When you soak in a story, you are adding to who you are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). With your curious mind you could find something exciting in just about any industry or interest, and yet the one you're in is the hardest to get enthusiastic about today. That's why it's lucky to invite an outsider to your realm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). New relationships are fragile. Every small move of the dance establishes a precedent. The young rush in, unaware, while it takes great courage for experienced people to connect — they know what's really at stake.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Victory has made you cautious. True, there's so much more to lose now, but don't let it stop you from acting as swiftly and decisively as you know you should. Hesitate and you'll waste this precious momentum you've got going.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You didn't mean to eavesdrop, but you couldn't help but overhear anyway. Now you know something you're not sure you want to know. Better to process this a while. Chances are, it's not yours to take action on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have rules for yourself, some of them consciously formulated, most of them unconsciously so. It can be painful when life contradicts your rules. To relieve the discomfort, either change the rule or change the life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The current way may be working very well, but don't let that stop you from seeing a distant future in which the variables are likely to change considerably. Fight myopia with a Sagittarius by your side.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a time to mind your own business and do your thing, but right now you need to pay attention to the competition so you can strategize. A thorough analysis is in order.

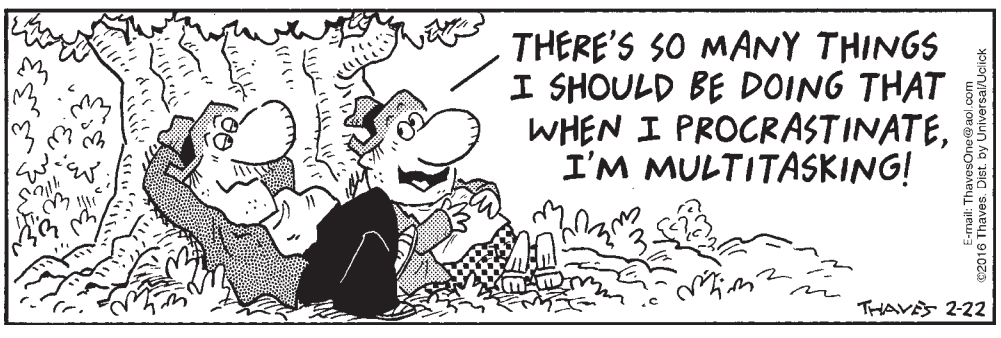
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to move your head to understand the distractions to your right and left. You know exactly what's going on there. Your peripheral vision has become strong, lending power to your sixth sense.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be careful not to lean into the thing you want, or you'll wind up paying more for it than you should. Hide your eagerness. Or, better yet, find a way to want it less so you're at an advantage in the negotiations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Aiming at the best and highest may feel like overreaching, but this is not wishful thinking. You're essentially just being yourself. There's something in you that tells you that you can do this. Listen. It's right.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 23). There's fresh social energy in the first part of your year, and by May you'll find yourself homing in on a relationship that seems to heal something in your past. Unexpected gifts and a new source of money happen in April. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 30, 16 and 5.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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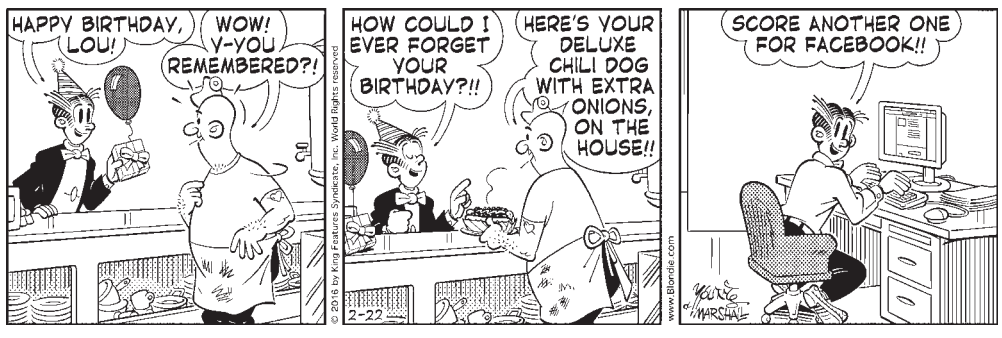

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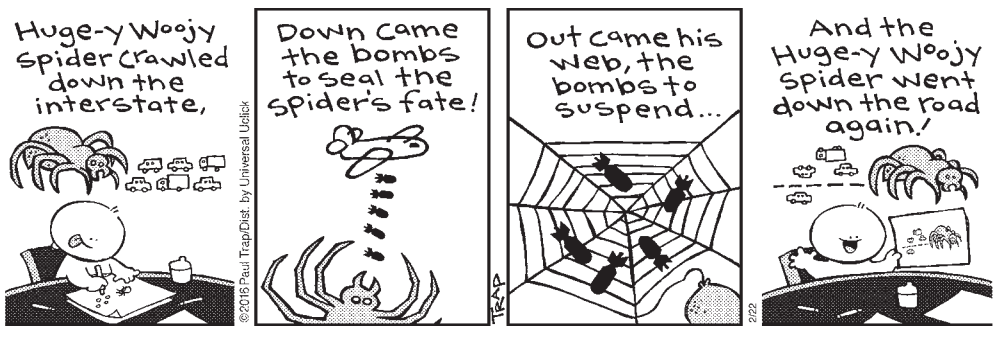

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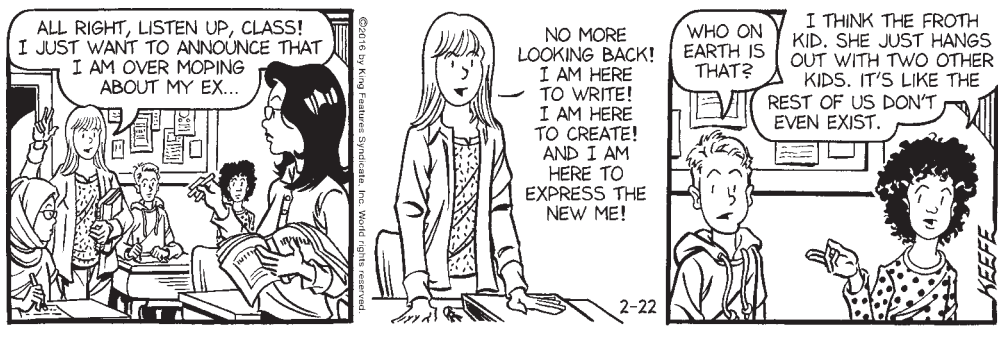

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

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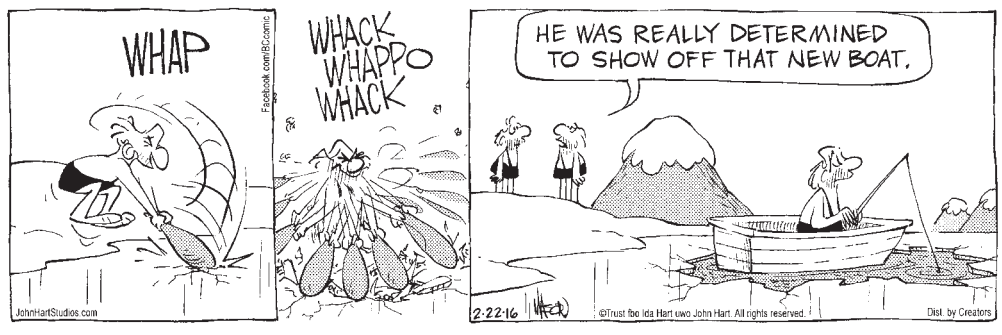

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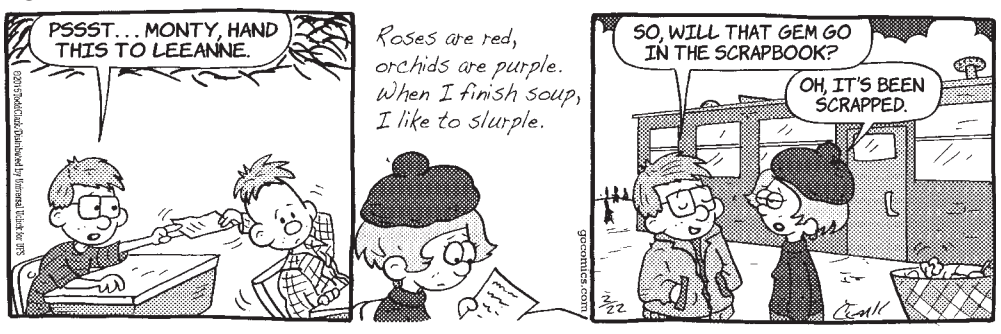

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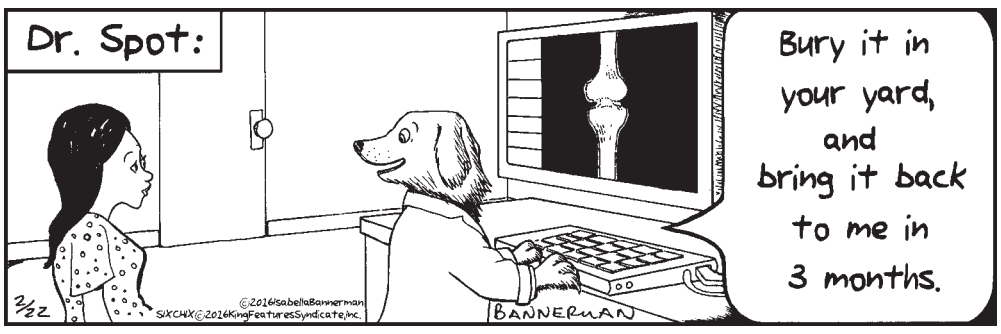

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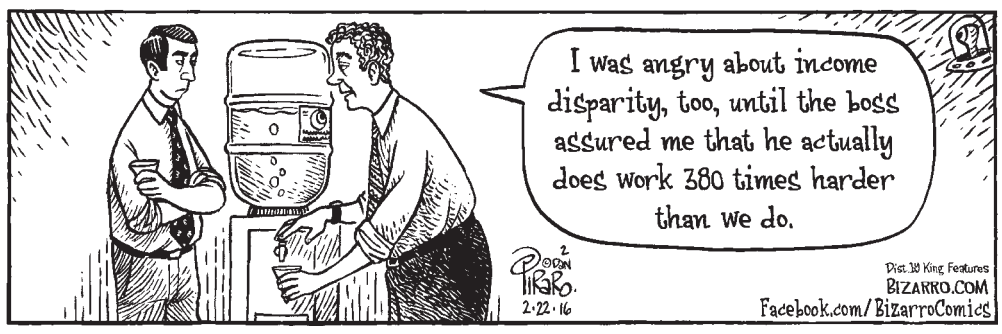

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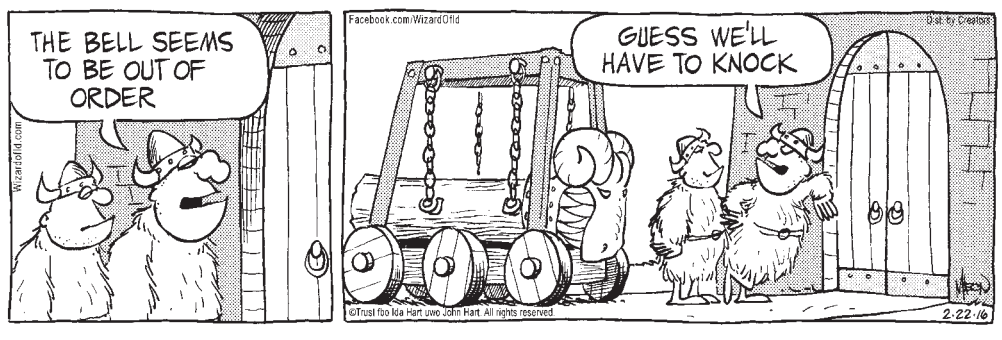

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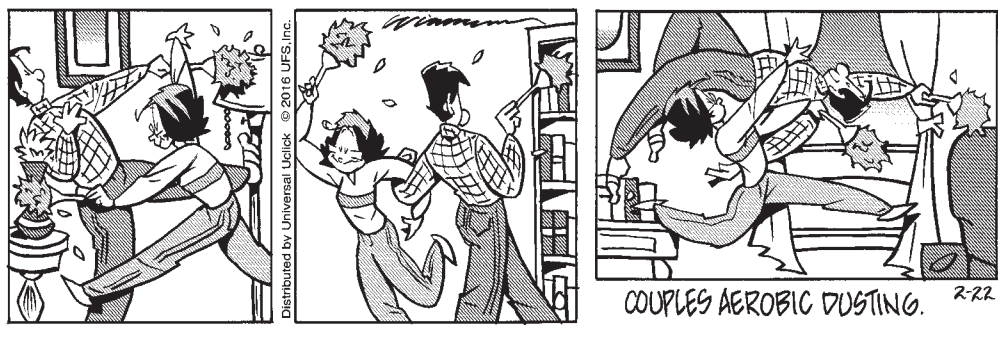
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