

Mad daughters baffle mom

Dear Annie: I am a very loving mother of two adult daughters. "Jane" has a child with her ex and another with her current husband. "Cindy" is married with one child and one on the way.

At first, things with Jane were great. We helped them furnish their house with all new appliances, and also helped financially when they asked. Three years ago, we had a falling out and now Jane doesn't call, text, email, nothing. When we see each other in public, she is civil, but otherwise, treats me as if as if I were dead. We are not allowed to see our grandchildren, although our ex-son-in-law allows us to see the one grandchild when he has visitation.

Cindy, who also receives financial help when she asks, lets me see my grandchild only once a month for four hours. She sometimes allows me to Skype, but no more than once a week, if I'm lucky. When she had a miscarriage a few years ago, I tried my very best to console her, but she wouldn't let me near her for two weeks. Others were allowed to be there, but not her own mother. She won't let me talk to

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



her about her current pregnancy.

I want to be a part of their lives, but we can't get past this silence. I have offered to pay for counseling, but they refuse. I have asked, begged and pleaded for one-on-one time, to no avail. What hurts the most is that I don't even know why they are angry with me. Any advice would be so gratefully appreciated. — *A Loving, Crushed Mother*

Dear Mother: Your daughters may not be angry. They may be trying to create some space between your life and theirs, and don't know how to do it in a more loving fashion. Or their husbands may have objected to your presence. And if your daughters are close, they may be feeding on each other's grievances.

It will do you no good to keep pounding at this. Back off. You also can stop loaning them money if you choose. You don't owe it to them and it obviously doesn't influence their level of affection. Enjoy the time you do get to spend with the grandchildren, and fill your hours with other activities that bring you pleasure. Counseling for yourself may help you accept this, and we hope your daughters will come to appreciate you again soon.

Dear Annie: You've printed several letters from parents and grandparents complaining that they never receive a thank-you note.

My mother-in-law was also disappointed that one of her grandsons never acknowledged the checks she sent for birthdays and Christmas. To change the situation, she sent a card mentioning the enclosed check, but she didn't actually enclose it. The grandson promptly called to thank her, and also to say that she'd apparently forgotten to put the check in the envelope. — *J.*

Dear J.: Your mother-in-law sounds like a very clever woman.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are the invincible, all-powerful, benevolent warrior. You're also the mild-mannered opposite, content to blend in with society until it's clear that the people around you need heroic help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to make sure that you're delivering all you can, doing your best, providing more quality than the other guy. A less analytical approach will serve you well. Once you relax, you'll do even better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Bad times produce bad feelings, which produce bad times, etc. etc. The same pattern will play out with times that are good, exciting, interesting and more. Decide which tone you want to play in, and start playing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If it all goes exactly as planned you'll start to fall asleep mid-action. Alternately, a plan that goes awry can be just the beautiful bit of chaos you need to turn a regular day into a story.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In business, "no" isn't a bad answer, especially if it happens to come right on the heels of the question. It's much better to get a fast "no" than a "maybe" that wastes your time by dragging on indefinitely.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're thoughtful, playful and artful. You add your style to every interaction, which is so attractive. Take your time. Enjoy yourself. The others certainly are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Nothing happens randomly. Even tropical storms are organized. Your strong intention will act as an organizing force. Everything fortuitous that happens will occur as a result of good organization.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The language of love is humor. Make someone laugh and you'll win that person's heart, attention and affection. You may even win devotion, dollars and a permanent spot in the inner circle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The good news you'll hear is actually an iceberg situation: The part that is readily apparent above the water is a mere implication as to the 90 percent of massive goodness that lies beneath.

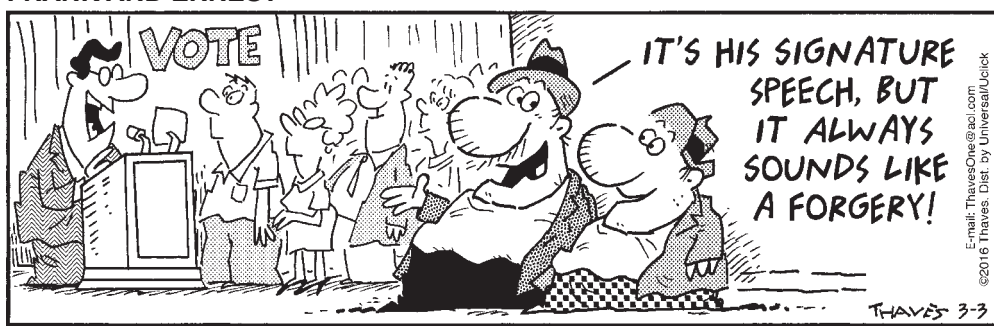
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It used to be that you had to force yourself to look on the bright side. Then you coerced yourself for a while until gradually all you had to do was suggest it to yourself. Now optimism is easy; all you have to do is choose it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What's favored: finishing the unfinished business, righting a past wrong, turning the tables, flipping the switch and making a fast change. What's not advised: waiting.

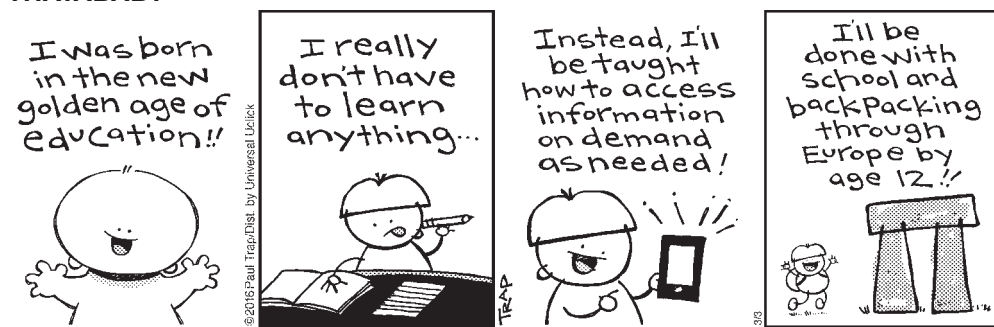
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You support your friends, show up to their events, celebrate their victories and give help when they need it, too. Much of your weekend may be taken up in this regard, and it will be time well-spent.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 4). You have fans and more attention than you're used to! The person you find most interesting is the one who is genuinely fascinated with you. The next 10 weeks show you getting a work project into major shape. You may sell this in June. Family moves affect your domestic life. July brings a fantastic makeover. Gemini and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 42, 25, 1, 19 and 37.

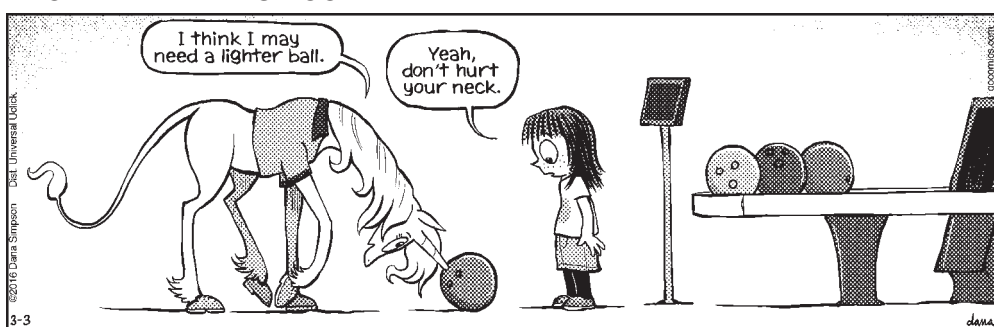
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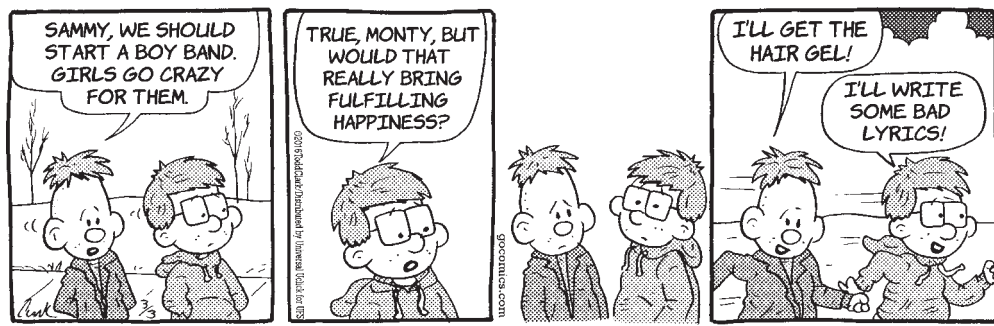
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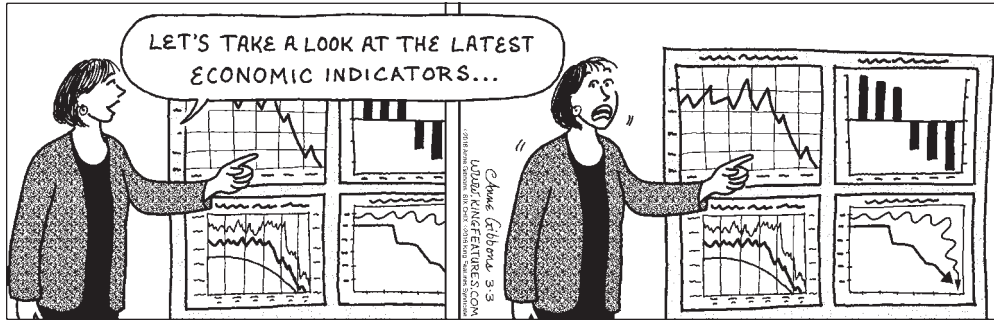
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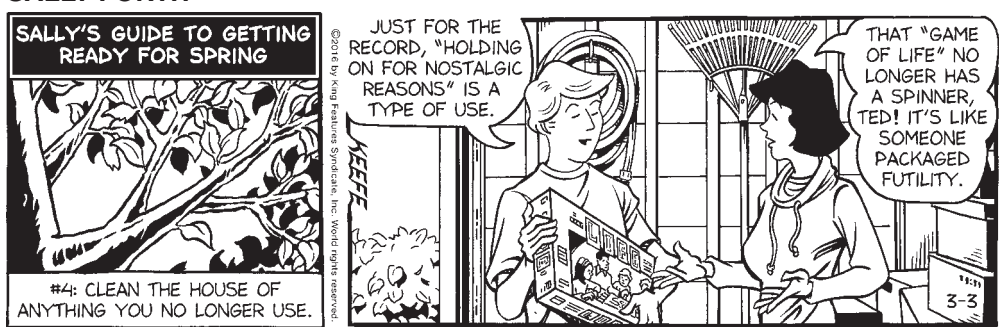
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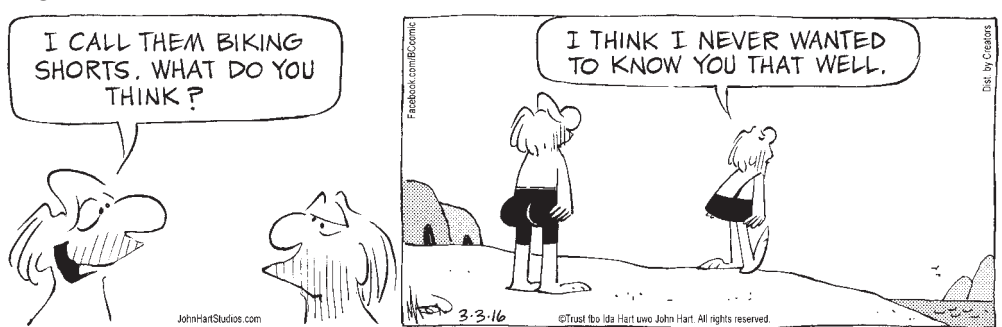
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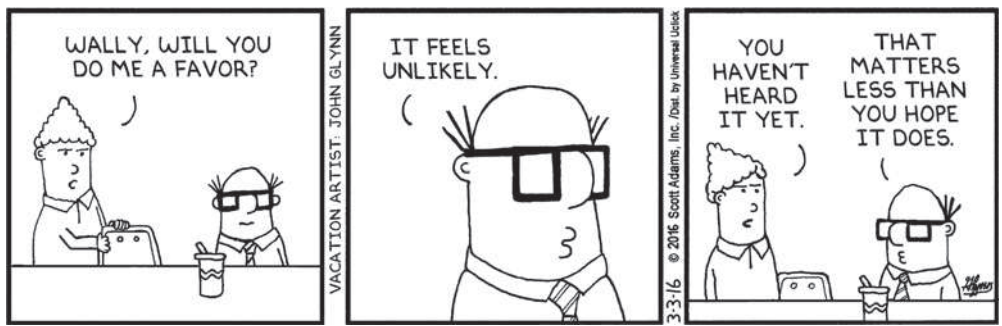
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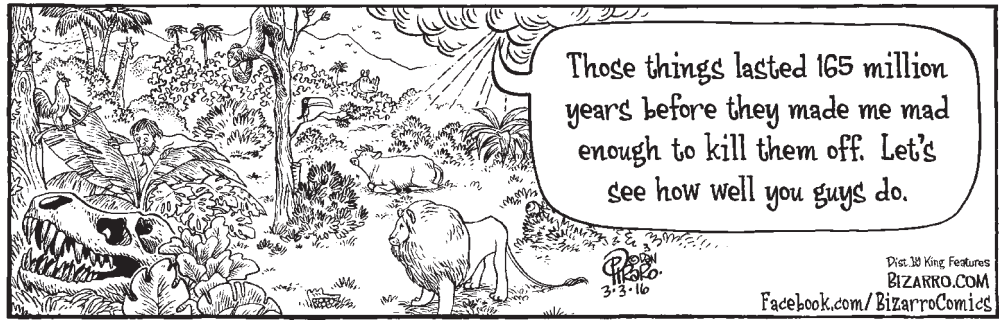
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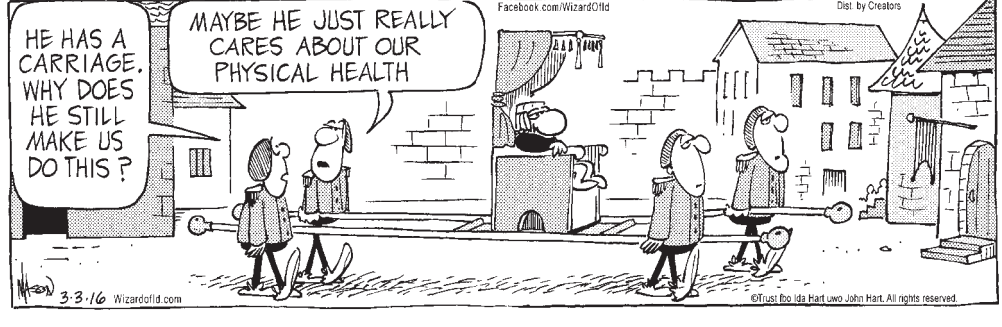
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