

Farewell, and welcome new Annie

Dear Readers: For the past 14 years, we have done our best to advise, consult, admonish and assuage. We are writing today with tears in our eyes as we say farewell. It is time for us to step aside and take advantage of opportunities neither of us has had the time for until now. We've urged you to live your lives to the fullest. Now it's our turn.

During these years, you have taught us a great deal. So many of you suffer through physical, emotional and financial hardships. We are awed by your resilience and strength. We hope you will continue to fight the good fight. We thank you for taking us into your confidence, and will miss having you in our lives every day.

Ann Landers was our mentor. She also was a good friend, substitute mother and a great teacher. She taught us to trust our gut and to remember to be kind. We hope she would be proud. We now would like you to welcome Annie Lane, who will be writing a column called "Dear Annie." She is a young married mother of two, and we hope you will get to know her.

Before we go, we want to

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



keep our promise to publish the winning entry for our contest to write an essay for July 4 that is patriotic, as well as inclusive. We received so many wonderful submissions, and we thank you all. And we'd like to print a short entry from a fifth grader with extremely proud parents:

'What We Fought For'

By Mia Brigham

For freedom that we fought to keep
For leaders whose names mark our streets
For heroics that are set in stone
For people's names that won't go unknown
For the constitution that ended the fight
For a dark place brought into light.

And, finally, here's the winner:

'Happy Birthday, America'

By Maureen Green

Our strength is not bounded by gender. Define our roles, and we will defy your expectations.

Our opportunity is not bounded by circumstance. Challenge our limits, and we will prevail.

Our freedom is not bounded by laws. Prohibit our liberties, and we will overcome oppression.

Our faith is not bounded by steeples. Demolish our churches, and we will worship in a field.

Our hope is not bounded by Lady Liberty. Destroy her, and we will raise a new beacon of light.

Our charity is not bounded by resources. Apply for our aid, and we will sacrifice for our allies.

Our peace is not bounded by war. Attack our shores, and we will rebuild our enemy's fallen cities.

Men and women will falter. America will live forever.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Each moment seems to beg you to either be useful in it or use it up. So whether you're using or being useful, your time will be action-packed, and by the end of the day you'll have tangible evidence to show for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because you make the conscious decision to work with (instead of compete with) your colleagues, your way will be made easier. It's the difficult and diverse personalities that will bring you the greatest gifts of the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Having a broken piece or two, things are referred to as "broken" even when they are mostly whole and new. Maybe it's the language itself that is broken, proclaiming the wrongness when most of it is actually all right.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone you meet today will stimulate an underused part of your brain. It's actually gives you fodder to process tonight when you retire to your future in the form of dreams.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While there are those out there espousing the surprising and natural benefits of raw honey or kohlrabi, you have your own inborn health generator in the way of a smile that won't quit and an endless sense of curiosity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). One of your least-favorite characteristics is arrogance, though sometimes even you have to remind yourself that nothing makes one person better than another. The low stance is the high road.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The goal is to make something that represents you, something you can be proud of, something that is honest to how you are feeling and doing right now. This is brave work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The human body and psyche is constantly repairing itself. With a few minor bumps and bruises to your ego recently, you're now witness to the process of healing one small part of your persona.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Conflict is a necessary part of life. Without it you don't have a story. It's tension that makes the guitar strings ring out. It's stress that keeps us upright. The question is, can you embrace this without overdoing it?

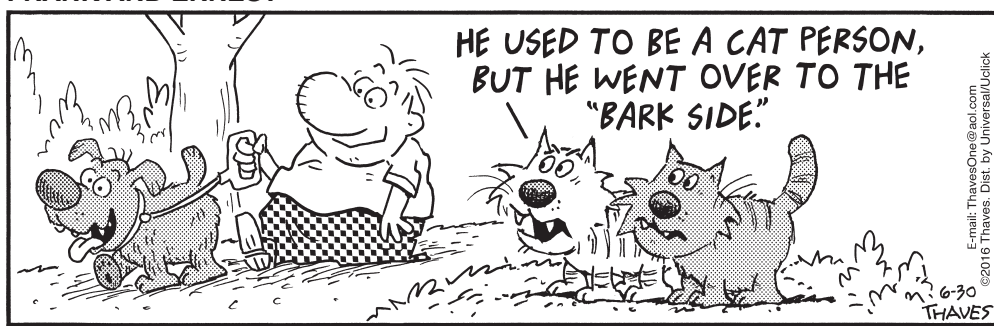
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The dog was born a dog, the bird was born a bird, and you were born with an inherent tendency toward loyal enthusiasm and also the need for freedom and flight. You can have both, but not at the same time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What goes for love, and what does love go for? These are the themes. What are you willing to pay for approval and affection? And more importantly, does using anything at all as currency negate the presence of real love?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you don't care whether someone likes you, it's easy to be you. Maybe that's why, more than not, the ones who don't care are so well-liked. Authenticity can be hard to come by, but you've got it in spades.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 1). If love is good, isn't extravagant love better? And as long as you're going to have a run of luck, why not have great degrees of it? With the mindset of "more" you'll make more happen. For the next six months it's appropriate. Then expect some temperance and tapering off in the new year — also appropriate and part of the cycle. Capricorn and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 33, 26, 4 and 16.

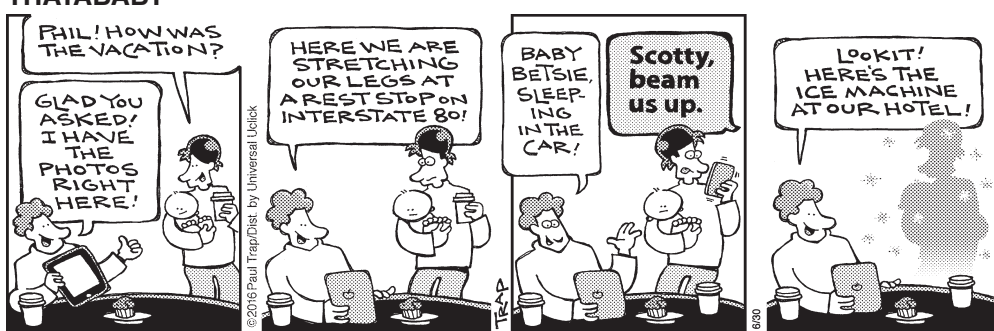
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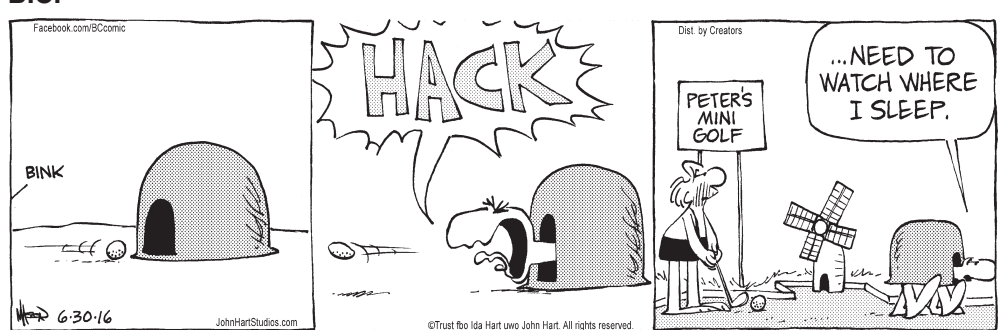
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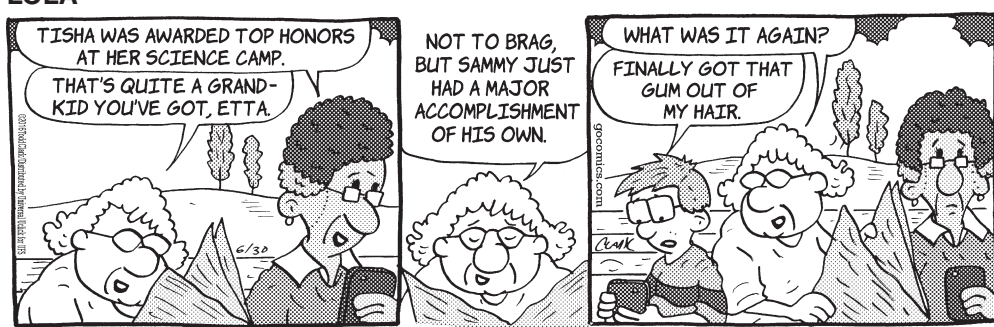
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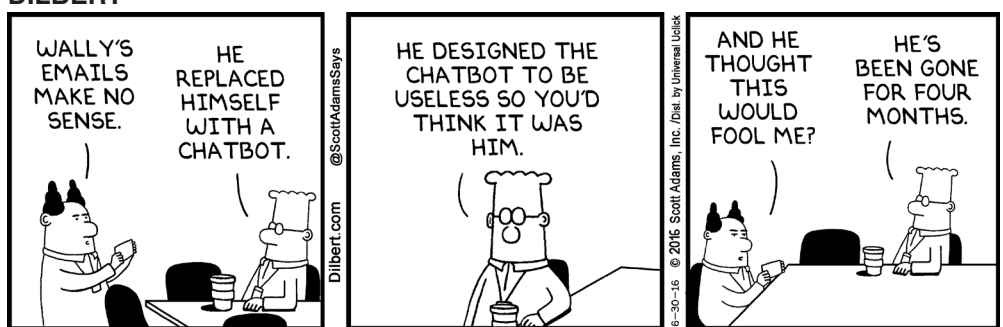
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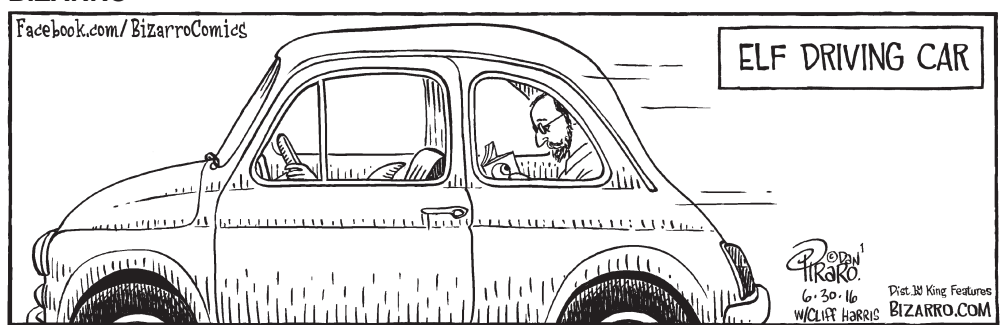
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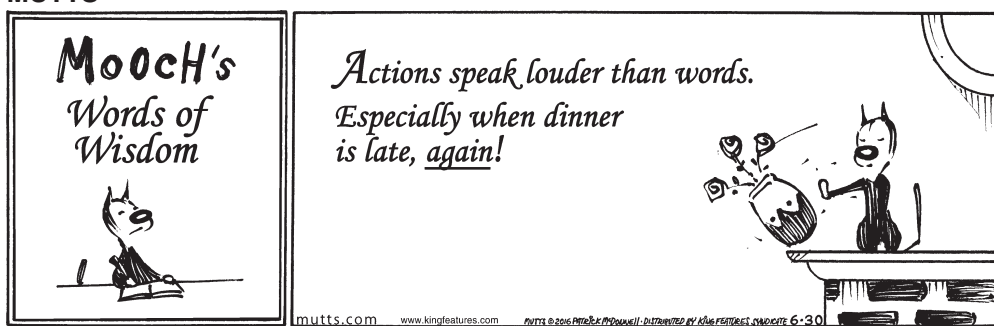
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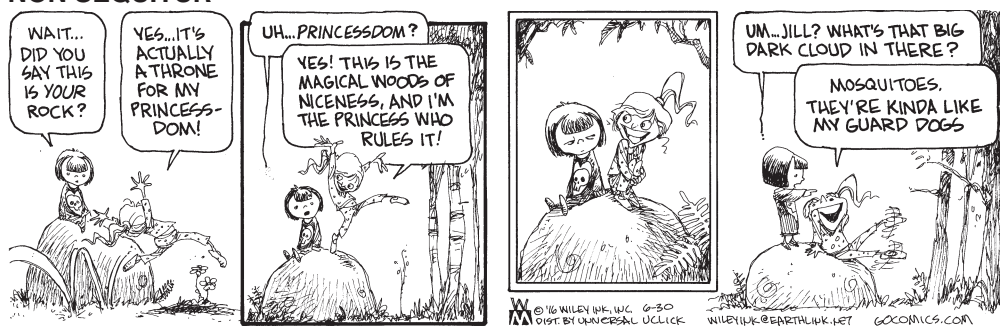
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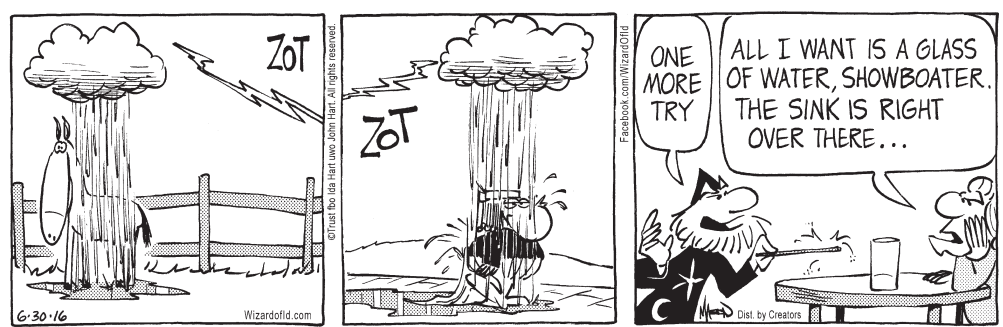
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