Biological schmiological

Dear Annie

By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been together for eight years, and we have one child together. I also have a 9-year-old from a previous relationship. My husband is the only father my 9-year-old has ever known. He calls him daddy.

The problem is my mother-in-law. She has stated that she has "no ties" to my son. She will not invite him over or do things with him the way she does with my younger child (her biological grandson). She didn't even bother to call and tell him happy birthday. She posted "Happy Birthday" on Facebook, but that was it. Her current husband also has a grandson, and she will have him come stay with them anytime.

My son doesn't seem to be too bothered by the way she treats him. (He has autism but is higher-functioning.) But, my younger son spent some time with my mother-in-law, and a few days later, I overheard him talking to my elder son. He said, "You should have gone shopping with me and Mimi, but she doesn't want you there." That broke my heart.

I've let my younger son have a relationship with her. I do it more for him than for her. I don't want him to be resentful that he never got to spend time with his grandmother, but at the same time, I feel that it's hurting my other child, even though he doesn't verbally express it.

I know that my mother-in-law is not supportive of her son's being married to me. She even had the nerve to once tell my own mother that I am nothing but trailer trash. I did have a child when I was 18, but I've worked hard and I've been a great mom. I graduated high school, and I started college when my son was only 20 days old and worked full time, as well. I met my husband when I was 19, and we have been together ever since. I am currently working full time and going to school part time.

I will never be good enough in her eyes. I'm working on accepting that, but it's hard. My husband says he has talked to her several times, but there has been no change in her behavior. I've told her how I feel, and she said that she is always going to show favoritism. What do I do from here? Let it go? Stay away? — *Trying Not to Be Bitter*

Dear Trying: Have you ever seen your mother-in-law in rain? Because she sounds like the Wicked Witch. Exclusion of any kind or purposeful cruelty is never OK.

Good for you for not resigning yourself to anger and bitterness. It sounds as if you've tried to be patient and made a real effort to have a better relationship with your mother-in-law. Unfortunately, she's made no effort to have a better relationship with you. Actions speak louder than words, and it may be time to pump up the volume.

Grandma shouldn't be allowed to see your younger son until she starts treating your 9-year-old with love and respect. She can't have this sort of a la carte relationship with your family — showing affection to your husband and her biological grandson and none to you and your elder son.

You're a package deal. If she can't handle that, she can get onto her broomstick and out of your lives.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To invite your favorite people to events you think will be fun is a no-brainer. The super-brainy move is to invite them to events that have the potential to be boring. With good company, any situation can be a party.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because you encourage experimentation and exploration, your team will enrich you with their discoveries. You'll soon be the best informed and the most cutting edge in all the land.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do you dare tell the other person what you really crave, desire and need? That will make you vulnerable. Then again, partnerships will only be as productive and fulfilling as they are honest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You look past a person's role, profession and superficial image to see deeply into the intriguing and surprising character underneath. People feel profoundly seen by you and thus will be deeply attached to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It may seem that nothing ends, that time runs in cycles and it's only a matter of counting the moments before patterns repeat. This is true in some ways, though not in all ways. You get to pick and choose what ends and what repeats.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though you are a straight-A student of culture and you understand the rules perfectly, ultimately you are governed by your passions. If the rules can't support you in this, you will not support the rules.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some of the most respected intellectuals around admit to being open to the idea that there are otherworldly apparitions that overlap in this existence. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, there's a thought that's haunting you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe it's manipulation, but your intentions are good. You'll plant an idea in someone's head then back off and let it take root. When your prospect takes ownership of the idea, it will be a lot less work for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The logical choice, as intelligent as it may be in its rationale, doesn't always please. This is why, once in a while (like now!), you should go off script and follow your impulse.

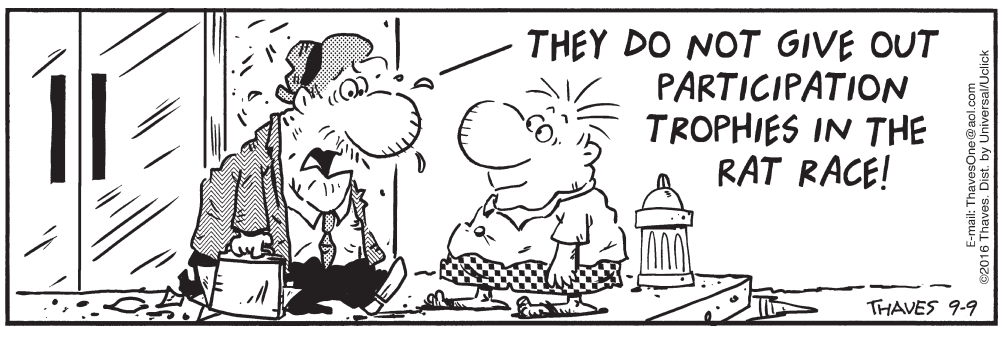
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll provide what another person has been missing and tap into a feeling that goes way, way back. Perhaps you are healing a childhood wound! Go tenderly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Accept the generosity of others in small amounts. If you receive too much, it makes you feel too beholden to the giver. For today, only accept gifts in a range you could easily pay back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A memory will stay with you. Your satisfaction over the resolution will have little bearing on the matter: The past will permeate your present either way, so you may as well decide to be at peace with it.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 10). You may love unconditionally, but you'll lead relationships by laying down rules and creating structure. The next six weeks add spice to your social life. Your professional vision broadens in November. You're capable of more, and you'll step into a new role in 2017. A financial win will give your goal wings. Sagittarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 6, 5, 40 and 1.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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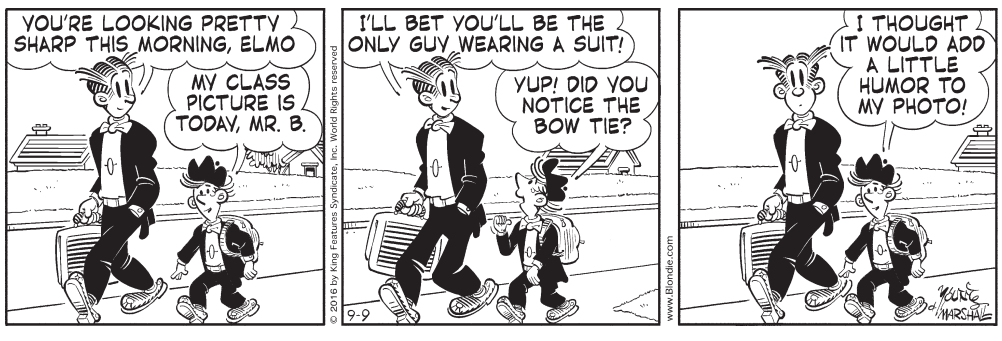

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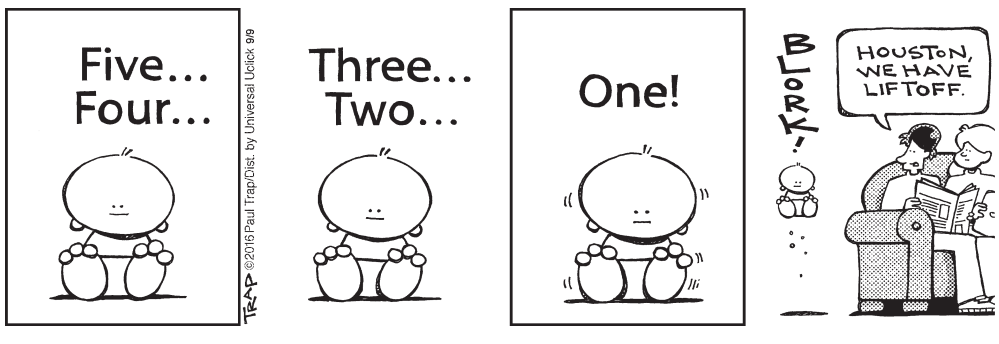

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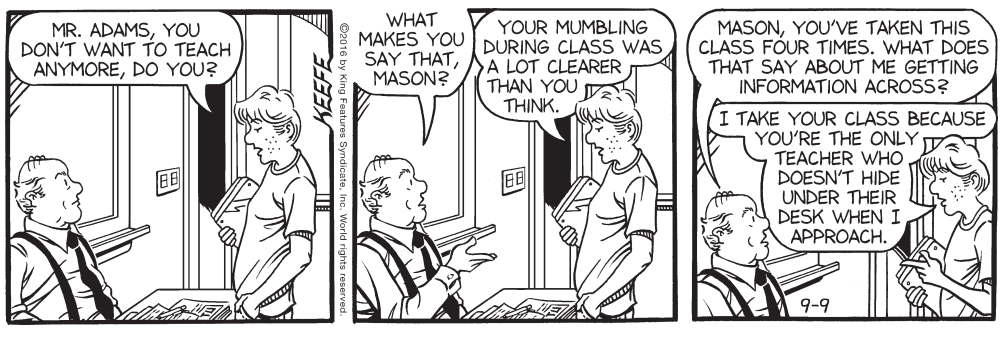

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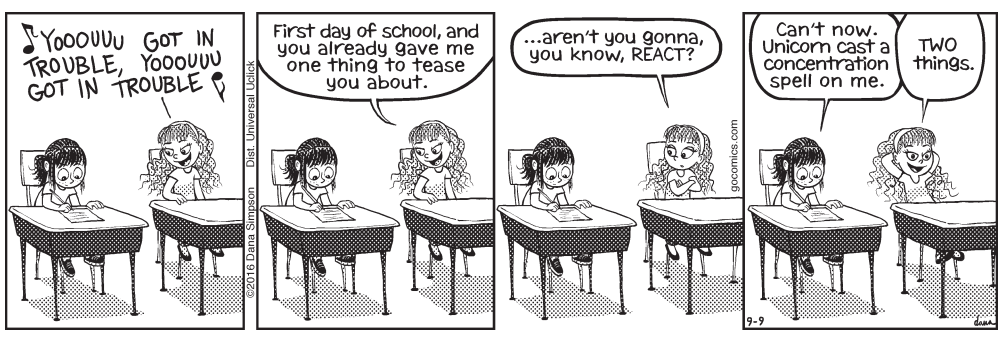

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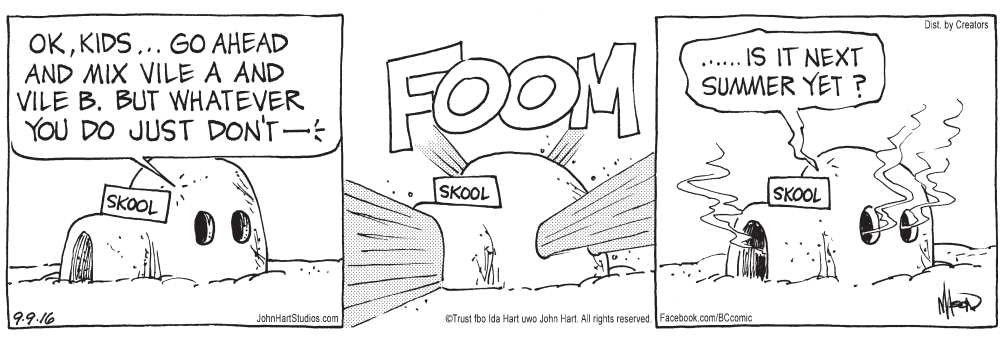

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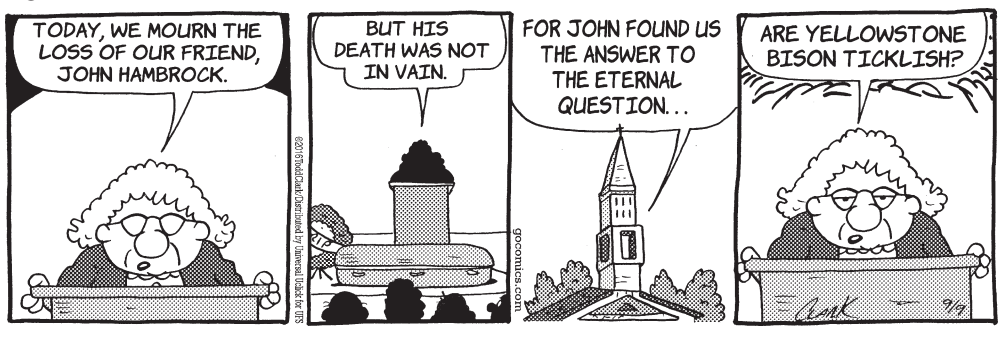

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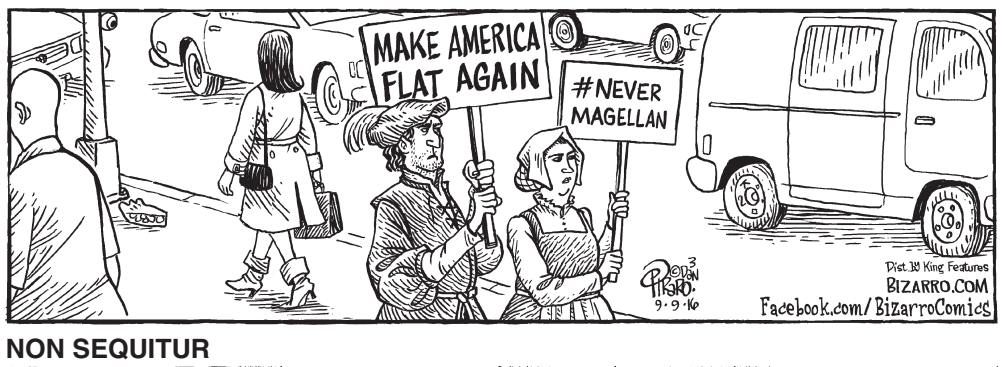

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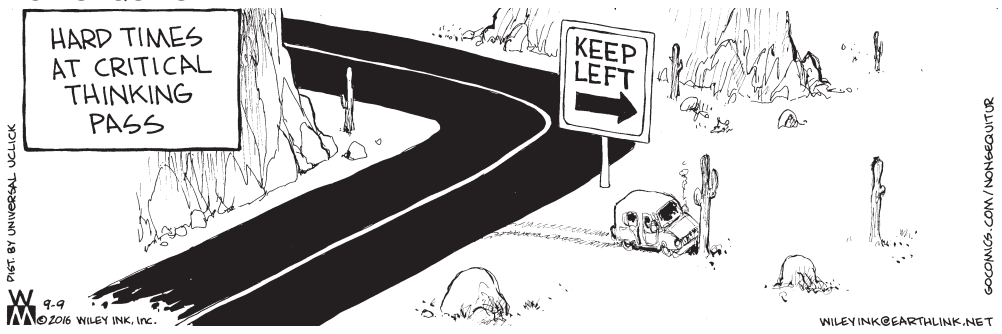

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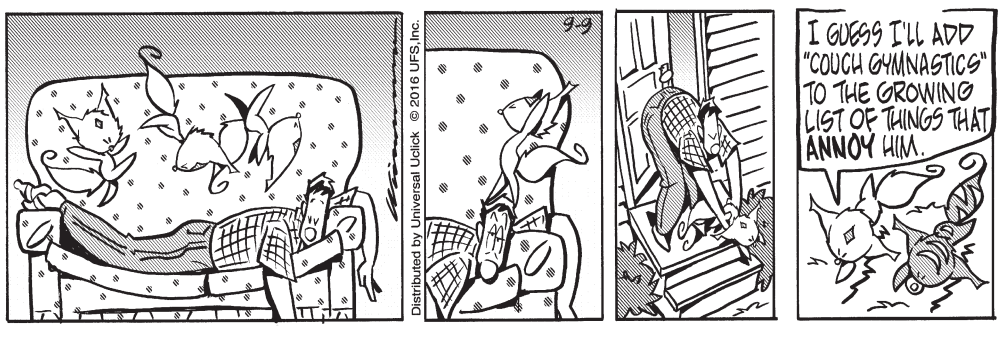
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