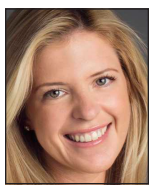
His girlfriend demands apology

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My brother and I were born on the same day, exactly one year apart. Our birthday fell on a Saturday this year. He told me that his girlfriend was going to take him out on his birthday and that we would celebrate together with our parents the following day for brunch. I said OK.

My husband and I also went out to dinner for my birthday that Saturday night. As we were driving to the restaurant, I saw my dad standing across the street in front of a restaurant that my brother and I both love.

My husband and I had reservations across the street. After we finished dinner, we decided to walk up and down the street. We happened to pass the restaurant I had seen my dad in front of. I decided to pop in and see whether my parents were there.

I looked around and saw my brother with his girlfriend and our parents. He saw me and waved us over. When I got to their table, I was laughing. I thought it was funny to find the four of them there.

My mother, under her breath, said, "I couldn't tell you."

The girlfriend looked at me and said, "This is my doing. It's my party." I replied, "That's great." We chatted briefly and left.

The next day, my brother texted me, "Do not bring up last night." I said, "OK, but why? I'm not angry. All is cool."

We met for birthday brunch. I asked my brother whether he told his girlfriend what I'd said. He told me to tell her.

When I did, she replied with, "Well, it made the rest of the evening awkward." That was it. I just laughed it off.

Well, just recently, my brother told me I needed to apologize to his girlfriend. I said, "For what?" It was not a pleasant conversation. He was adamant that it was my fault.

Just to appease my brother, I will apologize, but I just don't know what to say and still feel I did not do anything wrong. Help. — *Confused*

Dear Confused: I'm confused, too. The best way to straighten this out is just to call your brother's girlfriend and say, "Did I offend you somehow? I really didn't intend to, and I'm not sure where things went wrong." Either it's a misunderstanding or she's a little nuts. A candid conversation is the only way to figure it out.

Dear Annie: I'm writing in reply to "Halloweary," who complained about trick-or-treaters being too old, not in costume or out after 8 p.m. I grew up in the inner city, where parents worked multiple jobs and took multiple buses to get home. The understanding was that Halloween doorbell ringing ended at 9 p.m.

Some kids are too poor for costumes. Some have parents who don't care or aren't really around for them because of addiction.

As for the age aspect, I have known kids who looked like adults at age 9. My brother had a friend who had to have an adult desk in kindergarten because he didn't fit in the type that the other kids had.

Any child learns soon enough that he has to give up being a child. Let children remain children as long as possible, and take pity on those who are less fortunate. Your kindness may be their fondest childhood memory. — *Be Kind*

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You think you know your strengths and your flaws. Just don't take these to be fixed features of your personality. They will change; they are changing right now. Stay open to the possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People want to share with you, and this will open you up. Just be careful not to tell too much too fast. Let relationships unspool, but keep some tension on the line.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Romantic love can so easily disappoint. You've even given up on it a few times. Take heart and keep the faith, but do all you can to fortify and love yourself while you wait for something dazzling from the other person.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your ancestors and friends from beyond are helping you now. If you don't believe that the unseen forces can assist your destiny, you'll change your mind after today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll give the painstaking attention necessary to let the other person know you're serious, but only in spurts. This shouldn't be a constant in the relationship, especially not a new relationship. If it is: red flag.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Initiate, negotiate, and seal the deal. It could happen by the end of the day. It could even happen all within a few minutes. When two people have strong mutual interests, and the benefits suit both, it will take no time at all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep your body occupied so your mind can work on the tough problems, get creative, run free and wild. Manual labor will be excellent for this or repetitive, boring exercise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Posting opinions isn't the same thing as sharing personal experiences. Bringing your heart and feelings to a conversation will have real power. Social media posts — not so much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Bottom line: What's going to help you more than anything is learning some new techniques for dealing with stress. The easy ones may have lost their power. Peace and novelty will go together.

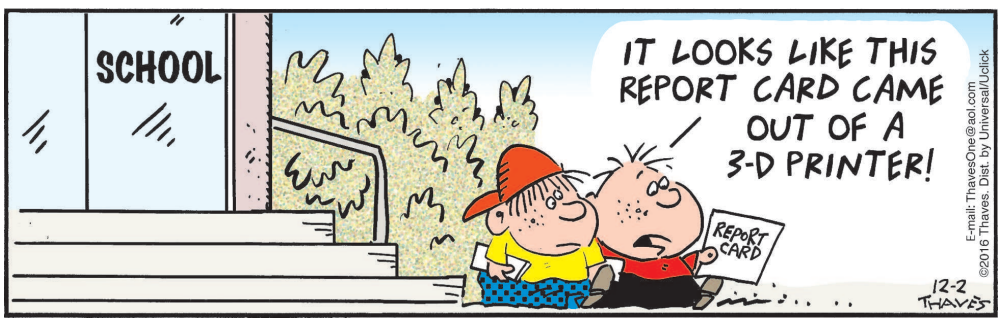
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Good timing isn't really a matter of chance now; it has more to do with listening to your environment and the people in it and responding with a mix of intellect and instinct.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What is the good part of this? It's the question of the hour, and the next hour and the next. This question is a frame. Keep asking it and your day will form into a pretty picture inside of it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Avoiding work will be so much more work than doing the work. Dive in. Or call a friend who is good at pushing you in. Once this greasy little job is over, your good mood will be unstoppable.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3). It takes a truly wise and sophisticated person to hold opposing views in mind simultaneously; this is you. You'll blaze a path with your strong yet open mind. The world needs you: That's not an overstatement. You'll change lives, including your own, as you follow your principles and your creativity this year. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 24, 21, 8 and 47.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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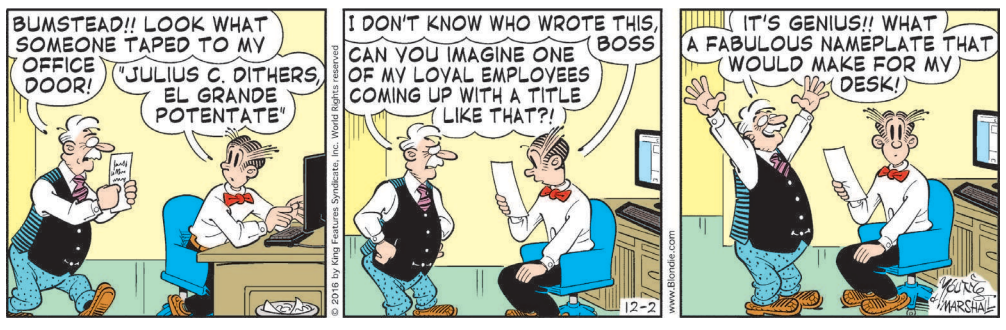

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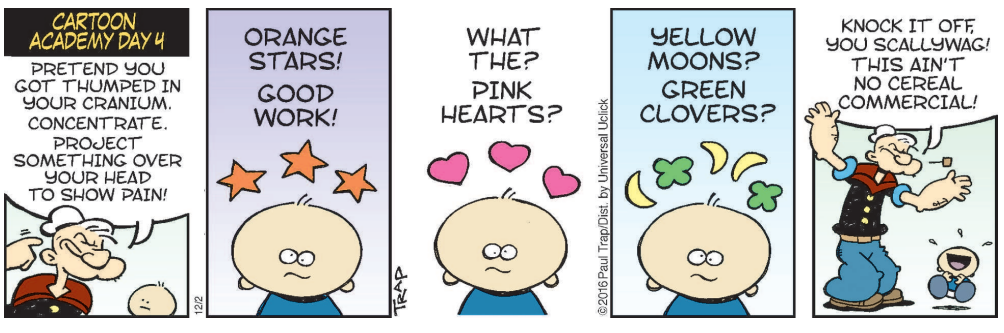

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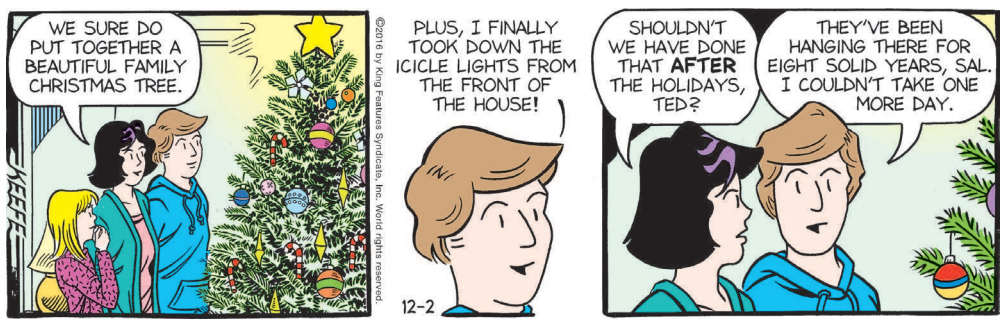
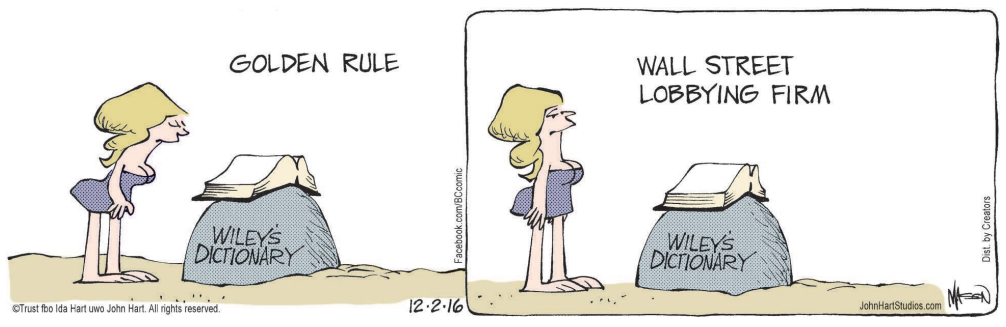


PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

B.C.



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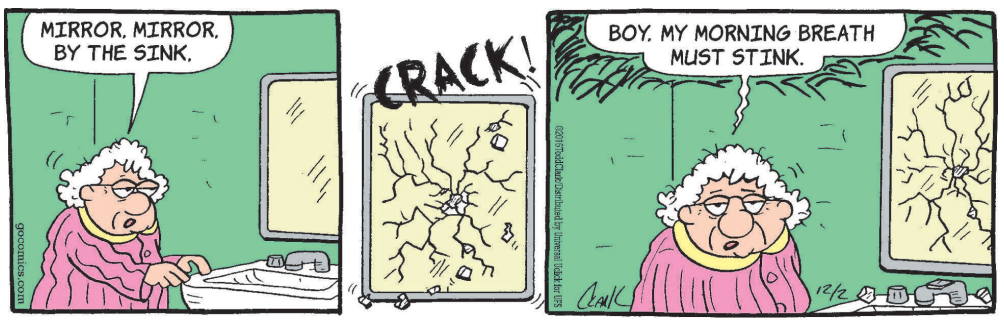

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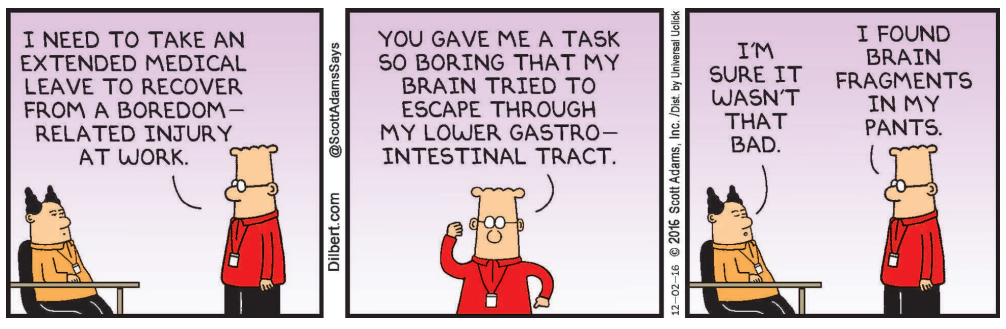
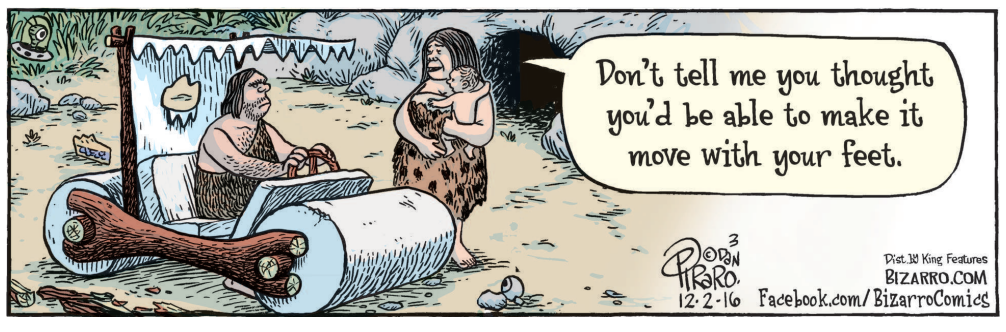


SIX CHIX

BIZARRO



MUTTS

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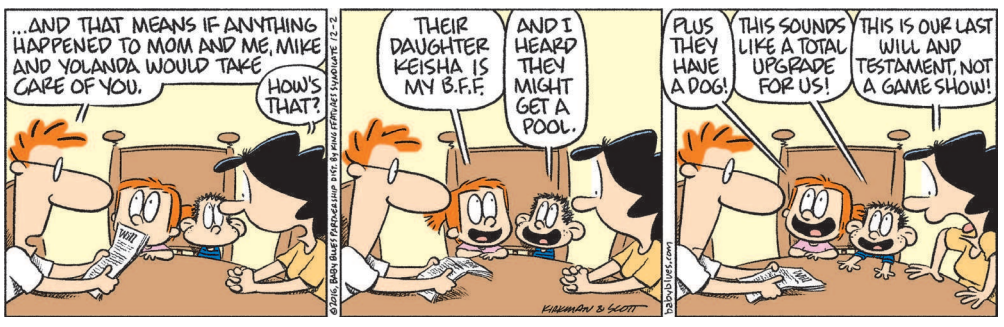
BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID

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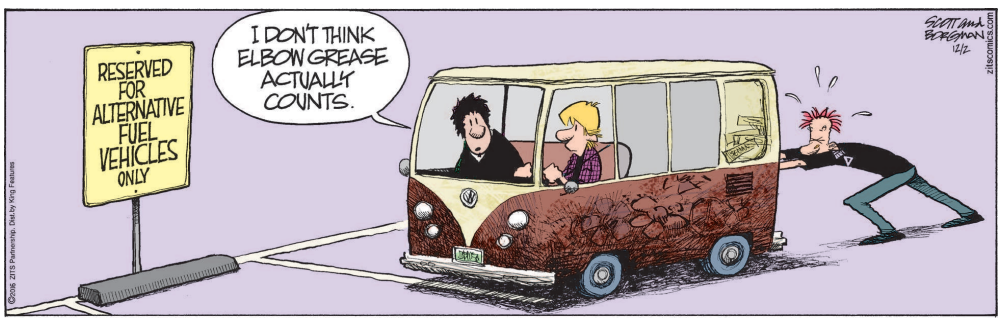
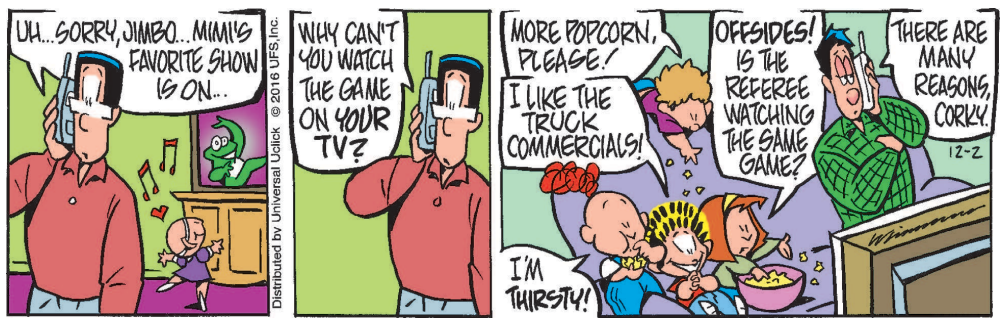
ROSE IS ROSE