

Texting at the stop sign

Dear Annie: You usually give sensible advice, so I'm hoping you can settle a disagreement between my husband and me.

First, let me say that I am not pro-texting while driving. I think it's foolish and dangerous. I would never do that. But I don't see the problem with texting while sitting at a traffic light or stop sign or while idling in traffic that's at a complete standstill. I'm not scrolling through Facebook or anything, just shooting some quick texts — for example, to let a friend know that I'm running late or to tell my husband to pick up some milk.

My husband gets really annoyed with me when I do this with him in the car. He says it's reckless and I could get a ticket. I feel that as long as the car isn't moving, there's no harm in quickly looking at my phone. That's fairly logical, right? — *Safe Driver*

Dear **Safe**: Your husband is right. People who read or send texts while driving are 23 times likelier to get in a crash. And whether or not your foot is on

the gas, you're still operating a 2-ton hunk of steel. If you have a hard time resisting the temptation, consider installing an app that limits your texting ability while driving, such as Drive-Safe.ly or AT&T DriveMode.

DriveMode also can automatically send preset replies to let those who text you know you're driving.

No text is so urgent that it demands an immediate reply. Or if it is, find the nearest safe, legal place to park and take care of it then. Seriously, it can wait.

Dear **Annie**: I'm weighing in with a millennial response to "Seething in the Great Plains" and "Mrs. in Minnesota." "Seething" is tired of people addressing her as "honey," and "Mrs." doesn't appreciate her daughter's friends calling her by her first name. As a 25-year-old from the East Coast, I realize that my perspective may be different from others' — but that's all the more reason to share it.

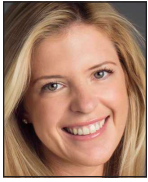
I grew up addressing my

friends' parents by their first names, and my own parents insisted that my friends call them by their first names. My professors in college preferred to be addressed by first name. To me, true respect is in the tone and content of the message, not the form of address. If I refer to or address a politician by his or her title and last name, it is not intended as a sign of enhanced respect. I respect my professors more than I do many politicians.

The most important thing is to address people the way they prefer to be addressed (within reason). If my parents and professors want to be called by their first names, their wishes are respected; if "Mrs. in Minnesota" and "Seething in the Great Plains" specify their preferred forms of address, their wishes should be respected. No point in getting worked up because someone didn't read your mind in advance of being informed of your preference.

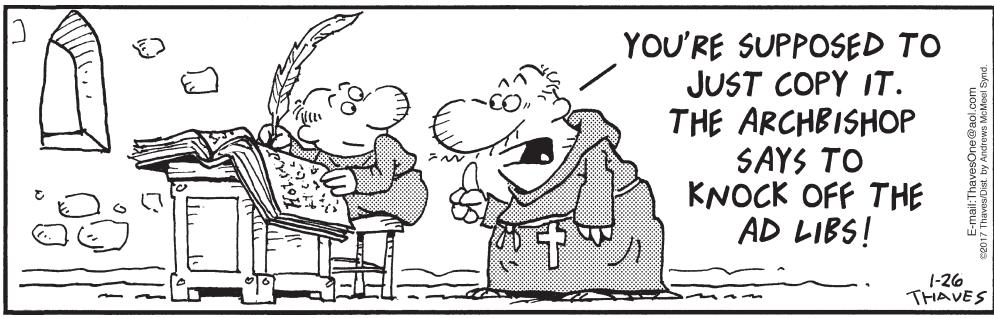
I hope my contribution to this conversation will help to show other readers where people are coming from and reduce misunderstandings. — *Respectful Millennial*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



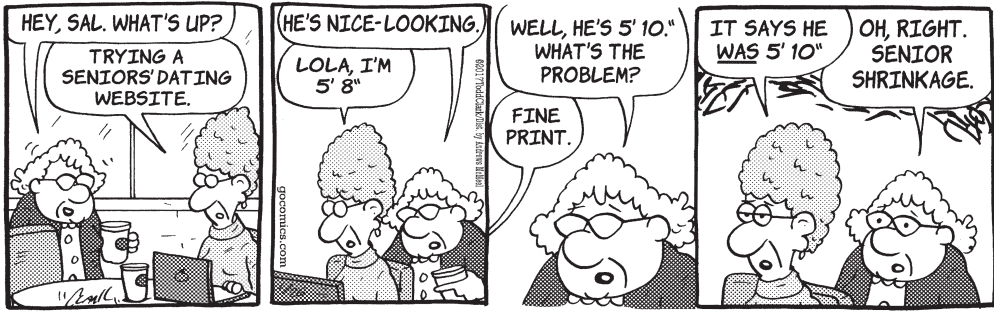
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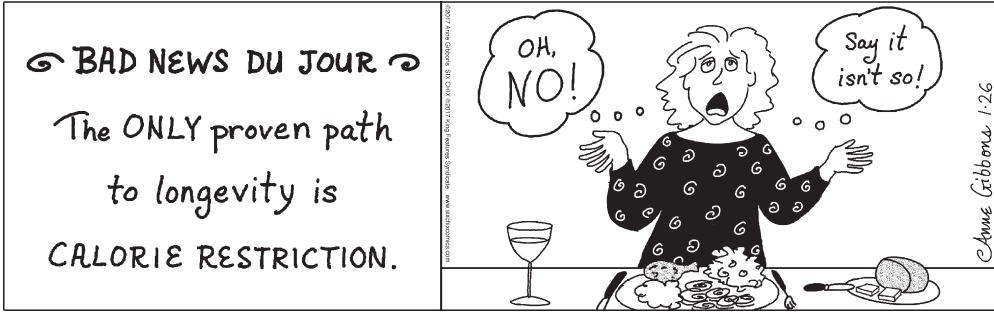
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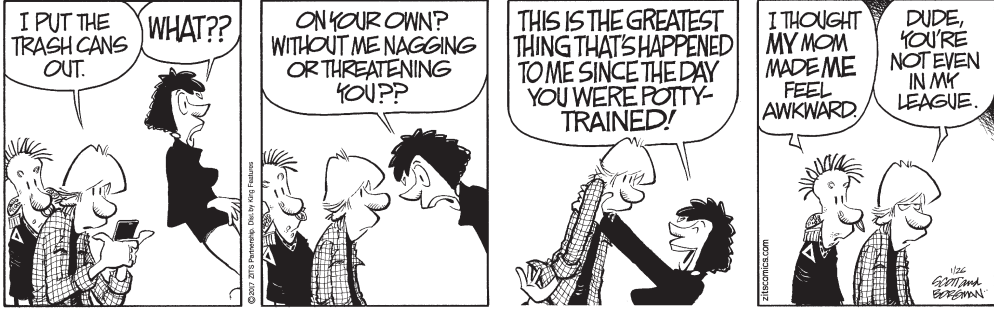
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's no way around it: Your choices will affect people you've never met in ways you can't control and may never know about. Gandhi said, "Live simply so others can simply live."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not here to judge. But can you really help it? If you don't make a judgment, you won't know how to safely and healthfully interact with people. The best you can do is to be soft, open-minded and discreet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are responsible for your actions and reactions and that's all. Make your goal about the effort, not the outcome. You can't control the result, and it's better that way. Trust life's process.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some say, "Fake it 'til you make it," and others say, "Make it and keep making it so you won't ever have fake it." Which school do you belong to today? If you fall in love with the process, the need for acknowledgement lessens considerably.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's something transcendent about your connection with a certain person. Makes you wonder: Are you human having a spiritual experience, or are you spiritual having a human experience?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's time to move out of the research-and-development part of a project and into preparation and planning. Even if you spend all day on this, you can count yourself enormously productive. Preparation will be crucial to success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As you become less concerned with winning friends or attracting attention, you focus mostly on fulfilling your purpose. With this mindset, anyone you attract will be a person who supports the most au-

thentic parts of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a reason the words "strong" and "silent" often go together in describing a certain type of individual. The one who is confident and egoless enough to use words sparingly wields powerful charisma.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Talking and fantasizing about the goal can actually take the appeal out of doing it because the mind gets bored and starts treating the idea like it's already been accomplished. Move quickly from vision into action.

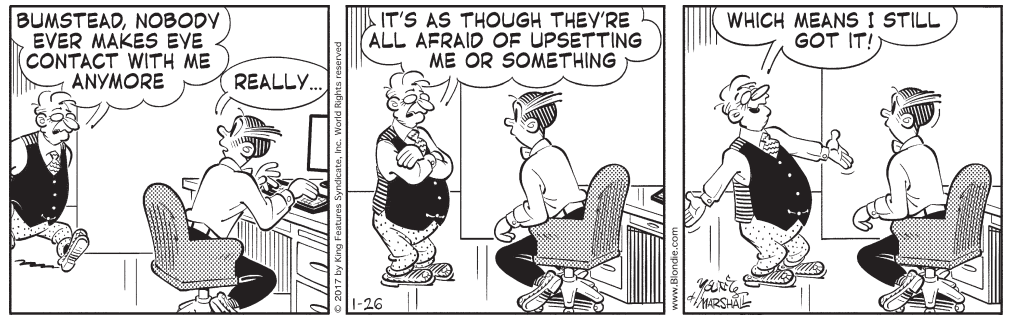
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There may be a lot of gray area about whether a choice is good or bad, so don't ask that question. Instead ask whether it's for you or not for you. Will it help you to do what you set out to do or not?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't pretend to know today, even if the others are expecting you to know. The pretense of knowledge is a vice that can only hold you back from gaining actual knowledge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't know what it means? Maybe it's just not the time for that. Or maybe you'll never know the meaning. It would be a shame to let that stop you from moving forward, though. Stop trying to reason it out. Feel it out instead.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27). You'll become masterful and powerful this year as you specialize. As the great fighter Bruce Lee said, "I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." New friendships blossom in March. There's a makeover in April and important travel in July. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 25, 20, 16 and 32.

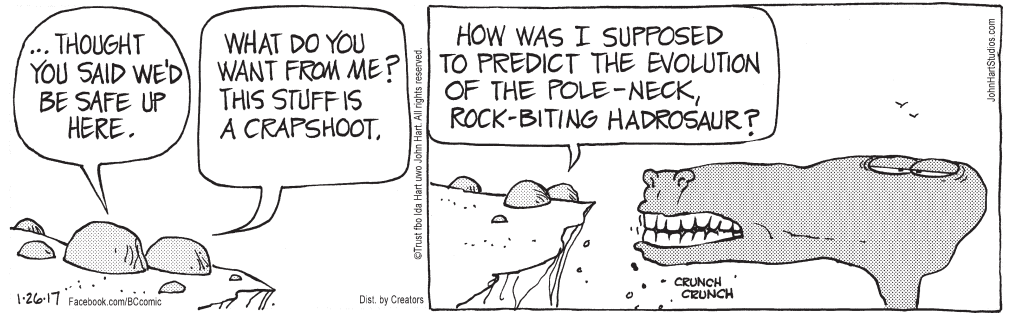
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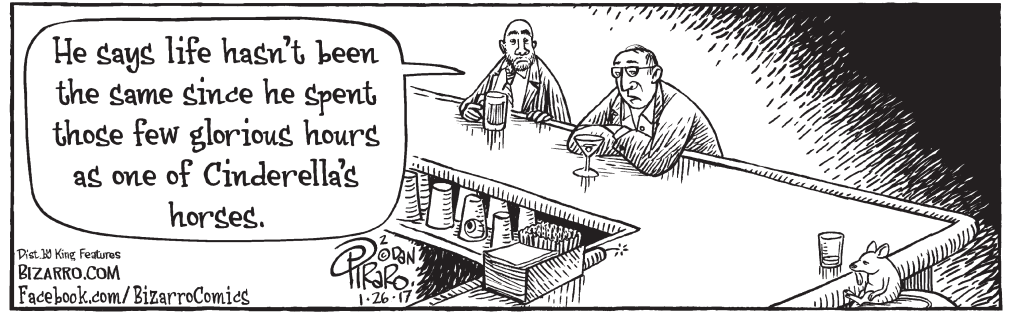
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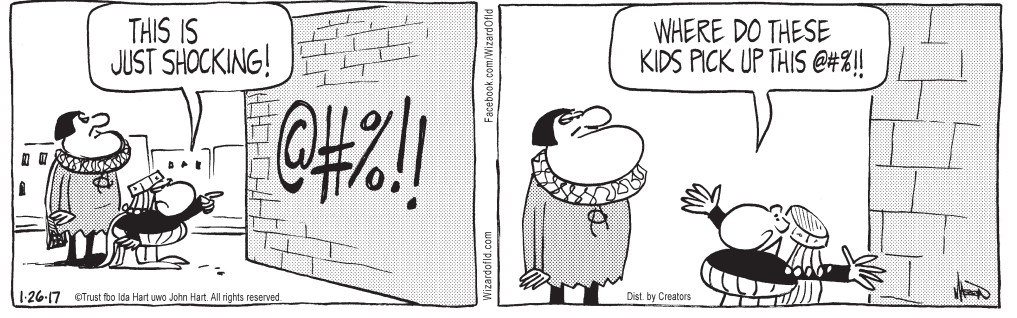
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