

Worried about a soldier

Dear Annie: I am 13 years old, and I have a problem that I am too embarrassed to talk about with anyone at home or school.

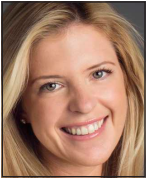
My stepbrother is 19 years old, and he enlisted in the Army after he graduated from high school. I don't know why I feel this way, but I am scared to death that something bad is going to happen to him. Sometimes it keeps me up at night because I have dreams that he is either taken prisoner or killed. I was fine when he first enlisted, but he is now overseas, and I am scared all the time.

I have never been like this before, and I can't talk about it because I am afraid people will laugh at me and think I am a baby.

"Justin," my stepbrother, is my best friend. When I was 8 years old, his dad married my mom. He told me that day that I was now his little brother and he will always be there

for me. Nobody ever had a better big brother. I love him and look up to him as my role model. I have learned a lot from him over the years, and I miss him so much.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

What can I do to stop expecting something bad to happen? — *Scared and Worried*

Dear Scared: Justin sounds like a true American hero and an amazing brother. It is understandable how his Army service overseas causes you to worry. To calm your fears, try to keep in touch with him as much as you can. Skype and FaceTime are great. If you can't do video chats, write to him often via email or good old-fashioned postcards.

It would really help if you shared your fears with your parents. I promise they won't think you are a baby. In fact, they will probably think you are very mature for being able to express your feelings and worries. My bet is that they

share some of the same feelings, and you could all be helping one another.

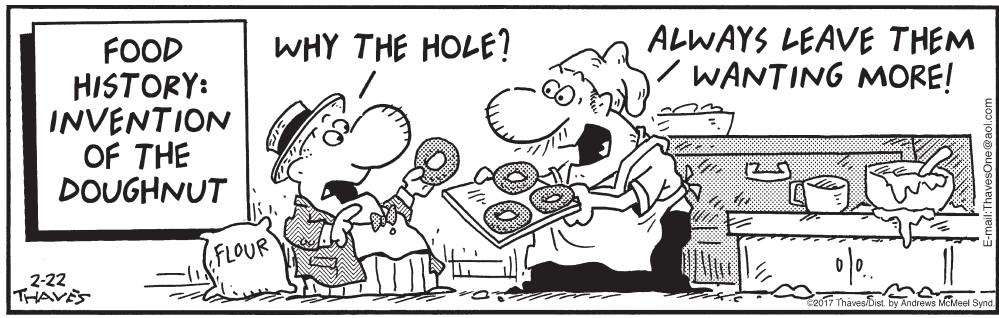
When the bad thoughts come in your head, try to say, "Stop." Notice them in your mind and think about something peaceful that you enjoy.

What your stepbrother is doing is incredibly courageous, and I know you have the bravery inside you to fight your fears.

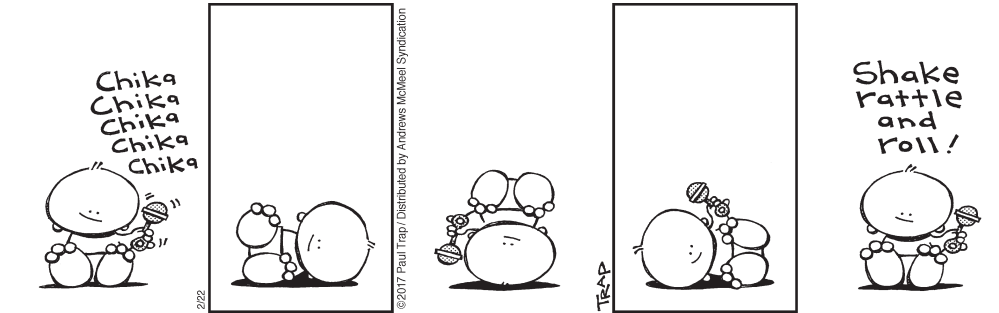
Dear Annie: I thought your advice to the parent of the 23-year-old daily marijuana user was perfect. You said not to focus so much on getting him to stop — which would only make him fight back harder — and instead let him learn from his own mistakes.

I'd just like to add that one other thing that might be important for the son to understand as he enters the world of work is that many employers require a drug test as part of the hiring process. It would be a tough way to learn the lesson his father is trying to teach him. — *A Former HR Executive*

FRANK AND ERNEST



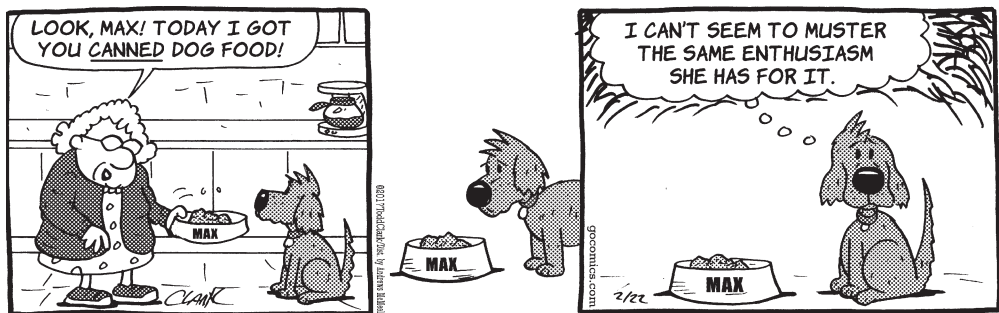
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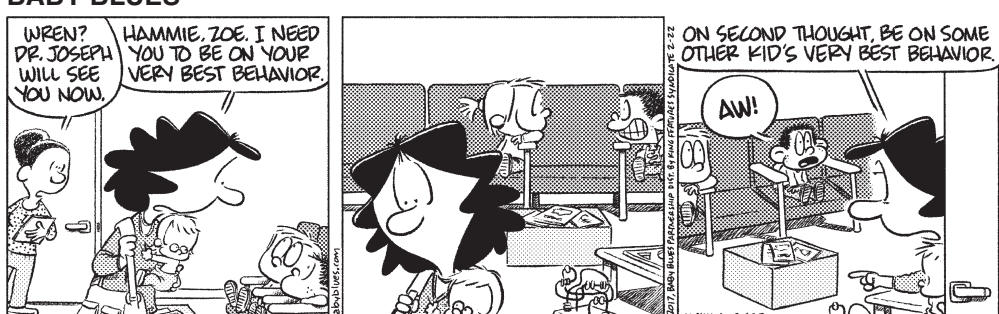
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're such an excellent predictor of human nature, but that could get in your way today, too. You will hear the other person more clearly when you do not anticipate what is going to be said.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Of all the things you could take a risk with, your appearance is among the least risky, with the most interesting results. Hair grows back. Outfits change in a moment. Why not have more fun with this?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're wary of wanting to fix things or save people, as this is a classic codependent tendency. However, in all likelihood, you will be able to fix, prevent, escalate or de-escalate today's situation and with favorable results.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not wrong to strive for validation; it's just not attractive. But you have something else that matters to you much more than public approval, and it makes you extremely charismatic today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes being happy is as simple as commanding yourself to be happy. Today is such a day. For some mysterious reason, you're more amenable to your own suggestions than usual. Take advantage of this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Silence can say it all. It's the timing of words that makes communication understandable. You will be especially adept at connecting with fellow earth signs Taurus and Capricorn.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The cosmic omens suggest that the ones who love you most will bother you best. And by best, of course, the cosmic omens mean "worst." Why is bothering so much a part of love?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Of course you've

taken the needs and wants of others into consideration. But ultimately, they are not the ones who have to live with the consequences. This is about what you want to do, and you'll make your choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll flit from one interest to another today, and any suggestion can start you out in a new direction. This will make the products of your work fascinating to those with a more linear process — that is, if you commit to finishing!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your sixth sense turns on today and your intuition will be accurate. The flashes of insight that come to you may not be what you want to believe, but don't ignore them. You don't have to act now. Watch and wait.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The circumstances at hand are not so unique as to demand an all-new solution. It will be lucky to refer to the past. You can answer a present-day problem with a precedent from antiquity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're very tolerant of other people's ideas even if you don't agree with them or see how they are going to lead to anything that applies to you. The world would be better if more people had this attitude.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 23). You live by your words this year, and you'll never have to eat them. Because you are so careful about what you agree to, and so diligent in keeping those agreements, your fortunes will augment in March. Loyal love will be by your side all year, and all the gifts you give to your loved ones make your life exciting, too. Cancer and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 13, 25, 4 and 16.

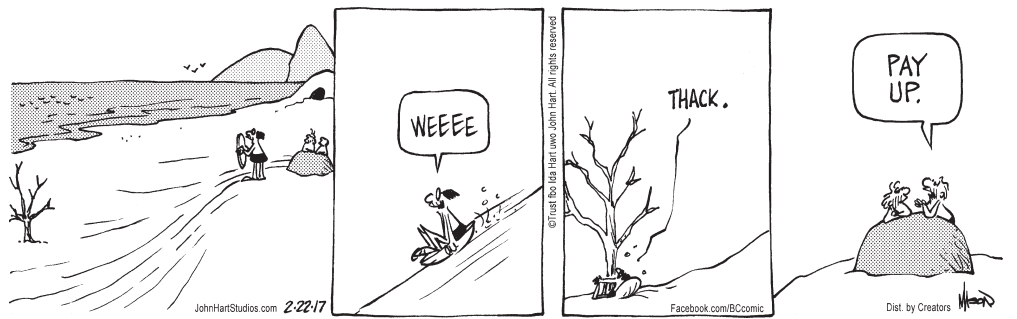
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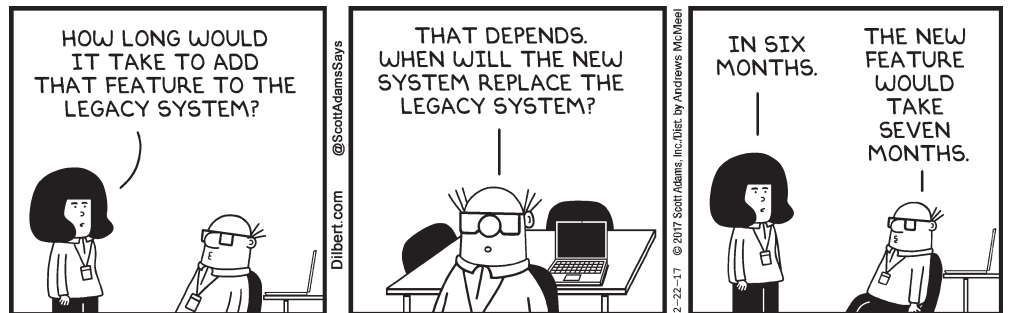
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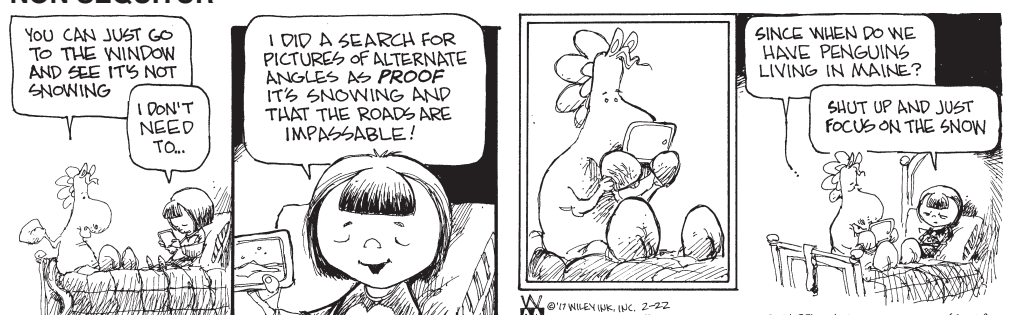
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

