

They stole the baby's name

Dear Annie: Ever since I was a young girl, I've known exactly what I want to name my future children. Wedding plans, career goals, possible boyfriends, even where I'd want to live — none of these was as clear to me as the names of these future kids. When I played with my Barbies, Barbie and Ken were always renamed "Jane" and "John." (These are pseudonyms. I don't want to share the real names for privacy reasons.)

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Earlier this year, I married the love of my life, "Keith," after three very happy years together. Though we're in no rush to have children, we do want to have a family eventually. Family is important to both of us, and we are lucky to have good relationships with my small nearby family and Keith's family of two brothers and three step-sisters, all of whom live across the country. Keith's

eldest brother and sister-in-law are expecting a boy, and they just told us that they are thinking of naming him ... "John."

Though I'm thrilled for them, I am also crushed. Years ago, I mentioned to the soon-to-be parents in passing how I liked the name, and I can't help thinking they "stole" it from me. I do understand that I don't have a claim on this name. However, I'm having a tough time letting go of the resentment, and each time I hear people compliment the name choice, it's like a twist of the knife. I wouldn't want to be seen as copying them if I were to have a son of my own. What can I do? — *What's in a Name?*

Dear WIAN: Get out the book of baby names and start perusing the millions of other choices available to you. I guarantee you'll find one that you like even better. And at the end of the

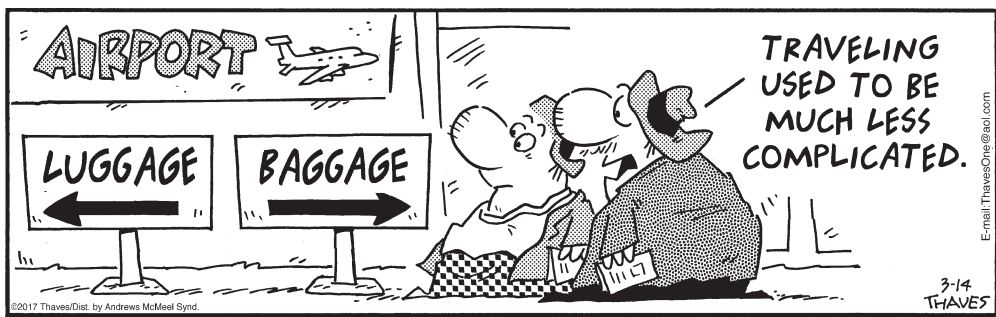
day, there's nothing in a person's name more important than what's in his character.

Dear Annie: This is in regard to "Trapped," who was preparing to leave her emotionally abusive husband.

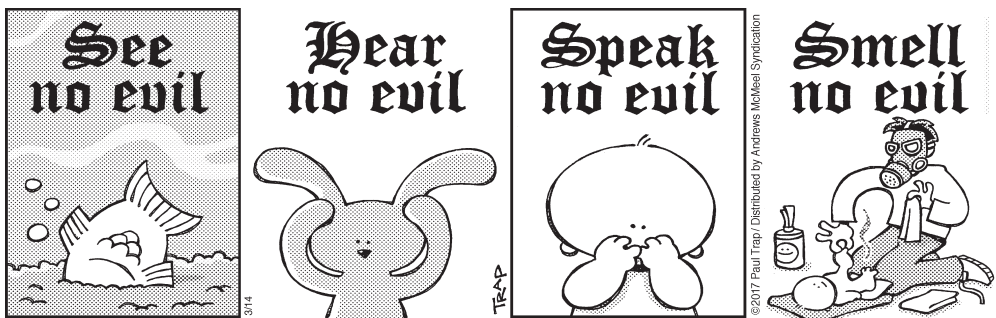
"Trapped" should be able to work with an attorney to follow the statutes of the state in which she lives regarding how to serve her husband with a petition for dissolution and perhaps simultaneously get an order for protection. There should be no need for "Trapped" to meet with her husband face to face. Law enforcement or a process server could personally serve her husband. Of course, "Trapped" will have to make arrangements for an alternative living situation once her husband has been served. — *Retired Attorney*

Dear Retired: Thank you for bringing to attention that important point. Though "Trapped" wanted to tell her husband in person, it is, as you said, not necessary or even advisable.

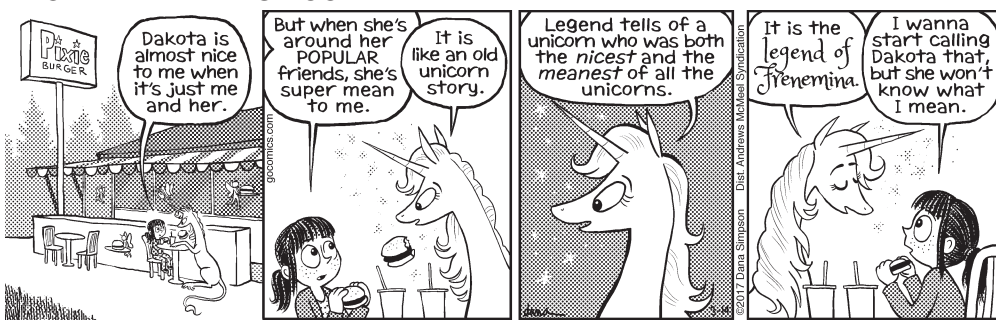
FRANK AND ERNEST



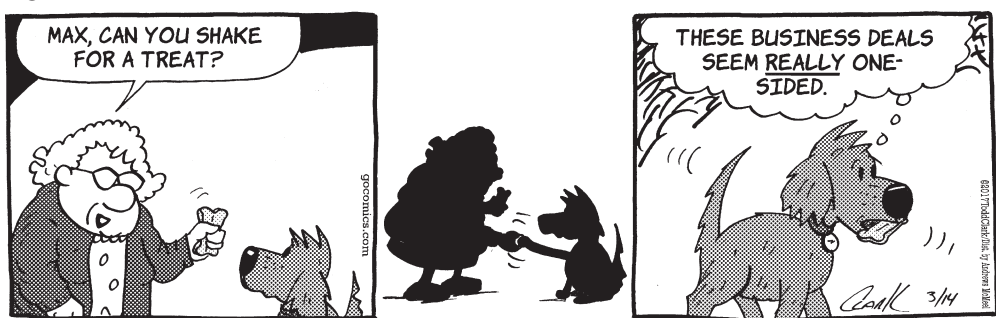
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



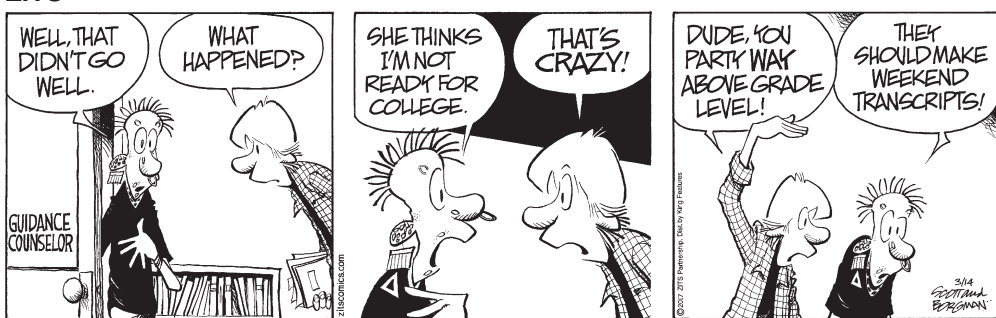
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's event is no spectator sport. Don't sit in the stands; you're the main attraction. As for how you'll command this audience: You are fascinating enough, just by being yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In some arenas, the negatives don't even come close to outweighing the positives. So why are there so many people who have opted in? It's a matter of ego, really. Don't let the popularity fool you. Steer clear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To admit that you have judged another person too harshly in the past is an indicator of spiritual largess. It takes superior character to realize when your character has been less than superior.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can guess all the livelong day, but you won't really know how much you'll enjoy doing something until you've tried it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have something unique to add to the situation. Because of this, you'll carve your own niche. People will help you take your notions and hunches from conception to execution. How gratifying!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Creativity is often about solving problems that other people don't see. Because of this, you'll tinker and toil in solitude for some of the day, but you won't be lonely, as this will be extremely engrossing work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The magician isn't making up the trick in the moment. She's been practicing for months, maybe years, to be able to pull it off in the seconds when it matters. The same goes for your performance today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't lose heart if you're not winning in the early stages of the game. Stay engaged. Keep your eye on increased performance over time and eventually you'll be brilliant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love has a way of surprising you, but you can't count on these found moments of romance to carry a relationship. Create a space for love to thrive instead of expecting it to crop up in the cracks of your frenetic schedule.

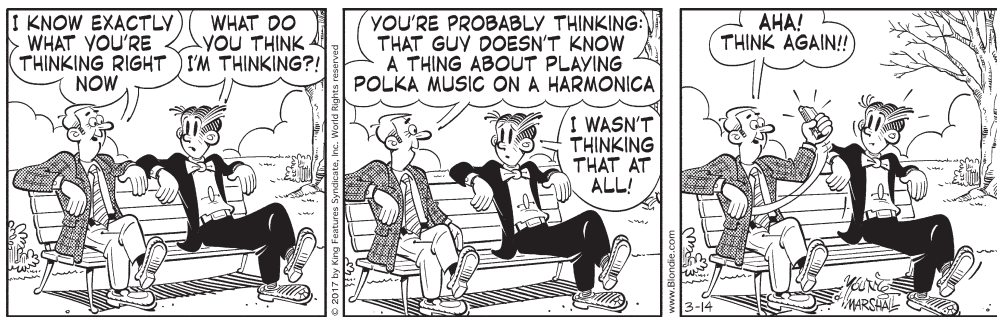
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People can say "business is business," but what most businesses do, ultimately, is help people with the things that personally matter to them. In your book, it's never "just business."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Every area of your life affects every other area. This is why when you spend time instilling a sense of structure, rhythm and purpose in one area, other areas will benefit, too.

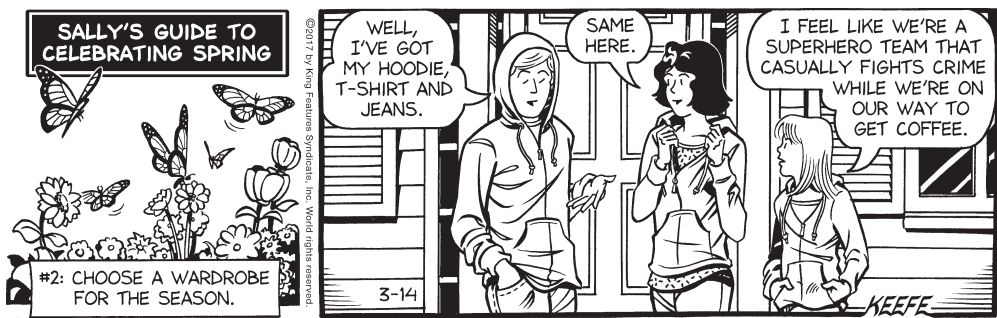
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To be a physical being is to be limited. Gravity is among our most prevalent oppressors, yet humans have found ways to defy it. Philosophical question of the day: Is the illusion of freedom better than the knowledge of oppression?

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 15). This is a year of bringing it all together. You've borrowed the best of what you liked in others, and now you're assimilating the qualities in a superhuman way. Next month brings new financial channels, and May features adoring eyes on you. Style upgrades will affect your professional life. Aquarius and Leo promote you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 45, 3, 28 and 41.

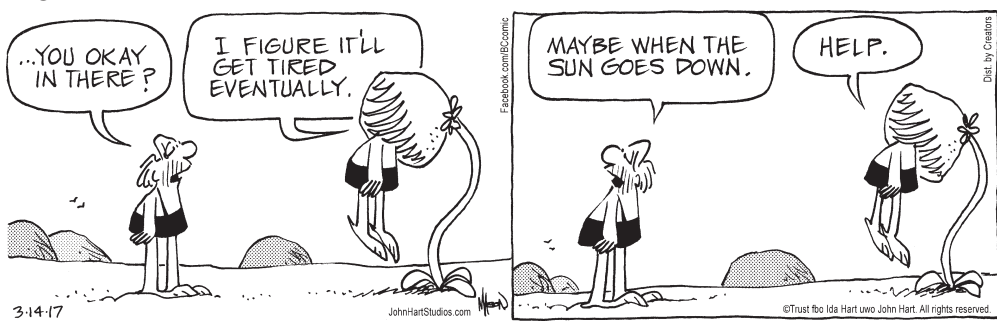
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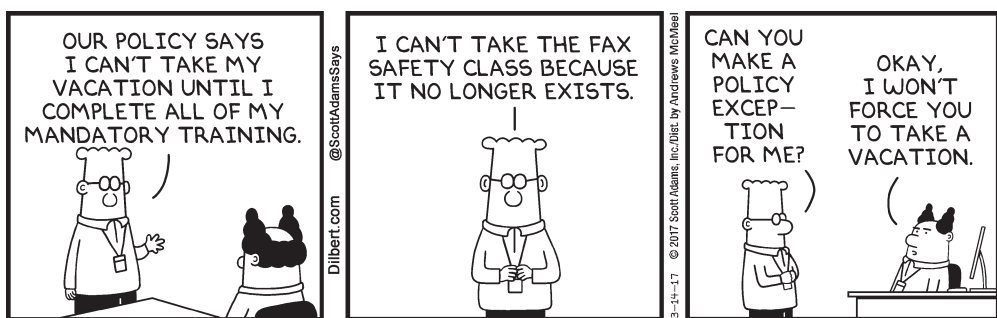
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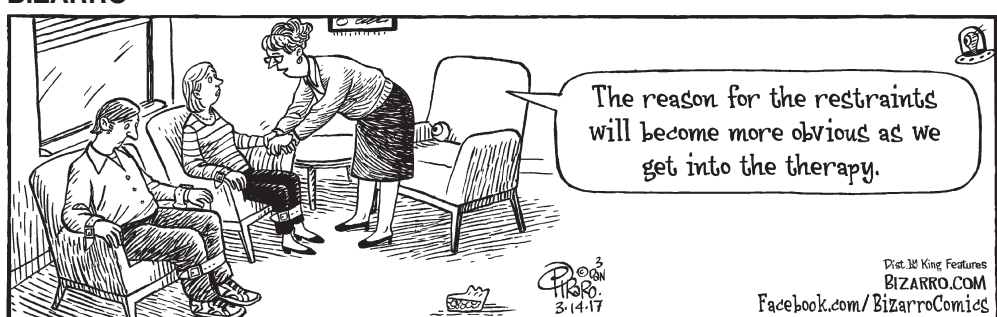
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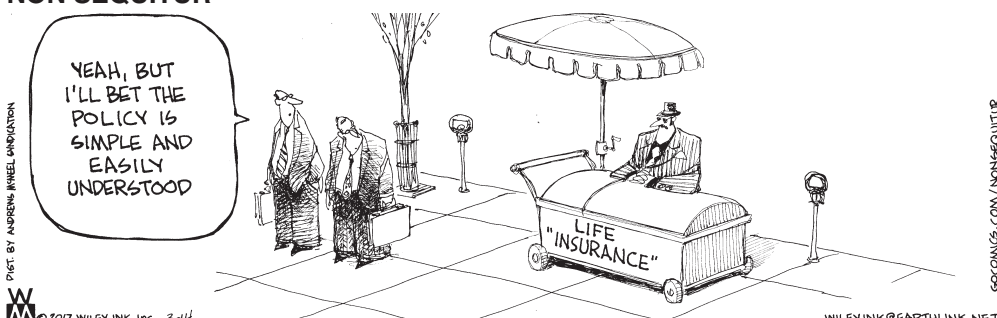
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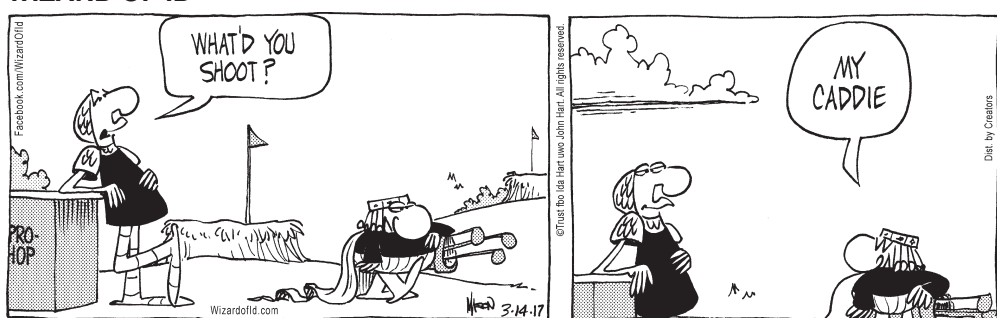
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

