

# Concerned about grandson

**Dear Annie:** My son shares custody with the mother of one of his boys but lives hundreds of miles away. He is great with this 9-year-old, and the boy is very happy when they are together. The boy's 18-year-old half brother is the perfect big brother, and they are very close.

The boy's mother has difficulties. Just before I saw him recently, she had slapped him hard in the face. I believe she has choked the boy. His voice was pretty hoarse when I saw him. Her daughter, the boy's half sister, was hospitalized after a drug overdose that was apparently a suicide attempt.

My son says the boy's mother would make life difficult and possibly contest custody if he were to try to get full custody. His lawyer only tells him to document everything. My son's mother and sister think the same way and advise him against taking action. Those three people are not good at listening to anything that contradicts their way of thinking. Suggestions, please. — *Worried About Grandson*

**Dear Worried:** Your concerns are absolutely valid, and this situation demands action. Though your son's lawyer is right — he should be sure to document all evidence of abuse — your son needs to go beyond that to protect his son right now. Your grandson's mom seems to have intimidated everyone into being afraid. Don't play into the roles she's written. The stakes are very real. Call the police if and when you suspect abuse, and call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 800-422-4453 for general guidance about how you can support your grandson and son.

**Dear Annie:** This is in reference to "What's in a Name?" — who was frustrated that a relative had chosen the name she wished to use for her future child. This woman can always use the name she wanted to be for her future son as his middle name. It's a simple solution. Plus, if she ever does have a son, his cousin will feel good

about the child's having part of his name.

I had friends who gave their firstborn the name "Cody." When the second son came along, they named him "Dakota." They could not nickname Dakota "Cody," which in this area is the nickname for Dakota. So they nicknamed Dakota "Dak." Unfortunately, my friends lost both sons within less than a month of each other — between Thanksgiving and Christmas — a few years ago.

So what really is in a name? I hope "What's in a Name?" gets her wish to have a son. My friends were past the age of having another son when they lost both Cody and Dakota. I am now a grandmother. My daughter and son-in-law made my grandson's middle name Cody, in memory of our friends' sons. — *Proud Grandmother in PA*

**Dear Proud:** Thank you for sharing this incredibly moving story. You've put things into perspective. I've found that looking at the big picture has the power to remove all the tiny flaws and remind us what a gift it is to simply be here beholding it.



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Today's theme: forgotten riches. It's like when you leave money in the pockets of your pants and it goes through the wash just fine, ready for you to discover it the next time the pants come up in rotation. Well, they'll come up today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** A mysterious karmic debt hangs in the balance. It must be paid in order to move forward. Whether you are the one to pay or to get paid, go for a clean and complete transaction so all can progress.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You will become a leader, perhaps a reluctant one. It's not really about delivering your words well, or being charismatic, popular or particularly powerful. It's about having the ideas that will work well for your group.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your mood: thoughtful. You can scarcely accomplish a single thing without asking yourself, "What am I doing with my life, and how does this match up with the moments of my every day?"

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Motivation will be high in the morning, and there's the potential to be gloriously productive! Then comes the afternoon slump. You may as well give into it because fighting it will be futile. Relax.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You may or may not be able to change the situation, but you can certainly change what you think of it; your feelings and actions will follow. This will be an essential step toward any sort of tangible result.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Work without a worry as to how acceptable the results will be. You have no control over that. The truth is that many can execute the task. Still, you're the only one who can do it your way. So there —

you've already won.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Listen to them when they tell you how they see it, but don't believe it. Believe your own eyes. They see a problem; you see potential. They see a roadblock; you see the alternative highway to the future.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's a time for doing and a time for not doing. Doing doesn't make you more. Not doing doesn't make you less. Choosing the right action at the right time requires an awareness that inaction is sometimes better.

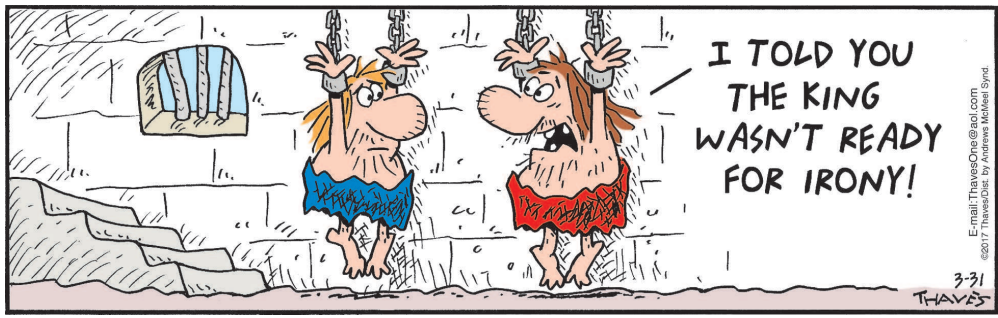
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your goals give your life structure, your passion a form, your personality an irresistible spark. However, don't put these goals above all else. People come first. And remember, you're "people," too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There's no secret shortcut, quick fix, perfect recipe or magic word. There is only doing the next thing and then the next thing. You may find this tedious, but you won't find it ineffective.

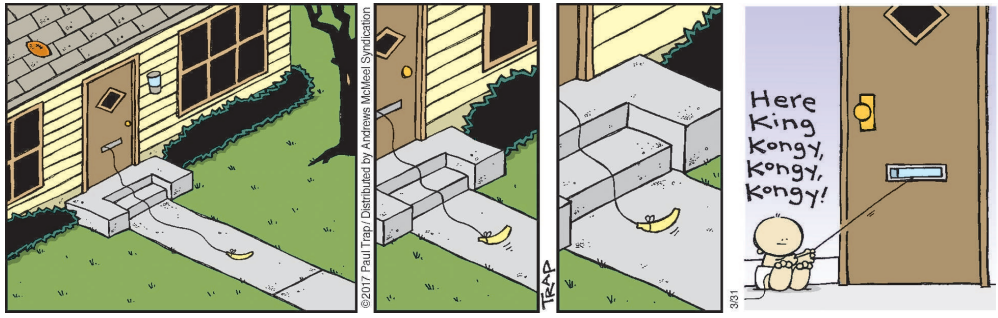
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The rituals of love seem a lot more magical when they are not explained or expected. And yet, like most magic, there's a good deal of planning and practice that goes into pulling off the trick.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 1).** Your cosmic birthday gift is a lasting attraction to what's good for you. This month, a new responsibility clarifies your mind and organizes your priorities. A remarkable meeting in May will set off a heart-filling series of events. You will have adventures with animals or children in June, and professional advancement and money in September. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 47, 9, 4, 28 and 39.

### FRANK AND ERNEST



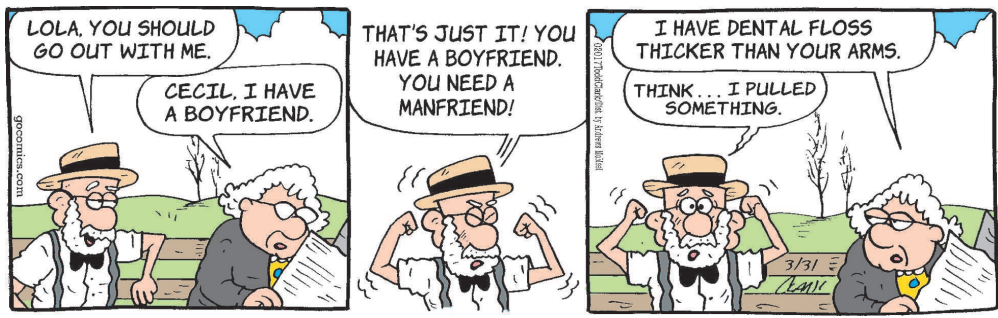
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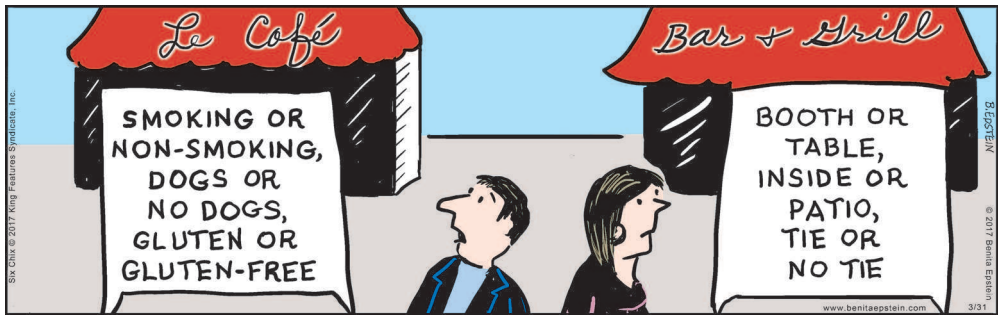
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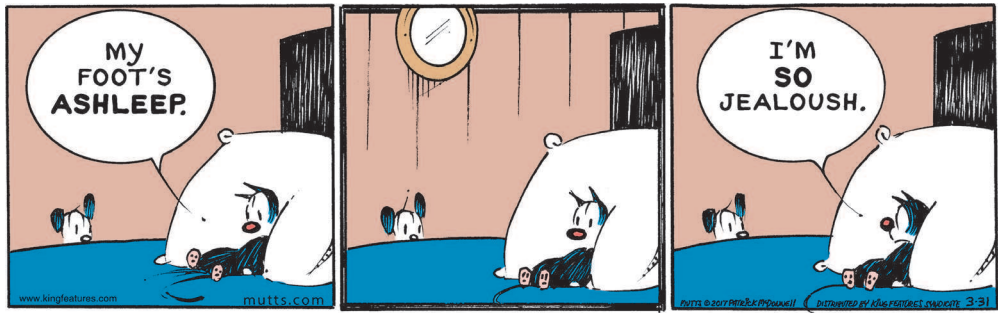
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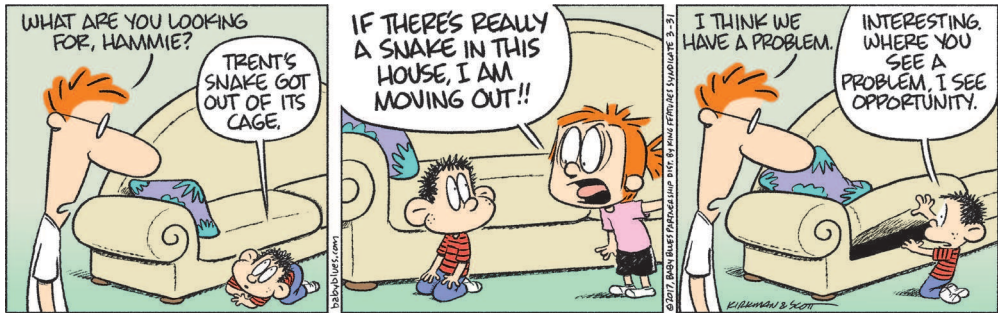
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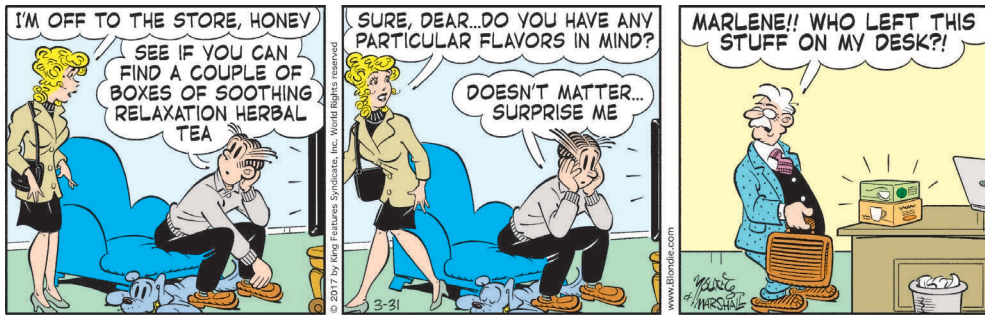
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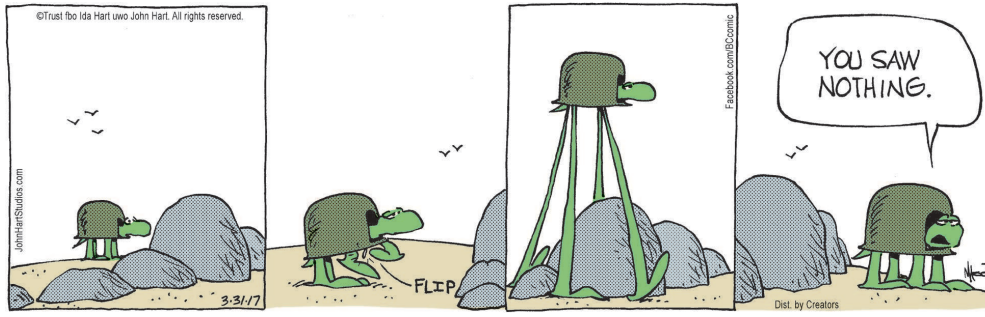
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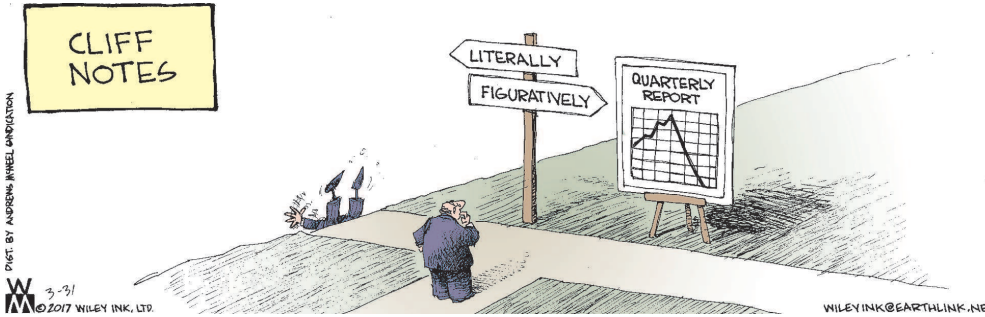
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### WIZARD OF ID



### ROSE IS ROSE

