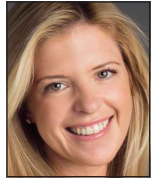


Problem couple at church

Dear Annie: My husband and I live in a small town and belong to a small church, which is struggling. I like our minister, but a lot of people do not and have left our church for other churches, including a mega-church in a nearby town. It is hard to compete with that!

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

But several months ago, I found out that it is not just because of the minister. A couple in our church have been running people off. They are involved in everything and are rude to other people and downright mean to the minister. I started watching their behavior, and I am just amazed that people who act this way can call themselves Christians. Their behavior is getting worse as the months go by.

We are going to be sharing a minister starting in July because we cannot afford to pay a full-time one any longer. He is already a minister at a church in a nearby town. I was hoping that would be an end to our problems, but now I am not so sure. A few weeks ago, the

wife left in the middle of the service, angry over something. She sat in the car the rest of the service. Her husband always runs the computer during worship and thinks no one else can do it right, but last Sunday, they were both gone and someone else did it just fine.

She wrote a post on Facebook about how they attended the church where our future minister already preaches. "Awesome message! So refreshing," were her comments. My greatest fear — and I am not alone — is that they are trying to get in good with the new minister before he even gets to our church. I am hoping that he is smart enough to see through these people. My question is: Should someone discuss these people with him, or should we just pray and hope for the best? — *Trying to Save Our Church*

Dear Trying: I'll answer your question with another: What would Jesus do? By all indications, he would turn the other cheek and pray for this

couple, showing them only mercy and kindness. Everyone is on a different path when it comes to faith and worship. If the couple are driven by ego and attention, that is between them and God. It is not something you need to worry about and resolve. These types of things always have a way of working themselves out. If they are truly being fake and kissing up to the minister, he will probably see through that.

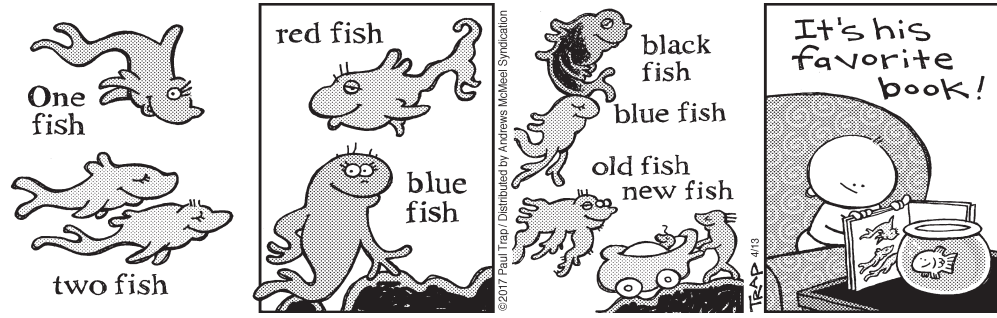
Dear Annie: I agreed with your advice to "Always a Bridesmaid, Now a Bride," whose sisters-in-law had all chosen her as a bridesmaid and who was deciding whether to use them as bridesmaids or to use four of her friends. You said the writer should do the former, but you did not tell her what to do with her friends. She should use them to help out in other areas of the wedding — serving punch, cutting cake, being greeters and so on. They could even help with the decorations and bouquets. — *Em*

Dear Em: Great idea, and help with preparation would no doubt be beneficial for brides and grooms on a budget.

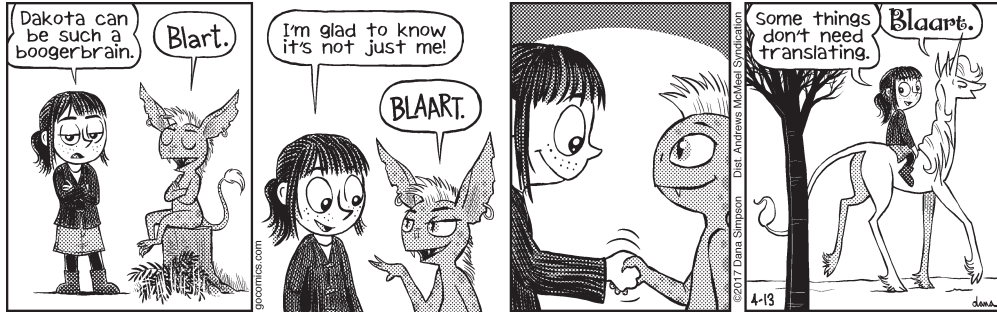
FRANK AND ERNEST



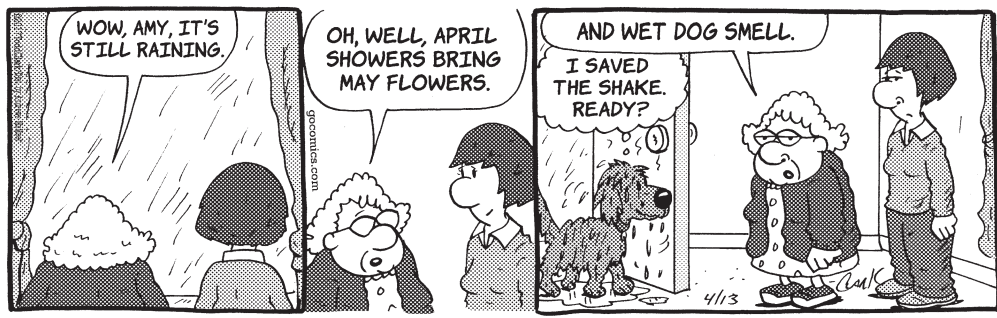
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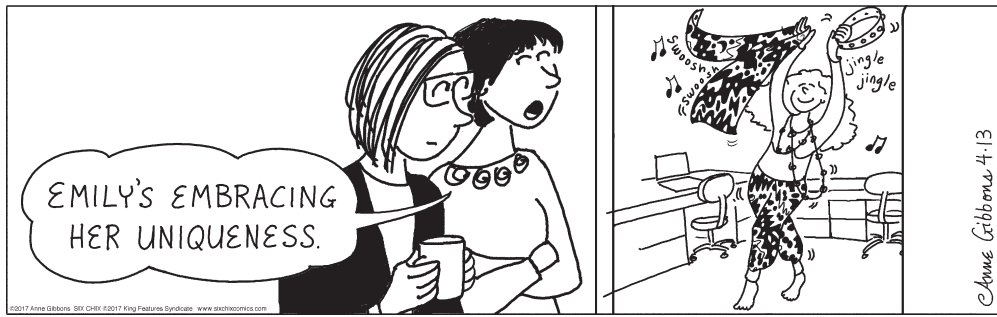
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



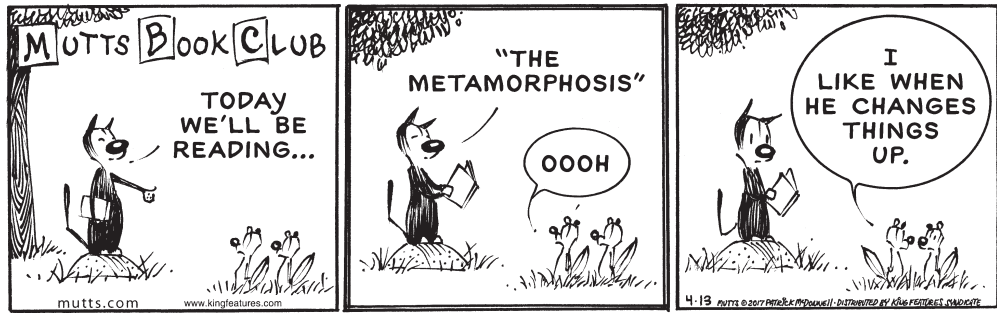
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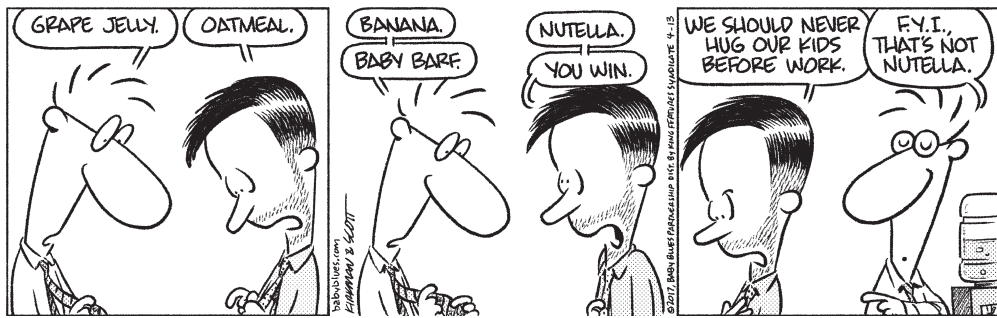
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MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The social swirl favors you, though in a temperate kind of way. Contrastingly, some party animals you know wear themselves out because they miss the secret to maintaining a robust social life: Go home when you're tired.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your purpose will converge with a bit of randomness you can't help but pay attention to. This may involve an exciting someone, and it becomes a part of your shared story.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't start with what others want from you or who they want you to be. Start with what interests and excites you. What they need most (though they might not know it yet) is to have people around them who are interested and excited.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People will have to come to a decision together. The compromise will either be even better than the original idea each person brought to the table or it will suit none. Calm communication will be key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relationships' ease will have more to do with what's going on outside the relationship. Stressors get lifted today, and the flood of relief makes it so much easier to be present with one another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be careful not to let your perfectionism keep you from expanding opportunities. Not everything requires such a high level of attention. In many situations, good enough is good enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You find it pretty easy to make rational decisions, unless you are 1) hungry, 2) tired or 3) emotionally involved. Hungry and tired are easy to remedy. Good luck getting your feelings out of it, though!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Bottom line, the group will be better for your expertise, instinct and involvement. They may not show you often enough how valuable you are, but hang in there, if for no other reason than this: They need you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Surrender if you feel it's time, if you've been fighting out of stubbornness and ego instead of principle and purpose, if you're ready to stop resisting where life wants to take you. But if this is just about giving up, don't.

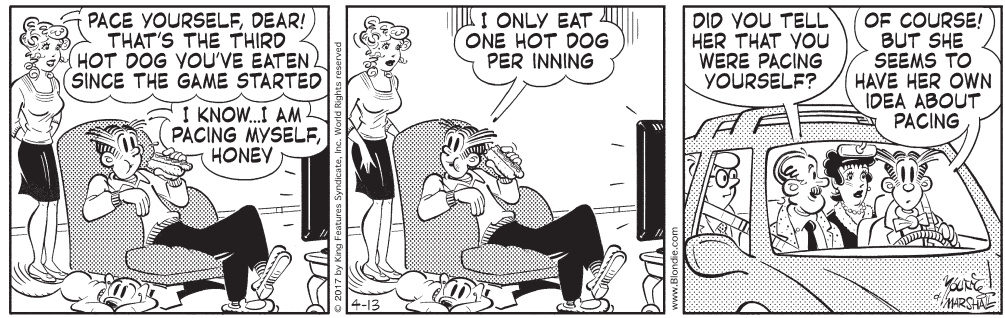
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will look for what you find and, bonus, what you beckon for will come to you. Now all you have to do is direct your energy well, toward loveliness and strictly what you would enjoy in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can only give what you've got. Actually, you could borrow to give, but that would be a horrible idea today. In fact, make sure you don't give all you've got. Hold back half. You're going to need a lot more tomorrow.

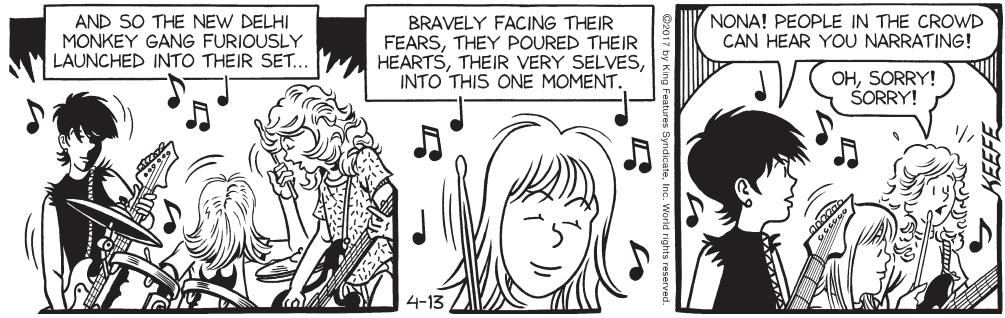
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll wake up and avoid some rather overblown expectations that are being promoted by parts of our culture in the realm of relationships. You recognize that this hype is toxic to your pursuit of love.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 14). You have a talent for putting people together who fit well, and you'll create scenarios that could never have happened without you. You'll be made an offer that seems so crazy to you but also quite right. Physical strength and mental stamina will be required for the marathon-like situation in June. You'll be proud and richer for the run. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 4, 30, 19 and 45.

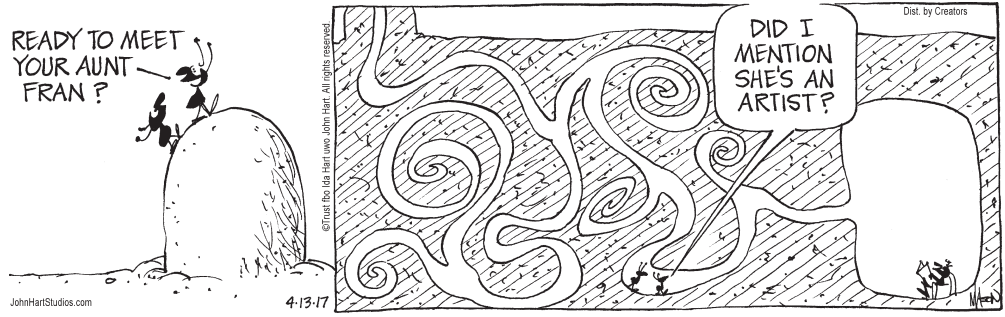
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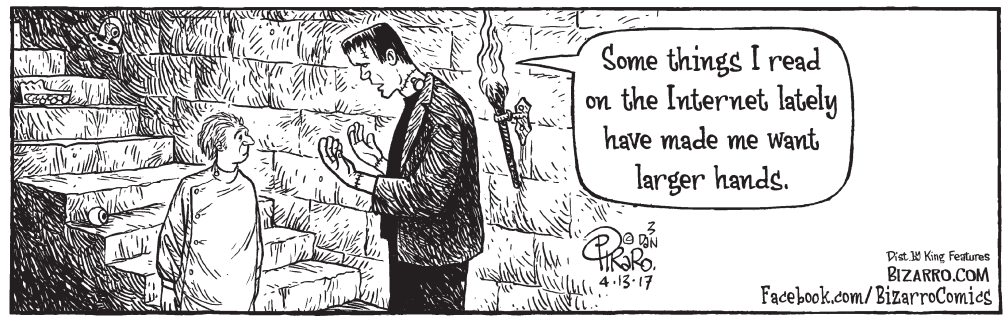
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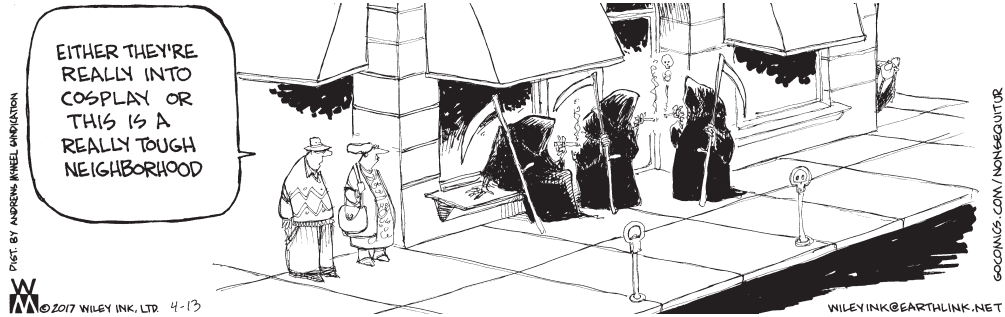
DILBERT



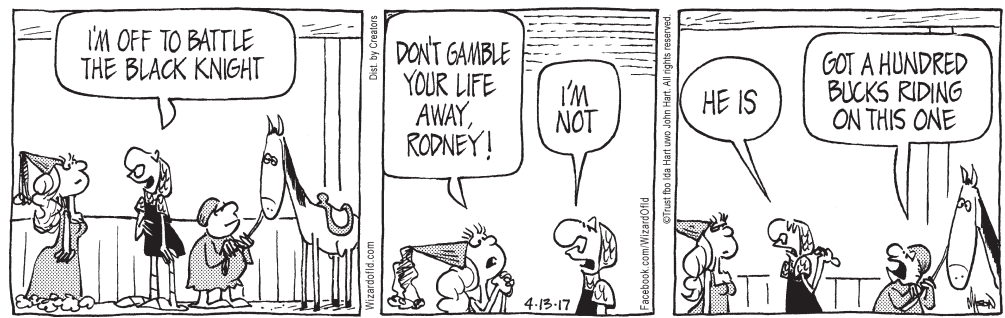
BIZARRO



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ROSE IS ROSE

