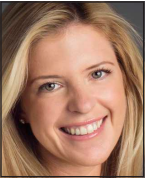


Son-in-law moved too fast

Dear Annie: Our only child died of a quickly moving cancer. She left a husband and four teenage children. Less than one year after her death, our son-in-law, "Ben," was captured by a woman less than 10 years older than our eldest grandchild. This woman, "Meredith," was married at the time and has a very young child of her own.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Our grandchildren have no choice but to accept her. They love their dad. He wants to pretend everything is as it was. If I am not nice to her, he gets angry, so we sit with them at the kids' sporting events. I do not go to the house, as he has had her sleeping in our daughter's bed. Meredith is now divorced but shares custody of her son. She obviously did not want to completely parent her child; meanwhile, we cannot see ours. I am angry. Yes, I am in counseling.

Please ask any of your readers who have recently lost a spouse to consider

being gentle with the shattered feelings of their in-laws. Ask them not to force continual socialization with someone who has been put in the place of their dead child. No one can take her place, certainly not in a period of less than two years.

Parent

Dear Still: Thank you very much for this letter. You are bringing awareness to the pain and grief you are feeling. I am so sorry for your loss.

It does sound as if your son-in-law is being incredibly insensitive, but perhaps this is how he is dealing with his grief — suppressing it, pretending nothing happened. It's not healthy, and just because he is able to do that does not mean that you should. If you don't want to sit with his new partner at social settings, don't! Tell him that you are just not ready yet. Be patient with your grief. It will take longer to heal if you are constantly being bombarded with the

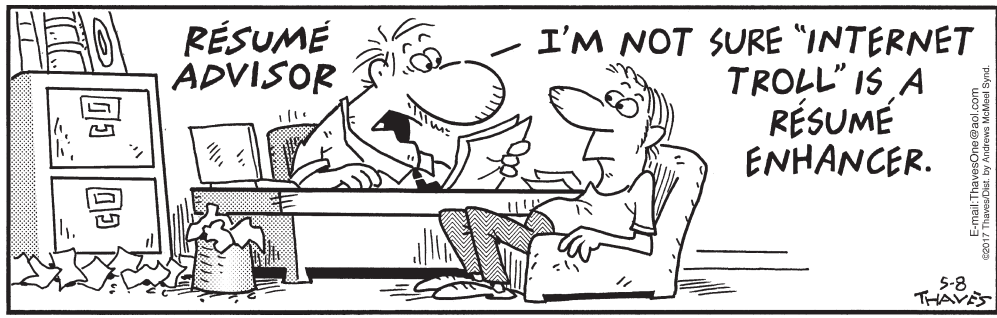
reminder that your daughter is no longer there.

Additionally, ask your son-in-law whether you and your husband could have some quality time alone with your grandchildren. Make sure you don't attack his new partner; rather, say it's more a matter of missing your daughter.

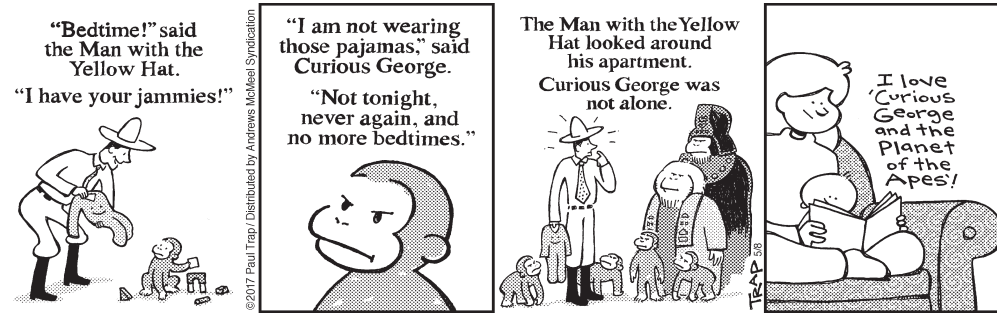
Dear Annie: I recently had some family members on holiday staying at my house. A day after they left, I received a text message that they had forgotten an item that they wanted. I found the item, took it to FedEx and, for \$48, had it shipped. It arrived safely, and they were relieved. Should they offer to reimburse me the \$48? — *Holding the Bill*

Dear Holding: They should, but that doesn't mean they will. My guess is they have no idea how pricey the shipping was. Perhaps you could send them a note saying something to the effect of, "So glad it reached you safely! I've included the FedEx receipt. Thank you!" If you'd like to be reimbursed, you'll have to take the initiative.

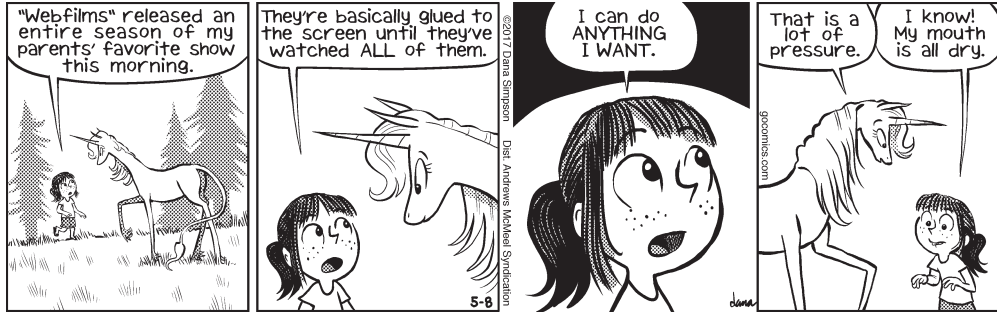
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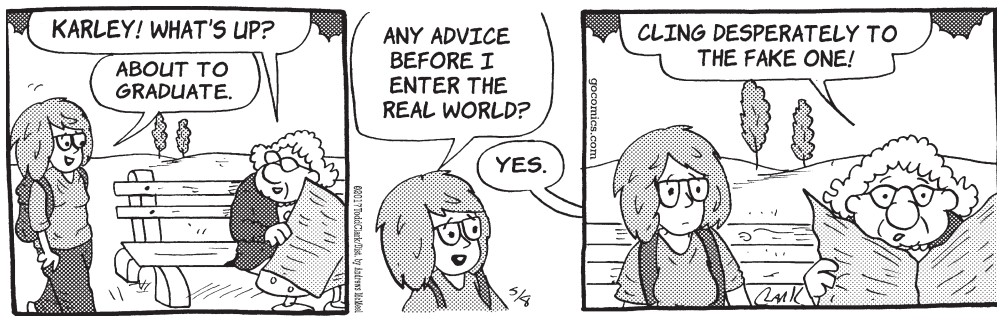
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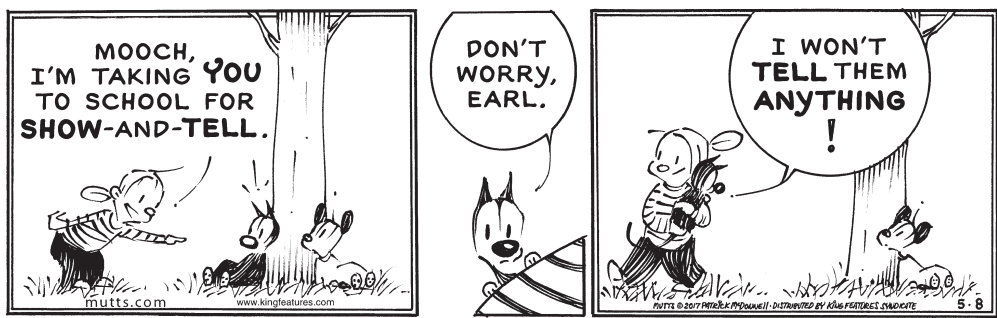
LOLA



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ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you're rested and cared for, your enthusiasm is naturally strong. If you're feeling less than enthusiastic, don't mistake this for intuition or a judgment about the circumstances. It could very well just mean that you need rest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're in danger of making things more complicated than they have to be. Take a step back. Breathe deep. Yes, there are many moving parts here, but most happen as a chain reaction to your moving only one or two of them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't assume that as long as your time is available you should keep filling it up. Every commitment affects every other commitment. Leave a wide stretch of open space in that schedule and you'll be glad you did.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Lately you couldn't care less about what people think of you — which is precisely why you are so well-liked. If you dare to extend an invitation, you'll be most pleased with the response you receive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know what you want to accomplish, and momentum will be on your side all day long. Also, there are many who want to (and have the means to) help you with your quest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been worried that you're not quite qualified to take on a certain job, but the thing is that no one is until the job is theirs. This type of work can only be learned by doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you find that your ability has been underestimated, there's a fantastic opportunity in this. You are now in the perfect position to impress and impact with a

performance they weren't expecting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Every flight plan includes a destination point and an estimated time of arrival. Similarly, your current plan will require a few time and space specifics before you'll be allowed to take off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your social flair is going strong today, and a wide range of people will be drawn to you, though most notably your fellow fire signs, Aries and Leo.

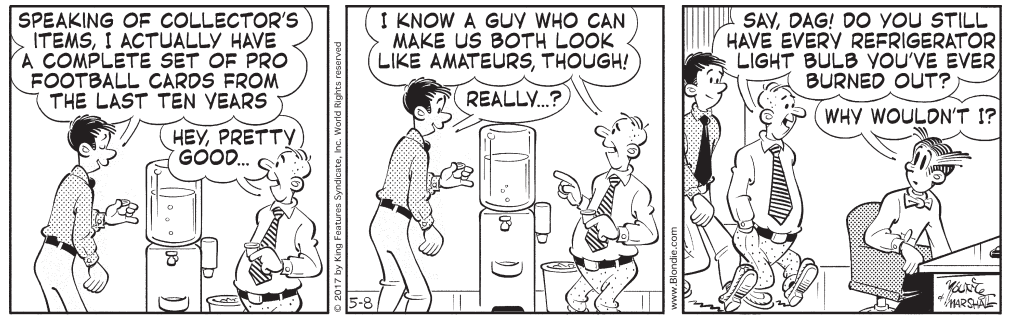
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who don't want to do boring work will try and rope you into doing it. How frustrating! But actually, you might find that it's not half as boring as you thought. In fact, there's something juicy in this for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let no man speak on behalf of your satisfaction and comfort level. The only person who knows if you're really comfortable is you. In fact, you cannot be comfortable unless and until you decide that you are!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). At best, it will be useless to talk about anything outside your realm of direct experience and knowledge. At worst, such talk will be harmful. Gossip is dangerous to both the gossiper and the subject of gossip.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 9). In the next 10 weeks, a growth process exhilarates production in a couple key areas of your life. Also, your attitude shifts. What used to feel like an obligation will feel like an opportunity. You'll earn big in July and in October. You'll educate and celebrate others in August. There's a move featured in September. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 3, 13 and 19.

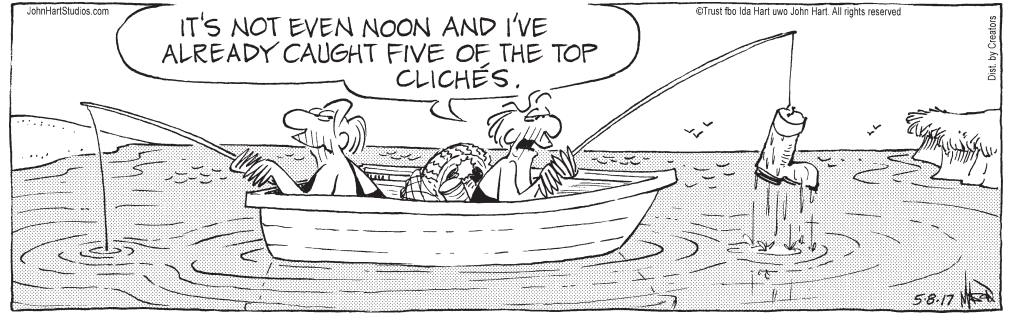
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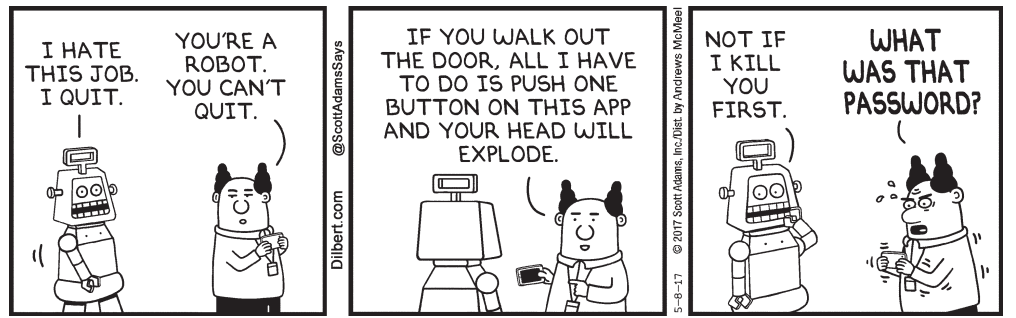
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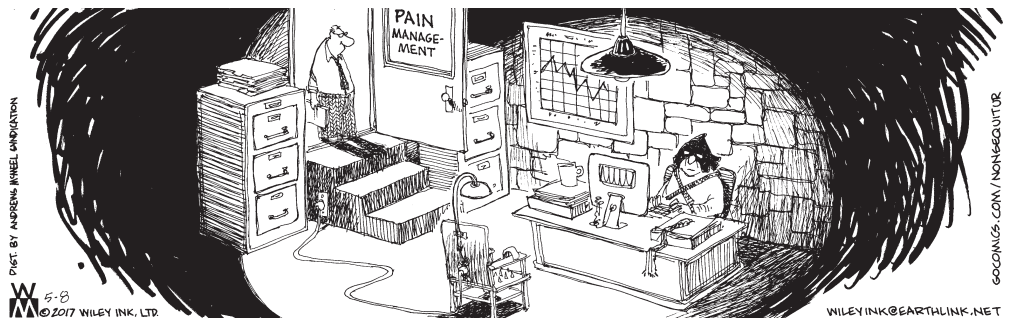
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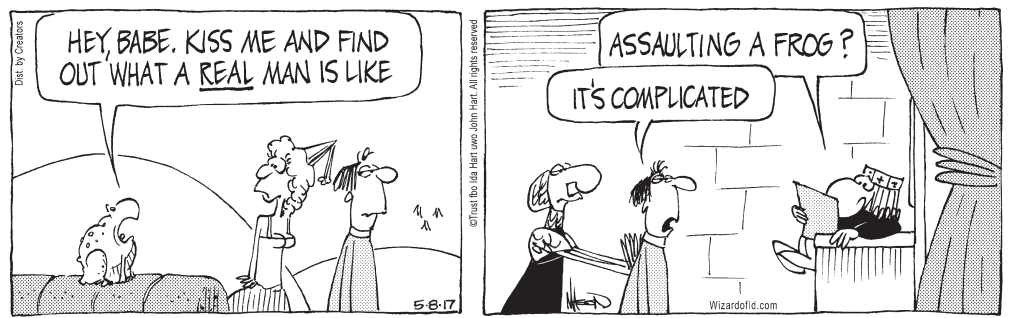
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