

Politics pulls family apart

Dear Annie: We have a situation in our family, and it may be a problem in other families. Maybe you have an answer to help us all.

I voted my conscience in the most recent presidential election, but I feel I am being punished by my daughter and her family, who didn't agree with me. She had an exceptional education, which I believe should have included consideration of others' opinions.

Not too much has been said directly, as we both know that too much damage would be done should we broach the subject of the current political situation. Indeed, I have told her that I will not argue with her and that I hope we can "agree to disagree."

I am afraid her lack of respect for my opinion will cause lasting damage to my relationship with my grandchildren. I love them all so much and am not sure what to do except to hope that time will heal. Do you have any suggestions? — *Must Be Anon.*

Dear Must: Your daughter is still speaking to you, and she isn't broaching the subject of politics. To me, that sounds an awful lot like agreeing to disagree. So I'm not sure where your uneasiness is coming from here. Perhaps you feel that she's silently judging you for your beliefs. She's probably not, but even if she is, so what? She still loves you. Parents and children need not share the same voting record to share the same values. Focus on fertilizing the common ground between you two. Let her know how much she and your grandchildren mean to you. With love and time, any coldness will thaw.

Dear Annie: I'd like to offer one more suggestion in regard to the letter from "Sad Nana With So Much to Be Thankful For," who wrote to express the things she'd like her adult children to do around the house while she's taking care of her terminally ill husband.

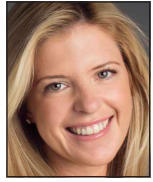
Please, everyone — friends, family, casual acquaintances — when you see someone who

is serving as a caregiver, ask the caregiver how he or she is doing, as opposed to asking about the person who is under his or her care. This makes the caregiver feel acknowledged, allows the caregiver to give an update on the ill person's status if he or she wishes, avoids an uncomfortable response if the ill person is dying, and is a caring way to express concern for the ill person and the whole family. Terminal illness drains everyone, and constant inquiries about how the ill person is when there is no possibility of change or hope for the better are hard blows to the heart.

Yes, "John," the loved one I'm caring for, is dying. But how am I doing? I'm trying to keep myself together for him and trying to do everything I can. I'm dealing with my future loss and a lot of problems with finances, self-care and an overall feeling of discouragement. Bring some cheer to my life; ask how I'm doing. — *Aurora*

Dear Aurora: What a valuable insight. Thank you for reminding us of the importance of caring for the caregivers.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



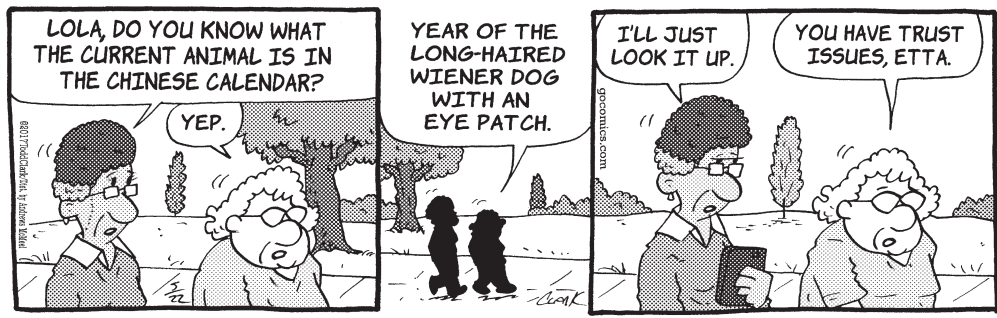
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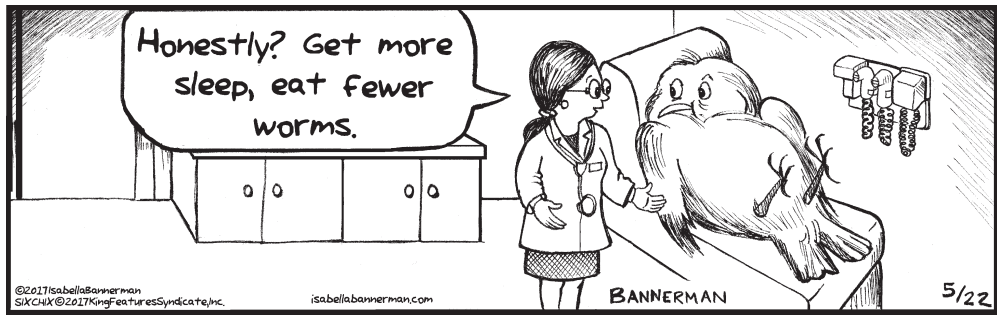
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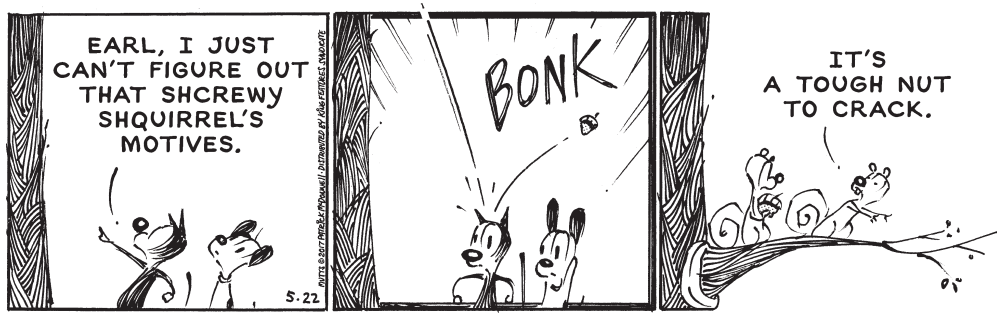
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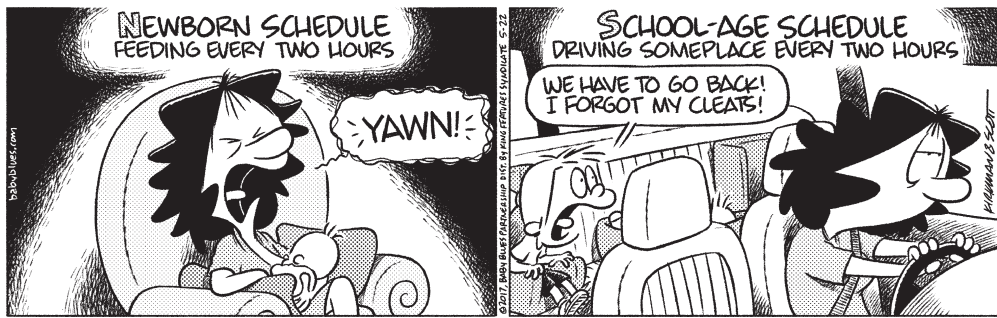
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Pain is easier to prevent than it is to manage. Keep this in mind as you navigate today's choices. If you make them without thinking, you could land in an uncomfortable spot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What's important isn't reaching any particular measure of accomplishment (including age or salary or position); rather, the most important thing is growth itself. You'll happily move forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You put so much energy into your work that you lose yourself completely and become one with the task. The result is masterful, even though you're no longer thinking critically about how you're doing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You like to be around people who show initiative, even if it's not exactly in the way you would prefer. It will be easier to guide those who have the confidence to act than inspire those who don't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Accept your mind, even when thoughts are unhelpful or unruly. When you patiently let it wander wherever it wants, you'll find your mind will get bored of certain tracts and finally settle into being your friend and assistant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Friends will treat you like family, and family will treat you with the admiration they usually reserve for the most abstract idea of their personal heroes. Enjoy the extra attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Try and see your home with fresh eyes, the way you might before guests arrive. From this vantage you'll note what's not working for the logistical flow of your life, and/or what's not meeting your need for beauty and inspiration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It won't count as an adventure today unless you muster up the courage to be a beginner. If you're afraid of being awkward or foolish, that's OK: It will only add to the satisfaction you feel on the other side of saying "Yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've a willing crew, though they won't know automatically how to please you. They have to be led. Prompt them in the manner of a comedian gesturing to indicate when to laugh.

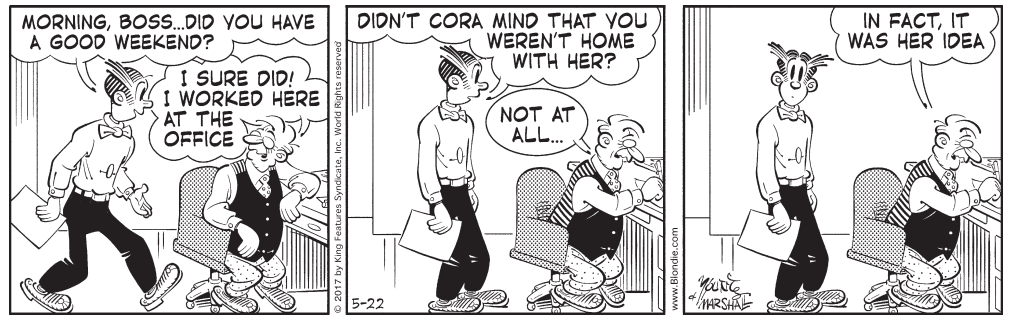
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The mundane tasks of the day will feel much more significant than just taking care of yourself or serving others. Small acts of kindness may very well be our most important purpose for being.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes the most essential thing also happens to be the easiest thing. A simple task taken at a relaxed pace will show you in an extremely attractive light.

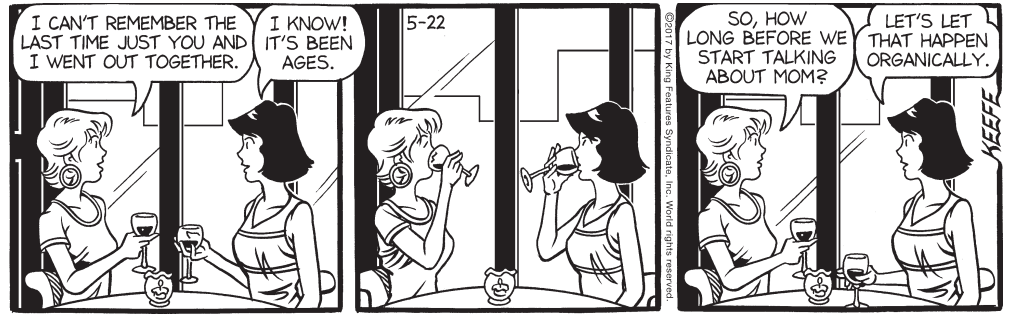
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The next person who comes to you with a need is your path to changing the world. If no one is coming to you with a need these days, you may have to get the ball rolling by reminding people how you can help.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 23). You'll totally immerse yourself in your driving passion this year and learn so much more than you thought there was to know about it! This makes you more attractive to certain people, although it also affords you less time to spend with them. The travel you do in July and December will lead to new work in 2018. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 28 and 13.

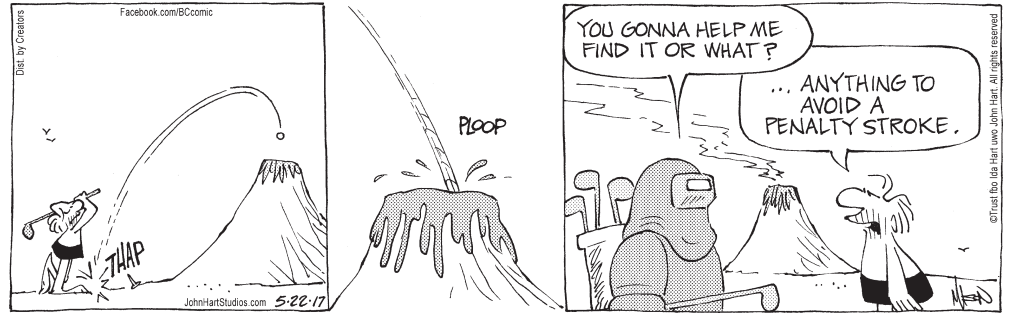
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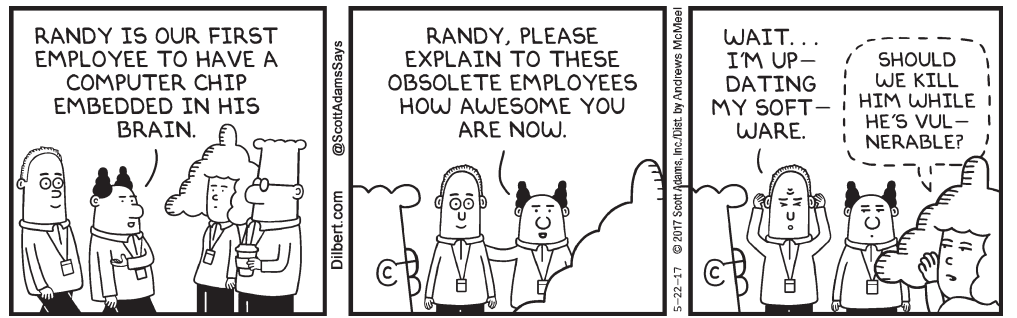
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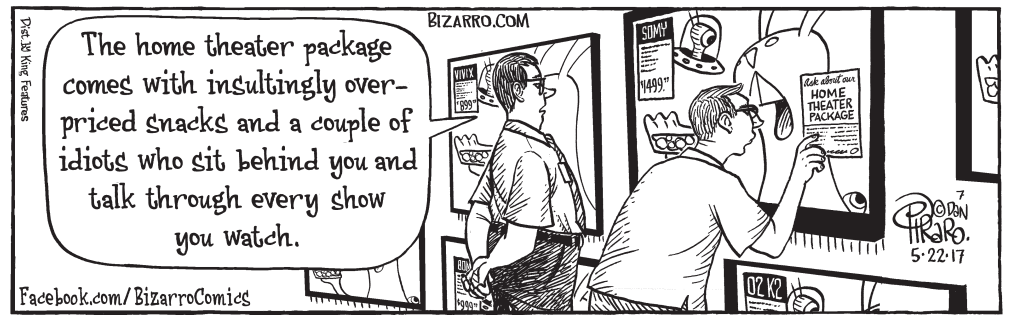
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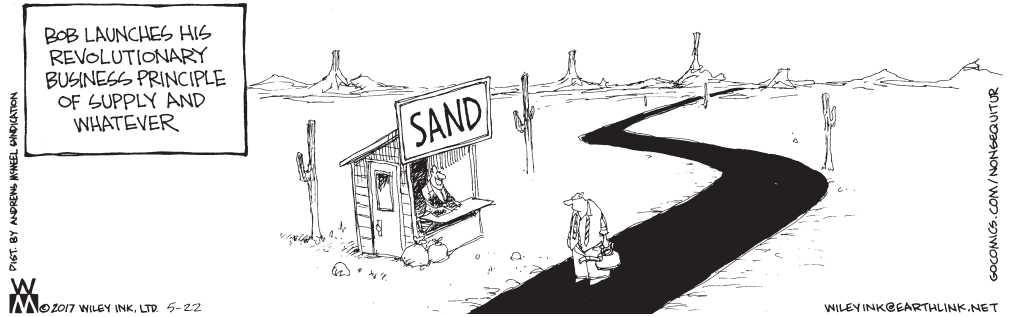
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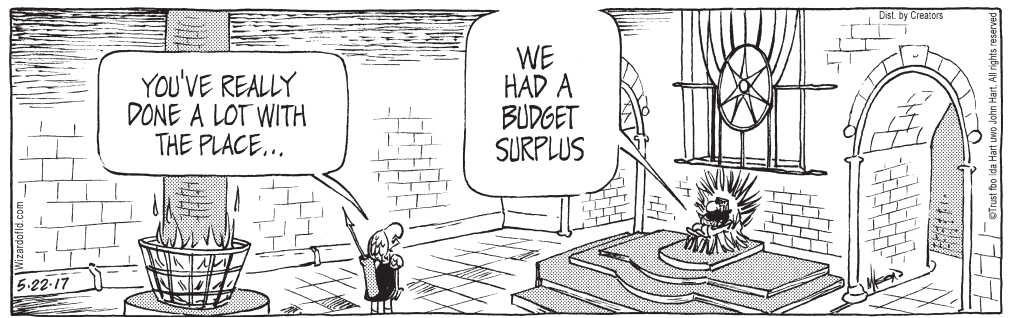
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ROSE IS ROSE

