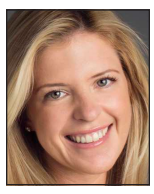
You're wrong about my life

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I have read your advice column off and on for a while and am excited to see you have a Facebook page that you post things to.

I'd like your advice, as I have in-laws who have sent me various columns of yours that feature letters from people whose situations they think mirror my situation. Though I appreciate their wanting to offer your recommendations, their perspective on what my husband and I are facing is rarely accurate. They're almost always off base when it comes to knowing what is really going on. What ends up happening is that I become irritated that they are meddling in our lives, and it causes hurt feelings, as well as more problems between my husband and me. What is your advice to in-laws who want to offer advice, and what is your advice to me on how to handle them and prevent them from interfering in the future? — *J.*

Dear J.: Unsolicited advice is unheeded at best and offensive at worst. Perhaps you should send them a column about meddlesome in-laws straining a marriage. All kidding aside, of course their not-so-subtle hints are annoying. The phrase "too many cooks" comes to mind. Your husband needs to be the one to intervene by speaking with his parents. He should tell them that this marriage is just between you and him and that it is up to the two of you — and no one else — to find the right recipe.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the recent letter from "Sad Nana With So Much to Be Thankful For." Her husband is dying, and her children are helping with hospice care.

Under Medicare, she may be entitled to the hospice benefit, which entails more than just a weekly hospice nursing visit. She needs help from a home health aide, and she may be able to get one through this benefit. The aide would bathe him, dress him, help him get up or down, make his bed, clean his room, throw in a load of his laundry, etc.

She also may be entitled to a social worker for assistance with other community resources and emotional support for her and her children.

Hospice volunteers can come during certain time windows, so "Sad Nana" would know they are coming and could get out of the house for her own appointments, go for a walk or just take a nap (as she is probably sleep-deprived).

Many families benefit from a hospice chaplain, someone who is used to dealing with the spiritual issues surrounding death and dying, which your own clergy may be uncomfortable discussing.

I am sad to hear that the needs of "Sad Nana" and her family are not being met by hospice. Hospice care is a wonderful benefit that Medicare and most insurance providers offer at the end of life. It supports patients and families. — *Retired Hospice Nurse Manager*

Dear Retired: I'm printing your letter in case anyone in a similar situation has not considered or looked into the possibility of home hospice care. Thank you, nurse.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can either order your tasks by priority or sit back and watch them order themselves. Either way, you'll get it all finished eventually, so there's no need to worry or fret. Breathe, and take it one task at a time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Momentum is working in your favor. You are busy, and you'll get busier, but it's all a great pleasure because of the people you get to interact with and the way this job brings out the best in you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't need an excuse to follow your whims and dreams, but the people who don't understand will make you feel as though you must have one. Ridiculous! It makes you happy; that is reason enough to do it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are moments when you really do feel at one with it all. To be peaceful is to be nothing and everything at the same time — made of the same stuff as the star, the planet and the space in between.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't want to trust that you're being told the truth. Neither do you want to merely believe it's true. You want to experience it, to feel it in your bones and live it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't worry; it's not really up to you to define yourself. People will come up with their own thoughts and feelings about the experience of you. You're more loved than you could possibly know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You appreciate your many freedoms, but none is so cherished today as the freedom to escape to your imagination and continue to build a heavenly playground there of your very own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who look up to you. You wish they wouldn't put you on a high pedestal. You strive for humility and relatability. (And yet, to the ones you idolize, you want to be seen as interesting and remarkable.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Creating order puts you at ease. Things aren't even that messy, but you'll still benefit from taking them to the next level of organization. You'll get a disproportionate boost of cheerful energy from the task.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You accept who you've been. The new you, the deeper you, the you that includes ideas to stretch and challenge the old definition — this person is harder to accept, but when you do you'll be more powerful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Seeing the path before you clearly is typically the way you prefer to roll. But today you might actually get quite bored of knowing where you're headed. The path will wind, and you'll enjoy the adventure in this.

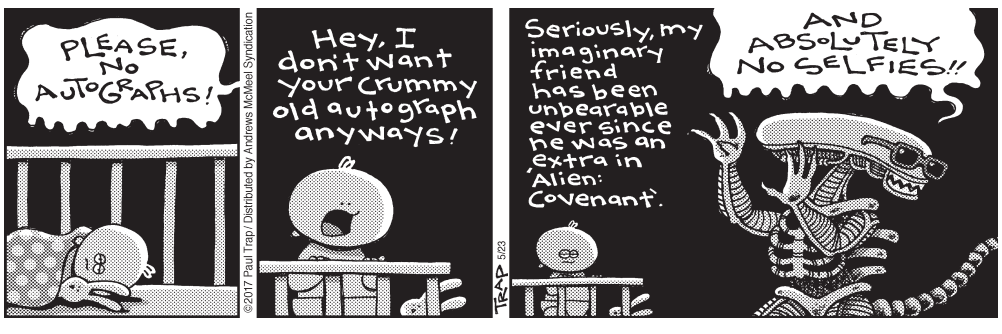
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Loving another person profoundly is its own wondrous adventure. "The personal life deeply lived always expands into truths beyond itself." — Anais Nin

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 24). You approach your work with great attention to detail. The next 10 weeks represent a surge in the usefulness, popularity and demand for what you do. Inside you may be your own worst critic, but outside you're your own best PR person. Enjoy love lavished on you in November, too. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 50, 11, 28 and 36.

FRANK AND ERNEST

BLONDIE

THATABABY



SALLY FORTH

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

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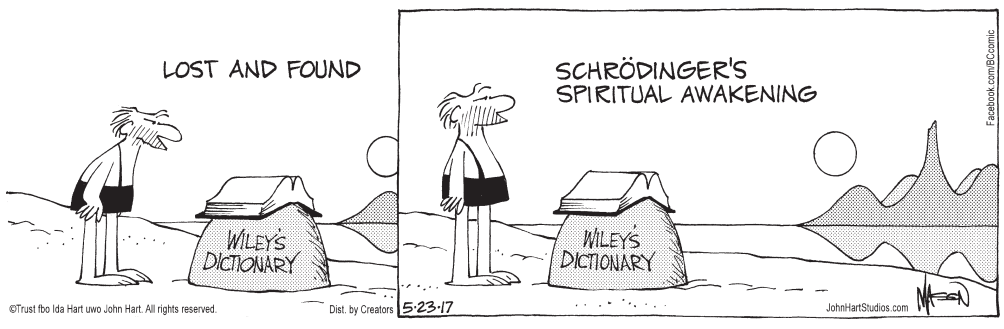

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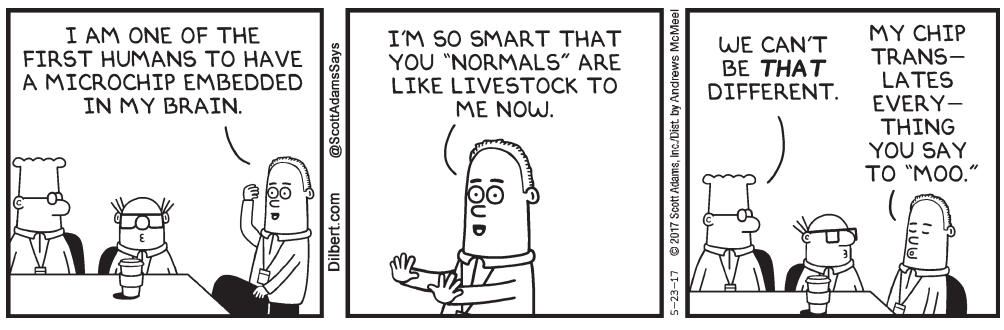

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BIZARRO

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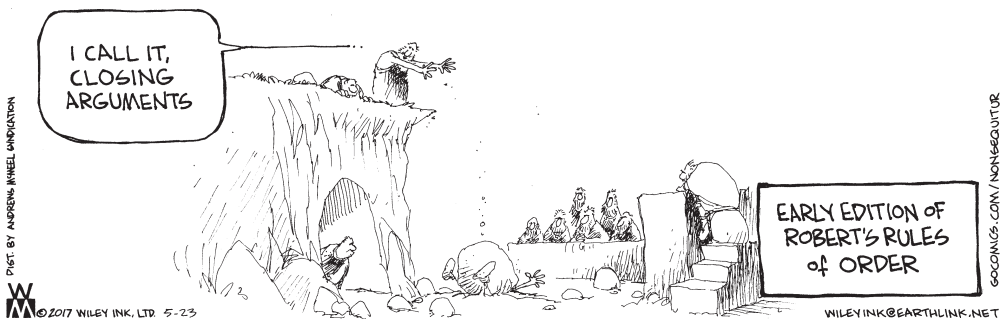
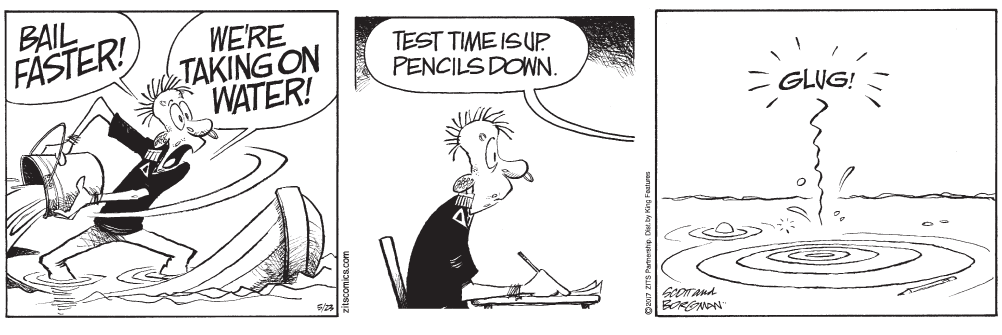
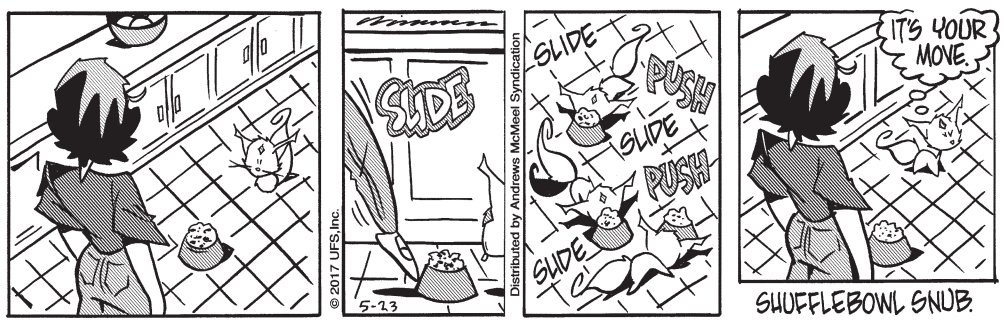


BABY BLUES

WIZARD OF ID

ZITS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