

Tall person problem

Dear Annie: I am in my 60s and 6 feet 7 inches tall, and I am fed up with being approached by total strangers who ask such things as, "How tall are you?" "Did you play basketball?" "How tall is your wife?" "Your children?" And then there are the same tired jokes: "How is the weather up there?" "Let me know when it starts raining." "How's the air up there?" And so on.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I am not self-conscious about my height, but I know that some tall men and women are. I would not consider asking an overweight person how much she weighs or a short person how short he is and whether he is a jockey.

My mother taught me to never ask a woman her age or weight because it could offend her. But it seems society thinks that it's OK to offend tall people.

If you don't know me, please don't ask about my height. —Had It Up to Here

Dear Had It: Yes, most adults wouldn't crack jokes at a short stranger's expense,

and far fewer people think tall jokes are offensive. I think the reason for that is similar to the reason people think it's OK to tease a thin friend about her weight but not a heavier one. People see tallness as a desirable trait. But I agree with you. It's rude — not to mention totally unoriginal.

Sometimes a wry response — for example, "Wow, I've never heard that one before" — is enough. It points out to the person that he or she was being unoriginal, and it gives you the satisfaction of having stood up for yourself.

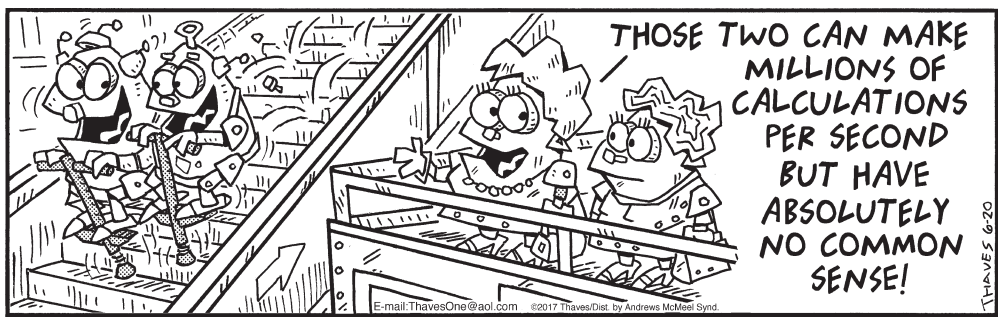
Finally, I have seen T-shirts out there that read: "Yes, I'm tall. No, I don't play basketball. The weather up here is perfect. I'm so glad we had this conversation." Perhaps wearing one would save you some trouble.

Dear Annie: You recently asked for tips on living life with a disability. This one

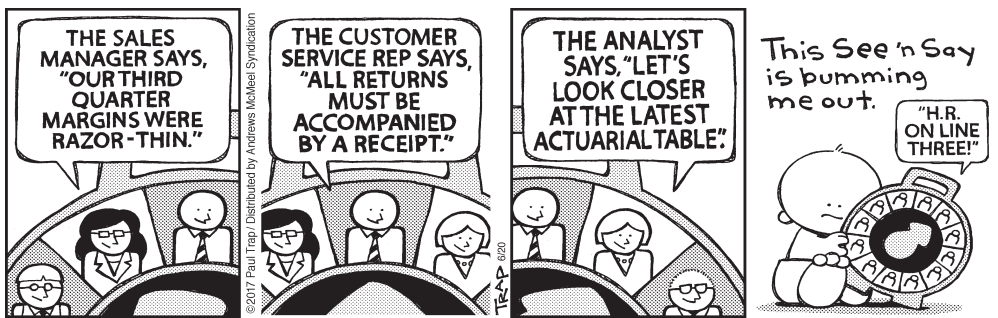
is well worth printing, as it changed my life hugely. I use a walker. One day a stranger at the senior center passed by, pulled an item out of his pocket and stuck it on the handle of my walker; no words were exchanged. It was a heavy-duty S-hook. I no longer have to wrestle with getting my car keys hooked onto the basket under the walker seat. I now have a strong addition for carrying in shopping bags. I can carry more items around the house. Finally, I got smart and added one to the handle on the other side for even more carrying ability. I strongly urge that everyone with a walker get to the hardware store and purchase two of these life-changing items, which cost less than \$1 each. Or buy some for those you know who use a walker. Great gift! Several times a day, I thank this man, who was legally blind and hearing-impaired himself, for reaching out. —Less Challenged

Dear Less Challenged: What a great tip. I love those handy S-hooks, and this is the handiest use of them I've heard yet. Thank you for sharing.

FRANK AND ERNEST



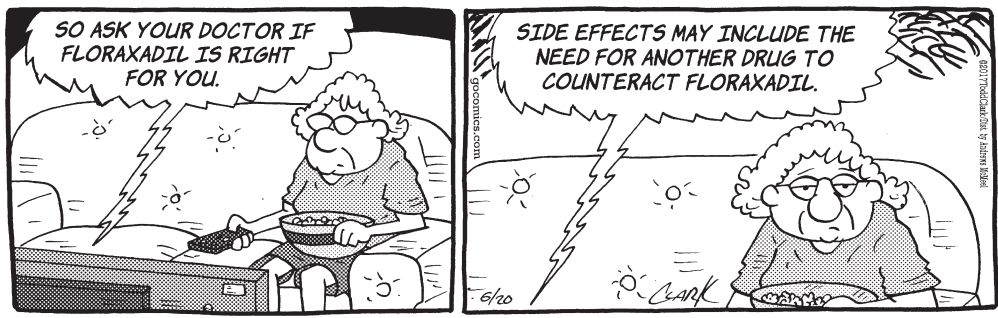
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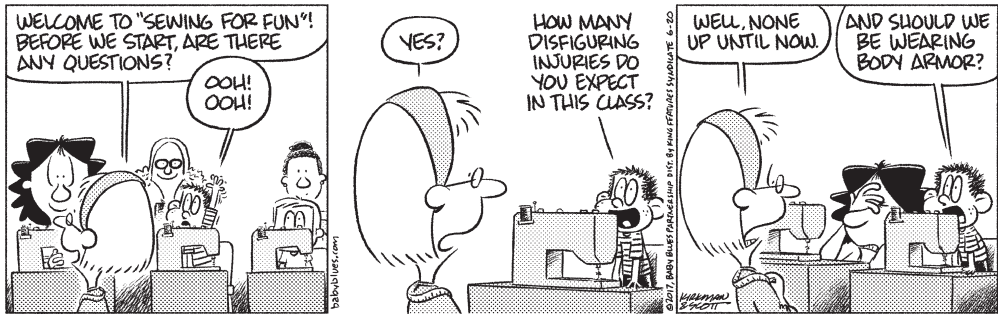
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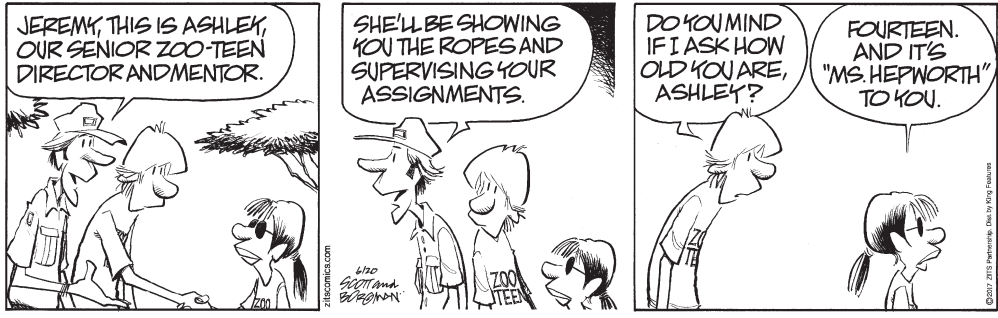
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some of the things you believed when you were 5 years old still hold true today. Not all. Don't worry; you're trending toward greater accuracy. This is a perfect time for a review. What do you know to be true now?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you adopted the goals of your closest and most similar friend, they wouldn't fit you in the least. Goals have to be specific to you to be meaningful. There's no hollower victory than the attainment of other people's goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The melding of your intellect with the physical world makes your reality. Today's work is about the idea behind it, and the idea is about the work. If you can't get behind the idea, don't get behind the work.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What you're conscious of knowing is just a sliver of what you really know. Your intelligence goes far beyond the factual. Your resourcefulness will unfold and flourish as you trust your feelings about things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Humor is, in the end, a sense of proportion. The one who can blow out the frame of the picture and see the world as much, much bigger and wider than his own problems has a much easier time seeing what's funny about it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't be too quick to call something a waste of time just because it doesn't fit into any classic category. For today, assume that if you (or your kin, colleagues or loved ones) are drawn to it, there's something worthy there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may now be able to look back and see where the progress stopped and precisely what stopped it. It was fear. If you can't see the specific nature of this fear, stop relying on your logic for the answer.

Ask your gut.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you're worried that you won't be able to moderate a certain behavior of yours, it may be easier for you to abstain entirely. This may require you to go out of your way to avoid a scene rife with triggers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What you want to do, you will do. If only part of you wants to do it — well, you've got your work cut out for you. You can be the very hardest person to negotiate with!

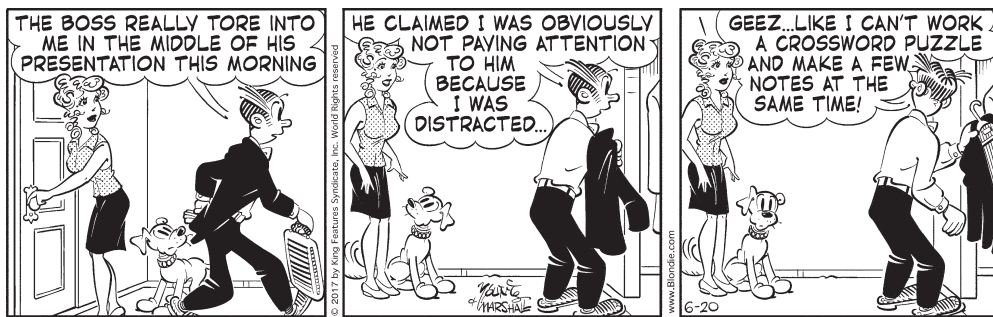
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The more you know, the less you sense. Set assumptions aside. Push your feelings into the situation. Try to contact this with each of your five senses and also with your heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To make more deliberate use of your time you'll have to guard it from robbers. It may feel mean to take yourself from those accustomed to demanding you, but your loved ones don't need you nearly as much as they want you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't be quick to label your work, and by no means should you take what other people say about it to heart. What looks like a mess can be the foundation of success. Keep going. The most important part of it now is consistency.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 21). To be automatically liked in a new circle is an exciting perk to this solar return. Some of it has to do with a fresh attitude and an uncanny ability to connect quickly with what matters to others. In a lot of ways you'll be lighter and brighter this year. There's a breakthrough with a project close to your heart in December. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 28, 17, 40 and 19.

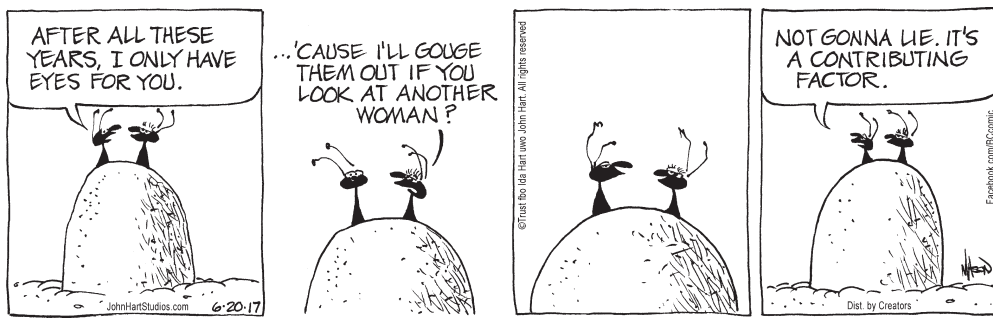
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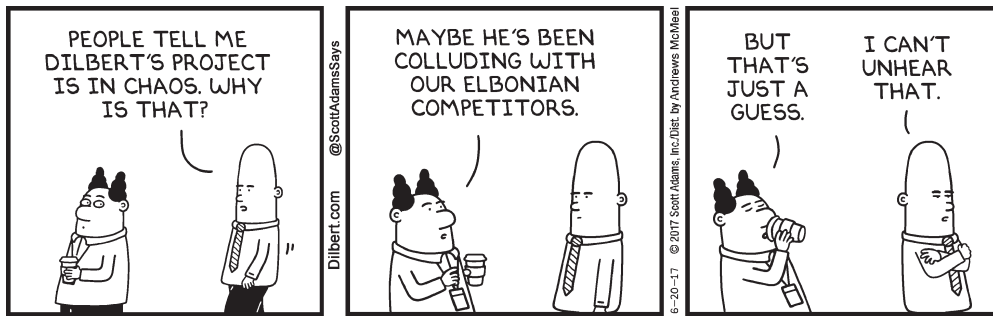
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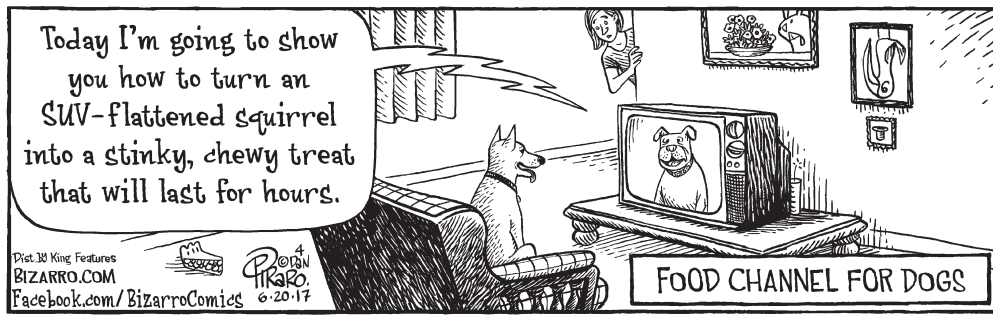
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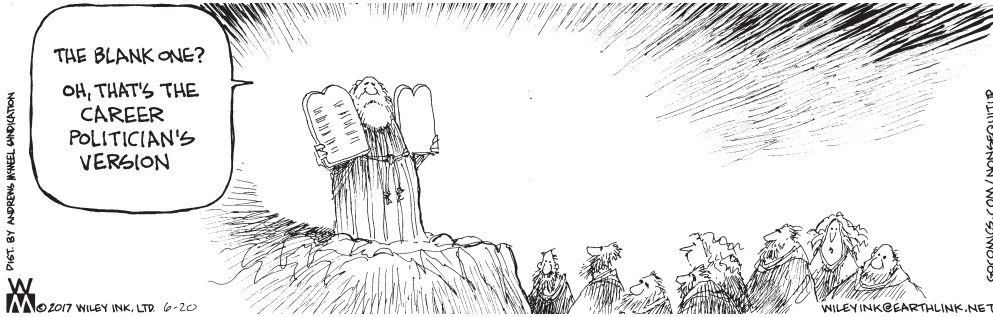
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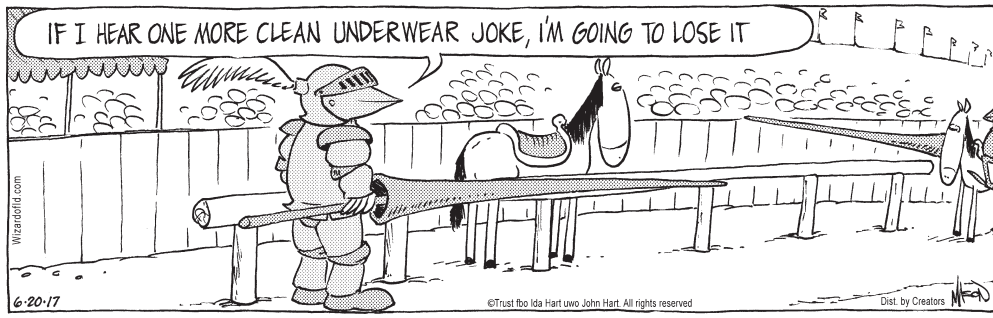
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ROSE IS ROSE

