

Absentee grandparents

Dear Annie: I am distraught by my mother-in-law and father-in-law. My husband and I have been happily married for more than 20 years, and we have three great boys. My in-laws make no effort to see our family. My kids' sporting events and accomplishments go unrecognized. What makes it harder to deal with is that they are involved with all their other grandchildren. My husband is an absolutely amazing father. Any mother would be proud of him. I try so hard to be a good wife and mother.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

How do I continue to have a relationship with my in-laws when they show no interest in having a relationship with me or my kids? I call my mother-in-law; she doesn't return the calls. We hand-deliver the boys' game schedules; she says she never gets them. We give gifts, and she doesn't even acknowledge them. And she will "forget" to invite us to family events.

I know that my husband is hurt and wonders why he isn't good enough for their attention. I'm afraid to talk to my mother-in-law because, knowing her personality,

it would make waves with the other siblings. The other daughters-in-law love her.

To my mother- and father-in-law, I'd like to say: Our boys see all their teammates' grandparents at their sporting events and know that you choose not to come to cheer them on. And when we go to their cousins' games and see you there, it hurts them.

To all you parents and grandparents out there: Don't play favorites. — *A Family Left Out*

Dear Left Out: It's not so much that you are being left out as they are missing out. Your sons and husband sound wonderful.

You might encourage your husband to stand up to his parents and express how hurt he and his family are by their indifference. Perhaps there is some long-held grudge they're holding that would come to light if he confronted them. In any case, don't worry too much about what they think. Any parents who intentionally play favorites with their children or grandchildren are not worth trying to curry favor with.

Dear Annie: I'm 81 years old

and still fairly active. I'm in fine enough health.

My problem is that I wake up at night and worry about what to do with all the stuff in my large house. My daughter used to help me, but she is busy with her own life. I need to talk with a senior counselor who can help me work out a plan and direct me to resources that can help me dispose of my items. Any advice you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

By the way, I think many seniors are struggling with different issues that aren't dire but cause sleepless nights. It would be a great service to encourage seniors to send questions that are about their lives, because there are more and more people who are moving into the senior years and don't know what to do. — *Tossing and Turning*

Dear Tossing and Turning: The National Association of Senior Move Managers (NASMM) helps seniors downsize their possessions, whether they're actually moving to a new location or they're staying at home. Contact the NASMM at 877-606-2766.

I'd like to echo your sentiment. I would love to hear from more seniors about the issues they're facing. Please write.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes you're charged with being a cog in the wheel, and other times your job is to hold the handlebars, steer and balance. Both jobs can have their advantages and disadvantages, so whichever it is, embrace it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Our minds are so subjective that the idea of reality can be a squirrely one. If you ignore it and it doesn't go away, it's probably reality. That's good news. Reality can be much more easily dealt with than non-reality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just as the Greek hero Odysseus found a way to resist the song of the sirens, you will find a way to resist the temptations on the sidelines today. Odysseus had help from his crew, and so will you if you call on yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Anyone can connect all of the wrong things and come to some pretty dismal conclusions. You'll connect the shining dots of rightness, and the conclusion that naturally follows will be bright and welcoming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To be selfless and remain calm is the aim of people everywhere (especially women). And then one day (today) you're simply not in the mood. Rage on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Part of you will engage; the other part watches. Which is real? You're the sky, not the weather. The clouds may decorate or menace, but don't be bothered; clouds pass. You're the constant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Any path you commit to will get you there. So the better question isn't, "Which one will get me there?" It's, "Which path might I commit to with

pleasure?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Solitude has a transcendent power, and so does unity. Too much of either state is diminishing, though. Your balance of social time and alone time may need some tweaking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't think your way to peace, because thinking doesn't bring peace. Peace exists between the thoughts, also around them. Music will be an easy and interesting way to organize mental clutter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you feel you have to inflate your confidence or brag or otherwise stuff your "resume," the situation is already doomed. Go where the love is instead! Who you are isn't what you have, own or do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People will say that "something has to be done," but does it? If nothing were done, what then? If you put it to the test and "something" still "has to be done," then you're the one to do it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's the unknowable, and then there's the not-worth-knowing, and both may seem to be unworthy of the chase. However, pursuing the first category will bring many revelations.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 5). Your loved ones come to know more of you, and indeed, you grow in new ways, so there is more to know. To be understood and celebrated for your uniqueness is both a comfort and a thrill. September and February are your luckiest financial months. New relationships and deals will be established in October. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 27, 43, 9, 22 and 15.

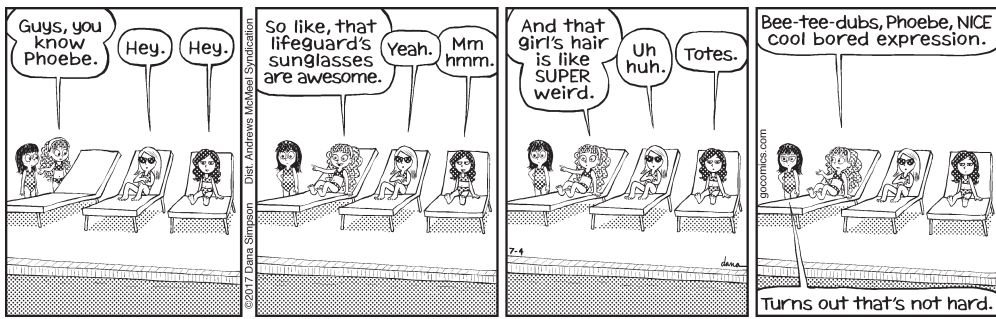
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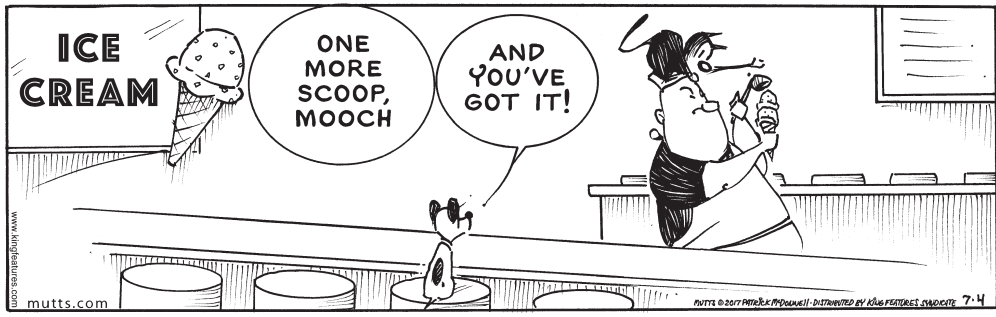
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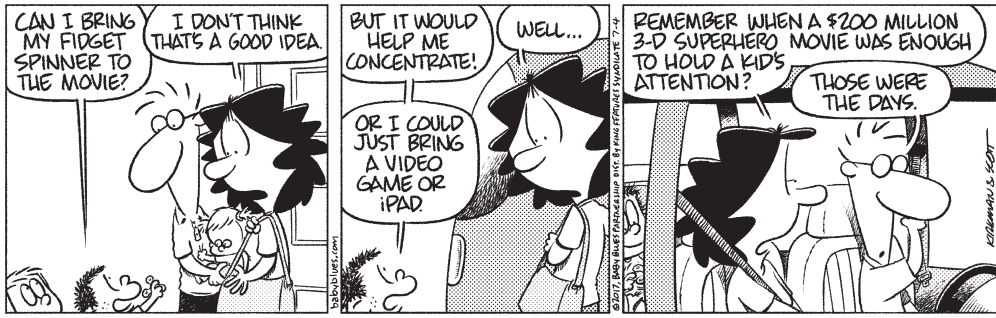
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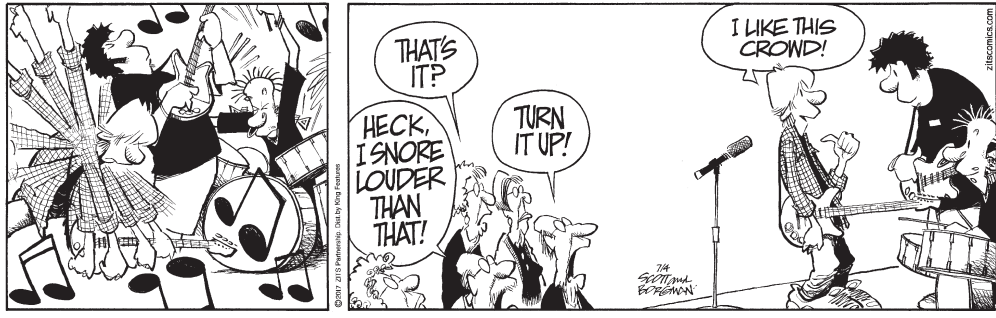
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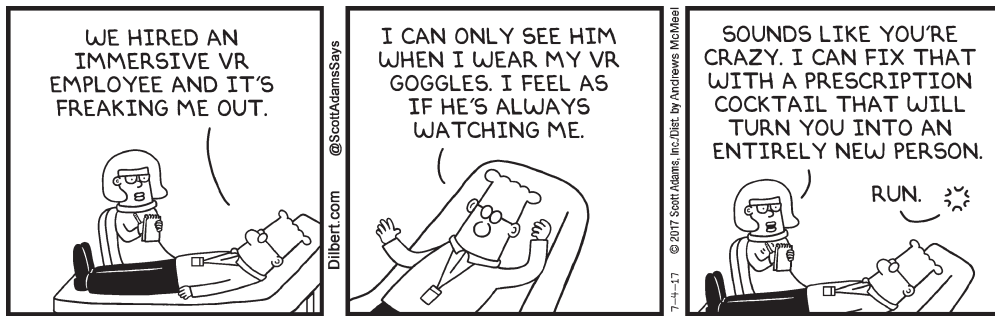
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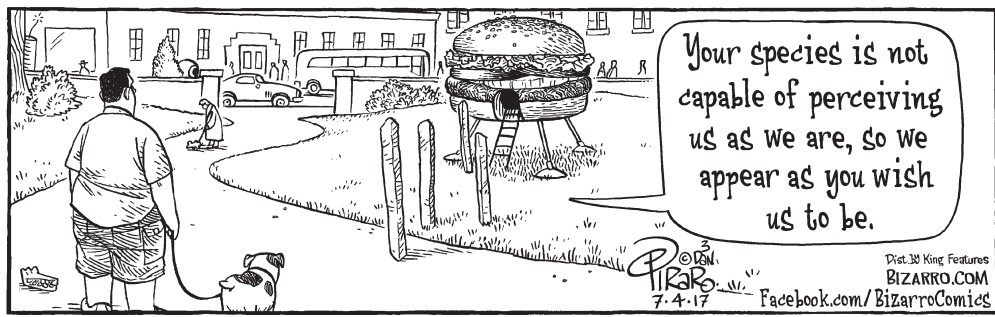
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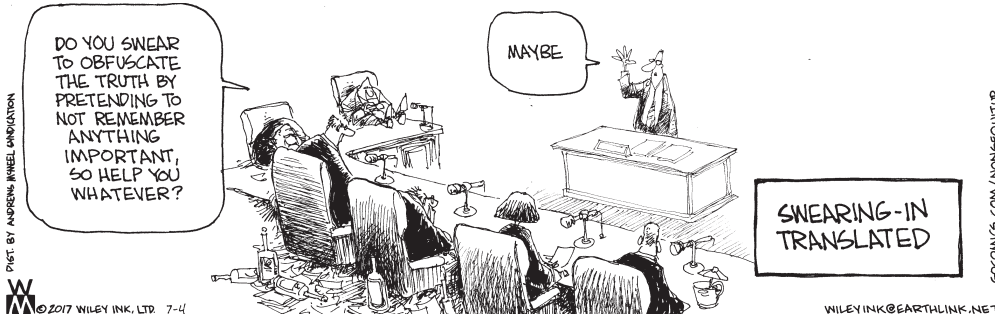
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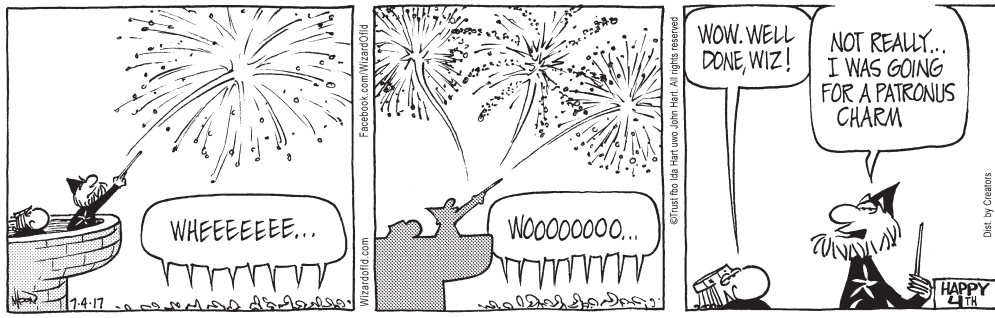
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