

Very affectionate brothers

Dear Annie: My daughter is single and raising two sons. Her husband died in an automobile accident four years ago.

I am worried about the relationship between her sons, "Steven," 16, and "Frederick," 10. I think they are too close and too affectionate with each other. Steven is very protective of Frederick, and Frederick worships his big brother. When I visit them or they come to my house, they cling to each other. They are constantly hugging and even kissing, which I honestly find a bit disgusting.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Sometimes they watch TV together cuddled up on the sofa. I have even seen Frederick sleeping with his head in Steven's lap.

My daughter mentioned that sometimes Frederick sleeps in his brother's bed when she works third shift. I once tried to tell them they are too affectionate and need to cut it out. They both just laughed and said they love each other.

I don't think there is anything sexual going on between them, but I think that once Frederick

reaches puberty, it could very well happen. I discussed it with my daughter, and she said she sees nothing wrong and I am just being old-fashioned. She said kids are a lot more open these days. She said that they turned to each other when their dad died and that Frederick sees his big brother as a father figure.

I can understand that, but am I wrong to be disgusted by their behavior? — *Concerned Grandfather.*

Dear Concerned Grandfather: Your daughter is fine with her sons' dynamics, and that's enough. You have to trust the job you did as a parent in teaching her good judgment — that if something inappropriate were going on between her sons, she would stop it. Steven must be a mature and caring person to take his little brother under his wing as he has. Of that you should be proud.

Dear Annie: On what planet does "Discouraged in KY" live to think that fat people do not get rude things said to them?

I've been overweight most of

my life. All through my childhood, comments were made — not by friends or strangers but by relatives and by my mother. None of those people hesitated to express comments about my weight. To them, I was my weight.

At this point in my 68-year-old life, I still have to watch what I eat, but I'm reasonably comfortable with my size. Nevertheless, a new acquaintance asked me not long ago whether I have a goiter. My neck hangs down and always has; everyone on my father's side of the family has this neck, and mine is worse because of a lifetime of weight gain and weight loss. After the goiter comment, I feel self-conscious. I think people see nothing but my neck when they look at me. And so it goes. Rude comments are still coming in. — *Enough Already in FL*

Dear Enough Already: Thanks for writing. I'm printing your letter, as it offers another example of something not to say to a friend (or to anyone, period). If you want to try worrying less about people looking at your neck, pick out something about yourself you love and believe that's what people see.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just because the solution is neat and plausible doesn't make it right. You'll investigate a little deeper, put theories to the test, ask opinions of the young, fresh faces and old-timers and, finally, get to the bottom of this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You once felt so anchored into a certain belief system that you now, for reasons that are still forming, are starting to doubt. Let this be a sign that your mind is open, as great minds tend to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your quickness to laugh might get you in trouble every once in a while, but usually it's an asset. You find that it's just easier to get things done when you have a sense of humor about them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Like a child who loads up a plate at the buffet table and then can't eat nearly the quantity, you've ambitions you may not be able to digest. So go in slowly. You can always go back for more later if you need to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Every single person on the earth has had past misfortunes, even a newborn baby (birth is no picnic). So you'll be slow to call anyone out, honk your horn in traffic or get overly frustrated with the general inconvenience of other people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are many things you can give a person that do not cost money and are in fact more valuable than money. Hope, kindness, attention and affection are free, and you'll wisely be generous with them now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The advances in thought come when you mix categories. This could mean genres, disciplines, cultures, genders, ages and more. Cross-pollination will bring the best solutions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're at a crucial juncture in a project or relationship. You can't stay where you stand now, but there's something blocking the path, too. Still, you can either find a way to move forward or find an excuse now to stop.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some of the work you've been doing is unnecessary. That's OK! You couldn't have known what was necessary before you started. As you drop the superfluous actions, you'll get faster and more elegant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Just because a person isn't unkind doesn't mean that person is good or right for you. Neglect is often worse than meanness. You deserve respect, attention and support. Are you getting enough of that?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though there are so many miracles around for you to appreciate, not everything can be profound, because that would mean that nothing is. A new sense of purpose will help you prioritize and focus accordingly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Measure the distance between you and the outcome you now desire to see if it's even possible to get there in one move, because today's problem isn't like a ladder; it's more like a chasm. It can't be bridged in two steps.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 18). You'll have less time to discuss the greats because you'll be too busy becoming one of them. This solar return shows you methodically doing what it takes to see your goal through. The abundant trust and love of others is your blessing, too — one that comes with many responsibilities. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 19, 40 and 22.

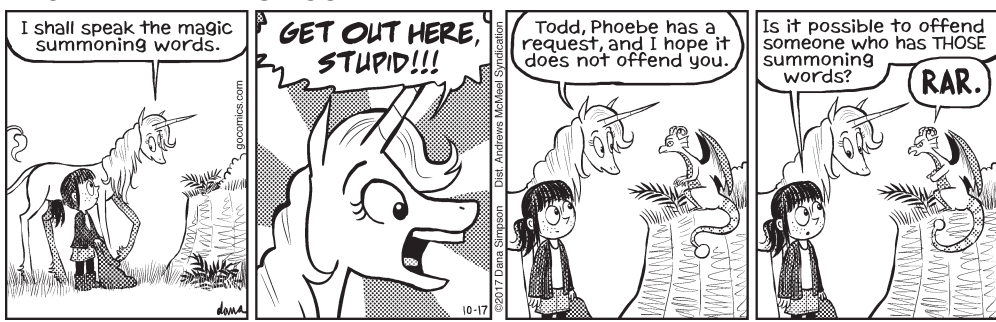
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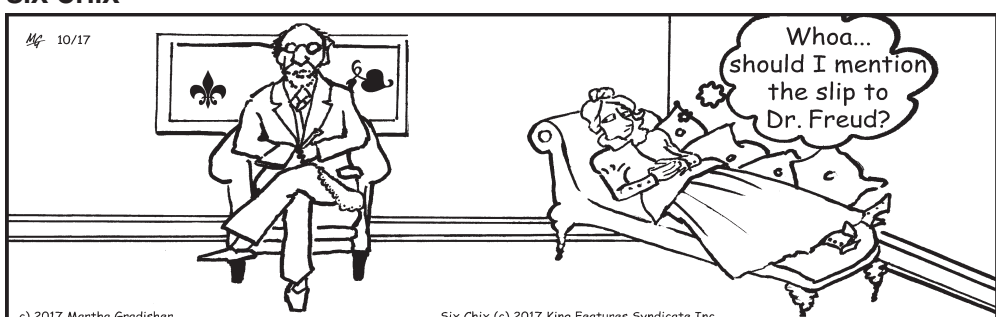
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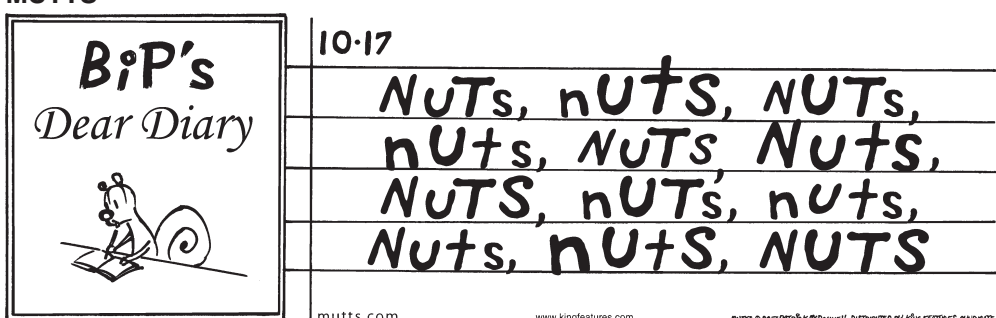
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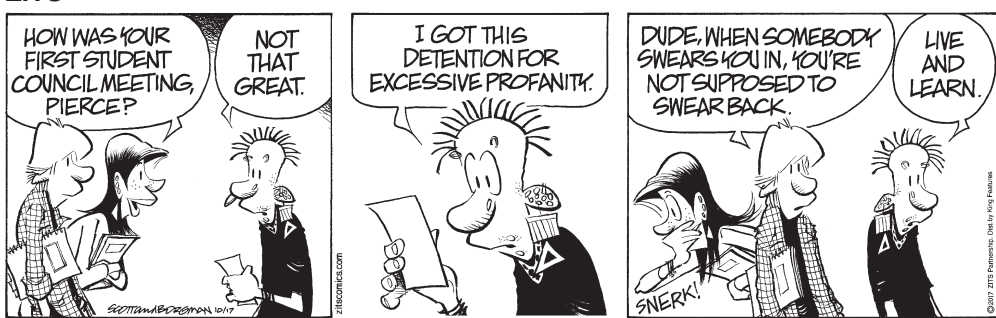
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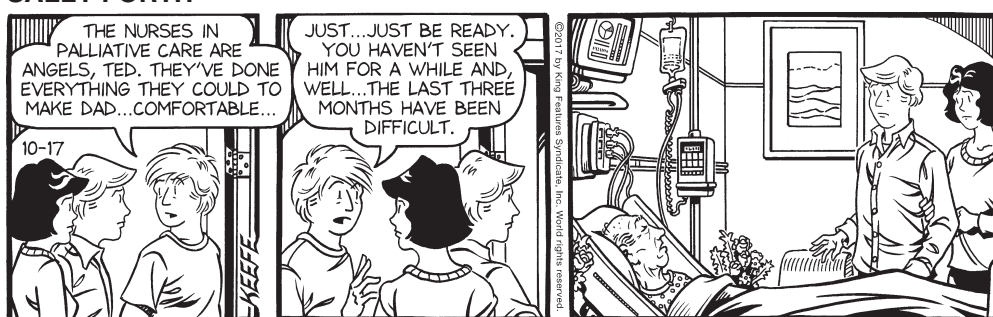
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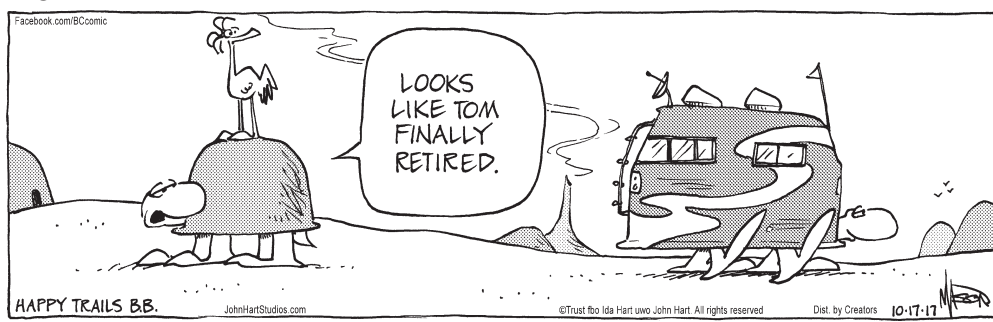
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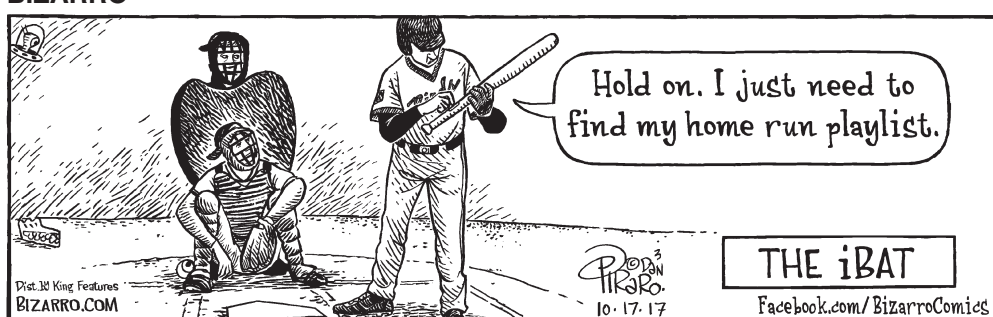
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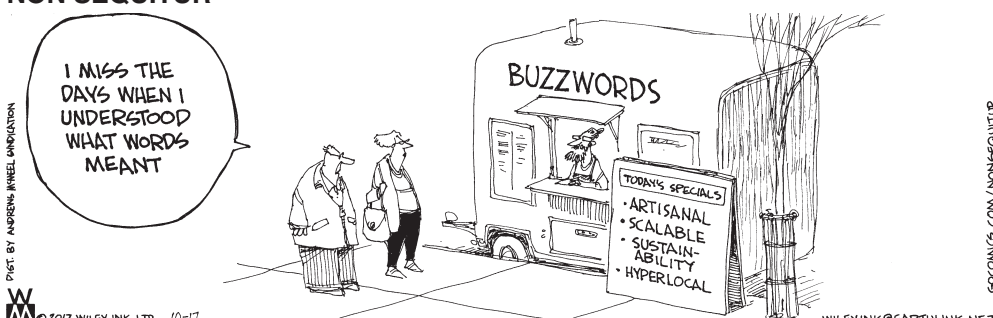
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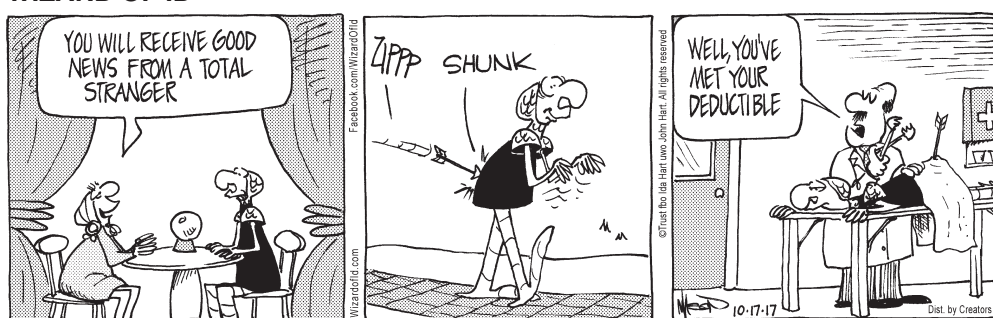
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