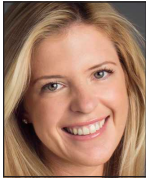


Daughter is being bullied

Dear Annie: My daughter, an eighth-grader, had always enjoyed going to school until recently. She has many friends and has always received straight A's. My wife and I have heard from some of her friends' parents that she is being bullied by two of the popular girls, both online and with gossip behind her back. We have no evidence of the online bullying, as it has been erased. My daughter confirms the bullying and says one of the girls even gets in her face at school, flips her off and calls her names.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

She doesn't want us to get involved, because she thinks that would make it even worse, so she goes about her business, smiles and attempts to be cordial with the girls. I see these two often at sporting events, and we have spoken to the mother of one of them before, so I am considering speaking to her about it despite my daughter's wishes. Their fathers are out of the picture; one is in jail. And neither mother seems to have much control or the ability to enforce discipline, so I don't know whether my discussion would make a difference.

Should I speak to the girls themselves (individually) in a non-confrontational way about why they are doing this? Do you have any suggestions on how to handle this situation? — *Desperate Dad*

Dear Desperate Dad: Your daughter needs help, but only in a way that comes from someone else. Have you talked to her teachers or school administrators? Most schools are determined to prevent bullying. The adults need to be sensitive of the need to keep you and your daughter out of it so it doesn't look as if your daughter came crying to Daddy to fight her battles. At the same time, encourage the school administrators to talk to your daughter's friends and their parents to find out the facts so they can confront the bullies to make sure they stop. If they don't, you might consider finding a new school. There are too many stories involving teenage bullying that have tragic endings. Your awareness and sensitivity are extraordinary and might well save your daughter from something serious.

Dear Annie: My wife and I were discussing a reply we

have noticed from young adults recently. When we are waited on in stores, restaurants and the like, these young people respond to our "thank you" with "no problem."

After many years of using and hearing "you're welcome" as the appropriate response, this answer — indicating that we are being done a favor — is a bit grating. Granted, this is not an earth-shaking event, but nonetheless we both find it less than appropriate.

Could you give us your thoughts on this linguistic change? — *Out of Touch*

Dear Out of Touch: This is a generational thing. Whereas baby boomers say "you're welcome," millennials say "no problem." They mean the same thing. As someone who grew up hearing "you're welcome," you find it grating when someone says "no problem" because you interpret it to mean that the person thinks he or she has done you a favor. But that is almost certainly not what the person means. Ask any young person. When young people say "no problem," they are really saying, "It's nothing. No need to thank me. I was happy to serve you." If you interpret it that way, you'll feel a lot better about it.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ailments of the soul require the healing balm of faith. As it is with all balms, the healing isn't really in the ointment. The balm creates a condition in which the body can put itself back together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Good news is fun to deliver. You'll be tempted to leave the bad news for someone else to tell, or maybe if you ignore it, it will somehow go away. Hey, it's actually worked before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being good can be hard. Draining. It is possible that you actually feel weary from constantly doing the right thing. Maybe there's such a thing as being too good. Anyway, you don't need to do wrong. Rest and do nothing instead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your encouragement will boost the morale of your group. Your role as cheerleader is crucial, because all those little extra things you do — the efforts you make that you don't have to make — create cohesion. You're the glue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a powerful, driving beat behind your love — a rhythm that moves everything forward. Just be careful not to overpower anyone with your energy, because that would be counterproductive to your desire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Expectations are so tricky. Often people really will rise to the guidelines that expectations impose. But right now, you'll be pleasantly surprised by what occurs when you loosen up in your expectations of a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The technology will fail, glitch and even seem to mock you today, but this is all a test of your patience,

and ultimately very easily solved. These issues make you extra appreciative of the devices that serve you daily.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your deft handling of a delicate matter will earn you the trust and respect of the kind of intelligent, sensitive people who recognize the value of social skills such as yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've come to the bridge. As you make your way across, appreciate all that went into building this shortcut that joins all the places you want to go. This appreciation may keep you from burning the bridge later.

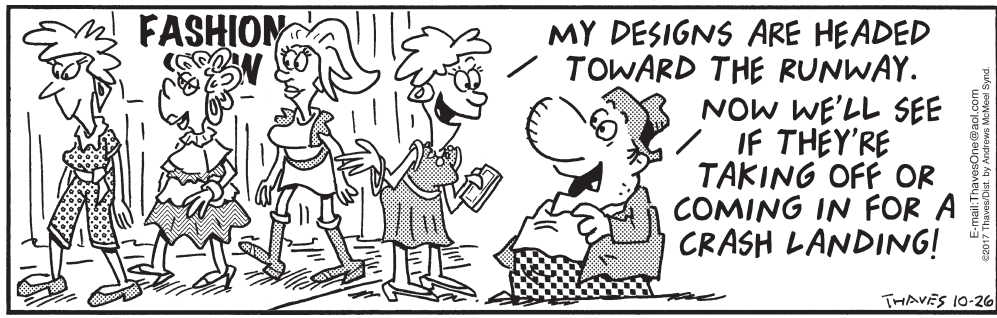
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The impossibilities may be, upon second thought, quite possible after all. In fact, there's a whole range of things that might occur were any one of the elements involved to be changed or subtracted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sit quietly, processing your thoughts until you feel that you can accept what's going on in your life. You might not get to that point, but you will make progress. Anyway, there is no greater success than coming to terms with now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People who are just trying to help often don't know how best to do it. Friends might overstep boundaries. Your tact will go a long way. If there's a choice between taking issue with something and letting it go, do the latter.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 27). You've the savvy to turn a small amount into a hefty sum. This isn't about gambling; it's about intelligent investing. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 4, 11, 13 and 9.

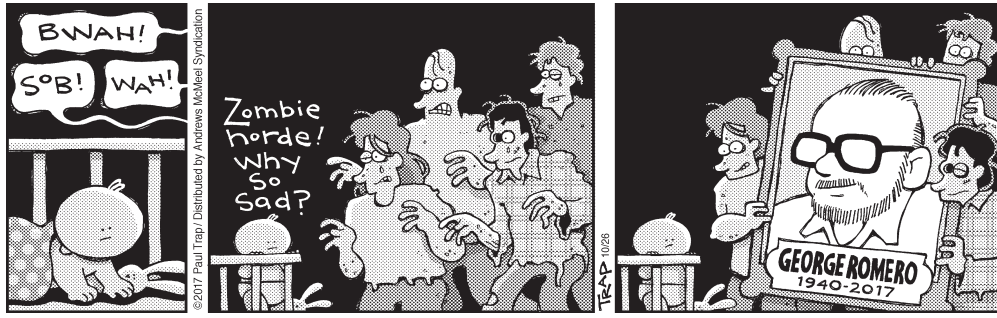
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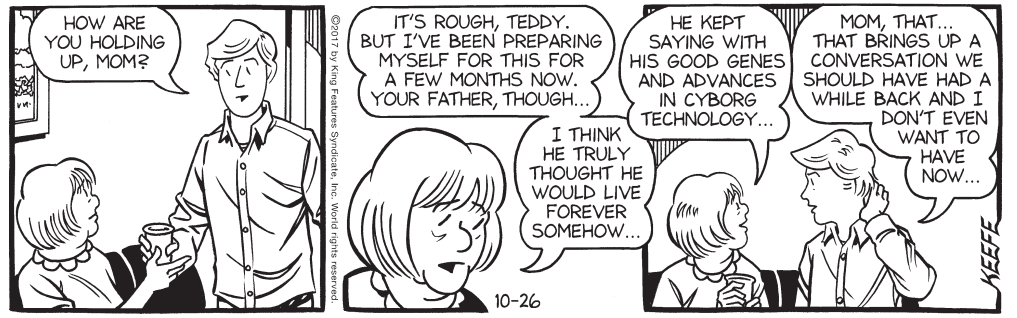
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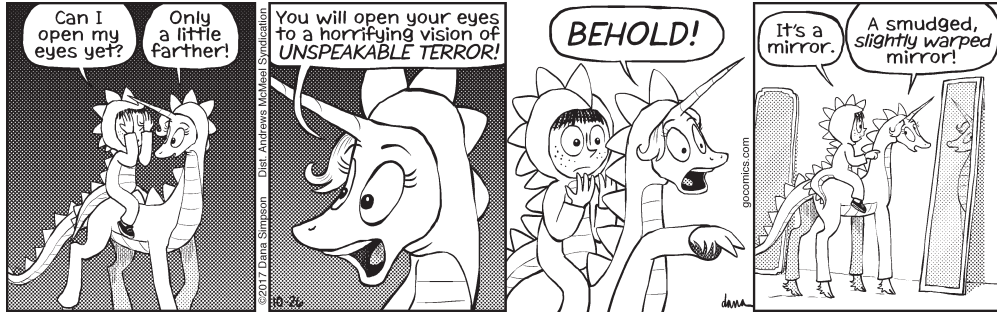
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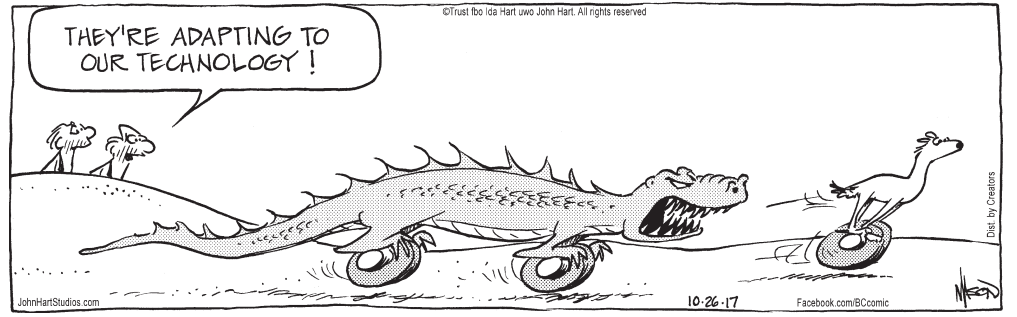
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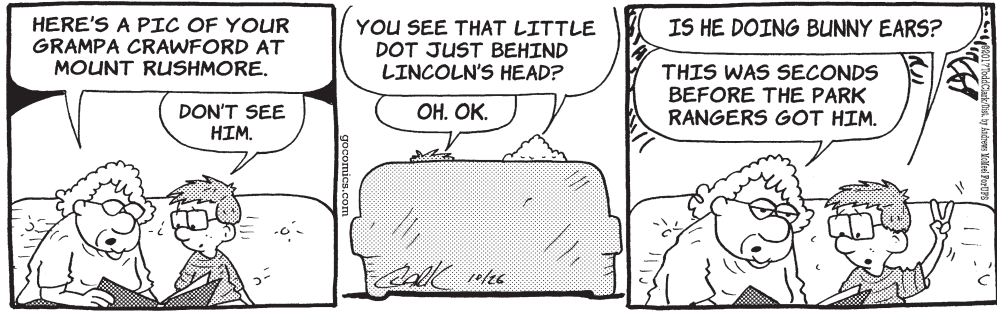
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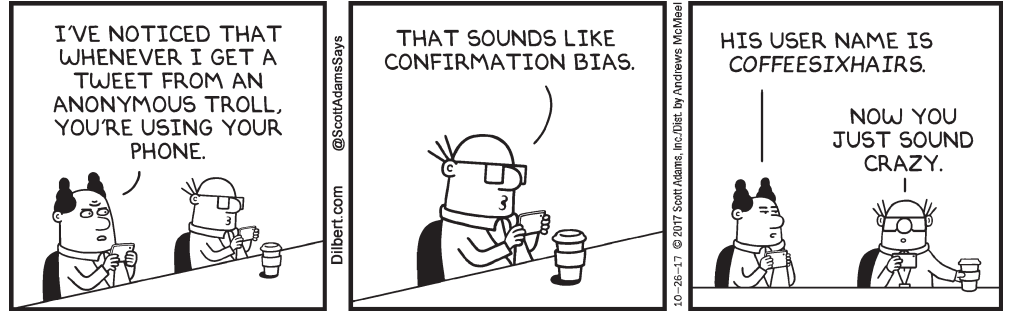
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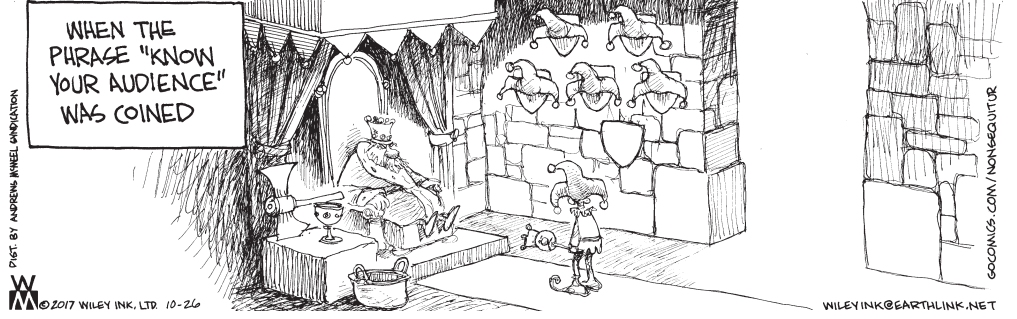
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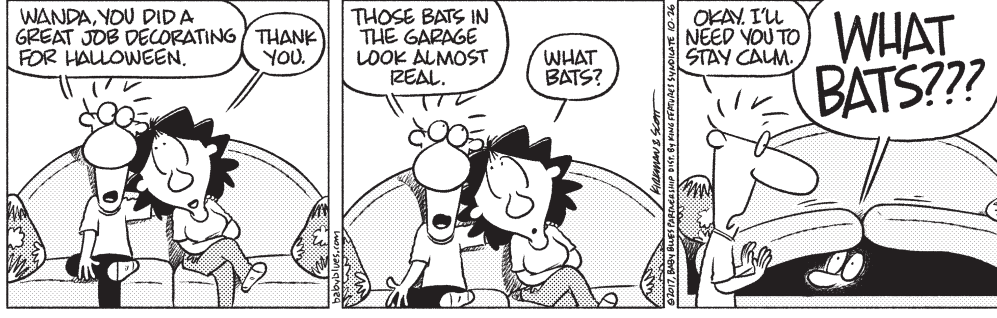
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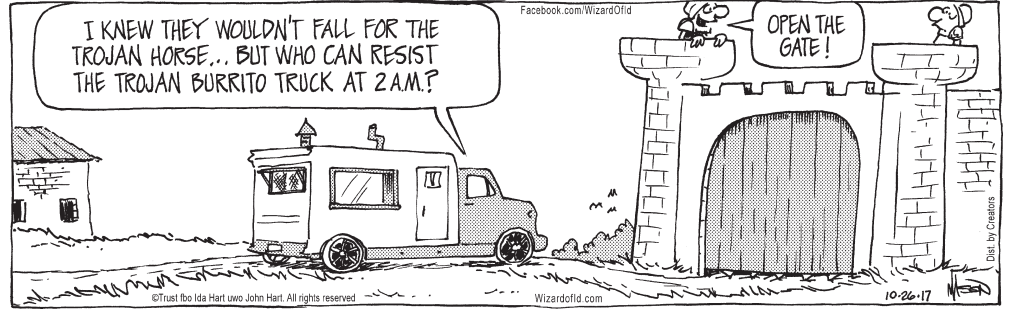
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