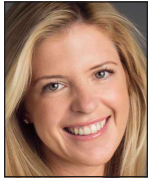


Bringing the germs along

Dear Annie: Two elderly friends I know who live far away made plans to spend about six days in my city. I invited them to stay at my house for three nights, and they made reservations to stay in a downtown hotel for the rest of their visit. I had not seen them for a number of years, and I thought it would be nice to spend time with them. I thought I would ease their travel burdens by having them stay with me, at least for part of their visit. Traveling when you are 80-plus can sometimes be hard on you.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

When I picked them up at the airport, both were sick with a cold. I became very concerned about my own health (and those around me), given that the previous winter, I had a severe cold that turned into pneumonia. It took more than three months for me to get better, even with antibiotics.

They sneezed, coughed and blew their noses the whole time they stayed with me. We were often in close contact, not only inside the house but also in the

car, given that I drove them around for sightseeing. To my surprise, they did not seem to be that worried about my getting sick. Unfortunately, I did end up catching their cold and was bed-ridden for four days after they left.

I don't want to be called a bad host who reneges on a promise. But should I have suggested to them upon their arrival that it would not be wise for them to stay with me, given their health situation? Staying at the same hotel at which they had reservations later in the week might have been an option. We still could have socialized, but it would have minimized my chances of getting sick. Would this suggestion have been too selfish? — *Still Feeling Sick*

Dear Still Feeling Sick: When you have a history of pneumonia or another serious respiratory illness, the sniffles are nothing to sniff at. Yes, it would have been perfectly OK for you to explain your concerns to your friends and ask whether they'd mind checking in to the

hotel a few days early.

Fingers crossed all your future houseguests are healthy, but if you find yourself in this situation again, speak up. Though your friends may have recovered from their colds, they'd feel pretty crummy if they knew they got you sick.

Dear Annie: I love reading your column, and now I have a question for you. My wife and I are in our mid-50s, and our daughter is in her mid-30s. During a recent trip to our house, she expressed how much she admires a piece of our furniture. Then she asked whether we have a will. Our daughter said she would love to have this particular piece of furniture. My wife and I are in pretty decent health, and we should be living for some years. Do you think this kind of question from our daughter is rude? I'm thinking it is. — *Alive and Well*

Dear Alive and Well: I think it was rude, but it sounds as if your daughter had no clue she was being offensive. Tell her how the remark hurt your feelings so it's not weighing you down. I hope she takes the chance to apologize.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You bring out the brilliance in others by asking the right question. It's an understated one that does the trick. This is great because your mind is hungry for intelligent conversation, and it will do something for your heart, as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to acquire as much knowledge as you can about your area of interest, even if that means learning the mean side of it. To learn the unsavory truth is a rite of passage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not a matter of simply thinking positively about things that are obviously not ideal. That's just called lying to yourself. Rather, you'll see a positive potential and explore it bit by bit until it opens up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As for the people who are close to you, you chose them for a reason and that reason will become apparent as the day unfolds. Don't keep your insights to yourself. This is something worth mentioning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You still remember the first impression a person made on you, for better or worse. Now something about that impression will seem prophetic — just more proof that you really have terrific intuition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Uncertainty is a stage of learning. Be patient with yourself. Accept your natural rhythms and process. It's not always going to be a string of "aha!" moments. You may fumble around lost for a while, and that's part of it, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the past you were driven to accomplish certain aims to the point of single-mindedness. Now your life is bigger, but you have the ability to focus with intensity if you still want the same goal. All that's left to do? Decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who can't relate to your plans and won't come onboard. Don't worry about convincing them: They're not your audience. Focus on the ones who get you and build from there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This day will bring awareness to the emotional payoff you've been seeking (probably unconsciously until now). How will you feel when you get what you want? And might there be other ways to arrive at that feeling?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You like contributing to the happiness, comfort and adventure of others. You like making people laugh. Your drive to entertain and delight will be much stronger than usual, and you'll effectively follow through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Ultimately, you'll feel lighter when you let go of some of your demands on life. The ones that fit in the past may not be the right size and shape for you now. Rethink your goals for the new cycle ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What used to be a tedious and time-consuming project can now be accomplished in a few minutes when you delegate the main action to a human or a technological process. Even if it costs a little more this way, it will be worth it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 9). Your good deeds will shine like a candle in a dark world, so go where you're supported for being your best self. There will be a big win in February. It should be noted that you will spend a significant amount of time in Cupid's clutches and have a poetic heart and brilliant fire to apply to your life and work as a result. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 28, 11 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



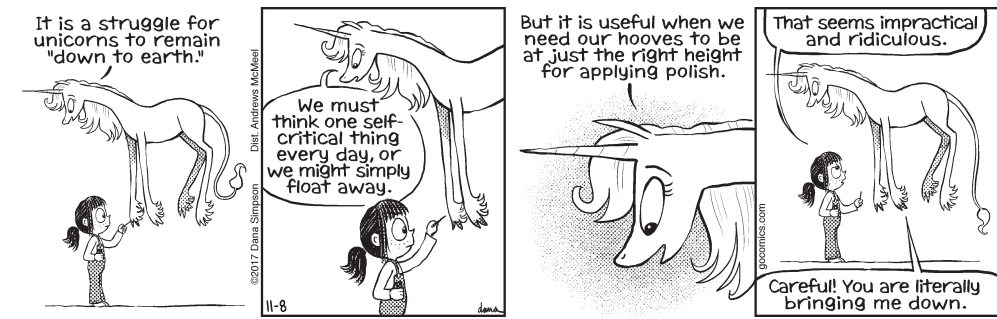
THATABABY



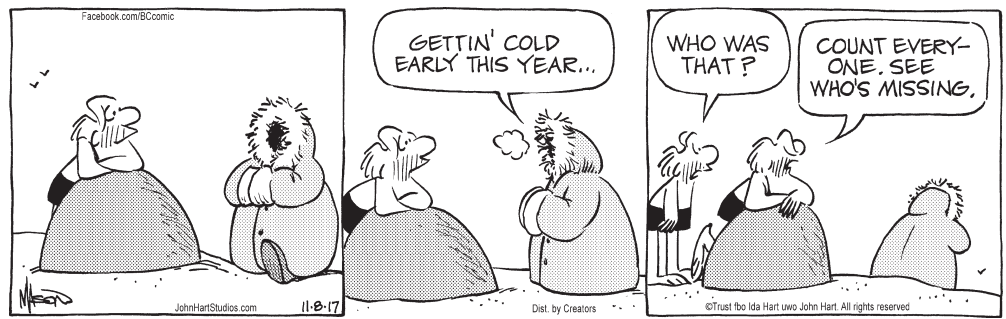
SALLY FORTH



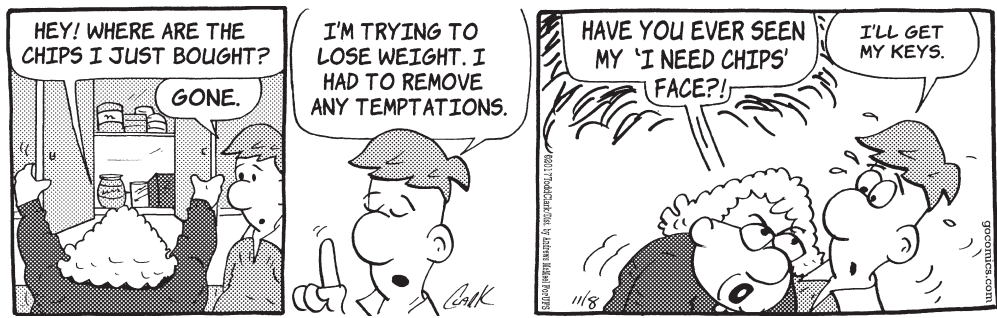
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



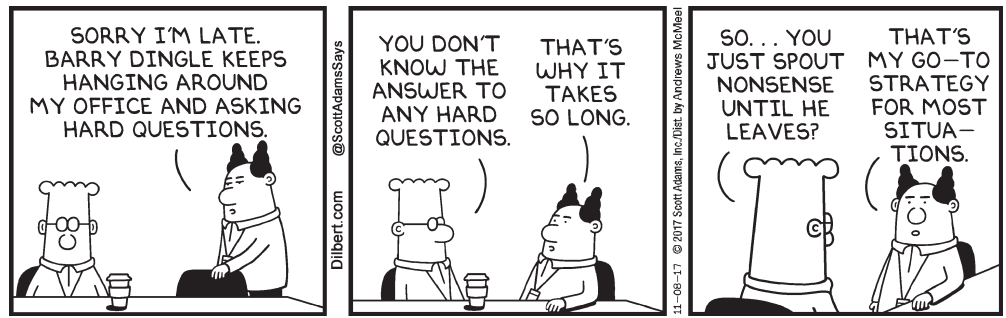
B.C.



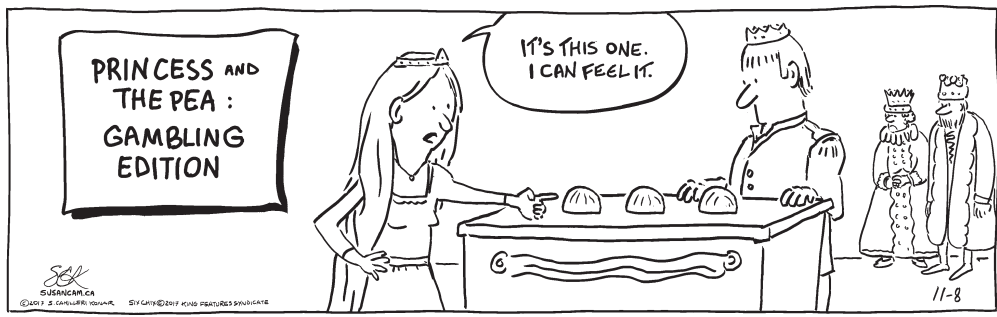
LOLA



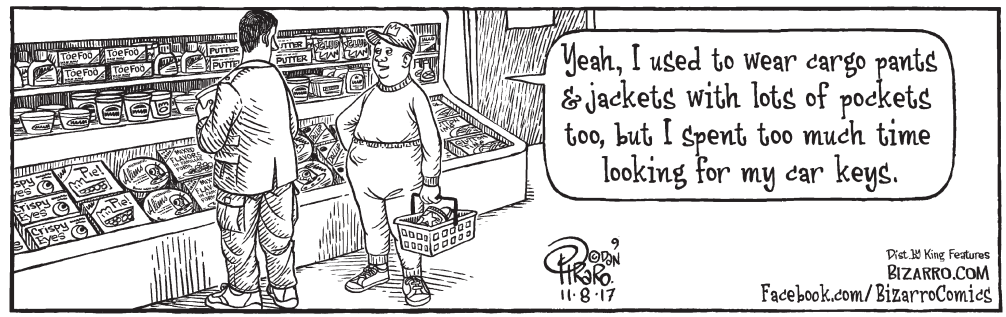
DILBERT



SIX CHIX



BIZARRO



MUTTS



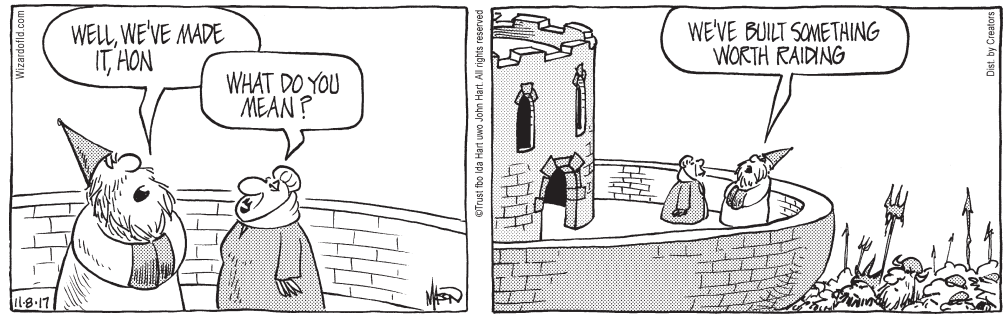
NON SCQUITUR



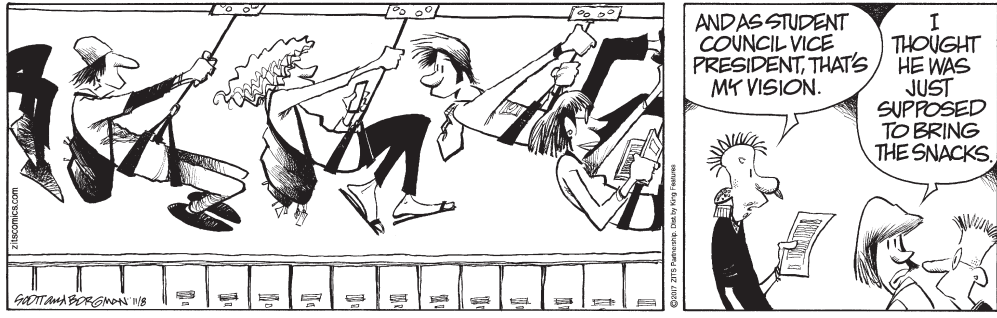
BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE

