

A grandma gets shut out

Dear Annie: I am a 68-year-old widow with two grown children, both married, both living nearby. I dearly love babies and baby-sit as much as possible. My son and wife had my first grandson over the summer. My son called me the morning after to invite me to see him, so I did for a few minutes. Then, a few weeks later and a few weeks after that, my son invited me to their home to see the baby again. So I went. When I didn't see the baby for several weeks, I texted my daughter-in-law to ask whether I could see the baby but got no response. I knew she would be going back to work soon, so I asked again. No response. The next thing I knew, my son told me to leave them alone -- that they wanted their privacy. I cried and cried but don't know what happened. He told me to not text or call.

This happened around Thanksgiving, when, for the time ever, we didn't spend the holiday together. Tonight I texted him and asked him to pick up three gifts my friends sent. He was so ticked off that I wasn't giv-

ing them the "space" they need that I think I will either mail him the gifts before the baby outgrows them or return them to my friends.

He is upset that I have some mild memory problems, mainly repeating myself and not realizing it. I have been to a doctor for this and am taking medication for it. My friends say the medication seems to be helping. I think this problem could also apply to my not realizing I had previously texted him the same thing.

What can I do about my son and wife? Everybody I know seems to really love me. I had many invitations to Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas get-togethers. I am so sad! I have wanted a grandchild for years. -- New Grandma

Dear New Grandma: I'd encourage you to get a second opinion on your memory problems. (And no, your friends' opinions don't count.) Investigate the issue from every angle, because it sounds pretty serious

from what you've described -- not remembering recent conversations you've had or text messages you've sent. Ask your son to accompany you to a doctor's visit so your physician can explain the situation to him. If your son understands that this is a medical condition and outside your control, he should be more sympathetic when you repeat yourself or are confused. It will be impossible to help take care of your grandkids if you're not first and foremost taking care of yourself.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Weird, Stupid or Selfish?" -- who keeps having to hide decorative candy from her husband because he eats it. I had the same problem with my husband. Our three fun-loving teenage daughters decided to put some doggy candy in a beautiful crystal dish. Needless to say, it was irresistible to their father. It tasted so bad he had to try two! That sure slowed down the emptying of the candy dishes. -- Carol

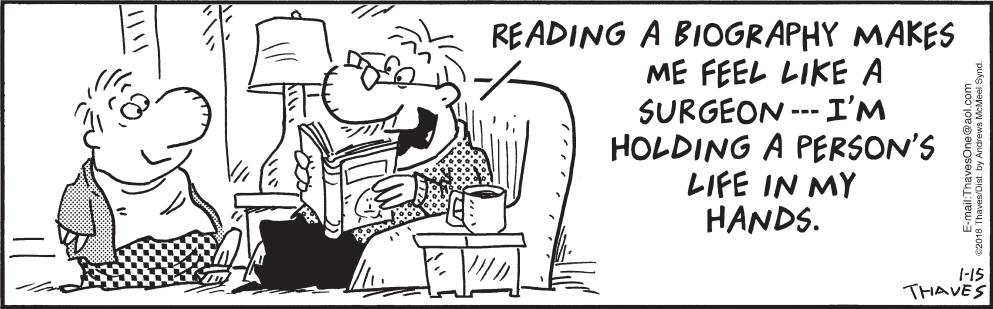
Dear Carol: Now why didn't I think of that? Please tell your daughters that they take first place at creative problem-solving this week.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

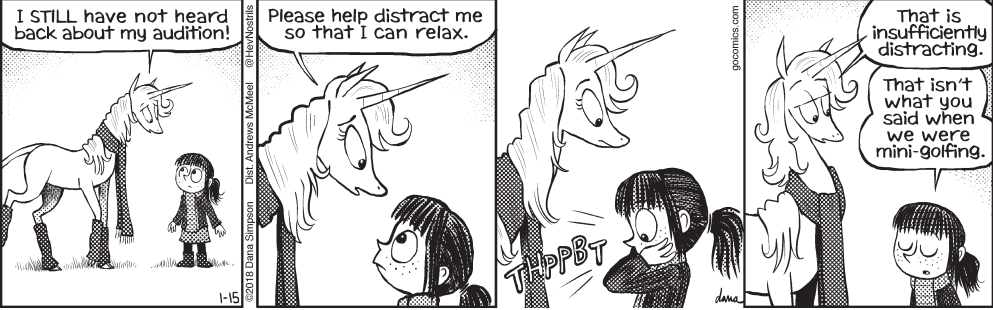
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



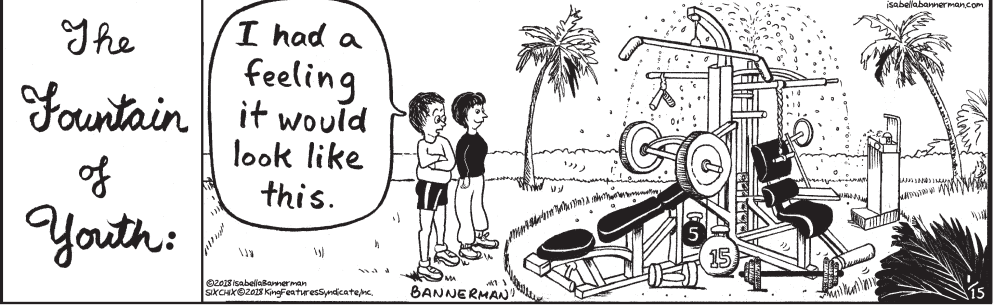
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



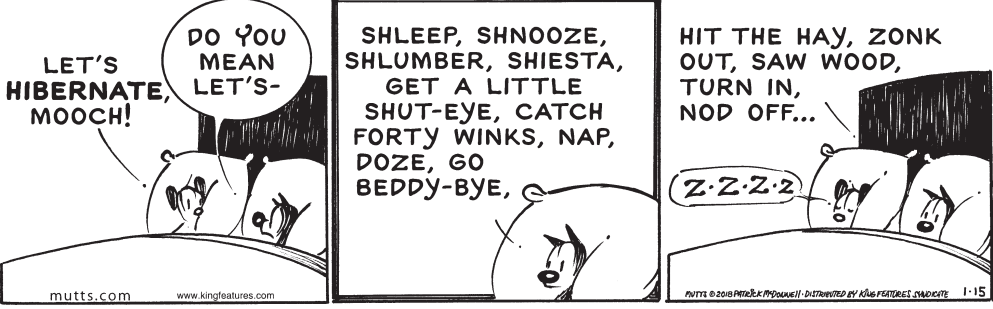
LOLA



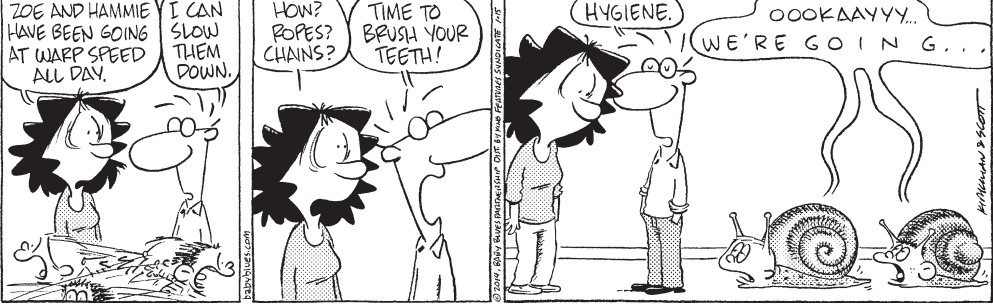
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As those skilled in the art of marketing know well, there are many ways to position a single product. What you present today will seem exciting, fresh and new, not because it is, but because you are the one presenting it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you can figure out how to settle in to this moment and be fine with all that's going on inside of it, you'll be instantly free to manage external circumstances in a way you couldn't when you were fighting with reality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As for plan A, that was so long ago, when you wanted to be a rock star/space traveler/teacher/fireman ... and maybe some of that worked out, but the alphabet is really long, so just relax and pick another letter.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Certain friends are more possessive than others. They see your attention as an all-or-nothing proposition. But it's not! You've a gracious way of spreading it around. If they give you half a chance, you'll prove that today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Great orators move people, change lives, rally nations to war and bring souls to God. Passion, vision and a strong voice are all the equipment needed -- the same equipment you have today. What do you want to do with it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You already know what could go wrong. It has before! But it won't again if you use what you've learned to anticipate those instances and devise a plan for handling them before they happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you're groggy in the morning or tired after a long day your will-power will be depleted. Make it easy for yourself to succeed by anticipating your needs in those crucial moments and setting yourself up for the

best outcome.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Complaining is fine for some situations, but you like to show up with solutions instead. If you don't have a solution you won't even bother rocking the boat, because there's so much else to focus on that's going right for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your word choices will matter. They could be the difference between closing the deal and not. You won't use euphemism or hyperbole: You'll use the specific right word to describe how you feel and what you'll do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This will be an upbeat and extremely productive day for you. Keep track of what's working and what you like, too, so you'll remember to do more of it even when you're in a different kind of mood.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you improve yourself through reading you'll acquire rather easily what others had to learn the hard way. Of course, you have to apply what you read or it won't stick. Do this as soon as possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's said that laughter is the best medicine, though medicine has gotten to be such a dicey proposition that laughter might not appreciate the comparison. Anyway, you're on a quest to get more natural joy flowing through your life.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 16). You'll build up stores of the good things: love, knowledge and wisdom, as well as practical supplies, savings and funds marked for fun. It's not always easy. You'll sweat and stress some as you get more organized and create structures that can keep this whole thing moving along in the right direction. Viva abundance! Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 39, 1 and 7.

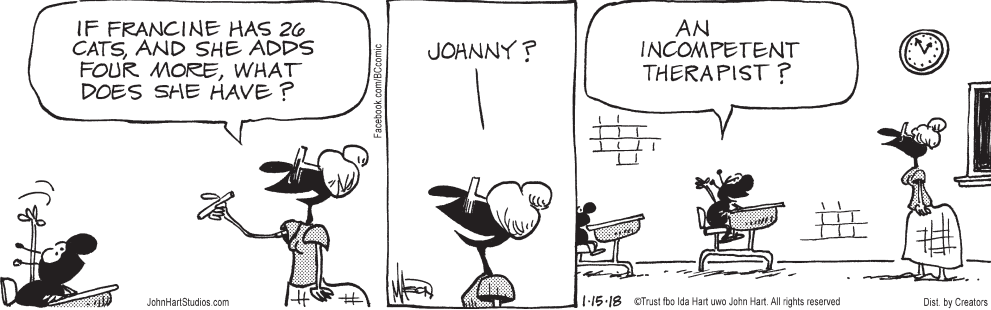
BLONDIE



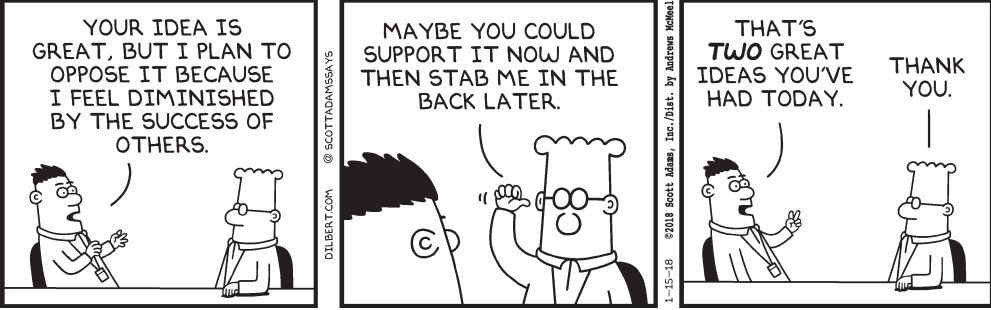
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



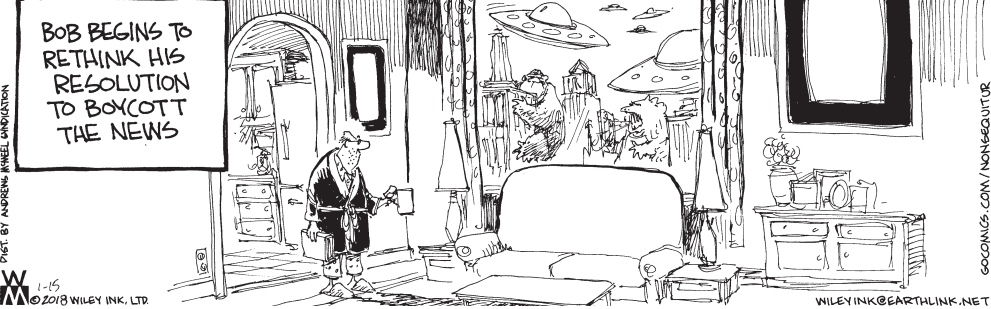
DILBERT



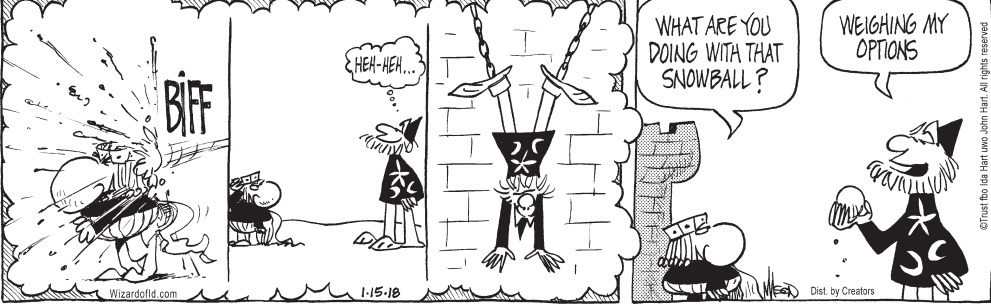
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

