

Not granny's handwriting

Dear Annie: Over the holidays, my wife's niece posted a picture of a recipe card on Facebook that was from her grandmother, my wife's mother. She said it was her favorite Christmas recipe from her grandmother and in her grandmother's handwriting. She wants to have it printed on a tea towel (in Grandma's handwriting), and several other relatives have requested one for themselves. Here's the deal: The recipe is correct, and it is Grandma's, but my wife wrote it on a recipe card several years ago and handed copies out to relatives. It's my wife's handwriting, and someone will recognize that. Too funny! What to do? — *Laughing All the Way*

Dear Laughing All the Way: I think it's a sweet idea to have these towels printed anyway. Penmanship is beside the point. It's the

spirit of the thing that counts, and who could better capture Grandma's spirit than her own daughter? That said, it's only fair that you allow your niece to be able to decide this for herself. Tell her the truth.

Dear Annie: The letter from "No More Tug of War" hit a nerve. I married a man whose mother considered me a threat and did everything to get me out of the picture, before and after the wedding. She, too, looked to her son to meet every emotional and intellectual need. She insulted and criticized me every chance she got. She made sure her son knew she thought he was making a mistake in marrying me. She told him at every opportunity that I was inferior as a wife and a person and made my life a living hell for decades.

For years and years, I did everything I could to be nice to her. I deeply loved my

husband and wanted very much to get along with his mom, but in the end, I gave up. I ultimately refused to be around her.

My advice to "No More Tug of War" is to run as far and as fast as she can from this dynamic before it goes any further. She'll never win. No matter what she does, his mother will never like her. Counseling probably wouldn't cause "No More Tug of War's" boyfriend to take a stand and tell his mother to back off. "Tug" may love her boyfriend, but she needs to be with someone who respects her and whose parents think she's a great person for their son. I wish someone had given me that advice all those years ago. — *Wiser and Bitter*

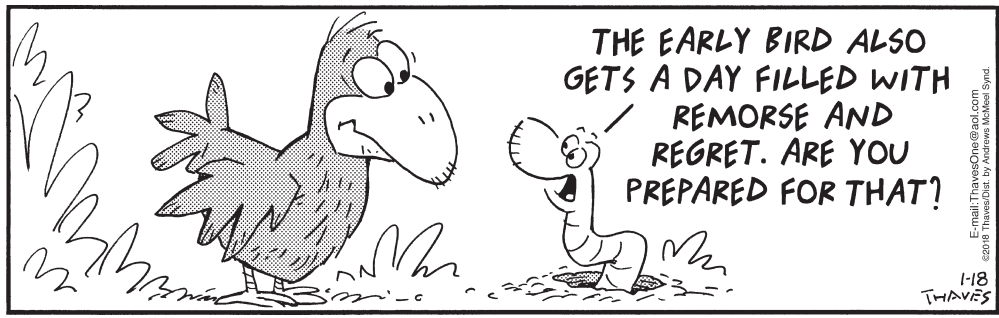
Dear Wiser and Bitter: I appreciate your insight. I'm printing your letter so "No More Tug of War" can hear it from someone who's been there. But I really hope you can find some peace for yourself. It's not wise to be bitter.

DEAR ANNIE

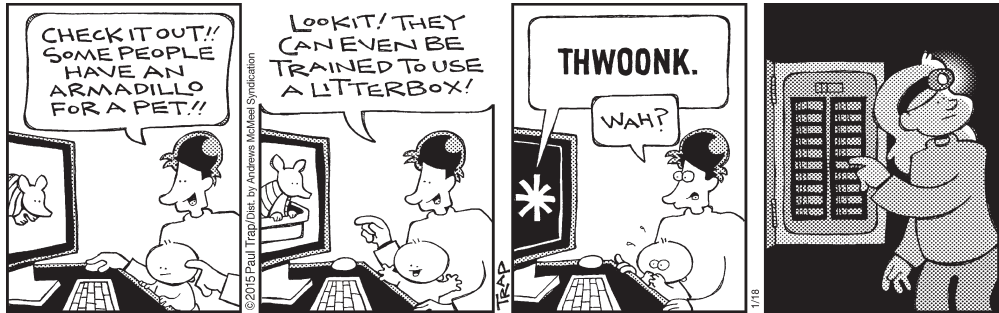


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



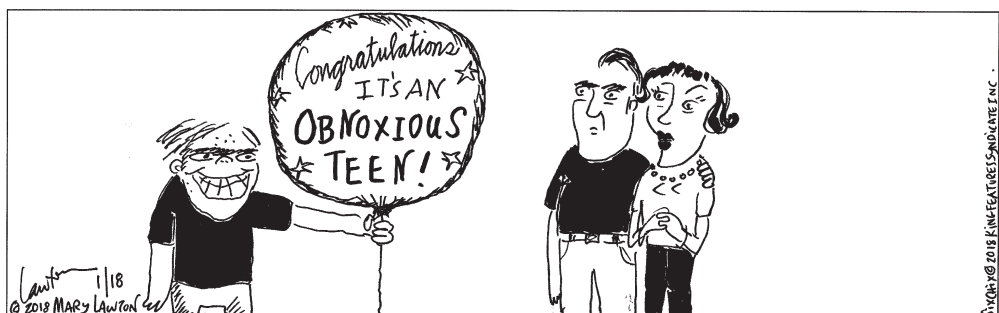
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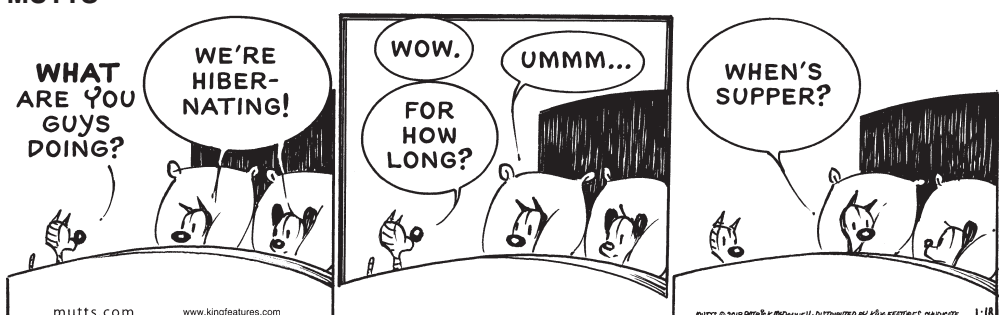
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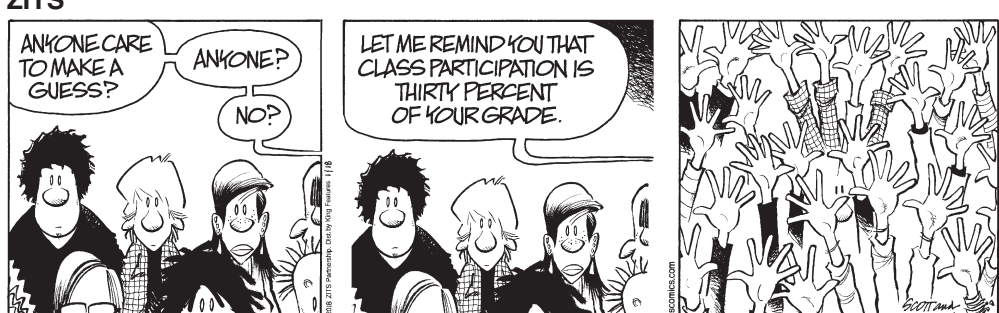
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Yours will be the last word — just how you like it. What you may not like is how long it takes for all of the other words to get spoken, banded about, hashed and reshaped. That's relationships!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Etiquette allows for you to make the rules when it's your party and follow their rules when it's their party. The trouble arises when no one can agree on whose party it is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you're doing may be a little similar to what another person is doing. People can compare forever, but the two of you are not the same person. You're unique and becoming more unique the longer you do you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's much easier to hear things than it is to say them. It's easier to read words than it is to write them. It's easier to observe than it is to do. How much easier? They won't really know until they say, write and do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even when you're being extremely clear with your communication you can't make another person understand. And if said "other person" happens to be the sort who doesn't listen well, you'd be advised to move along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Creativity isn't always about art. In fact, it most often comes in other styles, forms and fields. It's an approach and a mindset. It's a way of being open to the world around you. You'll have tons of creativity tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel a kinship with a person that goes beyond the amount of time you've spent together or what you really know about one another. It's partly chemistry and partly something spiritual. This kind of thing doesn't happen every day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). They'll ask for your opinion when they want something else entirely — for instance, your attention, your business, your love or your approval. You're wise to this, of course.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The old world had gatekeepers and quality-control managers. The new world has done away with them. As a result, you've become discerning and better at making decisions based on your personal values and taste.

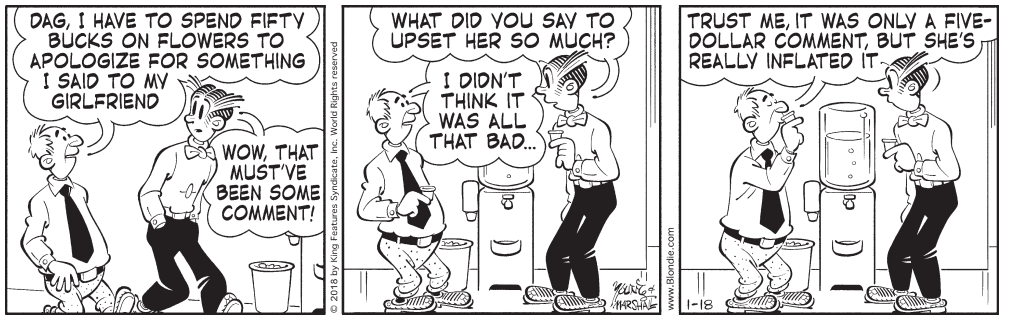
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be as unflappable as James Bond. You'll maintain your composure when the heat is on and when the deadliest thing around is boredom. In your constancy you'll achieve the higher levels of grace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It may seem as though you are just one person competing among millions of similar people. But no one is you. When you do what only you can do, you have no competition.

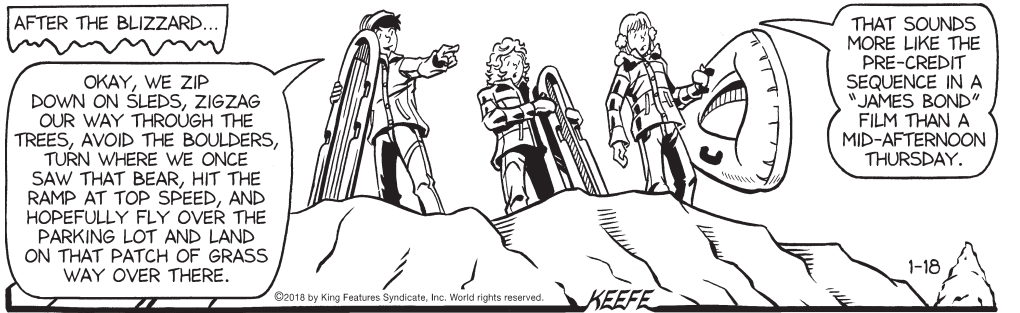
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Truth doesn't really change, but the rules will. The ones that held yesterday may fall apart today. Also, there are different guidelines for different people. Get comfortable with the relativity of limits.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 19). This solar return brings an increased spiritual awareness. You'll sense the vibrations of the places, objects and people. This sensitivity will lead you to places where there's the most potential for connection, exuberance and the deep satisfaction that comes with service to a higher cause. Your Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 11, 45 and 17.

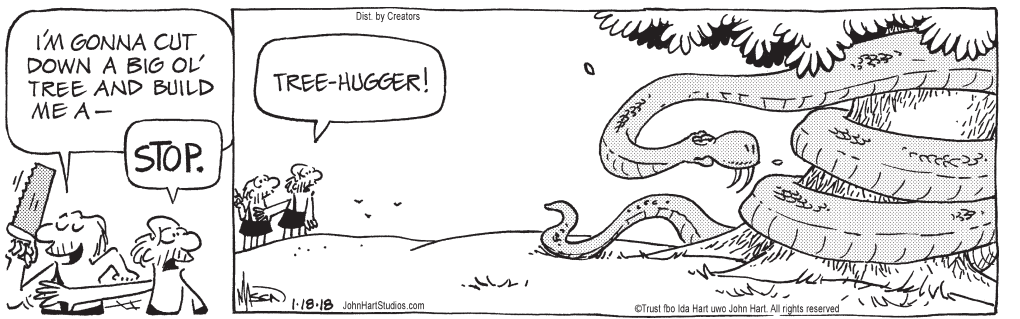
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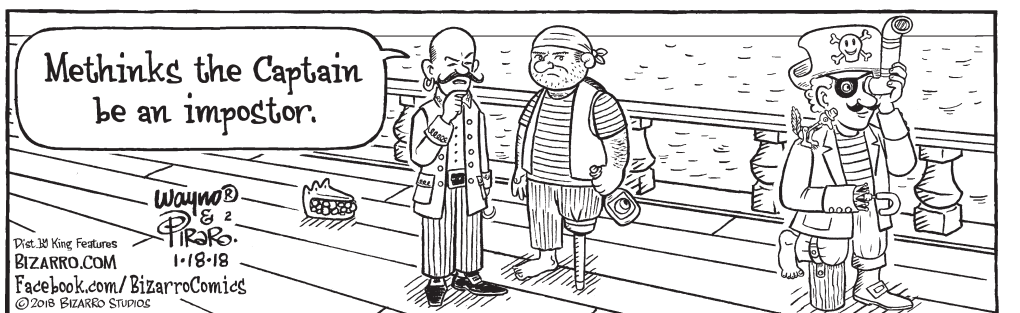
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