

My body’s my body

Dear Annie: My husband, “Robert,” and I moved back to our hometown several years ago to help with aging parents. I went back to work as a nurse, and he joined his father’s law firm. Upon moving back, we struck up a friendship with an old acquaintance of Robert’s. “Tim” and Robert went to high school together and a year of college. We have invited Tim and his partner over several times for dinner. We have often gone to their house. And we have spent time together at parties and social gatherings of mutual friends. Tim was recently diagnosed with an aggressive type of cancer and has begun the process of getting his affairs in order. Robert has been gracious in helping him with finances and household things that need to be taken care of. He’s even stayed the night when needed. Recently, Tim had a talk

with Robert and told him that he was very infatuated with him when they were younger — and one of his dying wishes is to see him naked. Robert came home all shaken up and upset and didn’t know what to say. Now, I have to tell you that Robert is very fit for a 47-year-old man. He works out, runs marathons and is very charming. But he doesn’t want to accommodate Tim’s dying wish. I said, “Go for it. The man is dying. Let him enjoy his ending days — even if it means you have to ‘strip’ for him.” I’m perfectly fine with it; Robert is the one with the issue — *Open in Oregon*. **Dear Open:** Well, Robert would be the one to take issue, wouldn’t he? After all, it is his body — not yours, not Tim’s. Only Robert gets to say what he’s comfortable with, and he’s spoken on this subject. Now let it be. Surely, Tim can think of another last wish that doesn’t involve

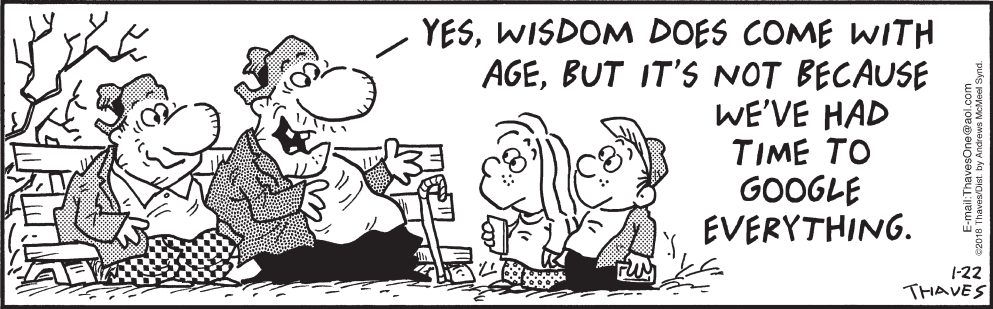
making a friend feel violated and uncomfortable. **Dear Annie:** I could be the person to whom “Loudness Sufferer” was referring in her letter. My voice gets very loud. After chastising and scolding me over the years, my friends now just use a hand gesture that tells me to lower my voice, and I do. However, it doesn’t sound any different to me. I have had my hearing tested, and it’s fine for my age. It’s not a habit I can break, as I don’t hear it. So my friends help me keep it in check, and that’s the best I can do. I’m glad to know I’m not the only one with this problem. Just thought I would let you know that “Loudness Sufferer’s” friend probably doesn’t hear it, either. — *Barbara Bly* **Dear Barbara:** I love the idea of the hand signal. It’s discreet but effective. Perhaps it’s the quick fix that will save “Loudness Sufferer’s” friendship. Thanks for the insightful tip.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

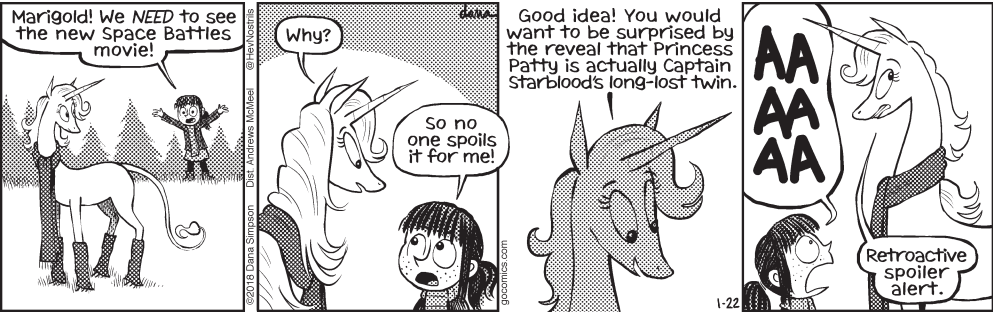
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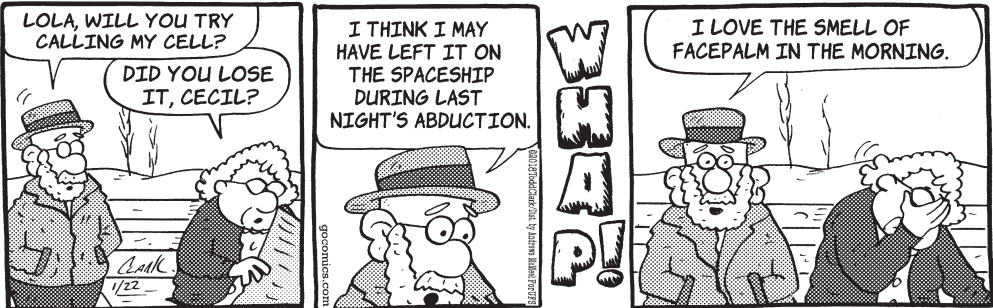
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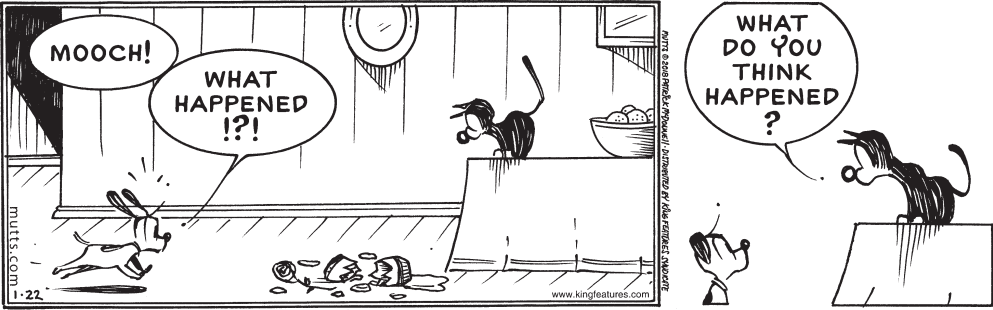
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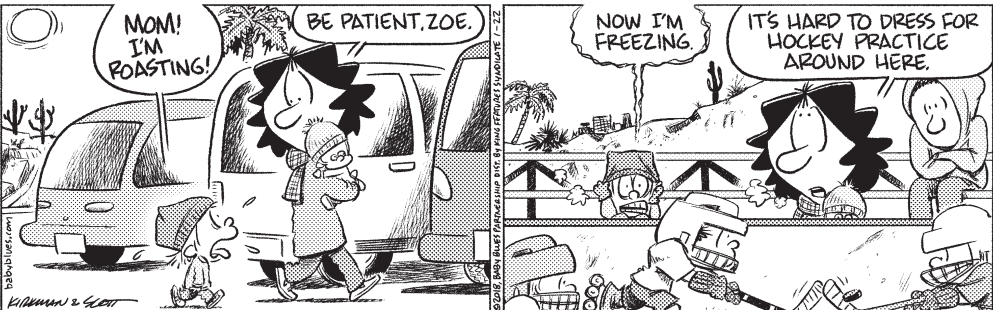
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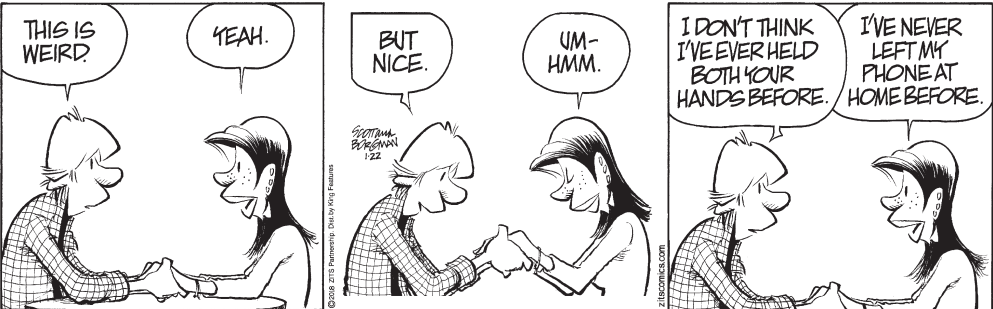
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today will present a “try before you buy” situation in the form of an item or an idea you can play around with awhile before it’s decision time. You might be surprised about what makes the cut.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Steer clear of the “amateur therapy zone,” in which under-qualified people are overtly attempting to fix emotional matters. Leave it to the professionals. You can learn a lot more in the “zone of casual relating and observing.”

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is easier to be kind and loving when you feel safe. That’s why erecting an imaginary bubble of psychic protection around yourself will help your interactions. You’ll be open and empathetic, yet you’ll deflect negativity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You won’t shy away from confrontation; rather, you’ll strive to face it the most effective way you can find. You won’t mind playing “bad cop” to someone’s “good cop” if it keeps the peace in the end.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It’s a little weird when spending your money becomes a group activity. However, weird can be good! And anyway, today this committee approach will be way more fun than spending your money alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Funny thoughts can be wise, and serious thoughts can be foolish. A great thing about today is that it won’t be necessary to categorize your thoughts in any terms other than “helpful” or “not helpful.”

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are stepping into the gravitational pull of a different sphere of influence. It could be a new crush that will get you orbiting, or it could be an idea, project or attractive interest that draws you ever nearer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There will be a strong inclination to rate yourself. If you must, then grade solely on what you’ve learned. Note that it would be ridiculous to grade yourself on money and resources you don’t have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you don’t really have bad habits after all. Maybe you just have a few different versions of yourself vying for ultimate power over you, each trying to do what will serve its unique purpose.

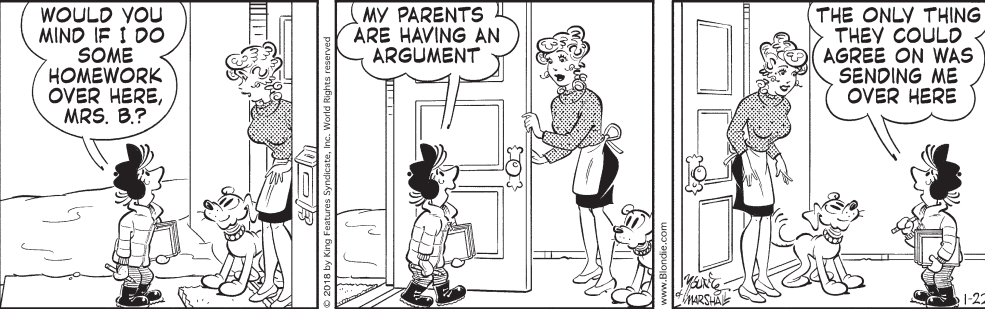
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are always creating yourself. Sometimes this occurs in obvious, socially supported ways. But most efforts you make are quiet and internal — decisions to be braver or more compassionate and patient.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel limited in a situation, but it’s unclear whether these limits are real. The only way to know is to test them. If your small infraction causes an incommensurate reaction, it’s an indication that the boundary is false.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The kind of change you want doesn’t just drop down from the sky or naturally occur if you wait long enough. It has to be made. That’s the main reason you’ll be so busy today.

TOMORROW’S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 23). You’ll see loved ones more often this year, and your days will be improved by friendship. February shows a financial breakthrough. March brings romance and creativity in abundance. A craving for freedom will lead you to new places and experiences. The skill you pick up in June will continue to enrich you for years to come. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 5, 30 and 43.

BLONDIE



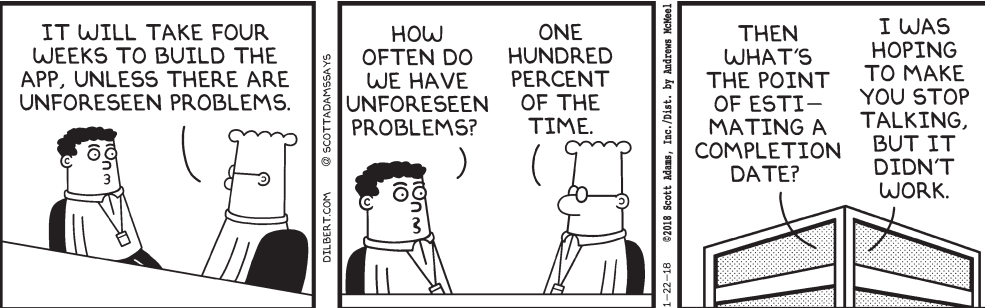
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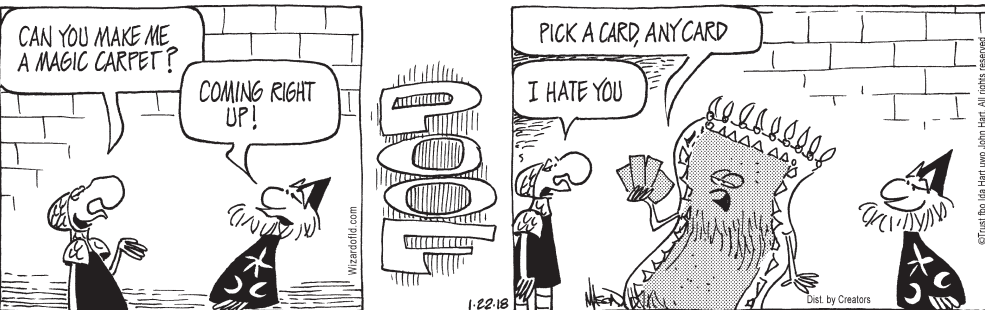
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ROSE IS ROSE

