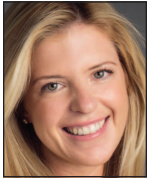


# Drama over solutions

**Dear Annie:** My middle child graduated from college last year and has been driving me crazy ever since. The transition into the adult world can be a difficult, confusing time for most college grads; thinking back, I obsessed over picking the "right" job, the "right" career, etc. So, that I can empathize with. But every time she presents a problem and I present a solution, she then presents another problem. It reminds me of Whac-A-Mole. Honestly, I think she prefers the complaining and drama to the promise of positive change.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

This cycle is truly exhausting for me — and everyone else in the family. Half the time, our conversations become tense and end up being completely unproductive. Our most recent one resulted in my telling her to not come to me for help until she's ready to listen and act on one of the possible solutions. It's difficult for me to see her getting in her own way, but if she's not going to be an adult about it, then I guess she's going to have to learn the hard way by feeling frustrated and stuck until

she makes a change. Right? Or is there a more constructive solution? — *Mom Running in Circles*

**Dear Mom Running in Circles:** Your daughter needs to decide for herself that she's tired of being a part of the Whac-A-Mole-like game, and she won't reach that point as long as someone's playing with her. So setting down the rubber mallet and stepping away was the most constructive thing you could have done. If she seems seriously stuck in a rut, it might also be constructive to encourage her to seek counseling.

**Dear Annie:** Your tipping column really hit home. I work part time for a ski area, where I teach skiing to all ages and groups of people. We are out there in all kinds of weather and are expected to always put on a smiling face. For the most part, we start our lessons and finish them in the time restraints. During that time, we do our best to improve the skiing or boarding skills of our students. Many times when we arrive back at

the starting area, we have to wait for 10 minutes for the parents to show up. This then causes the next lesson to be delayed, canceled or given to another instructor. We work for minimum (or slightly above minimum) wage in most cases — and only if we have a lesson.

The percentage of tips given to ski or snowboard instructors is very low, and I would guess that only about 25 percent of the population remembers to tip. I don't know of another coaching industry that pays such a low rate, and the customers using our services feel they don't have to tip. Granted, they do pay big bucks for tickets and lessons, but they think nothing of spending the same amount in a restaurant or bar and then tipping the waitress or bartender.

Thanks for letting me vent. And if this helps or encourages one person to say thanks for a job well done, then I have done my job twice. — *Ski Bum*

**Dear Ski Bum:** A useful instruction to know before hitting the slopes. I'm sure many people aren't even aware that they're supposed to tip for ski lessons. Thanks for writing.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You simply can't learn everything you need to know from a single point of reference, so you'll move around and investigate the story from many different angles.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The phrase of the day is, "That's not how I remember it!" Even while uttering this, the memories will rearrange themselves, having gained greater context and meaning in light of current events.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll be presented with ideas that are such a bad fit for you it's almost comical — but don't laugh. Listen. The perspective you'll gain will be invaluable.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** In seeking partnership, pay keen attention to how you feel around other people. This is far more important than what others can do for you on paper. The best partner will make you feel lively and motivated.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You can avoid future awkwardness by playing against the tendency to make endings so definitive. Keep it open. Try, "see you around," "until next time," or "enjoy!" instead of "goodbye."

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Life is your art form. The artist's journey includes playing around with new and different materials to keep things fresh. You'll find something that is "so you," but only if you step out of your current comfort zone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Opportunity isn't something to wait for — it's something to make. The ingredients are simple: communication in numbers. Write the letter and make the pitch, and then get it to as many people as possible.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** A crowd can't love you like an individual can, and an individual can't love you like a crowd can. You need both kinds of love in your life. They fulfill different needs in your psyche, so don't settle for just one kind.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You don't have to be prepared for everything, only the next thing. Overpreparing is like overpacking — heavy, hard to move and harder to organize. Love where you're at. Keep it lean and mean.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're not lacking in faith, but you should be a little careful about where you put it today. Don't put your faith in one plan, institution or person unless that person is you or someone you love dearly.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** What conspires between you and the competition will not dissuade you, but will instead strengthen your convictions and your fearlessness. You may change your approach, but you'll continue the journey.

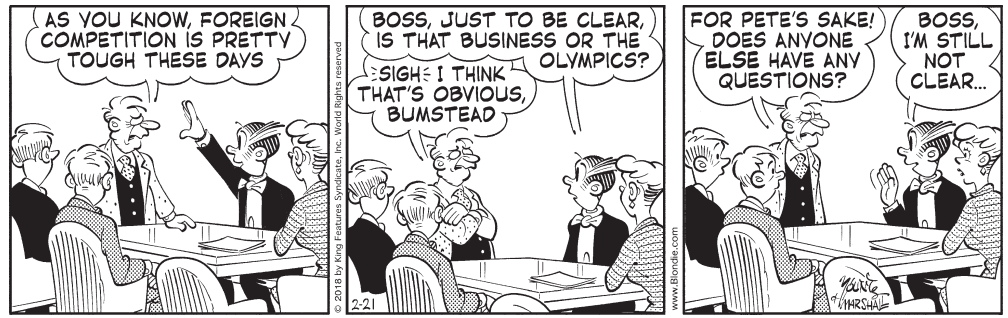
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Embrace your constraints; they make you more creative. Also, you may suspect that you don't have all the information — good! There's a Forrest Gump kind of luck born of blissful, optimistic ignorance.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 22).** Most positive-minded people can find the opportunity in a bad situation. But you will do something much more rare this year: You'll turn an already good situation into an optimal showcase for your unique work. You will touch and inspire people. Your strength springs from family; your best ideas spring from what and whom you love. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 9, 38, 2 and 17.

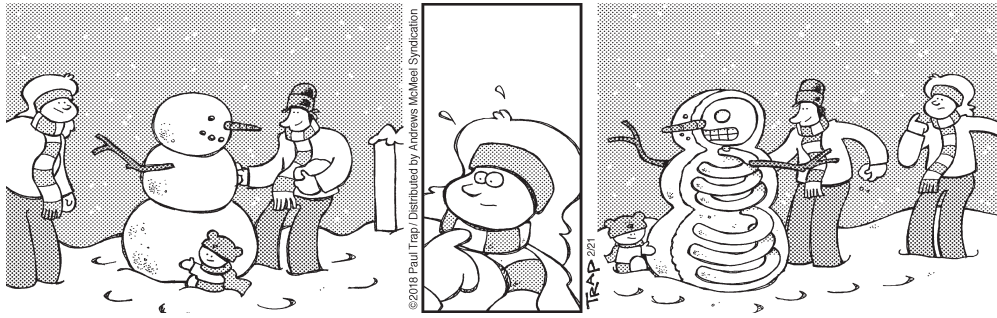
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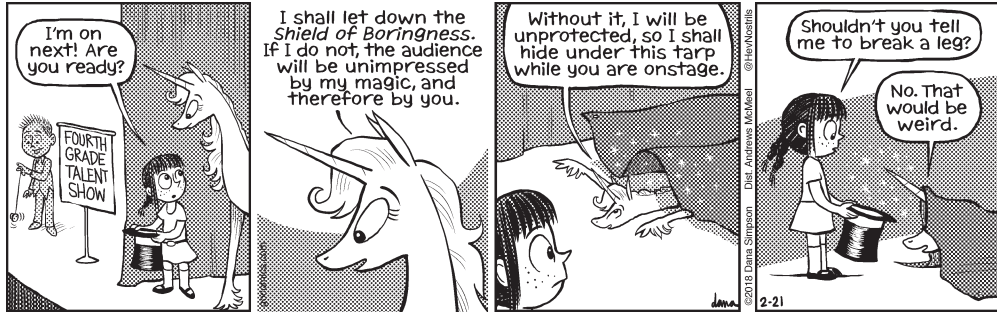
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## SALLY FORTH



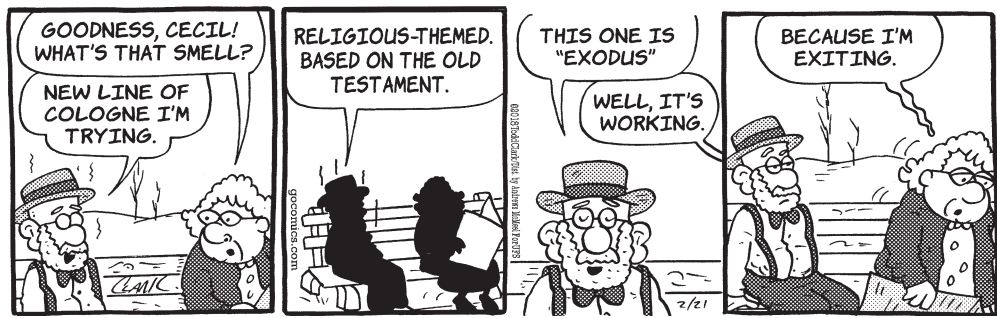
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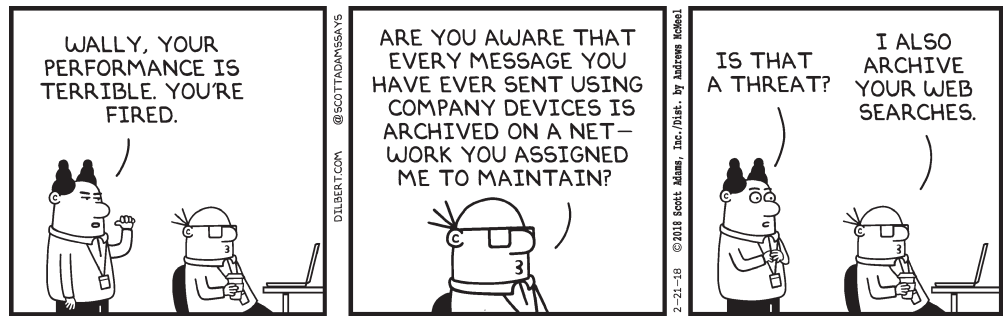
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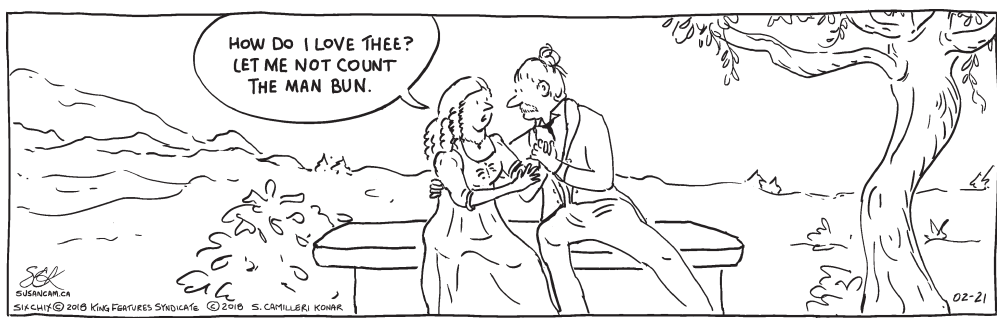
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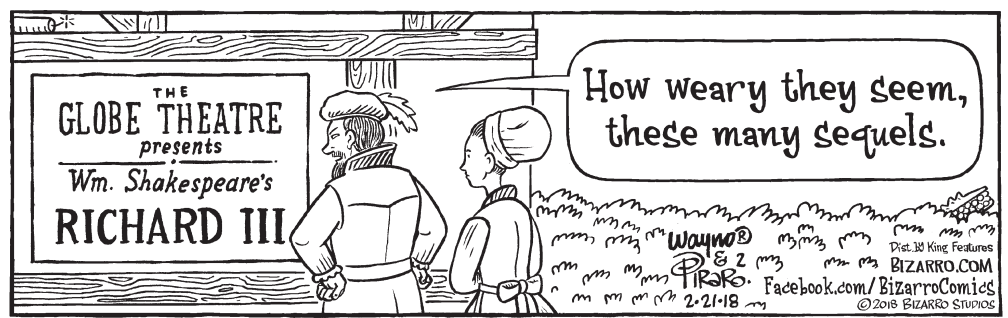
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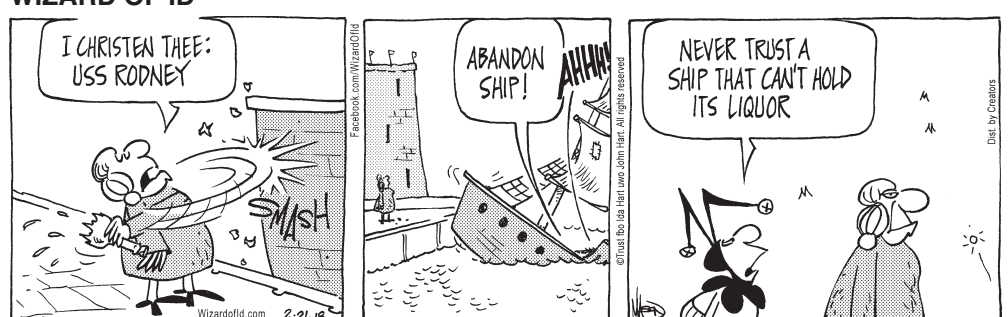
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## BABY BLUES



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE

