

Yelling causes rift in family

Dear Annie: I’ve been married for 10 years. My husband and I live about 15 minutes from his mother. Things have never been great between my mother-in-law and me, but we’ve always tried to overlook our differences.

When my husband and I were first married and didn’t have kids, we spent a lot of our free time with his mom, but now that we have young children, I have decided to do what makes me happy. My husband visits his mother every Saturday, but I usually stay home. A few months ago, I joined my husband, and there was an incident in which my mother-in-law yelled profanity at me in front of my young son — claiming she was angry that I had “taken him away” from her. She was yelling at my husband and me, not our son, but the stress still impacted him greatly. He asked about it afterward.

I’ve talked about it with her. The first time, she apologized but said I took it the wrong way or overreacted. So we talked again, and I explained that she

hadn’t offered a true apology. She couldn’t promise it wouldn’t happen again, so I am just done. I don’t want my child in that position ever again.

Then my mother-in-law approached my parents about it. I feel that she has no boundaries. My husband felt it was fine, saying she was an adult talking to other adults. I couldn’t disagree more.

We talked about counseling for my husband and me, but that was almost four months ago. I am lost, and it affects our relationship. I believe that it’s driving a wedge between us. — *Lost and Frustrated*

Dear Lost and Frustrated: You are not married to your mother-in-law. Your instinct to go to marriage counseling is a good one, especially because this problem reached a fever pitch four months ago and nothing has been resolved. Your husband has to speak with his mother about her unacceptable behavior. Yelling in front of children is never a good idea, but cursing out a child’s mother or

father in front of the child is just plain unacceptable. The issue is her verbal abuse of you, and until she accepts responsibility and stops doing it, she will have to suffer the consequences of not seeing her grandchild. Marriage counseling will give you and your husband suggestions for bringing her back to her grandchild on your terms.

Dear Annie: I am in mourning for the loss of greeting cards in today’s world. I send many cards throughout the year for birthdays, anniversaries, deaths and illnesses. Even when I cannot afford a birthday gift for a friend, I try to pick out a greeting card. I happily remember going to my mailbox on the days prior to my birthday and receiving cards from friends and relatives. Now it’s just a Facebook post saying, “Happy birthday!” To me, Facebook “happy birthday” posts are for acquaintances, not friends you have known for years or family members you love and respect. — *Discouraged*

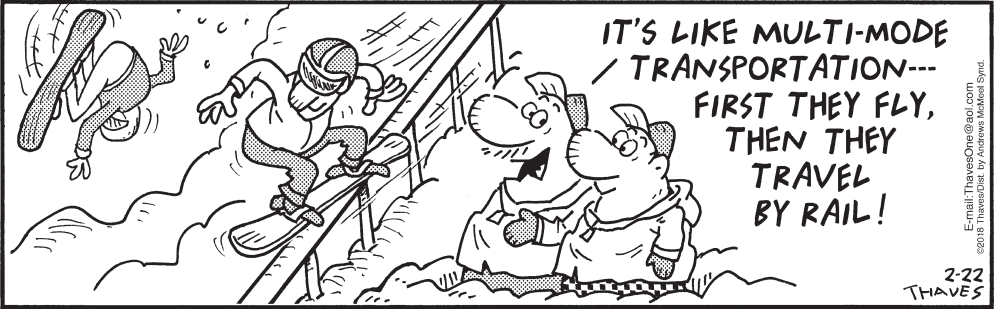
Dear Discouraged: The decline in sending greeting cards is another unfortunate byproduct of our convenience-driven culture.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

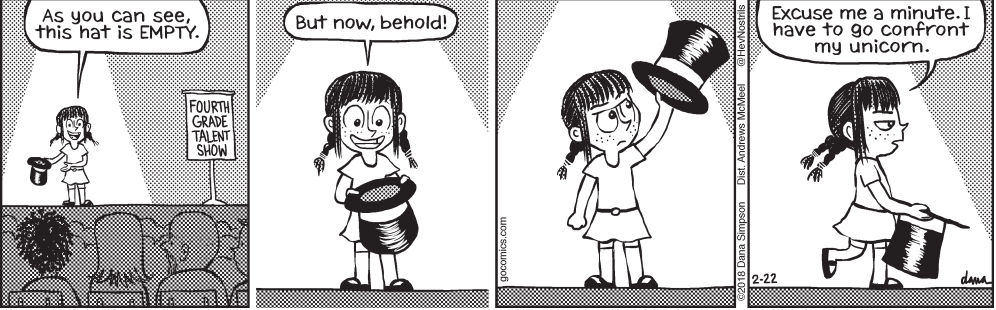
FRANK AND ERNEST



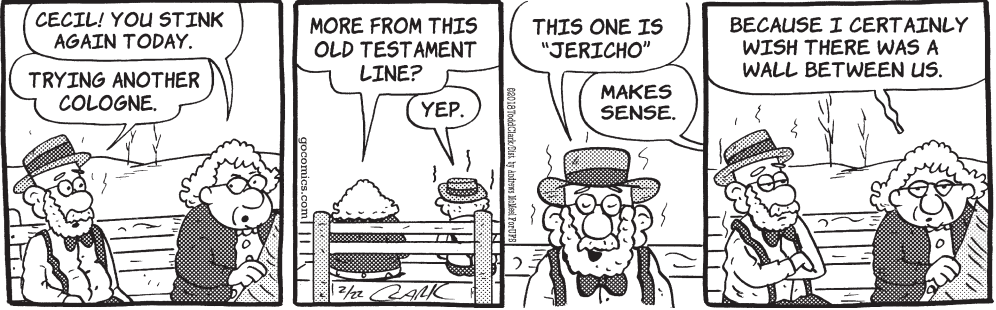
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW’S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). For the versatile singer who is great at doing impressions, the most challenging song is the one sung in his own voice. Today you’ll be challenged to deliver like only you can — to sing your song in your voice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Why not just believe that you’re lucky? Someone’s going to find that money on the ground. It may as well be you. You’re looking out for it ... and for all the metaphorical representations in which money on the ground can come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You’re not a daredevil exactly, but you’re still a risk taker, especially in nonphysical areas of life. The bold move you’re considering is pretty audacious, even for you. Position yourself well first.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). First impressions will be important today. All future interactions will be colored by someone’s initial response to you — but, hey, no pressure! As long as you dress the part and put away your phone, you’ll be ahead of the game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To learn about the world, babies observe the design, behavior, purpose and effect that things have. Then they make an association and record it as fact ... but that doesn’t make it true. It’s a case study. Most of life is just a case study.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Boredom is a fun killer. Yes, there’s always something more interesting about the situation if you can break free from the old frame. But life is much simpler if you’re already somewhat fascinated by your subject.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A friend who knows you well enough to sense when you’re hiding something ... now that’s a treasure! There are cons to it, of course, but they are not as important as being truly seen and understood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Eventually, you’ll have the experience and wisdom to run things, but for now you’re better off coming up with ideas from the naive position in which you happen to be. Strikingly bold insights come to you because you’re free of influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). That feeling of familiarity upon meeting someone for the first time takes many forms. Instant love: Where have you been all my life? Instant kinship: It’s like you’ve been here all my life. Instant boredom: Oh. You again.

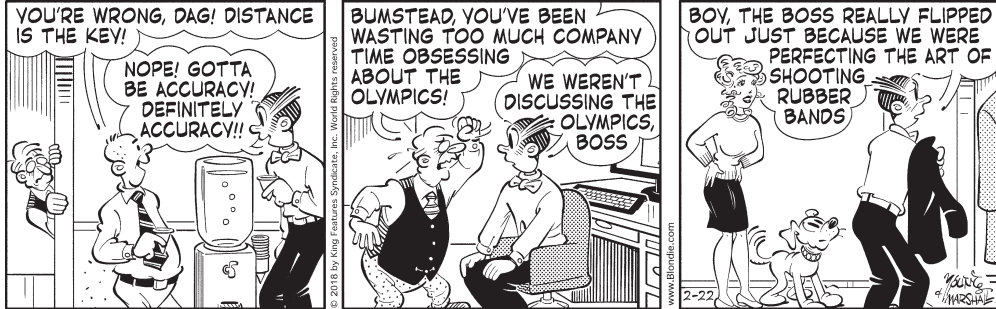
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You’re usually so ambitious, but right now you may not want to commit to business, or even to a hobby. Why should you? Isn’t it enough to just have interests? You can have so many at once. And interests are totally free.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It’s a pain to have to pretend or fake a story to spare someone’s feelings. You’ll do it if you have to, because it’s kind (though you’ll avoid the dynamic completely by being around people with whom you can be honest).

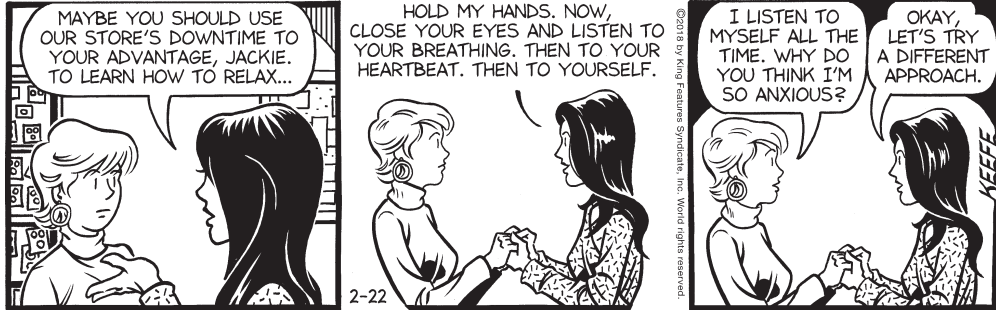
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You’ll be met with resistance, but don’t let this deter you. All you have to do is raise your energy a few points — the resistance will back down, and the road will be clear.

TOMORROW’S BIRTHDAY (FEB. 23). Your life brightens in this new solar cycle, and you’ll be tempted to credit this to a special person or lucky event. It’s really you, functioning at a higher capacity and letting more into your world. March will be characterized by a helper’s high. The distant horizon of June is a place you’ll return to again and again. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 13, 49, 8 and 16.

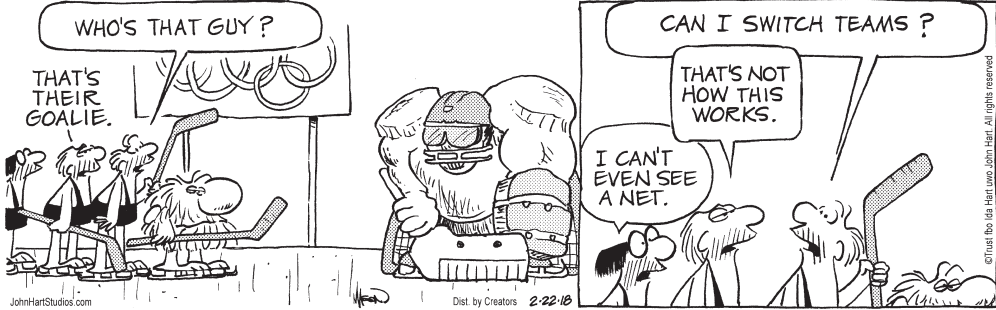
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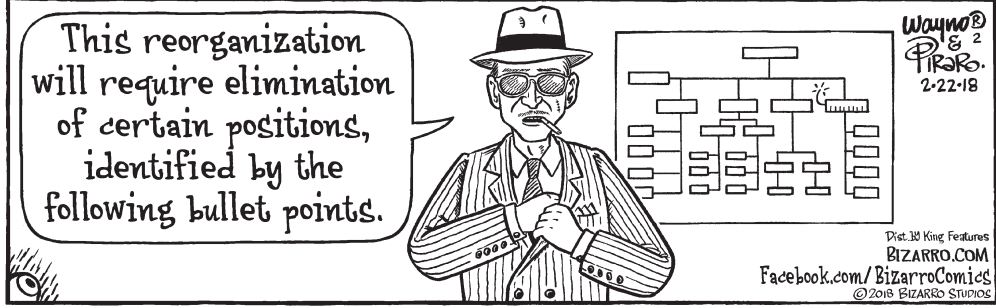
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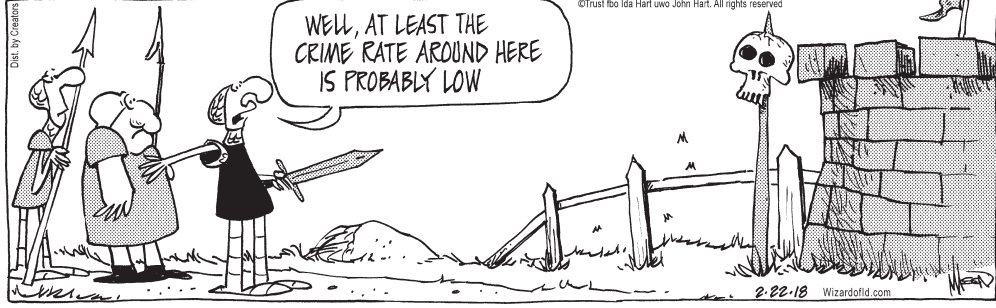
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

