

Taking away the keys

Dear Annie: It makes me so sad to watch my family grow old. My grandfather has been in denial about his aging process, and now it's creeping up on him from behind. Growing up, I was always impressed by how youthful he was; well into his 70s, he was playing tennis every day, running, going on social outings and driving all over the place for various band rehearsals. He is now in his late 80s, and his body no longer lets him push the physical boundaries. However, that hasn't stopped him from pushing other boundaries. He is still driving, and I think it's dangerous.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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Annie, he has been in several fender benders in the past few months, and though they were harmless enough to not deter him from continued outings, I feel that he has just been lucky. He often calls us lost, asking for directions from the road or not remembering where he's going. Adults in the family have tried to gently tell him he should not drive, but he won't hear it.

It's also difficult to have this conversation without threatening his masculinity or coming off as disrespectful. I'm scared for him and for others on the road. How do you tell your hero that he can no longer perform the simplest of tasks? — *Granddad's Girl*

Dear Granddad's Girl: Your granddad sounds like an amazing man. It's time for you to step in and be his hero. Speaking with him about driving could save his life or someone else's. Now that you know you have to have the conversation, the question is how.

If you are having growing concerns about his driving, chances are he has them, as well, though he might be reluctant to admit it. The key is to avoid making him feel defensive. Plan to have a quiet, calm chat with him at a time when he's not feeling stressed. As you approach the subject of driving, proceed slowly and gently. He will most likely voice his concerns about making appointments or outings. At that point in the conversation, you could offer to drive him to and from. And tell him he'd really be doing you a favor, because think of all the life lessons he could share in that valuable quality time.

Dear Annie: I work in a small office where almost everyone is in their 40s or 50s. There is one gentleman who is 79, "John Smith." When I started my job, I called him Mr. Smith because everyone but the owner did. One day, when I had multiple phone lines ringing, I called him John accidentally. I apologized, but he told me he wishes that everyone would call him John. It makes him feel old to be called Mr. Smith. The women there believe that because he is their dad's age, it is disrespectful to call him John. I feel torn because his preference is to be called John. What is your opinion? — *John's Co-worker*

Dear John's Co-worker: John said he wishes everyone would call him by his first name. He can't get much clearer than that. I understand that your other co-workers mean to be courteous, but real respect means respecting others' preferences. Call him John.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your willingness to proceed cautiously and carefully building your projects and relationships will pay off in the trust you earn from those around you. You certainly will not want for companionship!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Are you in touch with your innate gifts? You truly can pull up energy from the earth, and you will do this when you need strength. Nature is your ally today and a powerful one at that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in a playful mood, and if you keep this up you may just become someone's favorite friend. In some cases, you don't want to be in the friend zone, but you'll quite naturally find your place in that situation as well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The person who has teaching or preaching as his primary purpose is a dull as a bad poem. Even if you happen to be the teacher (or the preacher), with play as your main purpose you'll be the delight in their days.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have resolved to give your best to a relationship and you'll reaffirm this to yourself now. This is the part of the connection that you can control, and control it you will.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes happiness means making the most of what's going on right now and finding something exciting about it, and sometimes happiness means declaring (if only to yourself), "Next!"

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your digital inbox may be a wild jungle of a place, and so, too, is the inbox of your life right now. So many offers! Some of them are random; some are general. You can weed all of that out and focus on the shining gems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Seek training, on-point conversation, criticism, inspiration and interactions to keep your skills sharp. It's better to put in the work now before you really need to. This will give you an advantage later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Harmless flirting isn't. There are sensitive people around who will make a story out of it and spin things in a direction that does nobody good. Be careful where you wield that charm.

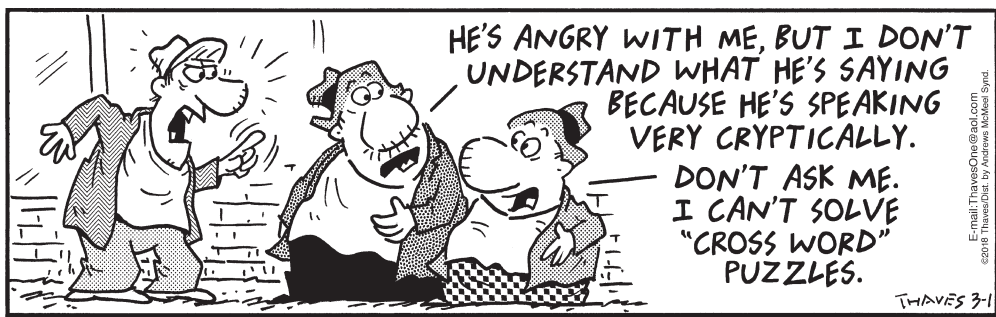
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you didn't want the thing until a friend, influencer or advertiser built your appetite for it, you might not really want the thing as much as you think. Take a step back. What's the need inside the want?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When necessity demands your impromptu handling of a situation, there's no better plan to follow than the one with which you are already familiar. Apply what you know from another world. You'll be brilliant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As you read this, there are people gearing up for the challenge of a lifetime that will have an impact on you and on the near future. Go on and decide which challenge you will take on simultaneously. Later your paths will cross.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 2). There are teams you're born or thrown into, and there are teams you choose. Choosing well will bring your great delight. Your ambition may get the best of you, but you'll shock all by proving it wasn't even lofty enough. May and July are the best times to give, invest and commit. Someone younger makes your heart soar. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 16, 3, 38, 2 and 49.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



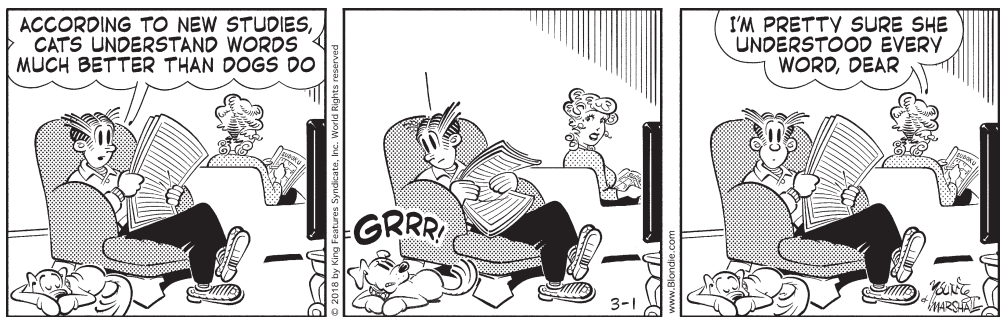
BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



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