

Wedding invitation snub

Dear Annie: My youngest daughter, “Marta,” is beautiful and caring but intellectually challenged. I have always encouraged all my kids to do what makes them happy, and she is no different. A couple of years ago, she met a wonderful man through mutual friends, “Brian.” After dating for almost a year, they married last fall. We could not ask for anyone more caring and giving. Brian makes Marta his first priority as a spouse, partner and friend in his life.

The reason I’m writing: My second-youngest daughter, “Elle,” who is 27, is getting married this fall and wants to invite Marta but not Brian.

Elle and her fiancée would have preferred to skip this whole ordeal altogether and just get married at the courthouse. But they are doing the wedding his parents want (spending money that is supposed to be saved for a down payment on a house, but I digress). Elle has been really stressed out about it from the outset.

They said that they are only inviting people they talk to regularly and that Brian isn’t someone

they talk to regularly. Brian and Marta were already saving up money for both of them to go. Additionally, Marta is not capable of getting there herself because of her aforementioned disability. I said all this to Elle, but she still said Brian can’t come. I said, “Then maybe we won’t come, either, because it’s not fair that you’re treating your sister this way.” Now Elle is not talking to me or Marta and blocked my number and my messages online.

Am I wrong here? I do understand that they haven’t wanted the wedding from the beginning. But now that they’re having one, I think it would be wrong to exclude her brother-in-law. Family is family, whether you talk every day or not. — *Wedding Woes*

Dear Wedding Woes: You’re not wrong, but you can’t force them to do what’s right. Though it does strike me as odd to exclude a brother-in-law, this isn’t my wedding — and it’s not yours, either. If Elle and her fiancée don’t want to invite Brian, that’s their mistake to make.

Were I to squint hard to try to

see a halfway decent rationale for their actions, I suppose I might focus on the fact that they didn’t want a ceremony or reception to begin with. They may not see this as a big deal or understand how hurtful such a snub can be. As for how they expect Marta to get there when she needs Brian’s assistance while traveling — well, I have no idea what they’re thinking. You and Marta might contact airlines to see what assistance is available for travelers with disabilities, if she’d still like to go. But it would be perfectly OK for her to stay home, too. That would be the bride and groom’s fault and, most of all, their loss.

Dear Annie: In this day and age, when one has to be constantly aware of scams, I find it terribly annoying to receive phone calls from people who do not identify themselves when they call. Often when my wife and I get phone calls from fundraising groups or even from doctors’ offices and the like, they ask for my wife or me immediately. What’s the deal? — *Who’s Calling*

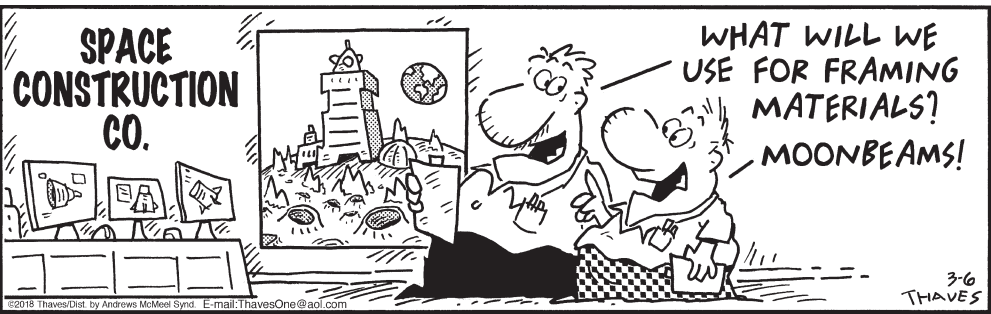
Dear Who’s Calling: I’d say the decline of phone etiquette corresponded with the rise of cell-phones and, specifically, texting.

DEAR ANNIE

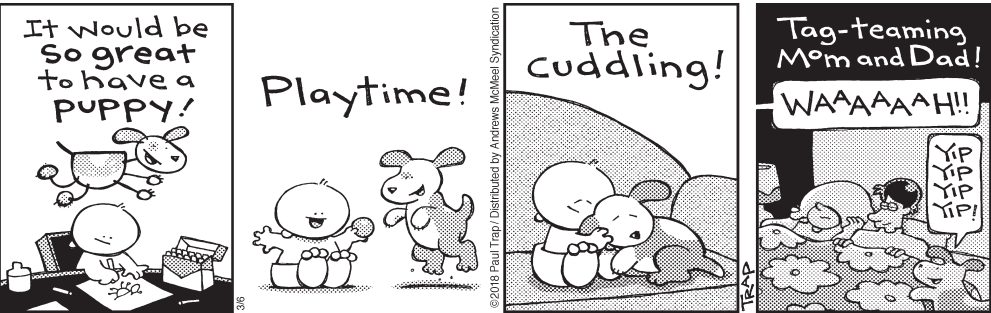


Annie Lane
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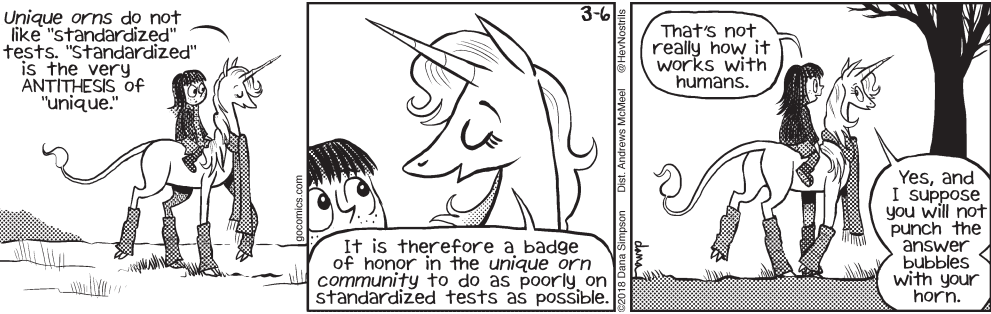
FRANK AND ERNEST



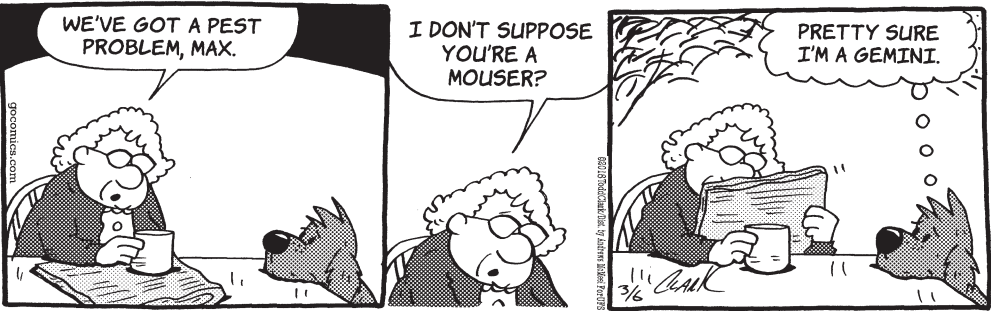
THATABABY



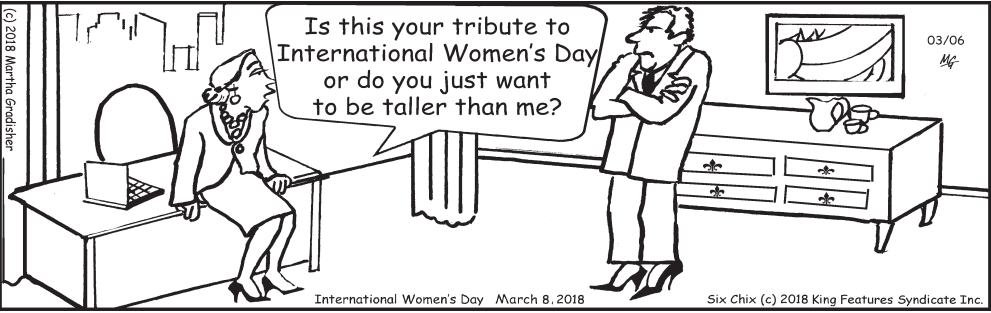
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



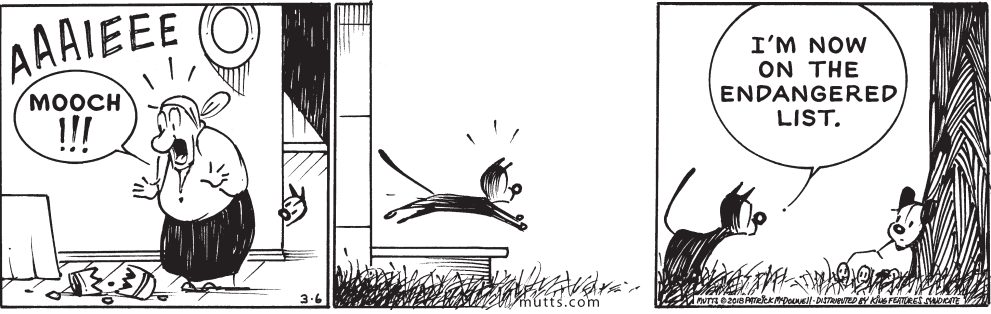
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Wanting to do the thing or not wanting to do the thing is beside the point. You do the thing because you said you would, because it's good for you, because it's right. This is the way of exemplary character.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's said that the best things in life are free, *exempli gratia*: love, clouds, podcasts ... and so much more today. Bonus: Someone will buy your way — not free, exactly, but close enough.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Head foggy? Does it take you longer to come to a conclusion? Do you forget why you walked into the room? It's because part of your mind is working on something mind-blowing and the other part of your mind is blown.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are tasks to be completed, and there is pleasure to be had. And there's no reason that both of those things can't be combined in the same activity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can be cuddly, and you can try to snuggle in with your flock, but don't be surprised if they can't completely let down their guards. See, you're not a sheep. You're a lion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Time to face the “yuck” of yesterdays. Have no fear. There are many ways to let go of the past that don't include lying on your back in a therapist's office while repeatedly answering the question, “How did that make you feel?”

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll either burst through emotional blocks or wear them down by pushing ever-forward. You really can overwrite past baggage by creating new successes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Motivating people is your thing today. You'll be free with your enthusiasm, encouragement and ideas. Bonus: You'll be well-compensated for this, though perhaps not in a financial sense.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). We are living in a realm of opposites — a dimension of polarization and contrast. One sign of emotional maturity is when people stop pointing out the contradictions of life and start accepting them as the norm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Watch your step. Perceptiveness on your part will help you to discover the golden opportunities hidden in a social situation — while avoiding the quicksand that's also hidden there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you're not making a mess, you're not living big enough. Though you usually clean it up solo, it's not always possible to get it back in order all by yourself. Ask for help.

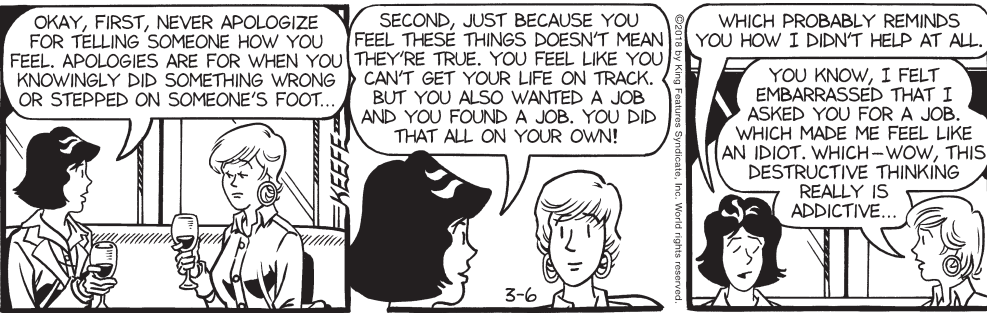
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You tell yourself that you don't really need closure — that life is a circle and therefore there is no end, and by extension, nothing to be closed. Tell yourself. But if you still feel incomplete, what exactly are the words you long to hear?

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 7). This year it's ambition, faith, effort ... then throw it in reverse. Everything is doable when you apply yourself consistently and sometimes relentlessly. Love is the luckiest thing that touches your life in the next three months. Keep showing how you feel. Connections and lifestyle improvements are part of the summer fun. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 16, 28 and 45.

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



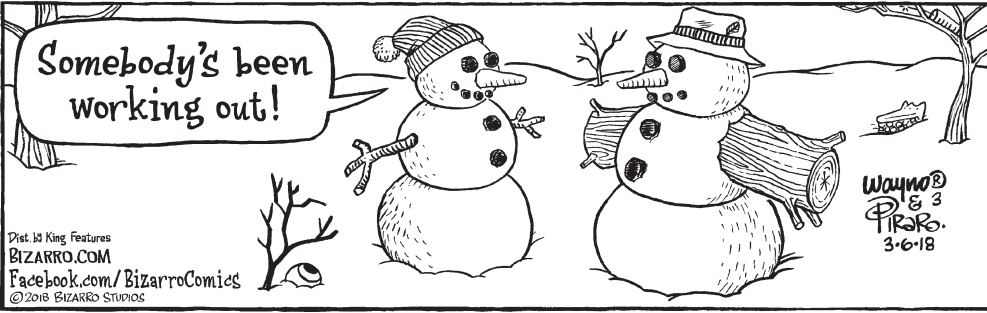
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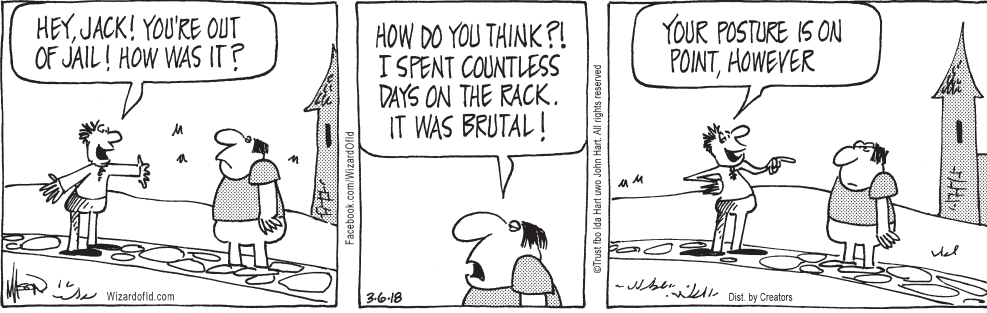
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ROSE IS ROSE

