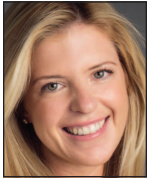


Wife tries to help stubborn spouse

Dear Annie: Frustration is interrupting my sleep, upsetting my stomach and leaving me on the edge of tears or screaming. My husband of many years has had a hearing problem for years, but he won't do anything about it. I have tried all manner of things to get him to go to an audiologist for assessment, including telling him I'll go, too (even though I have excellent hearing!). I try to make him understand how much he's missing every day, to no avail. I've realized that I can be verbally nasty when he doesn't hear or hears incorrectly — which often starts an argument. I've been to a counselor to try to get some coping skills, as this is really affecting our overall relationship, but trying her suggestions is getting me nowhere. He just digs his heels in deeper. I feel that if he really loved me, he'd at least get an evaluation to stop this downward swing in our relationship. I don't like how this is all making me feel. It's getting hard to pretend I'm happy in front of friends. Any suggestions? — *Sad and Frustrated Beyond Words*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Beyond Words: The good and bad news is that you are already taking all the right steps. Try to get out of the mindset that if he really loved you, he'd get a hearing evaluation. Though this obviously impacts you, it isn't about you. It's about your husband's own hang-ups with accepting and admitting he has hearing loss. Continue with therapy, and consider trying meditation. Until he's open to seeing a doctor, focus on your mental health. Sometimes it's only after we stop trying to get loved ones help that they decide they want it for themselves.

Dear Annie: My brother and his wife tell everyone, friends and family, that they are always welcome in their home — to just stop by anytime. They make a big show of saying this repeatedly. However, they never actually invite anyone over for holidays, meals or just a simple visit. For example, we live in a different state, and when we visit other relatives in the area, they never invite us to their home. I assume they expect us to just "show up."

I personally hate it when peo-

ple show up unannounced at my house. I could still be in my pajamas or eating a meal, or maybe I haven't finished the cleaning the kitchen yet. I was taught that it is rude to just show up at someone's house. Could you please clarify? — *Mystified in Montana*

Dear Mystified: Usually when people say to "visit anytime," they don't actually mean "pop by with no warning whenever." They just mean "call and plan a visit for any time." So pick up the phone and plan a visit — and while you're there, you might ask your brother to be more specific about making plans in the future.

Dear Annie: I am wondering what to say to relatives who ask to come over after Christmas, get out what they call their leftovers and heat them up, leaving us with none. We think that coming over to visit is fine but that being presumptuous and helping themselves to our food is so rude. What do you think? — *Nothing Left*

Dear Nothing Left: From the sound of it, you host Christmas dinner at your house and have relatives bring dishes. If you want to keep some leftovers, store some portions in a separate container and stick it out of sight in the freezer.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It may seem radical to you to think about what's in it for you first and then decide if giving makes sense. Many people operate like this every day. Anyway, it's best for today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Traveling takes planning. It's the plans you make long before you really must that will be the most economical. Do it now. It will help you ramp up the excitement over the months to come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You never want someone you love to feel alone, especially not in your presence. Life gets busy today and there will be a lot competing for your attention, but nothing will be more important than the ones you love.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you and your partner are on the same side facing the problem together, it will seem very small against your joint effort. But if you approach it as separate individuals, the problem will seem insurmountable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The small dog goes ballistic when a very calm larger dog walks by. This is insecurity in action. Feeling vulnerable can cause a serious loss of grace. One has to be strong to be gentle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Perhaps those who travel in a pack will be an intimidating group force, but each individual gives something up to have this kind of impact. Would it be worth it to you? You could be more effective as a lone wolf.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lava flow, aurora borealis, glowing jellyfish: all natural phenomenon that can nonetheless seem somehow otherworldly and miraculous. You're providing some such phenomenon today. Be careful

how you wield your power.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll do your best for the people around you, and truly you can do no better than that. Don't push too hard, and don't relax either. Love and encourage yourself without getting too comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You need color and fun in your world. It's energizing. When you lose your sense of humor, you've passed the point of productive work. Take a break. It will give you the gumption to keep going.

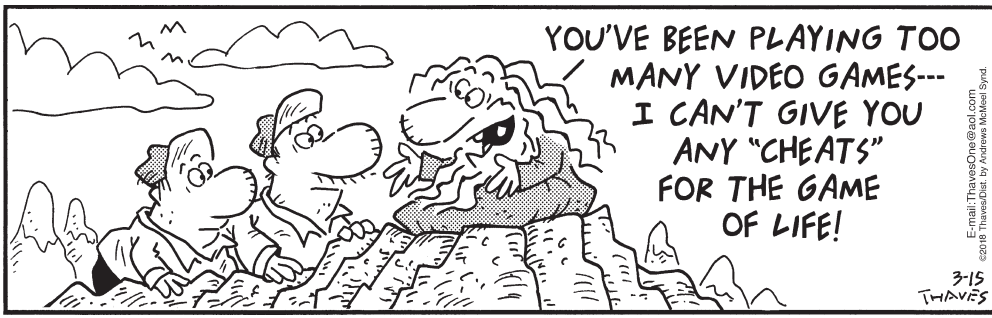
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Self-generated restraint is honorable. You'll be credited for this sort of grace. They don't have to know why you developed it — i.e., you'd rather limit yourself than be limited by others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Avoid gambling or speculating with your money today, as the current astral lineup could have you feeling as though you can't go wrong. Tomorrow will bring a more accurate picture of risk.

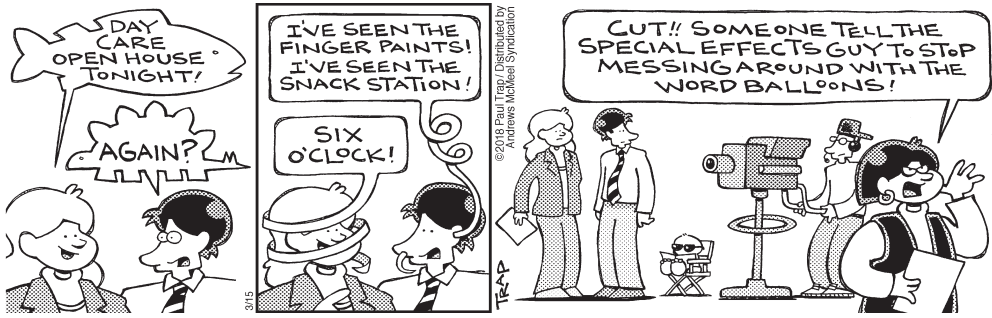
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The bottom line is that you need to get to a top line. There's a larger spiritual and creative picture that governs your life, and you'll get a better vantage on this as you sail up and up through your imagination and intuition.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). The travel will give you a lucky start. Then you'll begin with your team. Whether assembled by design or the product of organic convergence, the result will be the same — working and succeeding at a common purpose. You'll love and internalize some of what you learn for your super solo jaunt in July. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 2, 22 and 14.

FRANK AND ERNEST



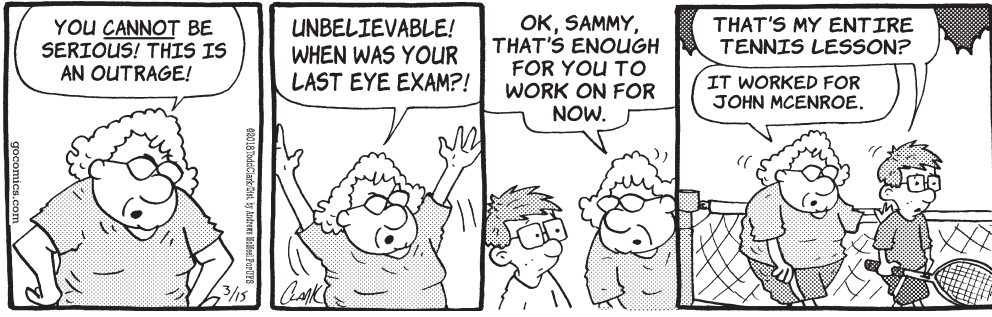
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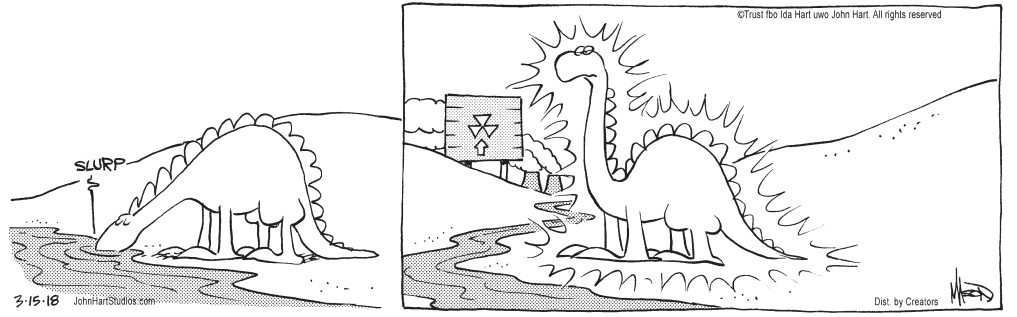
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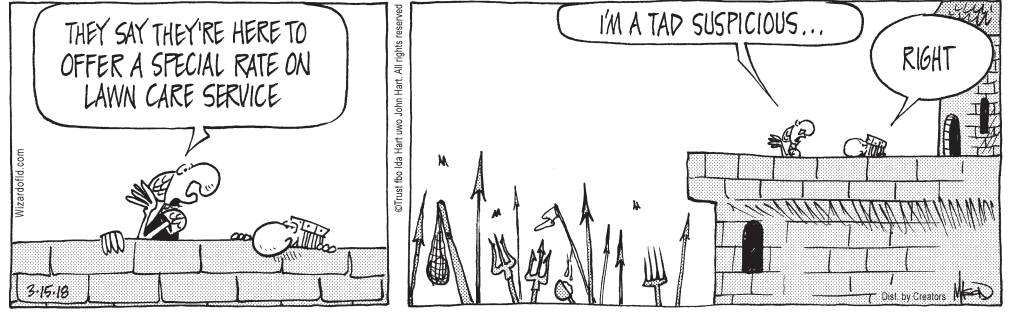
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