

Concerned about odors

Dear Annie: My mother is in her 80s, and I love her very much. At her age, she has earned certain privileges. And I understand we all have our little quirks that might annoy others.

The problem is my mom doesn't wear clean clothes. It started out that she would wear a certain outfit a couple of times before washing. Now, however, every outfit has a spot or stain on it. She will wear a piece of clothing for a couple of hours, and then put it back in the closet. If it is a heavier piece of clothing like a coat and it has a spill on it, it might be months before it gets washed. My mother is in good health and is perfectly capable of washing her clothing. If she wanted to, she could even hire a housekeeper. That said, if she wants to wear dirty clothing, who am I to push my standards on her? The real problem, though, is that Mom has a musty and stale smell on her at all times. When I open her closet, it nearly knocks me over. I have tried talking nicely to her about this.

I even buy air fresheners for the closet. But the next time I visit, I notice the air fresheners are gone. When I ask my mom why she isn't using them, she says, "I can't smell, so they're a waste of money." Of course, money isn't a problem.

We have had the discussion that when a person gets older they start losing their sense of smell and taste. She agrees with this but doesn't incorporate this idea into her house, car or clothing. I know this may seem like a trivial problem, but I'm not sure what to do. — *The Nose Knows*

Dear The Nose Knows: It's not trivial in the least. According to the National Institute on Aging, while a declining sense of smell can be a normal part of getting older, it can also be a sign of Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease. Encourage your mom to talk to her doctor about this issue so she can rule out serious medical causes. Also pay attention to her overall mood and behavior. Disregard for personal hygiene can be a symp-

tom of depression. Good on you for looking out for your mom: I can tell your concern is from the heart, not the nose.

Dear Annie: I disagree with "Jan," who was concerned about other drivers not acknowledging when she defers the right of way to them. Many drivers feel that the safe and courteous driving habit is to follow right of way according to traffic codes and not attempt to communicate with other drivers. I have observed at least one collision caused by a driver insistently waving another driver, who did not have right of way, into a busy intersection. A following driver was caught off guard and a collision ensued. I have also observed drivers attempting to wave other drivers into a hazardous situation, such as a left turn across two lanes of traffic. Drivers are responsible for safety at all times, and Jan should not interfere with other drivers' decision-making. — *Ronald S.*

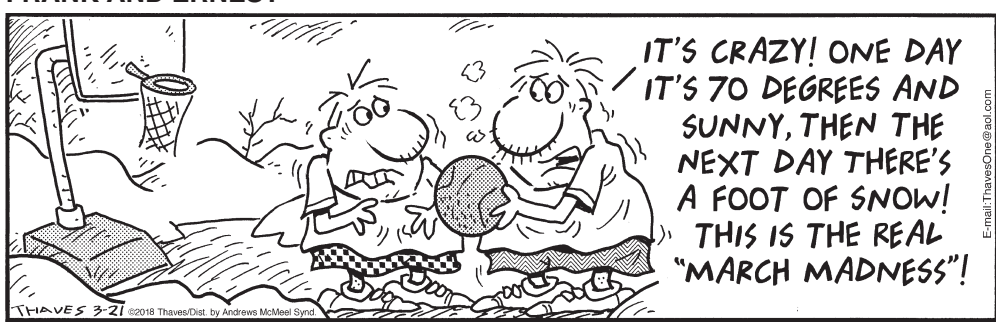
Dear Ronald S.: You make a fair point that it can be dangerous for drivers to attempt to communicate with other drivers. Though I still don't think a small thank-you wave is reckless.

DEAR ANNIE

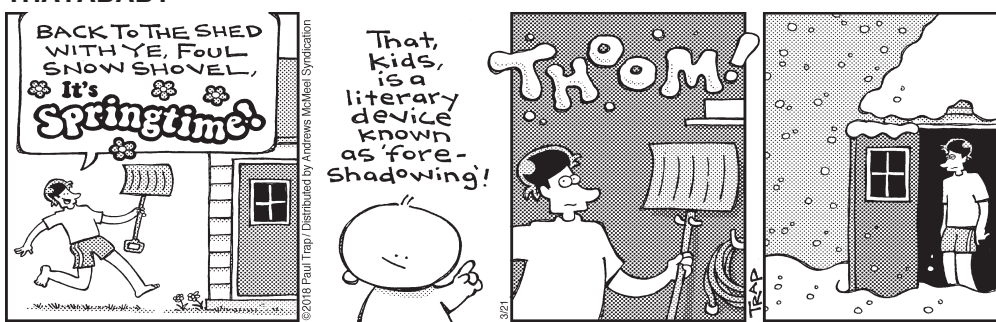


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



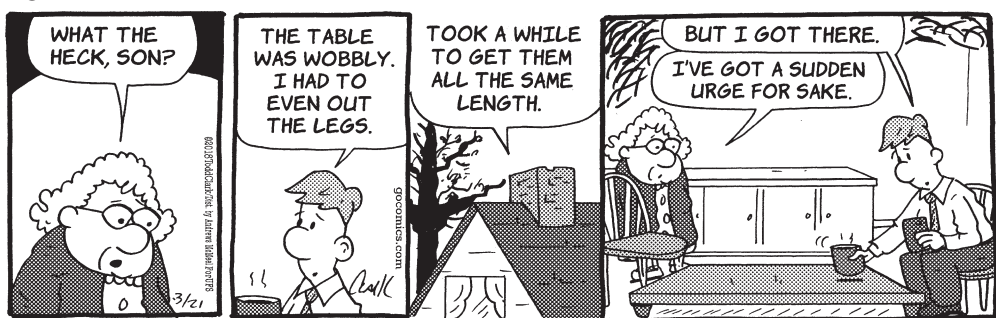
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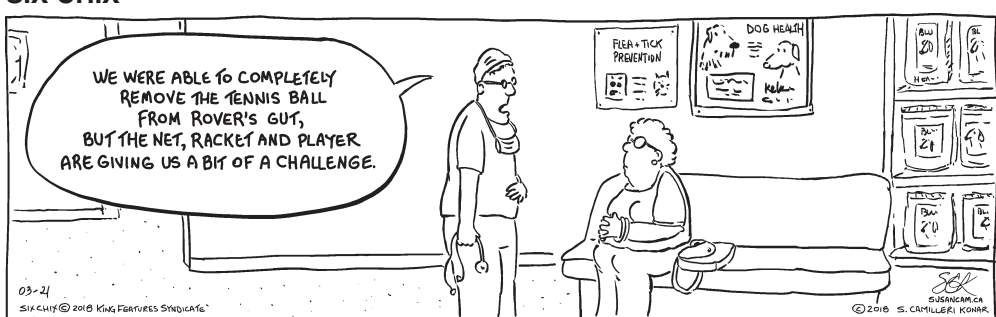
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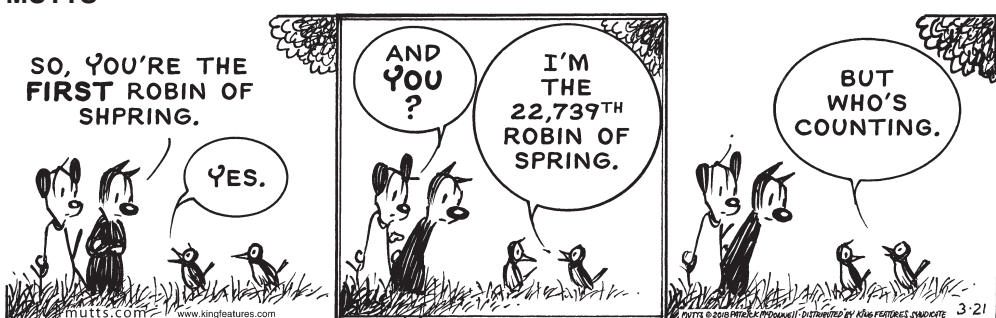
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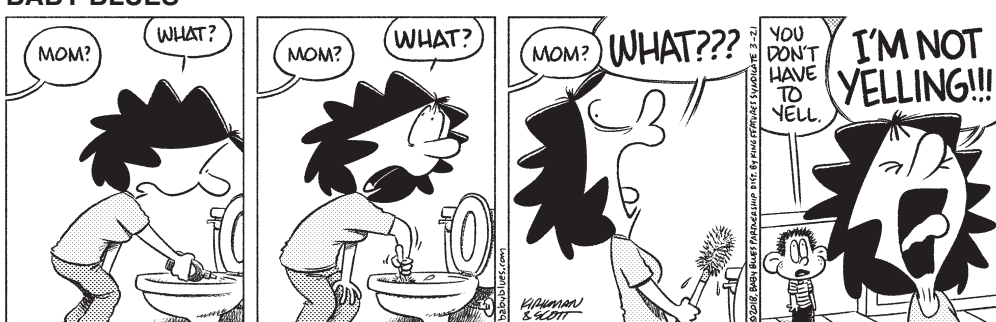
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life on earth can be attributed to the flow of water distributing organisms all over this planet. The life of the human body is also a function of water flow. You'll think better and be your highest self when properly hydrated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you knew that what people would remember about you would be the very last part of the interaction, how would you play it? Do it that way today. Gear everything toward the takeaway.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be the calm, centered one today, and don't be surprised if the tightly wound and high-strung individuals are even more attracted to you than usual. It's an excellent match, actually.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't forget that you were built from scratch. Once upon a time, your cells knew how to multiply perfectly to make you. And you still have amazing powers of regeneration, which will be applied to your body, mind and spirit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The magic doesn't need you to believe in it. It goes on regardless, a gift for any taker. This is one of the few times when it's OK to be a taker. Take as much as you want. There is plenty to go around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It would be easy to get seduced by extrinsic standards of success. These can only satisfy you when attached to a pursuit that will also feed your need for meaning and purpose. Is this really your true north?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you're offering isn't right for everyone, but for the customer who needs it, it's everything! This is a day to find your fit — in love, business, food

and any other pursuit you can think of.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Before you even think about being happy, there are some basic responsibilities and obligations to get out of the way. With your stellar attitude, you should be able to find happiness while tending to those things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You made the key decisions and did a lot of the work. Still, there's much to be gained by letting the others get the credit. They'll buy in, move forward and do even more than you could alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your top priority is people. A good team with a mediocre plan is better than a mediocre team with a good plan. If you don't feel like you have the right people around you, this is a good day to go out and get more candidates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is no time to accept defeat. You're almost there! Keep the fight going. Adapt as necessary. Have the courage to take action again and again, but take it from different angles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In this whirlwind of a day, if you can figure out how to do something as straightforward as surrounding yourself with quality people and doing what you enjoy, you'll be among the privileged few.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 22). Your popularity surges this solar return. People feel your genuine interest in them and will move in closer to your warmth. This favorably affects your personal life and business life, too. Your family will grow in June. One particular talent comes to the fore, and you'll cash in handsomely with it in September. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 22, 28 and 14.

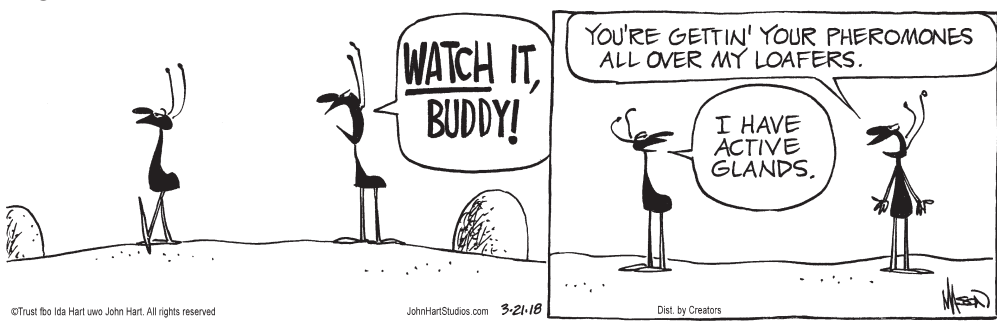
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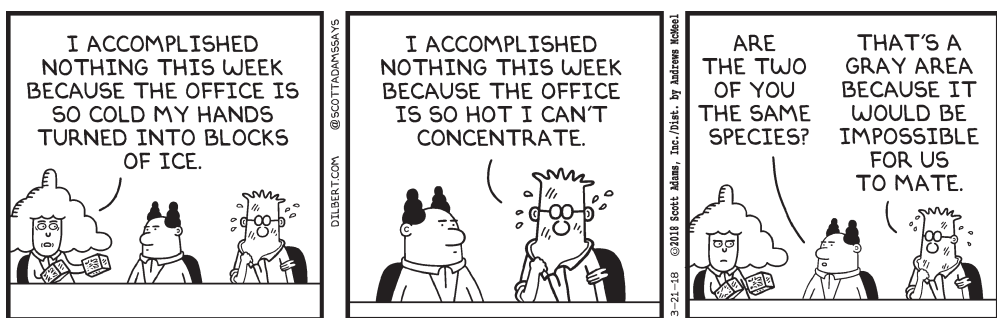
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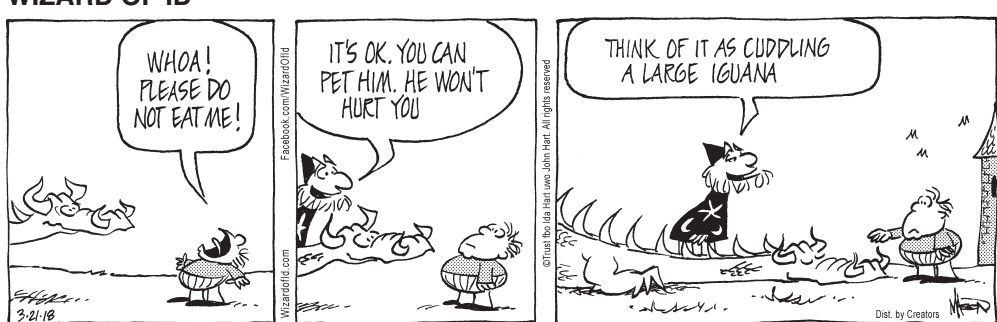
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ROSE IS ROSE

