

Disturbing parenting behavior

Dear Annie: My daughter and her best friend are 30. When her friend was 12, she lost both her parents. She has been like part of our family since then. She came home last year with a beautiful baby. Her husband is stuck in his own country awaiting a visa. My daughter babysits daily for her, and they are both here almost daily.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

She is a wonderful, accomplished young woman, and we adore her toddler. As she is a single mom with no other family support, she relies on us. But she has started yelling at the baby. If he is too noisy or demanding — just normal behavior — she loses it. The first time it happened, I was shocked into silence. But it has happened again, and I have to say something. I am afraid to drive her away and make things worse. She has been a truly great mom, and she came back to the U.S. for better opportunity for him. Please help me find the right words. I know I shouldn't need help, but I've never had to deal with this situation. — *Heartbroken and Worried Godmother*

ried Godmother: Please don't feel that you shouldn't need help. We all need help sometimes, and asking for it is a sign of strength, not weakness. Your concerns over your goddaughter's yelling at her child are very valid. She may not even be aware that she is doing it. Yelling probably is the result of anger and stress in her life, and being a new single mom is not an easy transition. I would be completely honest with her and ask her what is going on in her life to cause her to be so impatient. I'd also tell her that repeated yelling at the child is unacceptable. No excuses. You might give her some advice on how to cope with an unruly toddler without resorting to yelling. You have been a loving and supportive person in her life. My guess is she and her baby will thank you in the long run.

Dear Annie: Your advice to "Wedding Woes," the woman whose developmentally disabled daughter has been effectively disinvited from her other daughter's wedding because the disabled daughter's fiancé is not

invited, completely missed the point. Modern manners have not changed so much that you can fail to invite perfectly nice family members to your wedding. Despite the fact that the other daughter would have preferred not to have a wedding, she is having one. Etiquette dictates that if you invite immediate family, you invite all the immediate family. The only exception would be family members whose presence would be dangerous, emotionally damaging or abusive. I would think the disinviting sister would be glad to have the fiancé help her less able sister travel, navigate hotels and attend the wedding to celebrate her happy day. Otherwise, though I hope the two getting married will be very happy together, I suspect they won't, given how unkind and ungenerous they are proving to be before the wedding. — *Catherine G.*

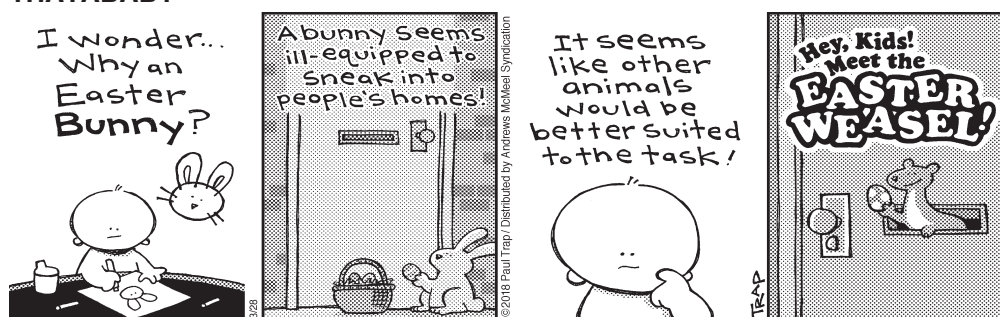
Dear Catherine G.: True. Unfortunately, the bride-to-be was not the one who wrote me; it was her mother, who does not get to decide the guest list. It would be much kinder and politer for the bride to invite her sister's fiancé; I agree, and I hope it works out that way.

Dear Heartbroken and Wor-

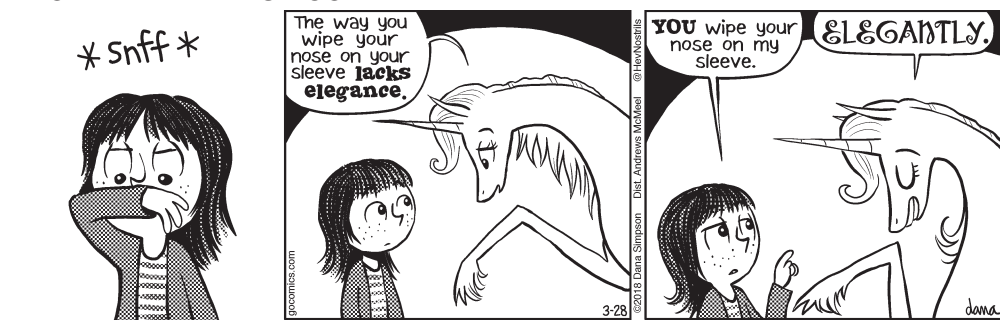
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THATABABY



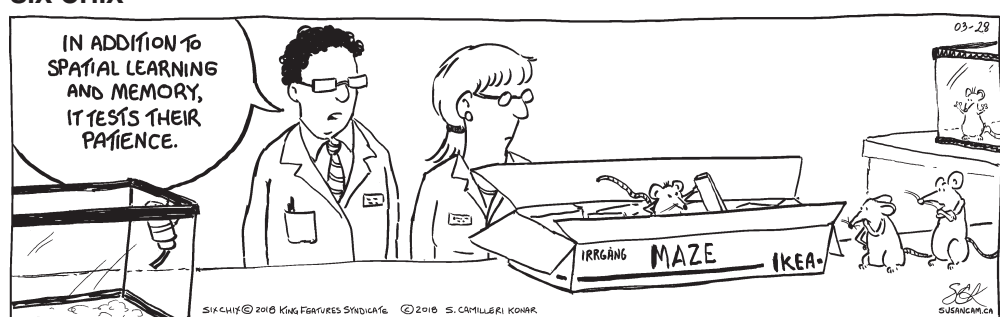
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). With the solar energy coursing through you these days, you're like a warrior without a king. To plot out your own mission will be your job and your pleasure today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe you're not the first one to have the idea, but that shouldn't stop you from acting on it. The inventor is celebrated yet often not paid nearly as well as those who use and/or market the idea well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's the little decisions — such as what to drink (plain water is best) where to sit (front row) and whom to talk to (the one in charge, or the one paying the most attention) — that will make the biggest difference to your destiny.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Boredom could bring things to a screeching halt. An exciting diversion is actually just what's needed to get everything back on track. After the hoopla, new energy can be marshalled to fuel the next three to five beats of your project.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). For thousands of years, humans have naturally organized into tribes, and they still do. While a shared culture is a source of well-being, it can also be quite the opposite. Today you'll need equal time with the group and away from it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You long to be a freelancer in some regard. With only your own expectations to answer to, you feel you could break out of a mold to deliver more exciting and relevant results. You're right about this, so be bold.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The fault and the credit have had unpredictable landings recently. They have been handed to you or have eluded you undeservedly. Today will be contrastingly straightforward. You'll be held directly responsible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The discipline that will help you most today is the discipline of compartmentalization. Everything in its place. Like all manners of discipline, it will take great effort in the beginning and then get easier as the practice becomes ingrained.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No matter how big or small your group is, you want to be something special to your people. You want to make a difference. You want to be "famous to the family." This intention will take you far.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep trying different things. You're about to find your purpose, your edge and your advantage. You're very close to figuring out how to deliver what's needed in an entirely different way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What's right and useful and joyful isn't always what's time-tested, readily available and accepted as "normal" in the group. That's why you'll benefit from wandering out on your own a bit today in search of different options.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will draw people close to you without consciously realizing what you are doing or why. This natural magnetism is always in you, but you tone it down sometimes, and appropriately so. Today, leave it strong.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 29). The one who used to inspire you may no longer, and you aren't jealous of the same person, either. Your goals are changing and so will your influence, motivation and purpose during this truly transformative solar return. A rich personal life will open the door to different places and experiences in July. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 33, 38, 20 and 11.

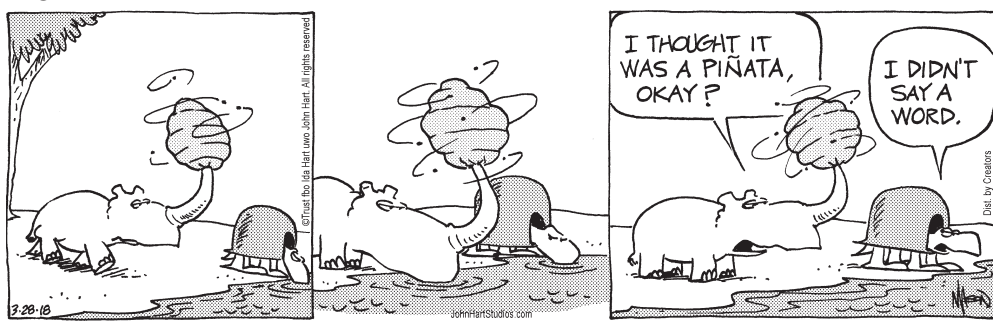
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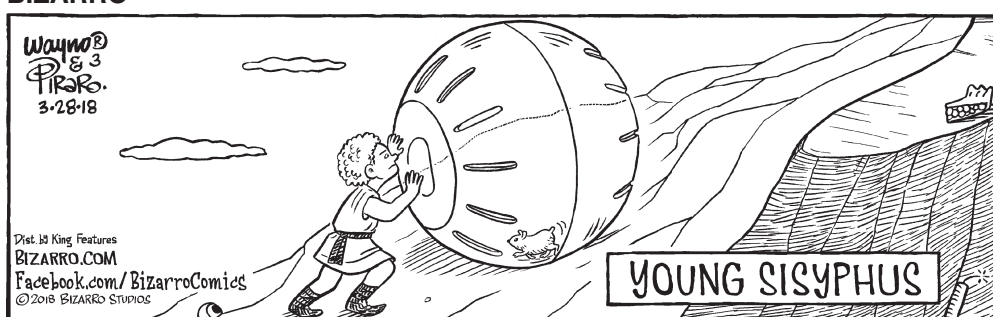
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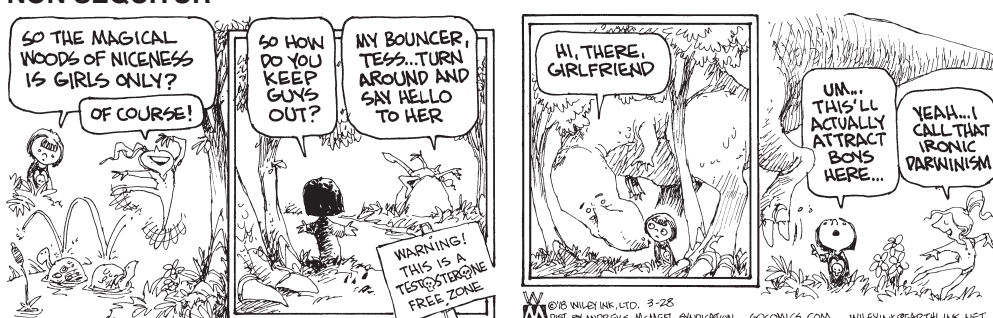
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

