

Empty-handed guests

Dear Annie: I have a question of etiquette. Our adult sons (who are older than 40), their wives and our grandchildren often visit over the weekends for family sit-down dinners. We do this pretty much every weekend because they live close by and we enjoy the chance to keep up with our daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Our boys and their wives help themselves to wine and beer, which is fine, and I enjoy a glass or two of wine, too. But none of them ever brings a bottle of wine as a gesture. They all have the expectation that we will replenish the wine and beer each week. Did we do something wrong in bringing these young men up? — *Mystified and Sad*

Dear Mystified and Sad: I'm sure you gave your children many etiquette lessons when they were younger; now it's time for some continuing education. There's no need to be shy about it. Tell

them you'd really appreciate it if they brought wine, beer or another refreshment when they come over. Let's hope they have already been bringing food or drinks when guests at others' homes and were just under the (inconsiderate and self-centered) impression that Mom and Dad would always pay for everything. Set 'em straight.

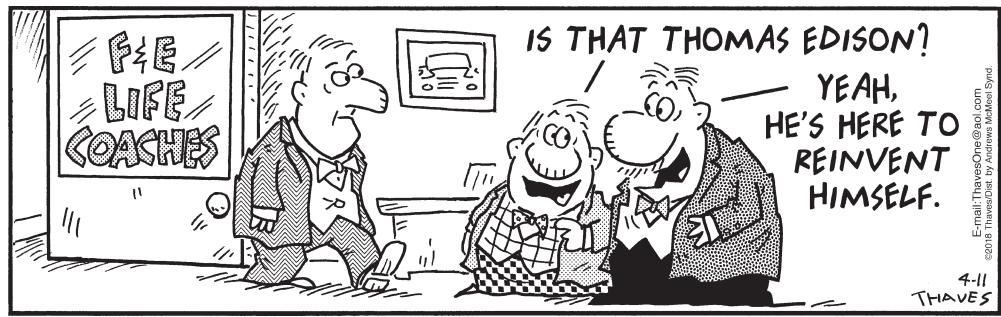
Dear Annie: I have not spoken to my son in almost 15 years. In all that time, I have not seen my granddaughter. When she became a teenager, I invited her to visit my wife and me, even offering to pay her way, but she never came down. She and I have been in touch over the years through email. She did offer to tell me how life is treating her and all the things she is involved with and all the places she has visited. She is now graduating college, and I do not know whether I should give her a gift or not.

A part of me says yes, and another part of me says no. I feel that once she became an adult, she could have come to visit us. We know deep down we will never see her or be involved in her life. What should I do? — *Long-Distance Grandparents*

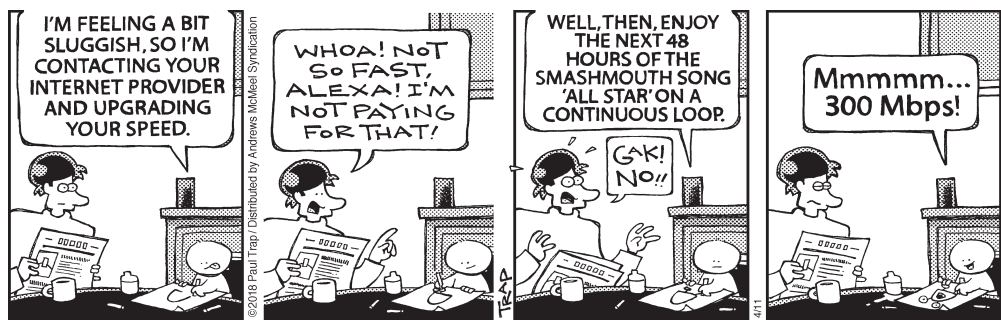
Dear Long-Distance Grandparents: There's no "should" here. There's only what you feel comfortable doing and what you don't. If you want to give her a gift, go for it. If you don't, that's perfectly fine.

Keep in mind that her reasons for not visiting may be complicated. Maybe her dad asked her not to visit. Or maybe he has said that he's fine with it but she feels guilty having a relationship with you two when he doesn't. You say you know deep down that you'll never see her, but the fact that she's made an effort to give you updates on her life over the years suggests she cares about having a relationship with you. She's only recently become an adult. I wouldn't give up hope just yet.

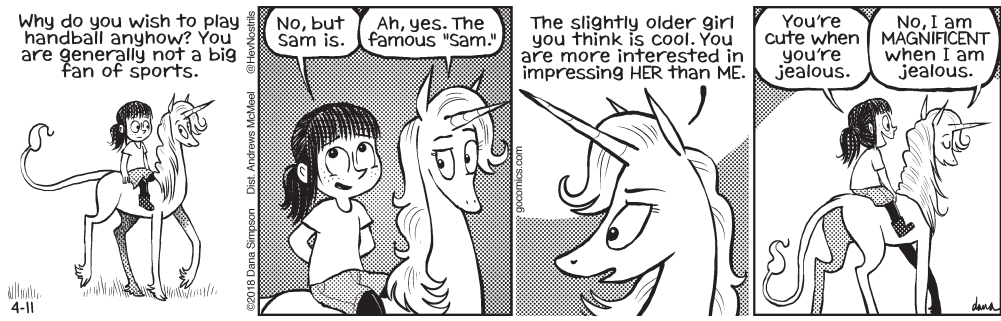
FRANK AND ERNEST



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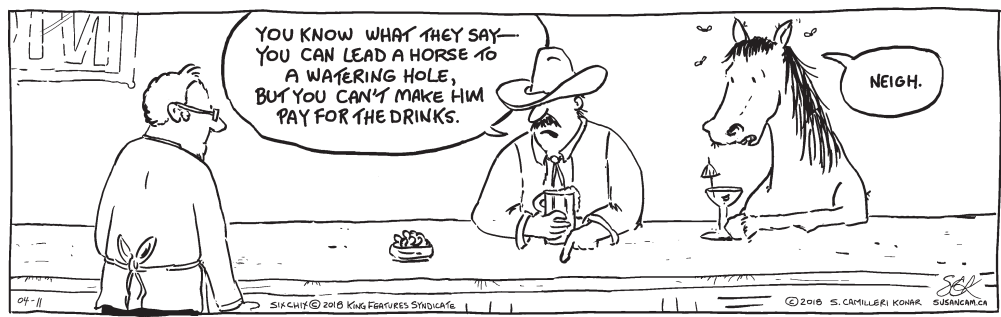
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



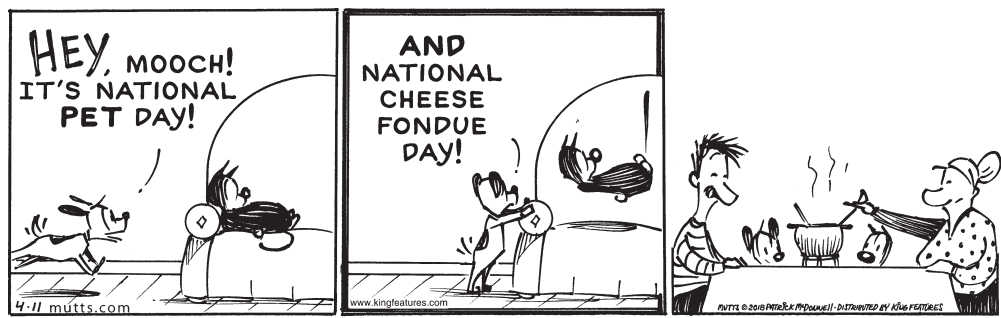
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Tune your super-sensitive soul in to the needs of those you love. It's like you can audibly hear someone's faint, subliminal cry for help. And yes, it's also within your ability to save the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). On the horizon you'll catch a glimmer of what's to come. Don't mistake this for a fixed destiny. If the picture that's coming together isn't what you want, you can still change it. If it is, don't relax. Keep working until it gets here.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Who will you be when you grow up? The question doesn't go away at 10 or 20 or 50. It persists. Your introspective mood will bring a new take on the matter today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Life is easier for you when you are the favorite, as you will be today. It also doesn't hurt that you reward people for their special care with your warm reception of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone is different, with different tolerances, fears and strengths. Seek out people who can handle what bothers you, and handle what you can for others. All will be well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're drawn to pretty things, but you don't always realize why they look so good to you. Though aesthetics certainly contribute to your attraction, it's really cinched by the values represented in a thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe today's trickle of good stuff won't seem like much, but make an effort to catch some of this anyway. Then you can follow the trickle to the stream and the stream to the river. All rivers lead to the ocean.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a valu-

able talent you sometimes take for granted. It's like the "diamonds on the soles of her shoes" that Paul Simon sang about. When the sun catches you in action, they'll get a glint of what you can do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Around some people you feel confident and you give a top performance. Around others you can't think or talk straight. One group is not better for you than the other. Both relationship dynamics have something to teach you.

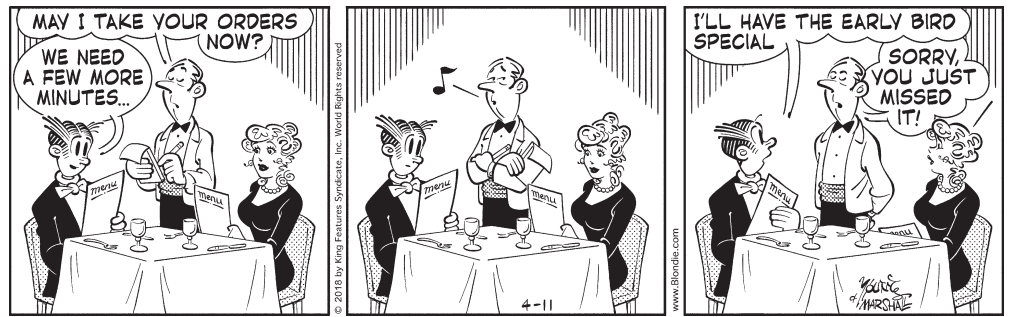
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're on the lookout for a new possession, tool, relationship or practice to add to your daily routine. Finding the best thing isn't as important as finding the thing that fits your lifestyle the best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You want to believe the best in people, though it would be foolish to always act on that assumption. For right now, hold on, reserving judgment until you can tell which way the situation is leaning.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Ask any photographer, magazine editor or model: It takes a multitude of unglamorous actions to pull off high glamour. And that's not just the case with glamour. Greatness in general is achieved through an accumulation of humble actions.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 12). Your goal is too big for one person. Others with complementary aims will assist. Assemble your team, and march forward together. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. A surprise will delight and motivate you in May. September brings a celebratory resolution of something you've been learning about or dealing with for years. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 10, 5, 27 and 19.

BLONDIE



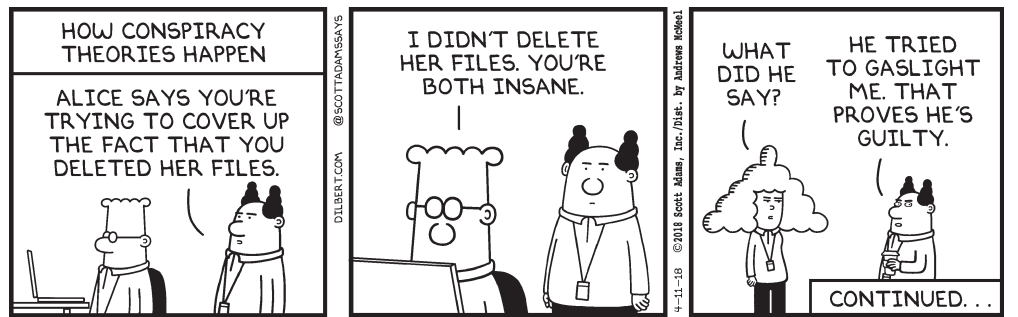
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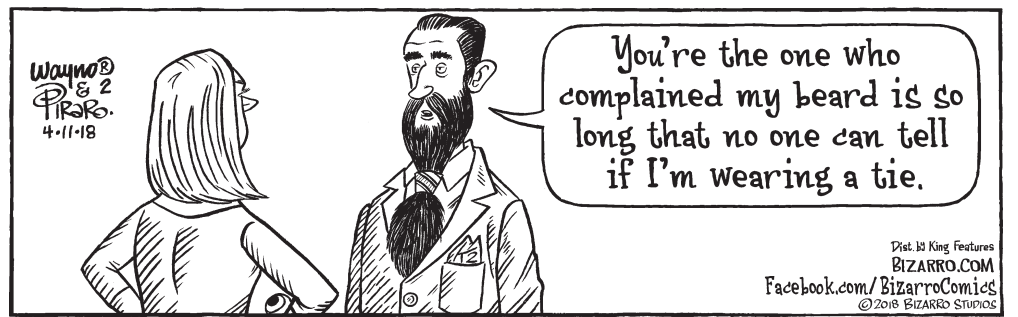
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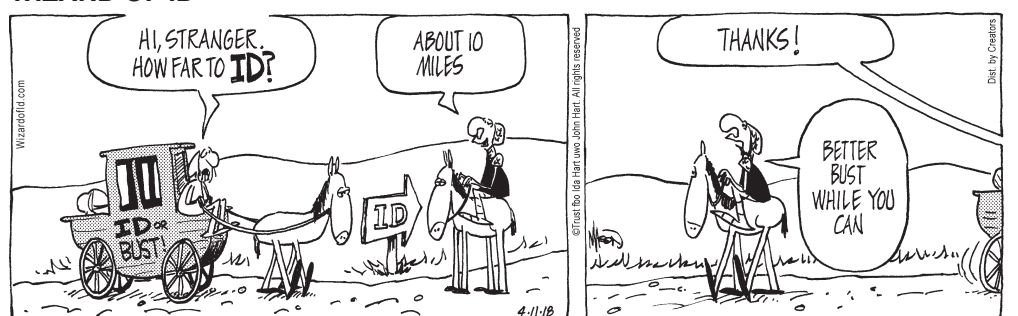
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

