

Feeling old and discarded

Dear Annie: I am a 72-year-old married (for now) man. I was just told by my wife that she wants a divorce because I am no fun. We've been married for almost 50 years. Apparently, she has been planning this for quite some time. She got a face-lift, wants liposuction, etc. She goes out dancing and has been working out.

This activity has been precipitated because I have been reacting to some of my meds and have a tumor in my right kidney. I have been slowed down by bad hips and knees and a bad back from sports as a youth. She has also said that seeing as she is turning 70, she doesn't have much time. Who does?

Apparently, she forgot who waited on her hand and foot after her face-lift (when she spent three days in bed), broken leg (when I spent six weeks carrying her around) and auto accident (when she was bedridden at home for three weeks). I never considered it a burden.

She doesn't want to RV in our 40-foot bus anymore because I have to go to the bathroom every

two hours. I interrupt the driving. I enjoyed the trips around the country. So did she.

I don't do drugs, drink a lot or cheat. She has cheated in the past, which wasn't so bad as the lying about it. We have done well in life and are well-off. I am disappointed in her selfishness.

Evidently, assisting her mother during her dad's messy and prolonged death several years ago established a "not me" attitude for her future. Well, excuse me for getting old. I have tried hard to mend perceived issues and overcome fabricated slights. My list of her offenses is pretty substantial, too. I think the river has run its course. Should I flee or fight to stay? — *Discarded in Sarasota*

Dear Discarded: It takes two to fight, and right now it sounds as if your wife is pretty clear that she wants to flee with her divorce request. The death of her father and turning 70 really had an impact on her. I understand your being short with her because you are so angry and hurt by her actions. But the reality is that you sound like a great

husband, and there are millions of women who would give anything to have a husband like you. If you found one, your free bird of a wife might realize this and turn around. If not, remember that you deserve love and happiness, and if your wife insists on divorce, then find it with someone else.

Dear Annie: As a pharmacist, I would like to help clarify the need for the use of milliliters versus U.S. customary units.

A milliliter is an exact measurement. A teaspoon or a tablespoon in a utensil set can have a large disparity in volume compared with that of a measuring spoon. Therefore, it is expected that someone using a teaspoon or tablespoon measurement would give more or less than the prescribed amount, leading to over- or under-dosing — dangerous in either case.

I have worked in retail pharmacy in three different states. The pharmacies have had complimentary dosing spoons to make the measurements accurate. Customers should always ask for a spoon rather than convert. — *Caring for the Customer*

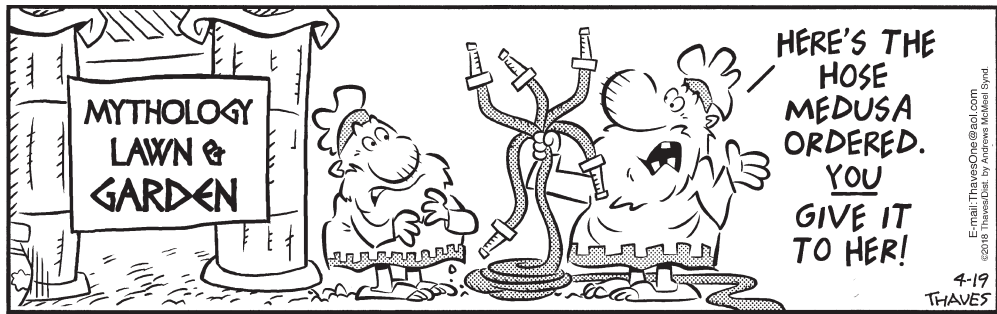
Dear Caring for the Customer: Thank you for sharing and for caring.

DEAR ANNIE

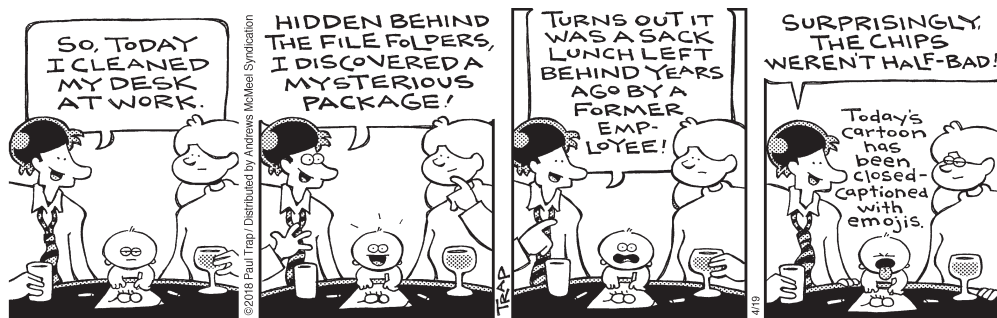


Annie Lane
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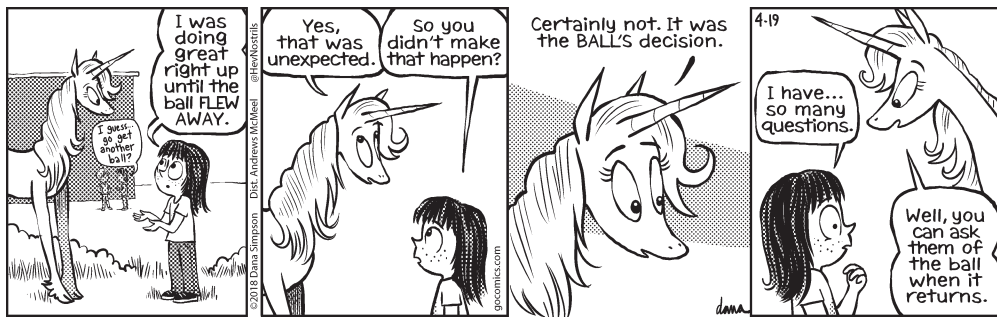
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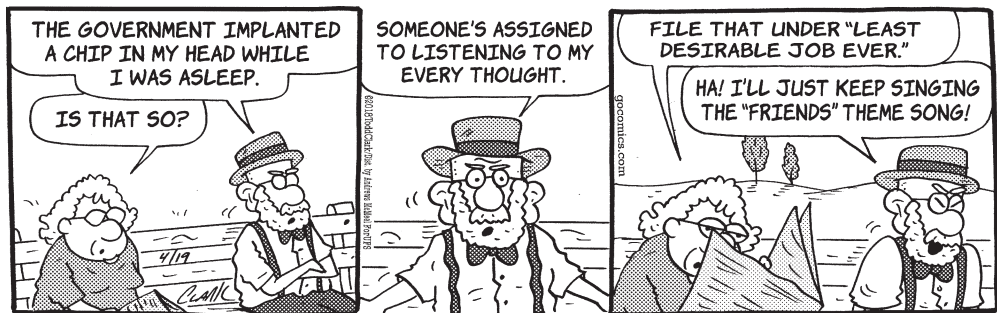
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



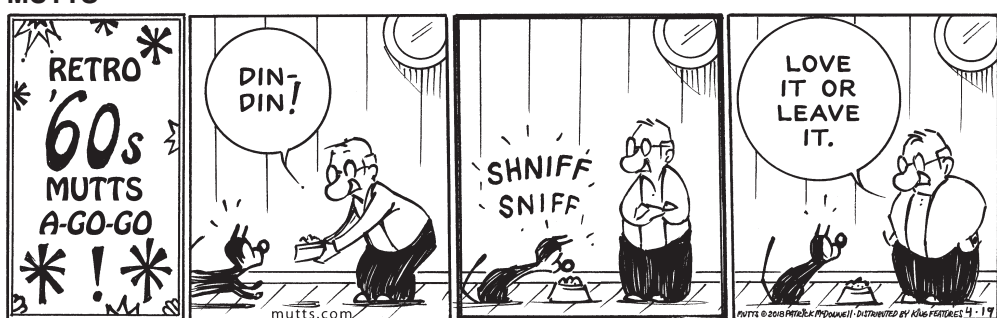
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're somehow involved in a game of chicken, and it's still unclear who is going to back down first. Of course, it will be the one who needs to be right more than they need to be smart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone believes that he or she is contributing to your happiness. Is that really the case, though? If so, perhaps reward is due in the form of appreciation. If not, it's time to communicate your wants more clearly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are so empathetic today that you will echo the feelings of those around you with your own heart. It is therefore important that when you need to get something done, you work where you won't be disturbed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are very important to all of this — vital, even. Inseparable, actually. The ocean is the wave, and the wave is the ocean. So don't waste a minute doubting your relevance. Jump in and contribute.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's said that it's not the having or the getting that bring happiness, but the giving. If this is true, why is it so much fun to have and get? Anyway, you'll experience all three today. You'll get; you'll have; you'll give.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The light is different in each different place, in each moment, and so you'll see things differently. Fortune favors you as you refrain from making statements or decisions that are absolute in nature.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a flow to all you do today. Does it really matter how this is happening? Don't stop to analyze whether this comes from within or moves you from the outside. Just enjoy it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The easy way is actually the hard way. Push past the fear that makes you want to back down from the action — from the thing that must be done to move you into who you want to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Beware of what looks cool but can't deliver on its promise. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. In some cases, looking cool is important, but sooner or later the piper must be paid.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Emotions, responsibilities, relationships, possessions — all baggage. Baggage is necessary. That's why we pack it for the journey. But the more you have, the more it weighs, the more you pay.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Following the path of least resistance is a way to get moving, but once you're moving, you'll want to take charge of where you're going. Just remember that all traps have easy, juicy offerings up front.

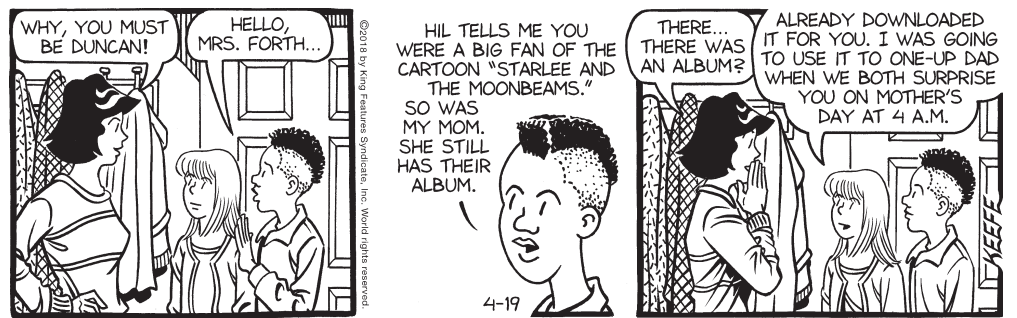
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are no improvements that happen without difficulty. You pay with work or sweat. You pay with money you earned or someone earned. There was effort somewhere in the chain. Today you're deciding what's worth it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 20). It's like you can grow things with your eyes. You see the good in people, and they will become better because of it. Also, you'll focus on the part of your financial life that's working the best, and you'll wind up making what you need to move forward with a venture with the potential to free your time and your mind. Pisces and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 11, 28 and 18.

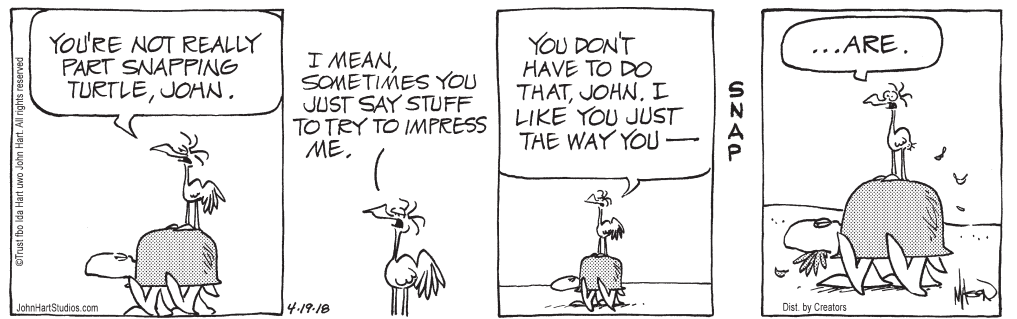
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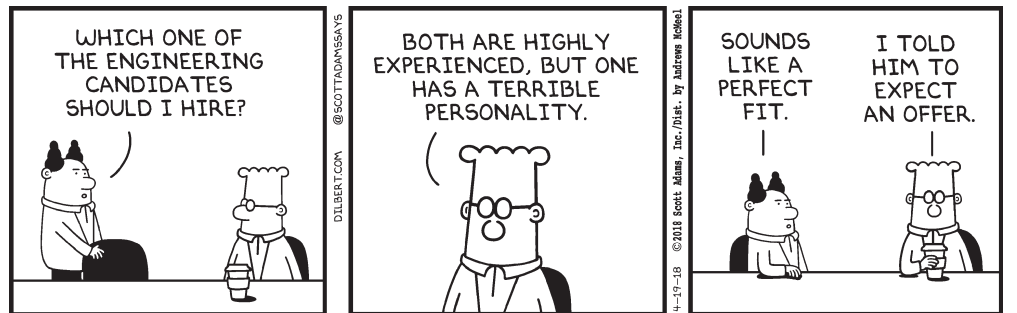
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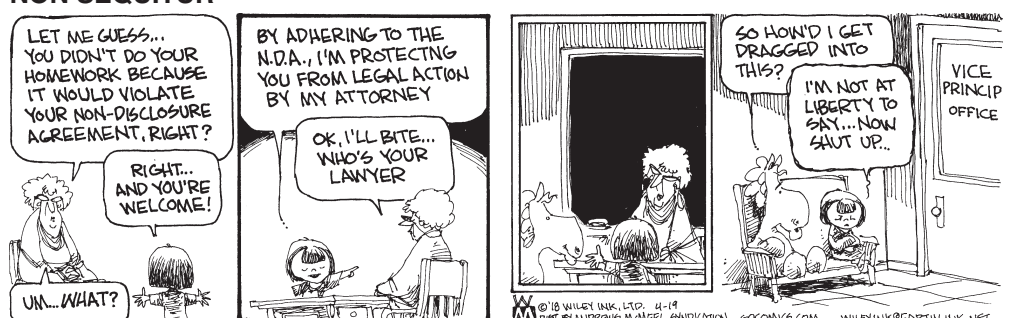
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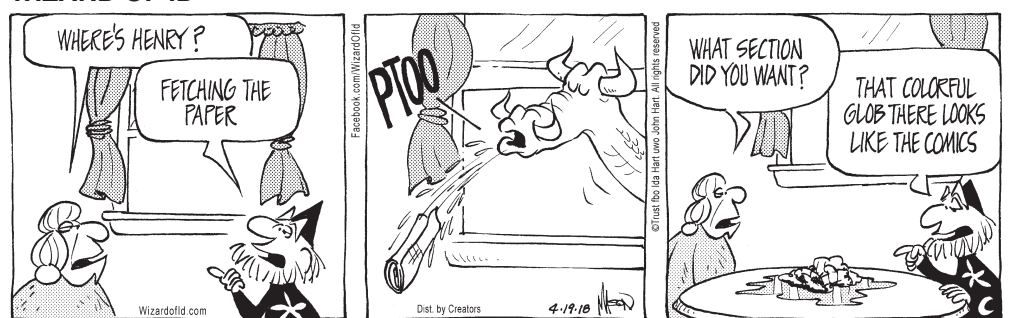
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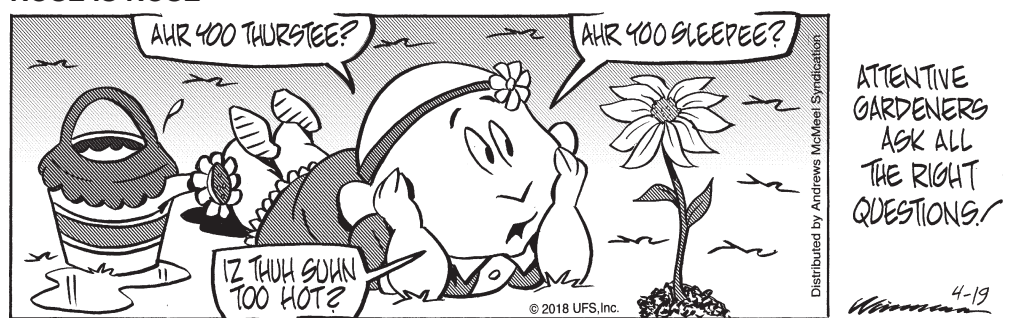
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