

Quandry for divorced gay dad

Dear Annie: I am a gay divorced father of three. I divorced the mother of my children after almost 30 very difficult years of psychological and physical abuse. When we first separated, my eldest daughter pulled me aside and offered to testify on my behalf if the divorce proceedings warranted it.

This daughter is soon to marry a wonderful young man, whose family happens to be from a country with a more conservative society. She claims that divorce is almost unheard of there, let alone homosexuality. She informed me that my fiancé, “Ray,” is not welcome at her wedding and reception because her future mother-in-law would “freak out,” as she isn’t used to such things. Mind you, Ray and I are quite modest and reserved people, and we are not demonstrative of our love and affection in front of others. Unless she or her fiancé has already told her future mother-in-law, it is reasonable to assume she would not even suspect us of being anything other than good buddies.

I am really struggling with this, even though Ray is fine about it and

doesn’t want to be where he isn’t wanted. My problem with this decision, which I feel is unreasonable, is twofold. First, though my future son-in-law’s mother is flying in for the wedding here in the U.S., they are having a second ceremony in her country at a later date. I feel they should be sensitive to my needs here and sensitive to his mother at the second ceremony overseas. Second, the reception will be populated with all of my ex-wife’s friends, who were my friends but have been turned against me. These people have never once sent a note or phoned me to see how I’ve been doing over the past five years. I strongly feel that I need Ray there. He is my rock. I am feeling more and more insecure and uncomfortable as the time approaches. Any advice? — Gay When I Give Her Away

Dear Gay When I Give Her Away: To me, the most important word in your letter is in your signature line — the word “her.” This is 100 percent about your daughter and her day. You are there to celebrate and support her on her very special wedding day. I would sim-

ply ask her again for her thoughts and feelings about your bringing Ray. Be honest with her about how you are afraid your old friends will judge you and you really need Ray’s support. It sounds as if you raised wonderful children, so your daughter will probably be understanding. But if not, let her have the final say.

Dear Annie: You publish quite a few letters from women complaining about men. Recently, you published one about men spitting. I won’t even attempt to defend that. However, I would like to point out that many women also have some bad habits. So let me put it in the form of a question: Why do so many women gather in groups talking to one another and clogging the aisles of the grocery? Often when I go to a grocery, I’ll run into three or four chatting women with shopping carts blocking an aisle. When I gently ask them to let me through, they give me dirty looks. All women? No. But neither do all men spit in public. Some men, some women. Let’s be fair. — Male Reader for Gender Fairness

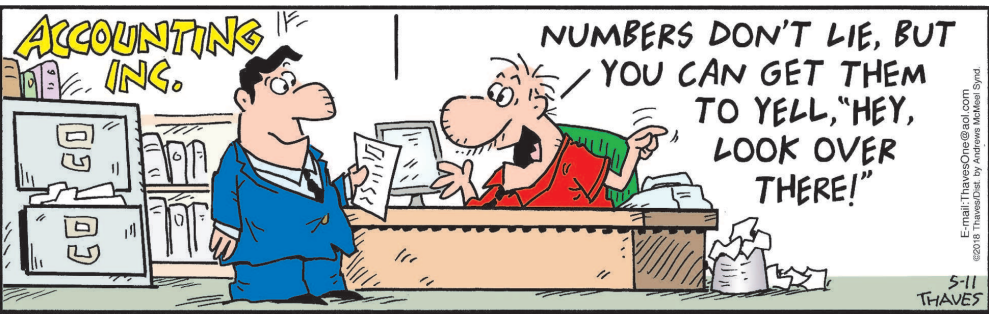
Dear Male Reader for Gender Fairness: I’m printing your letter in the name of balance and more navigable grocery aisles.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

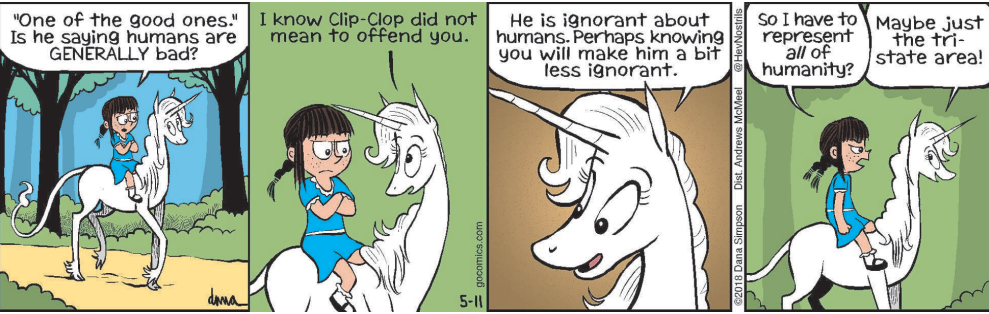
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



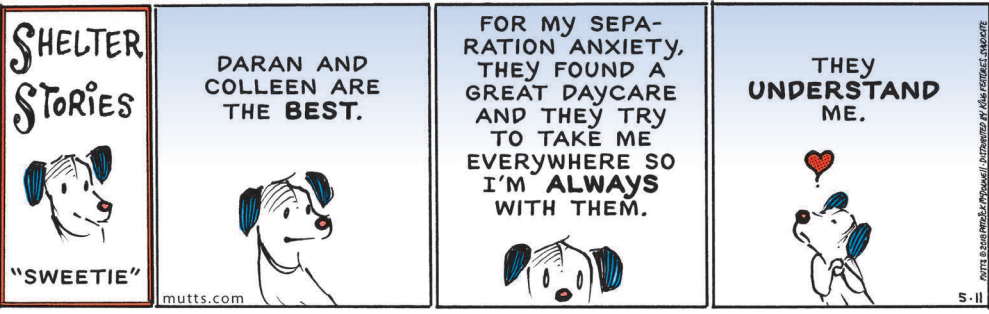
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW’S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll witness works of whimsy and wonder, "Who has time for that?" Clearly, somebody who thought it was important enough. This will be oddly empowering to you. Your own whimsy is important, too, after all!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The thing inside you that wants to dance will not stand by much longer. The call of the music will soon be too irresistible. So the question now is — partner or no partner?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Think twice before you add anything because any addition at all will change the whole picture. There is no way around it. More moving parts means more complexity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are obvious problems with this path, but that doesn't mean you're on the wrong one. If you can figure out your path through supposed contradictions, you can help others do the same.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're working on something significant, yet your approach is playful. You're like a pen making spontaneous marks on the paper world — doodling for fun and profit, working out the intricacies of life with your whimsy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People describe what's happening in the senses with words that apply across all five. The word "sharp" can apply to a note that leans up, a line that cuts through, a cheese that curls the tongue ... and your mind in general today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll leave one situation and enter a better one. After this, it's going to be hard for you to think of anything as lost ever again. What's lost is never gone, it's someplace else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). All who wander are not lost, and all who meander are not wasting time. The sparks of imagination will count for something later. This is all adding up to something more tangible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you help someone grow, you will learn things again, the way they learn things. Together you'll move through the electric moment that bridges not knowing to knowing.

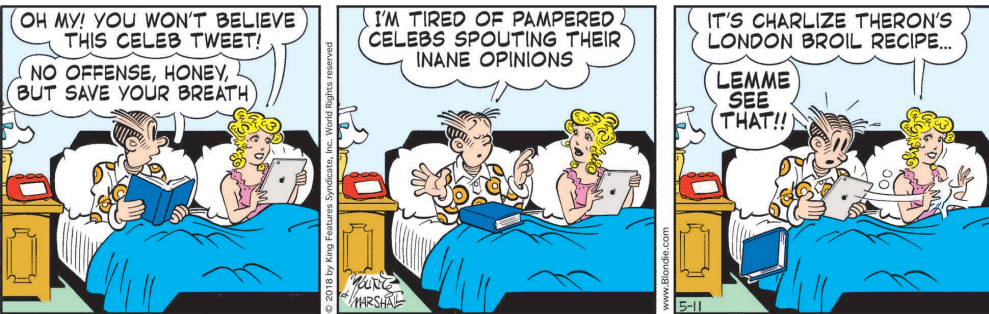
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you're embarrassed by what you did a few years back, that's an excellent sign of your growth. If you're embarrassed by what you did a few weeks back, good! You're now improving on a rapid scale.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Enjoy the benefit of experience. You're mellowing out. You've learned what's worth paying excited attention to and what's not. You know how to handle things, so you can relax even while taking on more.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are many things you could add to your practice in the name of getting good. But to get great will require you to go the opposite direction. Eliminate every extraneous element and isolate only what works.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 12). You may admire the lives of others but it's the ones who help you see your own life in all its glory that will be your cherished companions on this year's path. You'll showcase your talent over the next 10 weeks. There's an important trade-off to make in June. Family events will inspire new ventures. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 12, 43 and 37.

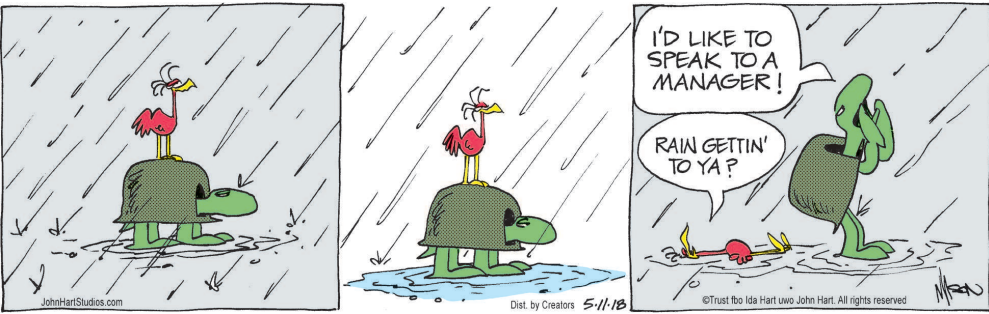
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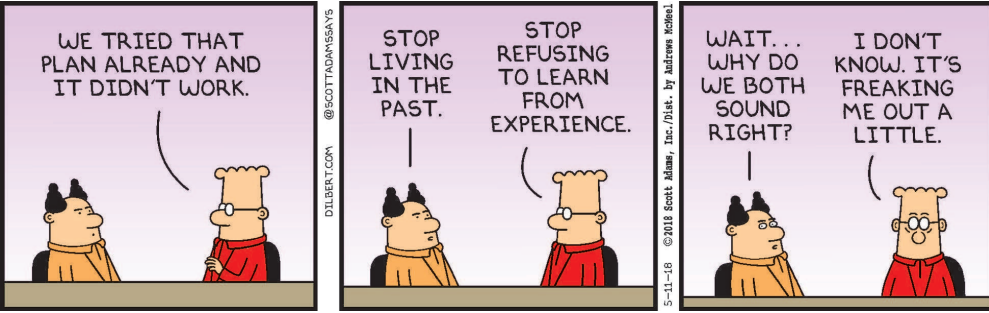
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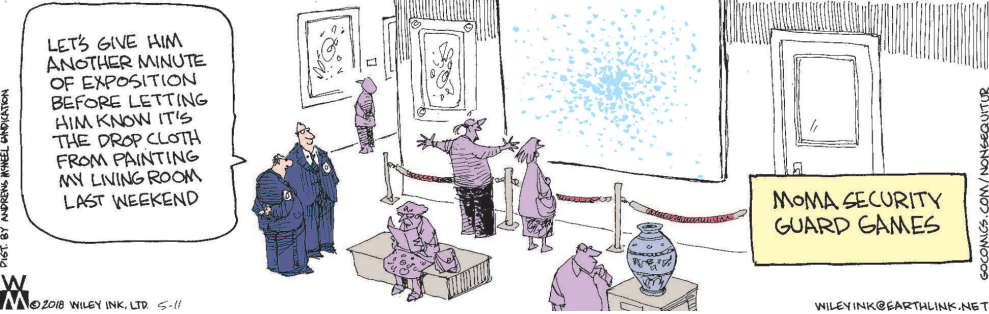
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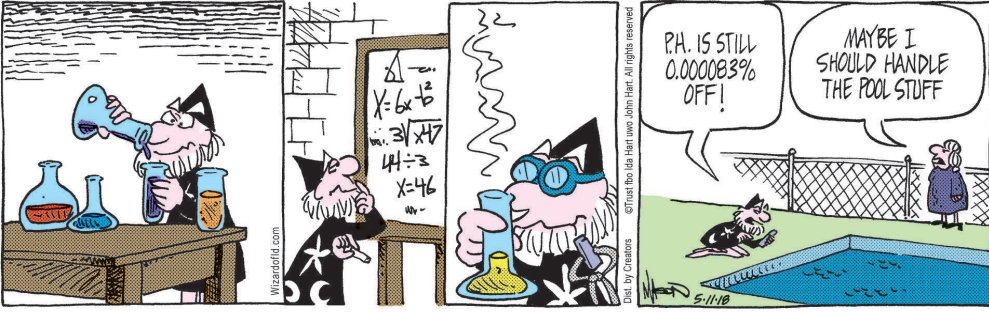
BIZARRO



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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

