

Granny kept at arm's length

Dear Annie: I'm very frustrated, and I would like your opinion, please.

My daughter-in-law doesn't seem to realize that some of the things she does really hurt me. I've always been there for my son and daughter-in-law. I try very hard to be a good mother-in-law. I never interfere. I never show up without calling, and I hardly ever ask them for help because I know how busy they are.

I have changed my plans and moved my work schedule around so I could baby-sit, take my grandchild to some activities or watch their house and pets while they've gone away (which I've been happy to do because it makes their lives easier).

Her mom is not reliable and not allowed to baby-sit because she can't be trusted. I'm asked to do most things, which I don't mind, but I feel as though her mother gets invited to so much, whereas I have to ask. She just shows up at their house anytime and sleeps over for every holiday, and that seems to be OK with them.

I try to make time for my grandchild, but it seems that unless I'm baby-sitting, I don't get the same

respect and leniency as the other grandmother. I'm often told they need family time when I ask to be more involved, which I keep to a minimum so as not to intrude. On one very special occasion, her mother knew what I was buying for my grandchild (which was supposed to be sentimental between my grandchild and me) and basically bought the same thing and gave it to her first. My daughter-in-law was aware of the gift I had gotten and how excited I was but allowed it all to happen anyway.

Her mother is included in getting my grandchild ready for special events. Yet I'm told things will be too hectic. I can't say anything because my daughter-in-law has a short fuse at times, and my son doesn't get involved.

I'm just afraid I'm losing the closeness that I had with my grandchild, and I'm really at a loss as to what to do next. Please help. — *Left Out in California*

Dear Left Out: It's time to stop bending over backward for them and start standing up for yourself. Flexibility and generosity are great attributes — but without communica-

tion, they're a recipe for resentment. Talk to your son about how you're feeling. Let him know that you respect their need for space and family time but you don't want the only time you see them to be when they're dropping off your granddaughter to be baby-sat. And you shouldn't only get to see your granddaughter when you're baby-sitting her. Express your desire to be there for special events. And set personal boundaries, such as deciding not to rearrange your work schedule just so you can baby-sit.

Whatever happens, know that their deferral to her mother is most likely a matter of playing favorites but of avoiding fights. It sounds as though she has some serious personality issues that they're just trying to manage.

Dear Annie: I would like to add to your advice to "True Lies." You said he "may be confusing criticism with honesty" when giving advice. To this, I would add the Buddha's take on telling the unvarnished truth. He observed that telling the truth only is not enough. He said that in order for your input to be effective, it must be both kind and true. Kindness works. — *Dr. Stewart A. Denenberg*

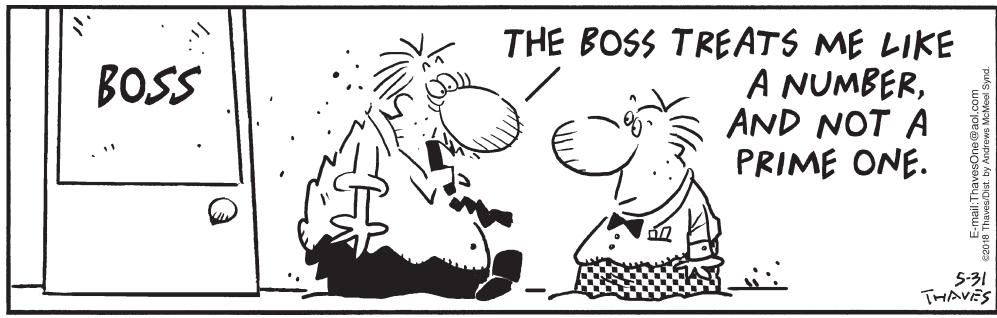
Dear Dr. Denenberg: True wisdom. Thank you for sharing.

DEAR ANNIE

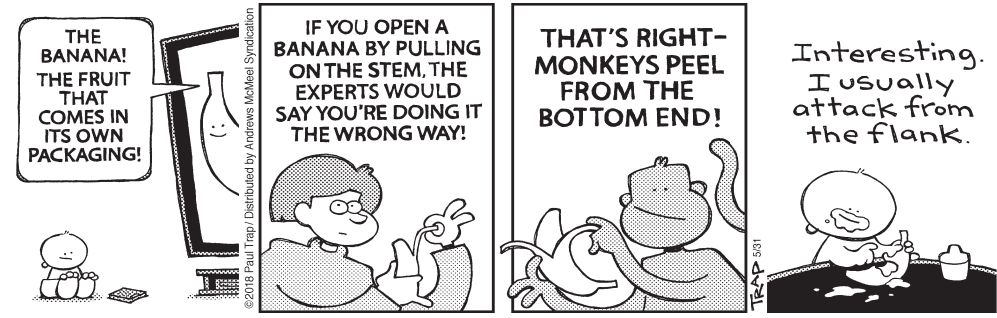


Annie Lane
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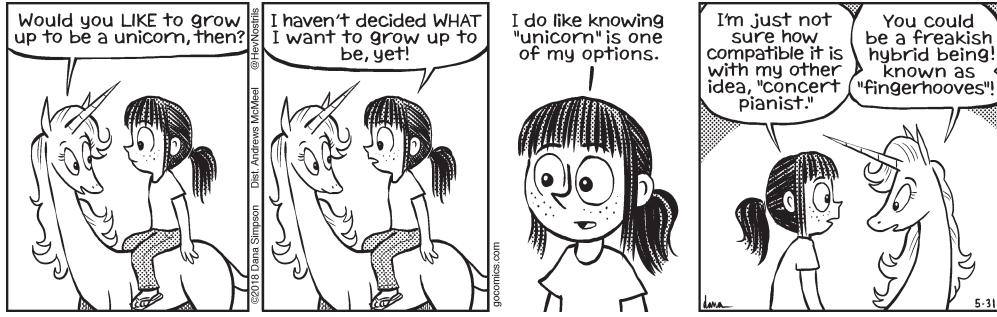
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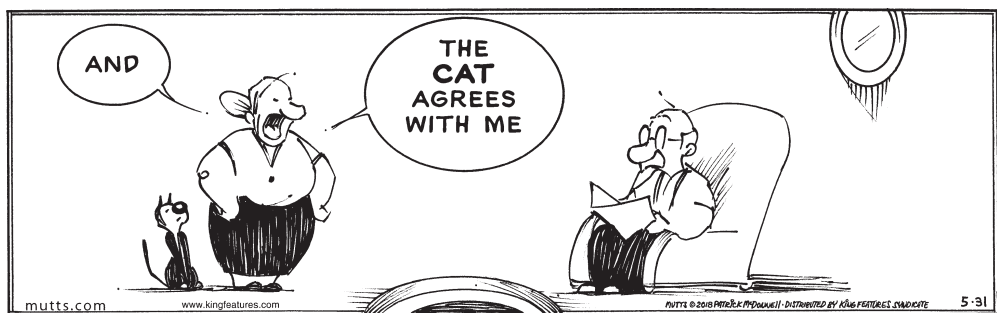
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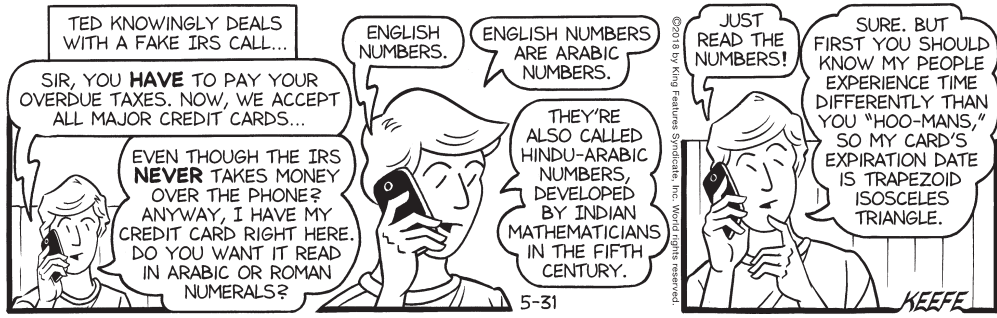
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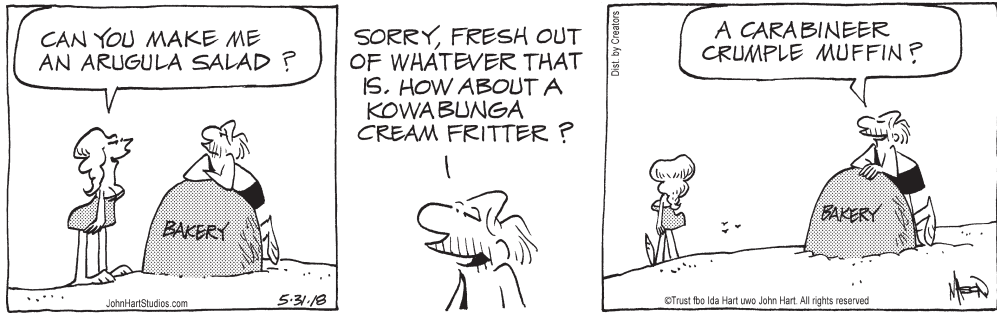
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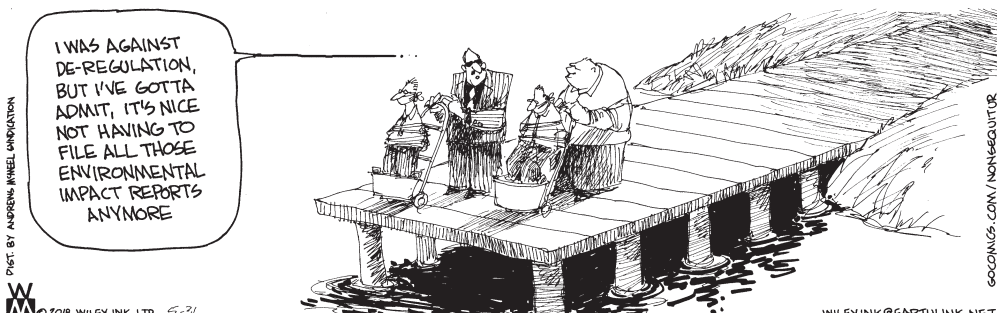
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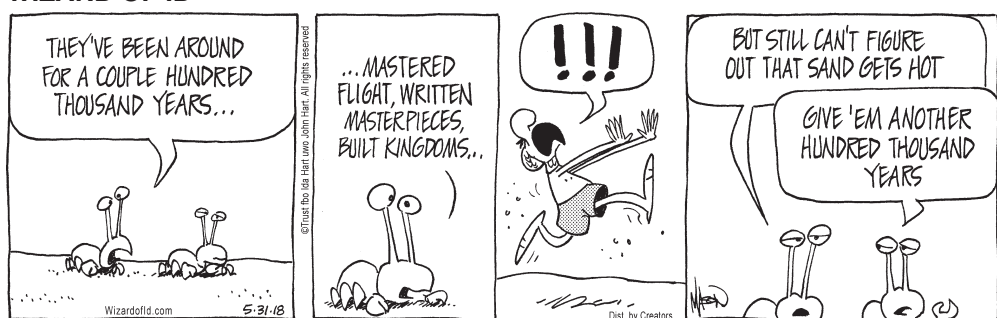
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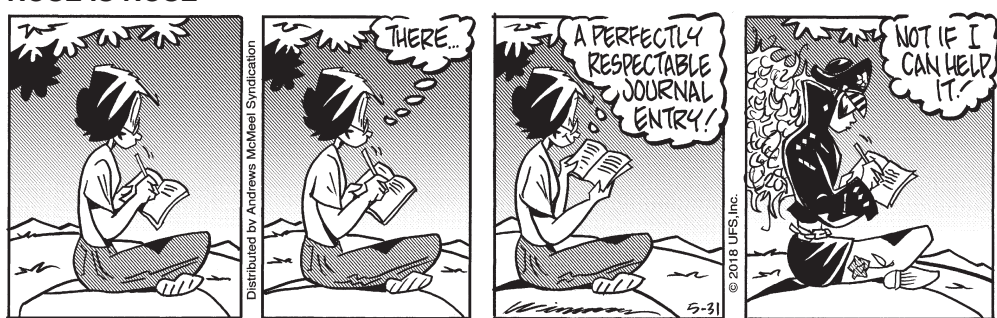
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ROSE IS ROSE



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The main determinant of today's outcome will be your will. Your ability or inability to accomplish a thing is defined only by your inner determination to do so. If you want it badly enough, you'll do what it takes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whining is the noise animals make to signal frustration, fear and distress. The young human animal produces among the most annoying whines of all. But mature humans figure out a way, no complaints.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's the perfect combination inside your head. You have the ambition of an artist and the mindset of an engineer. From this space, you're poised to do your best work.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes one size fits none. The generic advice will be off — not just for you but for everyone. Success starts with a strategy that fits your understanding of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Each person's mind is unique. Your experience will overlap with that of another, but it's not the same. One of the best gifts we can give each other today is to listen to the details of an experience without comparing it to our own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are able to be very honest with yourself, and this is why today will be an important milestone. If your reason for not moving forward is really more of an excuse, you'll figure out a way around it today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's something you find odd about the mind: that you can have the most vivid show flashing on the screen inside your head and no one else can see it. Your intellectual air-sign nature will be delightfully activated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are expe-

riences that are really beyond words ... perhaps most experience is. But if you try, with whatever words you have, you might be surprised at how it helps you process and appreciate what's happened.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Through the ages, fearful, repressive societies have branded anyone different as "ill," even though communities of all kinds are made stronger by diversity. We will be as strong as what we accept in ourselves and others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Exercise will be the panacea. Moving your body, blood and breath will move your mood, emotions and destiny. Even though exercise isn't always about comfort, the more you enjoy it, the more likely you'll be to come back to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The astronauts go so high they can see the whole of their country at once; then the home continent; then all of Mother Earth. Relatedly, the division between you and your love will dissolve as you rise higher and higher above it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Each of the 100 billion of your brain cells has the mark of you inside it — the DNA to prove it's yours. When you expand and change your mind, universes inside you do the same. There's power in this.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 1). This solar return will give you more time to focus on the people and interests that feed your soul — not because something opens up, but because you decide to cut out interference and take charge of your joy. You'll travel to at least three remarkable new places. The skill you pick up in September will introduce new work. Aquarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 44, 48 and 30.