

Parents don't accept teen

Dear Annie: I am a healthy, strong teenager who goes to a great school. I have a roof over my head and food on the table, but there is one problem: I'm transgender, and my parents refuse to accept me. I came out to them about three years ago as gay, before I fully understood what was going on in my head. They told me how strongly they felt it was wrong and that they would not accept me. A year later, when I realized that what I was feeling was a desire to just be one of the guys, I knew I couldn't tell them.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I started going by a new name at school, presenting myself as a male there and trying my best to hide it from them, but as all things do at this time in your life, it found its way to my parents. They confronted me about it and told me how upset they were, and ever since, they have been making sure I know that at home, I will never be a boy. Sometimes I have dreams in which they finally accept me, and when I wake up and realize I've been dreaming, I start crying. This has worsened the depression I have struggled with for about half my life, and meeting with

my therapist isn't helping very much. I don't know what to do. — *Disconcerted in Distress*

Dear Disconcerted in Distress: I am so sorry to hear you're struggling with depression. Though your parents might not be able to offer you the understanding and acceptance you seek, there are trusted adults who can.

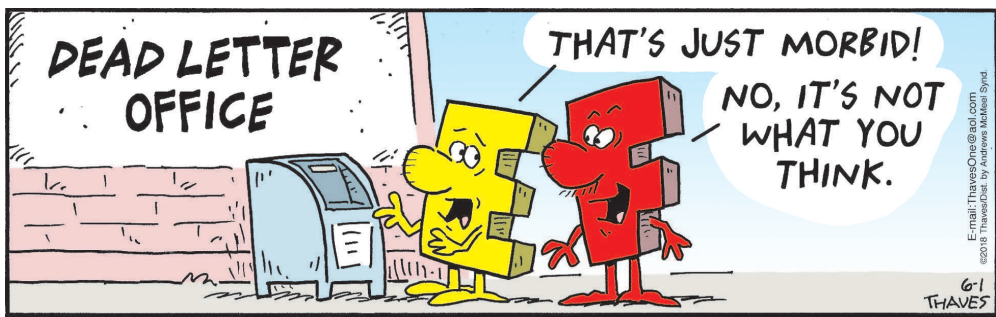
I strongly encourage you to reach out to The Trevor Project, a wonderful organization dedicated to helping LGBTQ youths. Call its hotline (866-488-7386) anytime to speak to a counselor about what you're experiencing. He or she can also connect you to resources in your area. For more information (or to chat with a counselor online, if you prefer instant messaging to a phone call), visit <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>. As lonely as things might feel right now, I promise that you are not alone.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Not Ready," the 21-year-old man whose 18-year-old girlfriend is pushing for engagement. I agree with your advice to him and would like to speak to him directly, so I hope he's reading:

"Not Ready," gently explain to your girlfriend that "anger" is just one letter from "danger" and that it is not a way to start a lifetime relationship. It is hard enough as it is to make a marriage work when you marry before actually growing up. I got married when we were both 18. I felt that I knew what I was doing, but I was way too young. The marriage lasted for 10 years, but as we grew up, we grew apart. Not even children can keep you together, nor should they. They are the ones who suffer the most. If you have money problems now, rest assured it will only get worse. You say she won't get a job, is lazy, makes messes and doesn't clean up. She sounds totally depressed. Have her go to the doctor. But please, put the brakes on any thought of engagement. You will be glad you did. — *Should Have Waited*

Dear Should Have Waited: I'm sorry your young marriage was so tough on you, but I'm glad you feel comfortable sharing your experience now. I hope it gives "Not Ready" the confidence he needs to stand up to his girlfriend and resist the pressure to marry before he's ready. Thanks for writing.

FRANK AND ERNEST



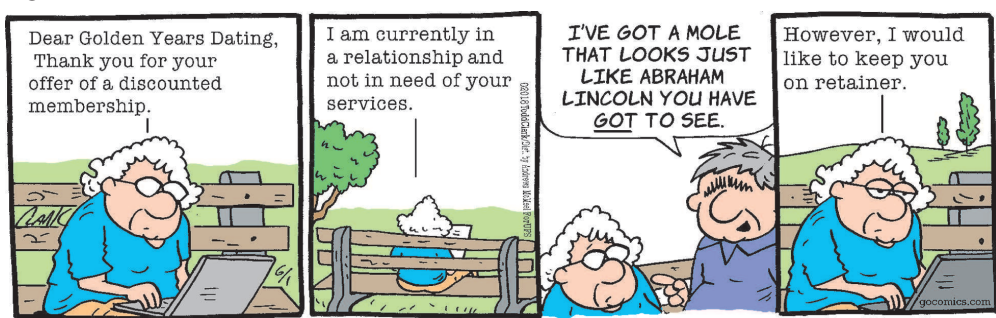
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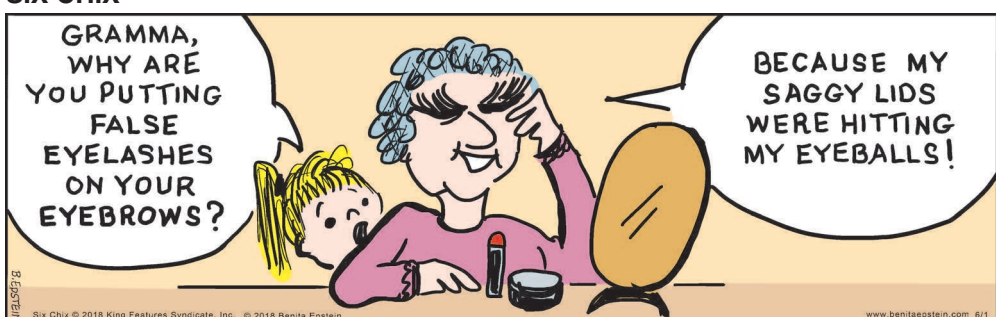
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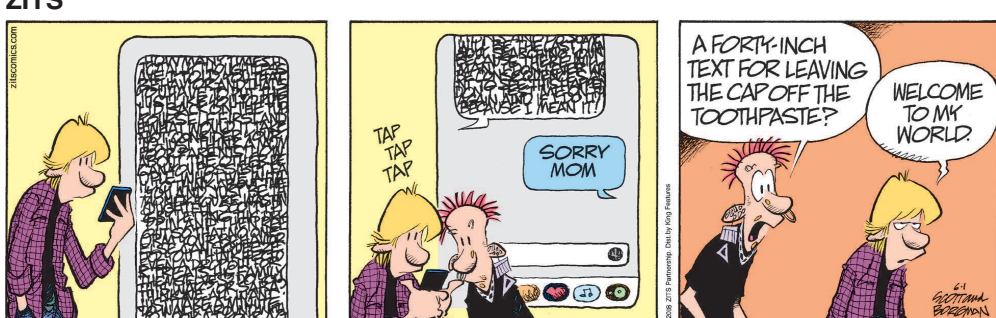
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Relationships have rules you agree upon and rules you don't even know exist. The next 24 hours will make you conscious of some that fall into that second category.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The universe inside you is as vast and complicated as the one outside of you. Sometimes you can forget about this and focus on simple, small joys. But today, you've a profound sense of boundlessness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though you don't want to live your life as though it's a fight, there are certain things to be constantly vigilant against — such as negativity, nastiness and any resistance you might feel to doing the thing you know to be right for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). By now it should be news to no one that the addictive nature of the internet and the social media culture of comparison can be an enemy of mental health when taken too far. Question of the day: How far is too far?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Movie directors can use flashbacks and alter the timeline of events for dramatic effect. Though you must live your life in linear time, your memories and your expectations will serve to make things interesting ... a sort of "director's cut."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's easy to do the right thing when it's also the thing you want to do. How do you make yourself want, though? There's some you-to-hype that will happen today. Research into the subject may help with this pep talk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Entertainment is the way to travel without leaving. Books, movies and music will take your mind on a mini-vacation and make you a fan of someone new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some relationships are steady, if a little boring. Others are unpredictable. The same relationships that can take you to heaven can drag you through the muddy depths. It's good to have both kinds, but in careful doses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One drop of ink is all it takes to cloud the whole glass of water. Doubt is like that ink drop. It's why it's important to build your belief in yourself and hold on to your faith in general.

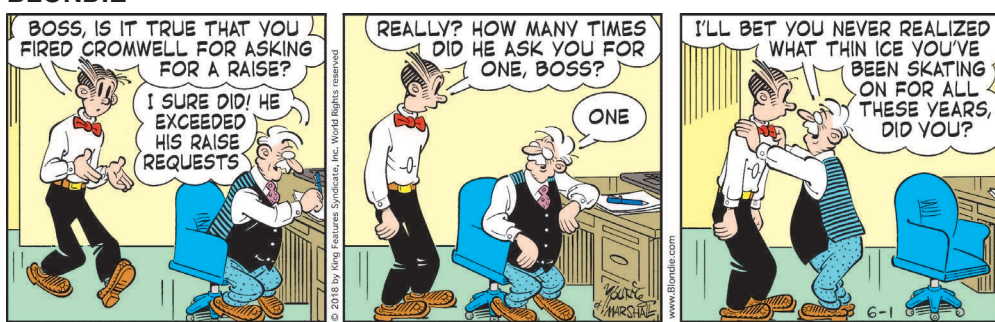
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is no universal "normal." Was it normal a hundred years ago? No. Is it normal for the majority of people? No. Would someone profit were you to adopt it as normal for you? Yes. "Normal" is often a sales pitch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Environments fortify a certain tone. That timbre becomes the general song of the place. The more everyone agrees on what the vibration is, the harder it is for anyone to sing disharmoniously. Use this to your advantage.

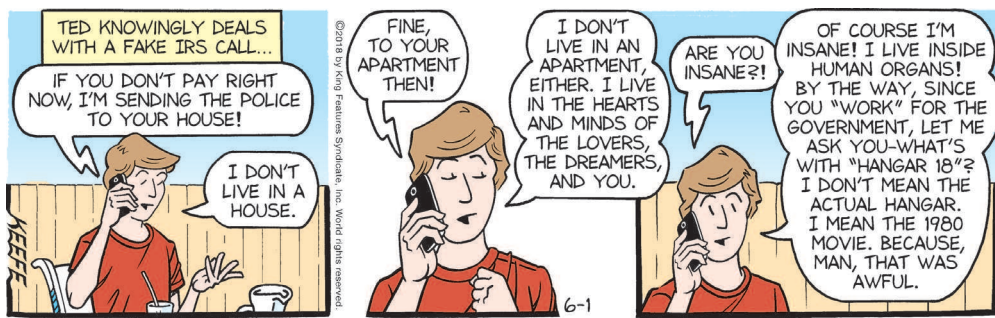
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In an odd twist, the plans you make will actually help you embrace spontaneity and improvisation. You'll feel especially lively around air signs, which are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 2). Heartfelt exchanges start your solar return on a sweet note. For three months, excitement happens in groups. There's magic in amping up your participation where you belong already or investigating new groups. Document life well in September. The financial changes at year-end help you live better in 2019. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 20, 5, 33 and 18.

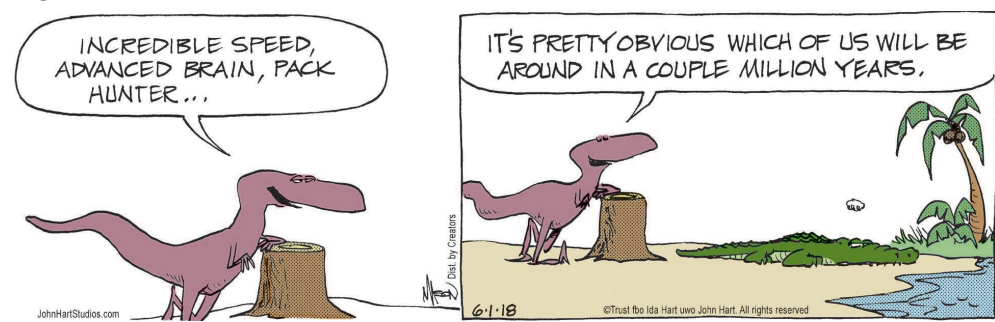
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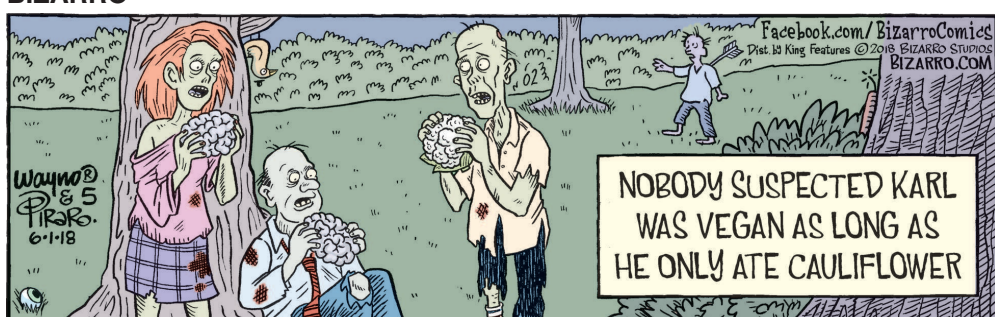
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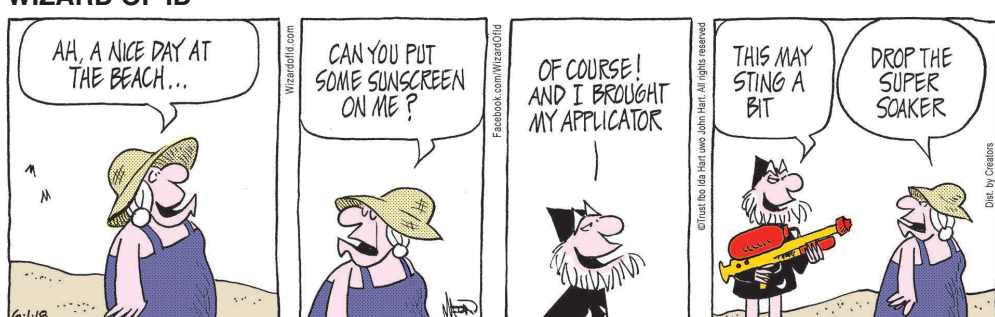
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