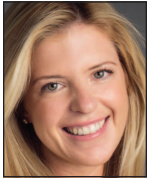


Friend mispronounces name

Dear Annie: Seventy-one years ago, my father decided to honor his kid brother and heritage by naming me Iaina, the female derivative of Iain (also spelled Ian), and I have had to correct others' spelling and pronunciation of it ever since. I have not learned how to live with it, and no matter how long I live, I never will. I chose a nickname for this reason, Janie (not Jane), and people get that wrong, too. My first-grade teacher insisted I was misspelling and mispronouncing my name and "corrected" me on a daily basis.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I was having dinner with a friend of 10 years in a local restaurant this week, and she was chatting with an individual at a table beside us. She introduced me as Jane, and I corrected her and said my name is Janie. She then said my real name is Iaina but mispronounced it and butchered it. I was livid because she has known me for so long and knows how much it bothers me that people mispronounce my name, so I corrected her again.

I do not feel that I am honoring my name or heritage and almost

want to stop responding to anyone who calls me by the wrong name when speaking with me or corresponding with me. It is not a small thing. How do I get people to understand that it is important to acknowledge the correct spelling and pronunciation of everyone's name? — Janie

Dear Janie: It's no wonder you're frustrated. Our names are deeply intertwined with our identities. When people don't make an effort to accurately pronounce your name, it's as if they're saying they don't care who you are. I'm sure that's rarely, if ever, their intention, but it is nonetheless the effect.

Though you shouldn't have to repeatedly correct people, don't be shy about doing so. Your friends, of all people, should take the matter seriously, and it sounds as though it's time for another talk with your friend about how her dismissal of your name amounts to a dismissal of your feelings.

Mainly, I hope your letter is a wake-up call for anyone reading who is guilty of this behavior. When meeting someone new,

people should do their best to learn how to say the person's name correctly. Repeat it back to the person, and ask for clarification if you have to. Yes, it means putting yourself out there a bit, but it makes the person feel seen, acknowledged and important, and it sets a tone of mutual respect — well worth that extra smidgen of effort.

Dear Annie: I can understand why "Camera-Shy Grandma" doesn't like to be photographed, but she should consider the fact that her stepdaughter likes pictures of people who are important to her. My brother was killed in Afghanistan 10 years ago, and I can't find a single photo of just the two of us together as adults. What I wouldn't give for one today! — Kyle C.

Dear Kyle C.: I am so sorry for the loss of your brother. You are 100 percent correct, and my failure to address that angle of the issue was an oversight that I regret. I'd like to amend my earlier response.

Camera-Shy Grandma: Try to grin and bear it for at least a few photos from time to time. You'll be giving her family a gift for the future. Don't worry so much about your appearance, either. To them, you'll always just look like beloved, beautiful Grandma.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't want to comply with what's being asked of you. Do what comes naturally: Stall. It will give you time to more fully realize the dynamics at play. The stall will help you stay aware of what's really going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Technically, you are free to set up your daily life in a way that serves your own rhythms. But the reality is that the involvement of others makes this tricky. Success follows being slightly more assertive about your domestic wishes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is said that twins share a private language all their own. You have a unique language with every single person you talk with, as you intuitively cater your communication specifically to others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You did what you did. It was the best you knew at the time. In hindsight, maybe you did certain things to cope and survive that you wouldn't choose now. But go easy on yourself. Have self-compassion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Fulfillment of your aims will take organization and planning. You could really use a boost, and it's going to come from the completion of something tangible. Making a measurable difference with your work will bring contentment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Transformations can happen — and they do, all of the time. But don't count on other people's transformations, as each person must be in charge of his or her own. Put all your focus into becoming who you want to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You hear people, whether or not they tell you in words. Many people can get the gist of emotional messages, but you actually act on them, which is part of

what makes your friendship so golden.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Say what you're going to do. Do it. Seems simple, right? For you. Not for everyone. Some people in your life won't have the same follow-through. Hopefully, you'll be patient with them today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is "forced cooperation" an oxymoron? After all, if a person has no choice but to comply, it's not cooperation; it's control. Most people don't like to be controlled, as today's situation will highlight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You appreciate friends who can keep a secret, because most can't. In the "can't" group, there are those who will warn you up front, and there are those who won't. Know whom you're dealing with today, because discretion will be important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Goals need a plan; plans need a ritual. Rituals are the support beams you'll be building on. Look at your current rituals, significant habits you carry out to make life work. How can you better line them up with your plan?

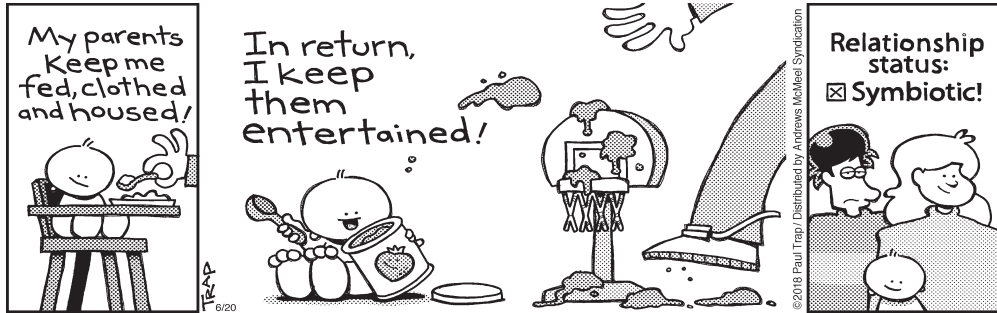
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A project is pushing to the forefront of your mind. If you don't do it now, then when will you do it? Resist the urge to start over, because there's something here to keep and build on. Use what's already working for you.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 21). You've earned the respect and admiration that comes with this solar return, so enjoy it! You'll be giving back to a past benefactor and it will feel terrific to satisfy a karmic debt. October comes in a rush of passion. The turn of the year represents a chance to gain professional rank or publicity that turns into money. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 39, 4.

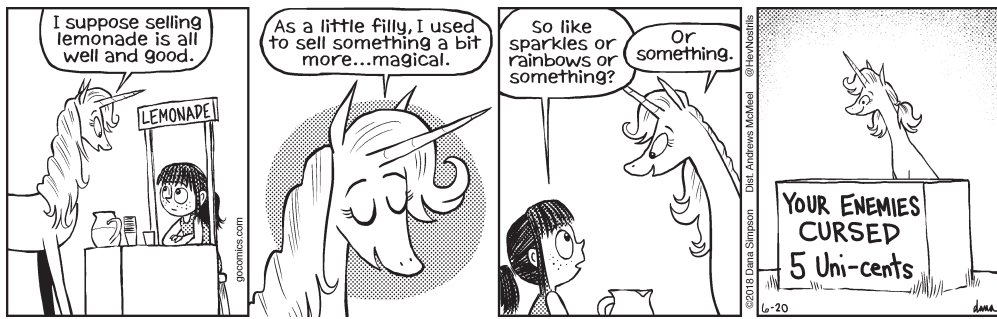
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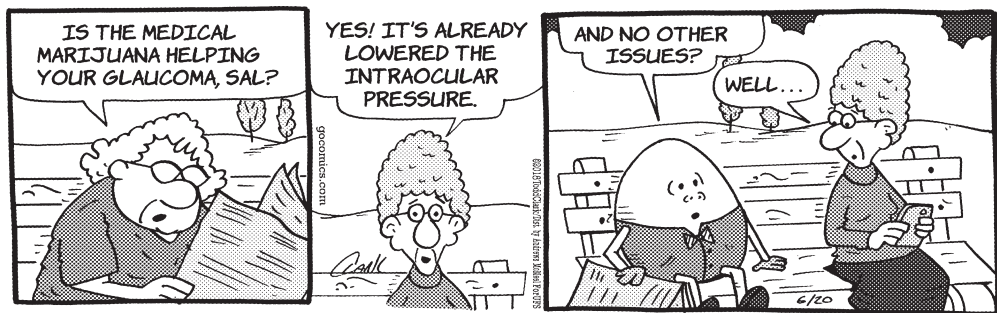
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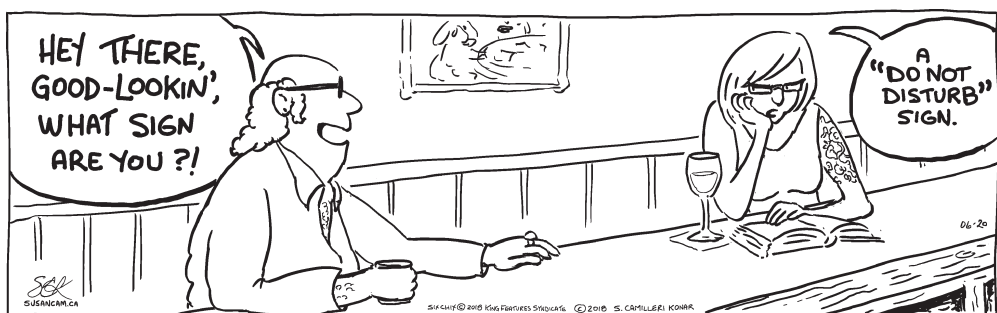
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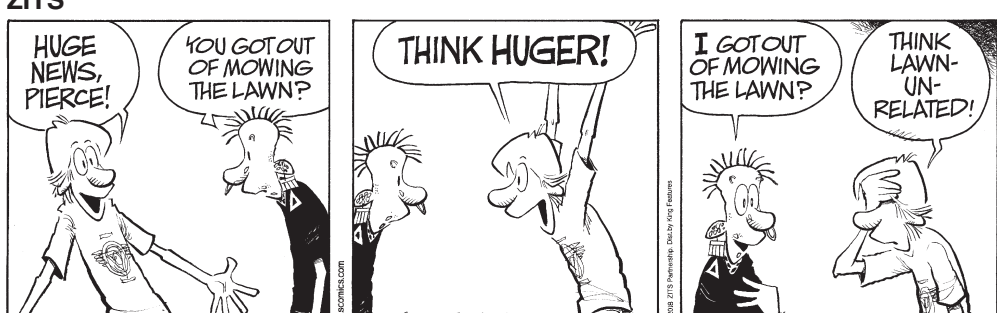
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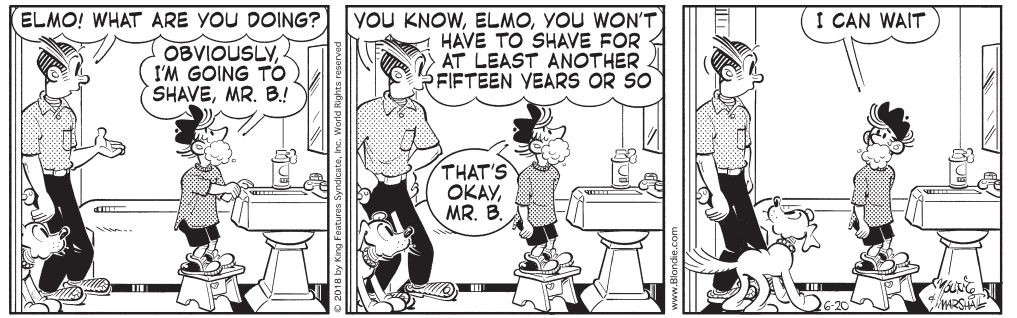
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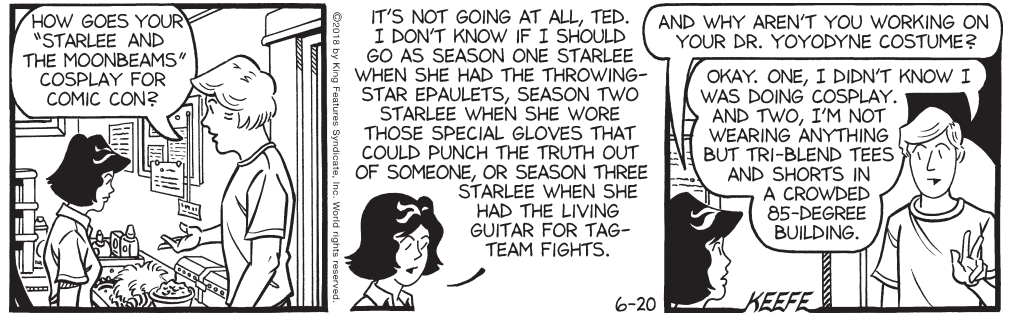
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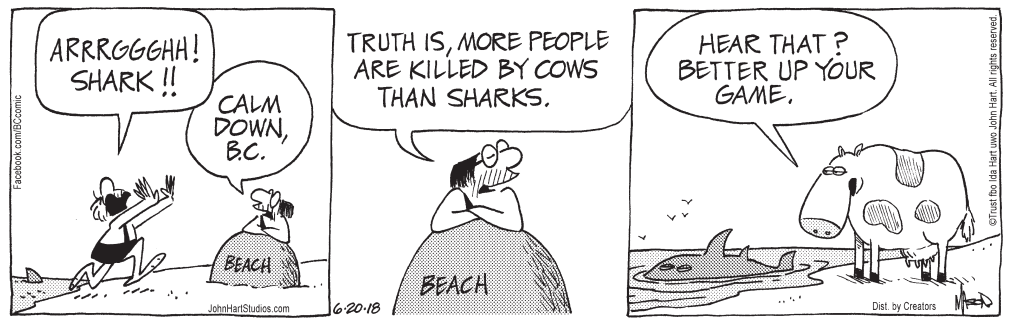
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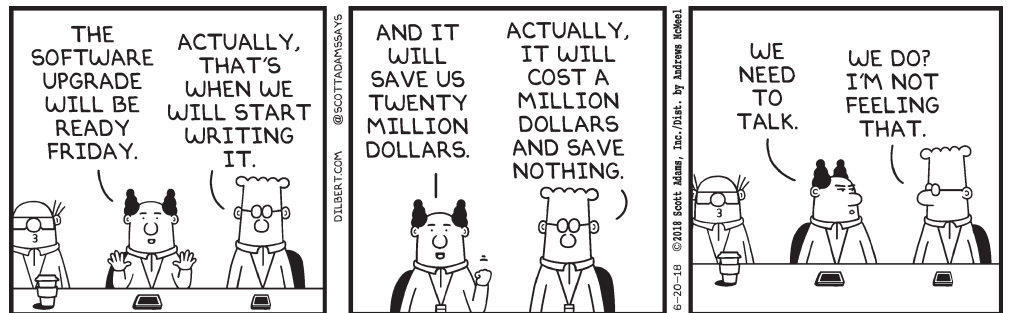
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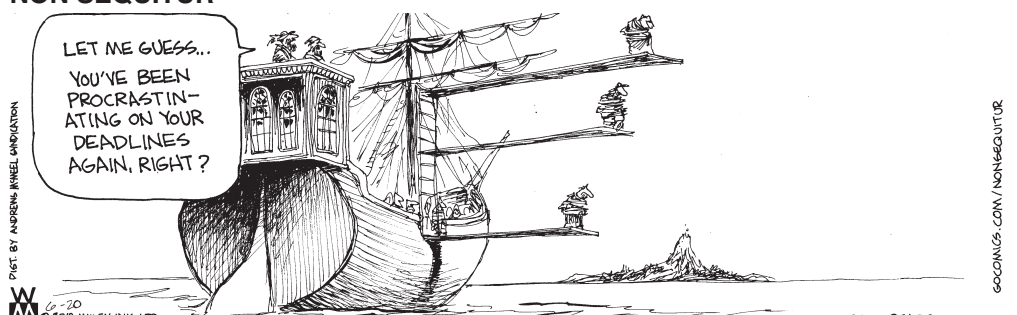
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