

My mother's other family

Dear Annie: My mother had a workplace affair back in the 1960s that lasted for approximately 10 years. My dad knew about it, but God rest his soul, he remained with my mom and our family until he died. The affair resulted in the fourth child in our family, with a 10-year gap between me and the new sister. Needless to say, my childhood had a lot of chaos — yelling, threats, sarcasm — which I worked through with a 12-step program. I want to be clear, though, that even with that turmoil happening, my mom and dad were actually very loving parents to us.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Here's my concern. The baby sister, "Shelly," has not only us three elder sisters but also nine other siblings from her biological father. We have all remained somewhat in touch with them through social media, but especially Shelly has. Three of those siblings are aware of Shelly and know that their dad was a womanizer. Their mom is still alive, and they claim she has no clue about Shelly.

My mom was Shelly's "best friend." Shelly always manipulated my mother over the years, holding this affair over her head. (She demanded a DNA test when she was a teenager.) Now I feel she is manipulating her "new family" and really wants to become a part of that family. I feel that my two elder sisters and I are being left in the dust. My eldest sister is livid and won't even discuss it. It is all surreal. One of the new sisters indicated she would write an email to all the others after their mom dies and share this "news."

Shelly emailed me the other day and told me that she had connected with one of her dad's half sisters, who is 84. Shelly said she has been really sweet and is including her on the family tree. I didn't respond.

Advice on how to handle all this would be appreciated. The turmoil is only in its beginning stages, I feel, because that email could cause a lot more — Not the Baby Anymore

Dear Not the Baby Any-

more: Shelly's inclusion on another family tree doesn't mean you have to prune her off yours, just as her growing closer with other half siblings doesn't mean she's growing apart from you. Let Shelly and her other siblings work things out among themselves. And there's no need to fear impending "turmoil." Focus on yourself and discover the serenity of detaching with love, because once you're truly grounded in your own life, others' turmoil can't shake you.

Dear Annie: My letter is in response to "Workplace Drama." I had my right breast removed in 2009 because of cancer. Why in the world didn't the woman get a rebuild? Congress passed legislation allowing a woman who loses her breasts because of cancer is entitled to have a rebuild. If this woman had a reason not to rebuild, she at least should have been fitted for a prosthesis. I wore one for a number of months before I could have my breast rebuilt. I am surprised that her doctor or surgeon did not inform her of her options. — Florida Survivor

Dear Survivor: Thanks for sharing your story.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What good is knowing better unless you also do better? The trouble is, you can't be sure. You have to take a risk in order to find out. Pursue the promising fix; act on your hunch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you can't make another person see what they don't see, you can point out what you see, and those who have the capacity at that moment will have a good chance of sharing in your vision.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The beginning of a project is light in the actual work that must be done, but it's heavy in the amount of change that must be tolerated. This is about adjusting, settling in and figuring out your commitment level.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You often tend to define yourself through a role, which is essentially defining yourself through a set of responsibilities. Just don't forget that you're the one who takes it on. If it's thrust on you, and you don't want it, throw it back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Regarding your project: You don't have to make up the route. The explorers before you did a pretty good job, and you can refer to their notes to save yourself needless trouble, or, if possible, take one with you on the journey.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Like duct tape engineering, something you solve today may involve an inelegant fix, but if it works, it works. Don't look back. You're resourceful, and it's something you should be proud of.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Brain scans can tell us which part of the brain is firing off neurons, but they can't show us the thoughts and visions that light up the ultimate privacy of the mind. Your private thoughts will be most

amusing today!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Share your ideas. They are what make you fascinating and maybe even irresistible to someone. Tonight, there will be interesting and yet inappropriate choices available to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All kinds of feelings get entwined in the excitement mounting around a project. Some of them will die down when the project stabilizes and becomes a working entity. Some won't. Romance may be a part of this.

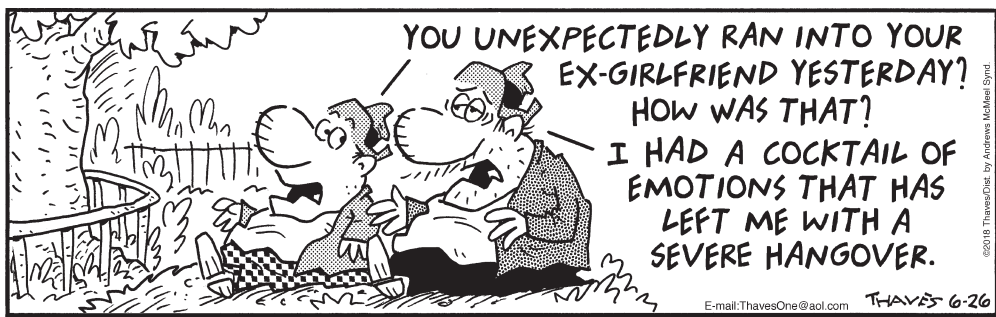
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you were chosen for the job, you can safely assume that you are the best person for it. Don't worry about anything but giving this your very best shot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whatever is going on now, more of the same is to be expected today. You can see the potential in others. It's something to nurture and believe in, but potential is not something to date or do business with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a lot you are capable of doing, but the thing you really want to do is taking a back seat. Just because you can fit yourself into a situation doesn't mean you belong there.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 27). You say, "Yes!" and the excitement commences. You'll become part of an inspiring group. In August, answering hard questions will make life easier. You'll streamline your personal business in order to be flexible and spontaneous. You'll cut out nonessentials once you figure out what is really essential. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 21, 35 and 18.

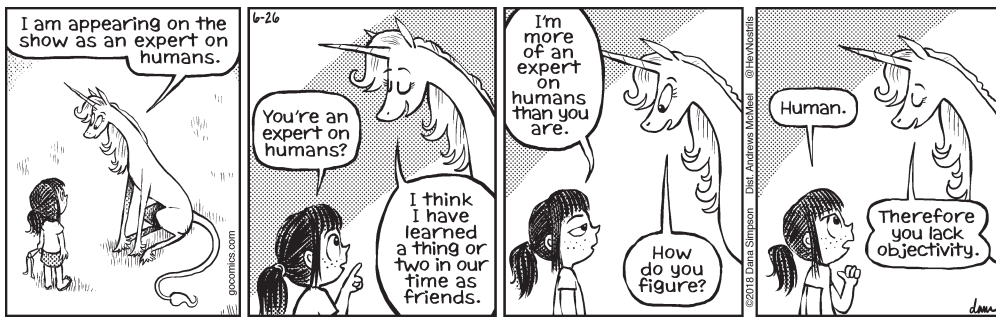
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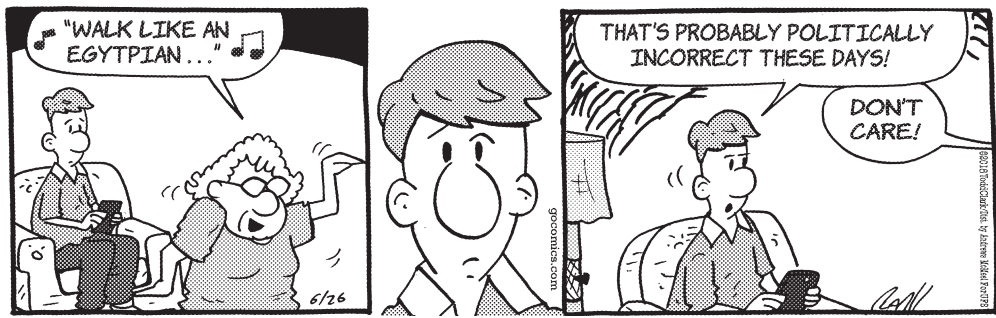
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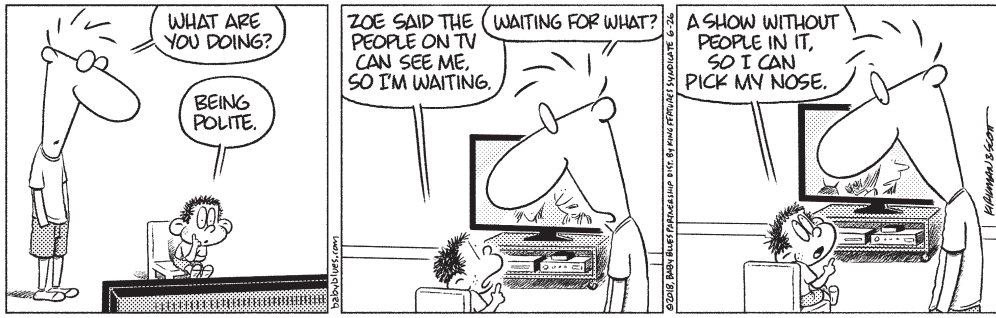
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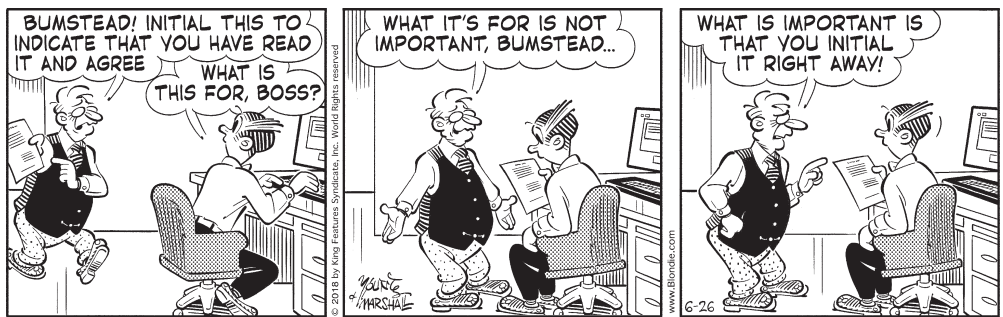
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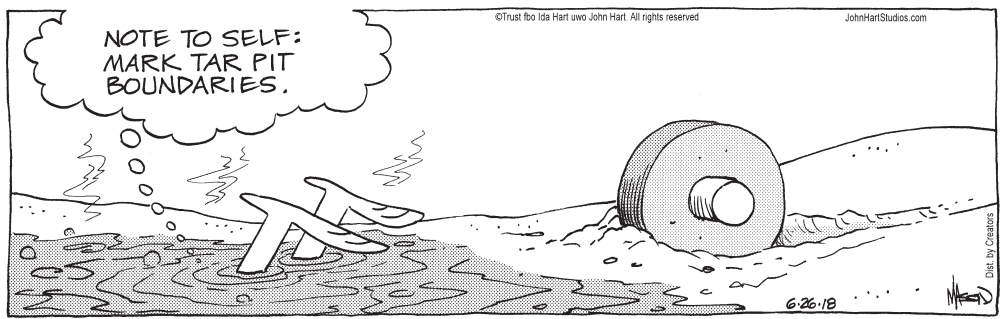
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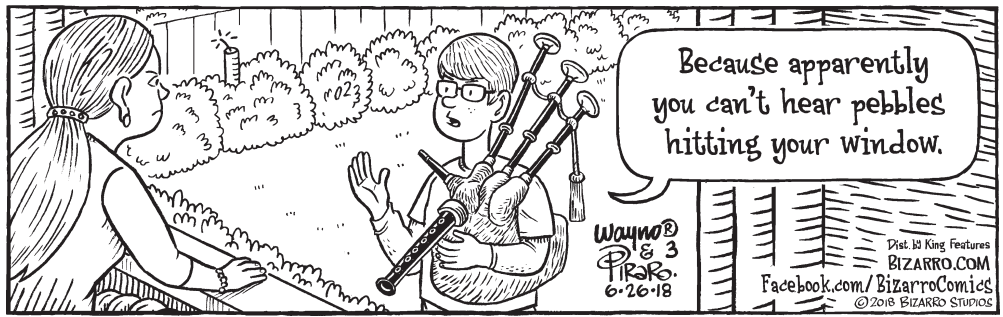
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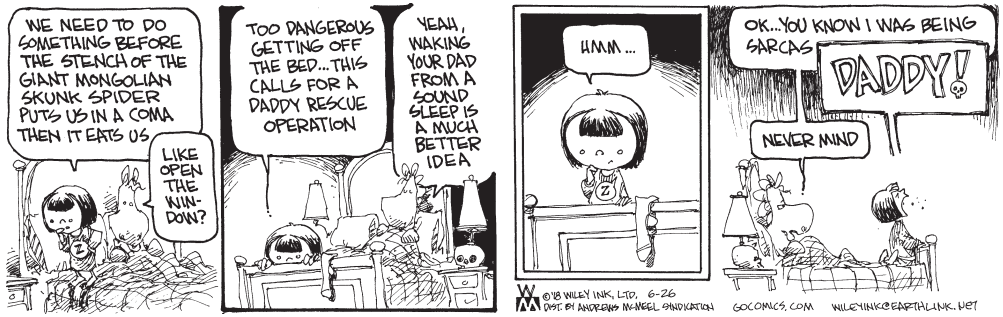
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