

No male doctors, please

Dear Annie: I have a problem that I don't think is unique to me. I am a senior in high school and an extremely modest girl. I have nightmares about being seen or treated by male doctors and nurses. My mother is insisting that I go to see her gynecologist, a young man. What she does not know is that a former boyfriend of hers sexually abused me several years ago. He died in a car wreck shortly after the abuse started, and his death devastated her so much that I decided it would do no good to upset her even more, so I never told her about what happened.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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how several of the male nurses he works with are so sexually perverted that it disturbs him. And he explains that they know how to hide it so no one knows anything is wrong while they get their kicks from examining and giving bed baths to their female patients. Some of the patients even delight in telling others about "how nice and thoughtful" the male nurses are.

All of this leads me to ask: Unless they tell us or are caught, how do we know what a man is thinking in such medical settings? And how can I keep my mom from forcing me to do something I think would cause a lifetime of mental pain and torment for me? I don't think I'm the only female with these feelings. Please try to answer this, as my mom reads your column. — *Tormented and Distressed*

Dear Tormented and Distressed: I am so proud of you for having the courage to write about what happened. Your heart was very much in the right place when you refrained from

upsetting your mother with what her boyfriend did to you. But now you have to clear the air — either by telling a therapist or by telling your mom everything that happened.

You suffered a trauma with your mom's boyfriend, so it makes sense that you would be concerned about other patients or even yourself having to endure the same type of ordeal. As for the mom of your friend, whose boyfriend is talking about the completely inappropriate behavior of his co-workers, tell your mom about this so that she can report it.

I am so sorry that you had to go through the experience you had with your mom's boyfriend, but if you can take that hurt and use it as fuel to save future patients from being victims of abuse, you should feel pretty good about yourself. I know you can do it. After hearing your story, I'm almost positive your mother will understand your not wanting a male nurse or doctor to touch you. Many women and girls only feel comfortable with female doctors. That is their choice, and it should be yours.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Negative talk is like a computer virus — a little bad information that has the potential to corrupt the whole system. You'll avoid the dynamic by talking about what's true and what's positive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It can be very frustrating to see the result you're going for in your mind and tolerate the fact that you're not there yet. Try to be more like the butterfly — relaxed and willing to let nature do its thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). They'll look to you for support that you're not sure you're qualified to give. But it's not like that. All they need is your ear. You won't be expected to deliver a verdict or react in any particular way, just to listen with love.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may think that you deserve or need some hard love, but if you bring some softness to the way you deal with yourself, you'll get better results. Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to your best friend... or better yet, to a five-year-old.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Unlike the newborn fawn that can stand up within the first 10 minutes of life, humans take time to learn just about everything. Furthermore, they can't learn alone. You'll find your educational counterpart today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Chance is on your side, but that's no reason to roll the dice, flip the coin or let the chips fall where they may. Take control of your own fate. Take a chance on you. Risk on your own best, most scientific guess.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The one who you can be silly with is essential to your life, even though this person may not be someone you should also consult about certain other things.

One person won't fit every role.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You feel generous, though it's not always so easy to find people who can really use what you have to share. Don't give it to just anyone. Do some research.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Can you overthink it? Sure. You've already invested a thousand more thoughts into it than you need to. That's OK. Now is as good a time as any to move on. Trust that some problems are best solved by not thinking at all.

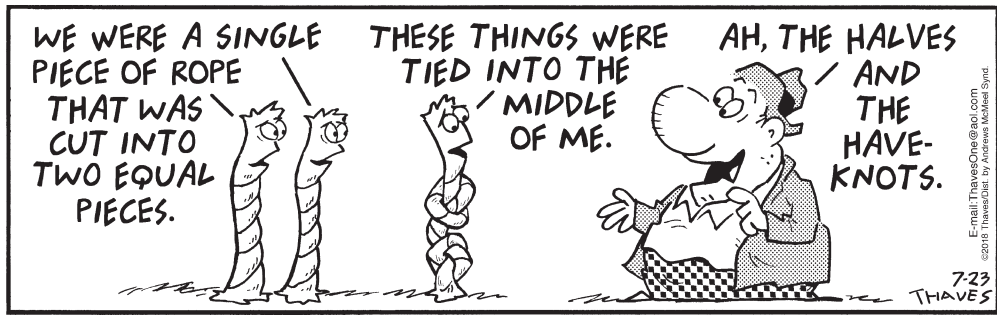
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Strike a balance with your communication. Be direct and specific about the things you really need to happen. But keep the mystery alive on topics that don't directly concern the other person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). So much of your action comes from a belief about yourself and an intention to operate in the world according to that belief. Examine your feelings about you. Can they be more supportive? More loving?

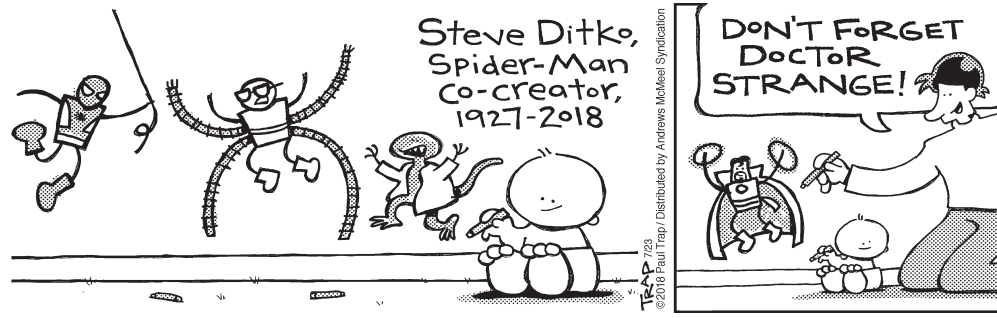
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't worry about it. No matter how clear, concise, articulate, reliable and thorough you think you're being, people will always come up with their own interpretations. So just say it like you want to say it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 24). You already have a lovable manner with people, and this year, new skills take your relationships to the next level. You'll treat people exactly how they want everyone to treat them, and this gives you great influence. The money flows to you in August, and again with a big sale in December. A merger happens in February. Libra and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 48 and 6.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



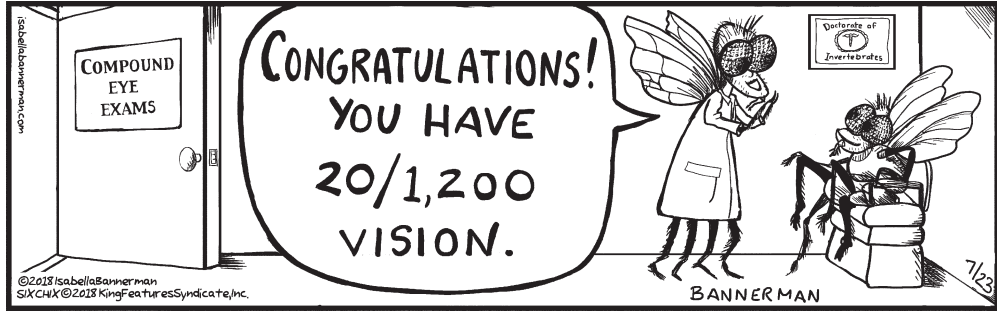
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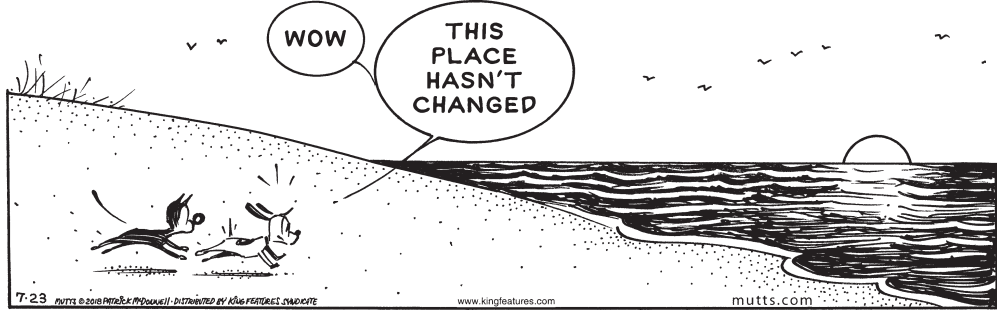
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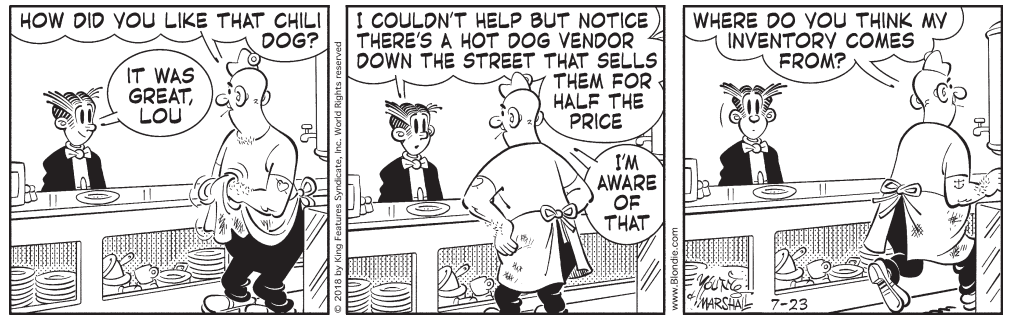
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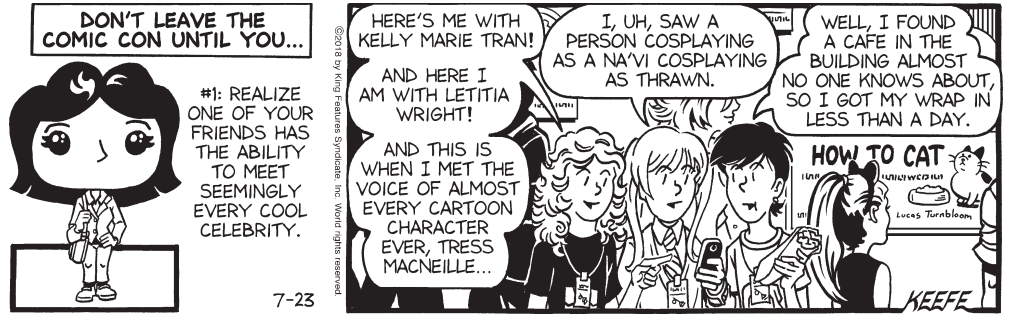
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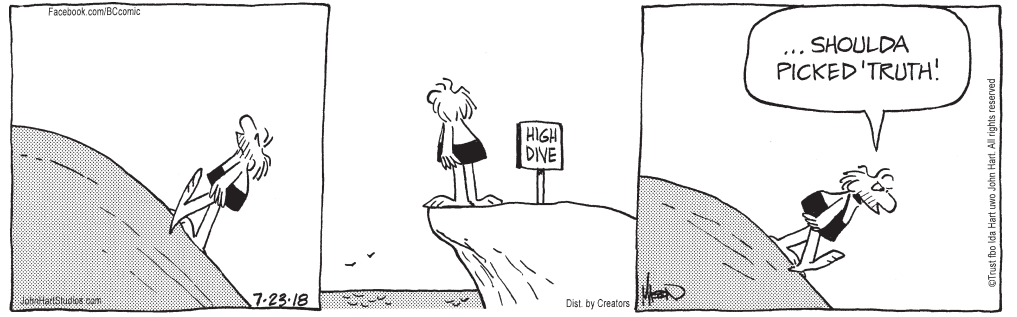
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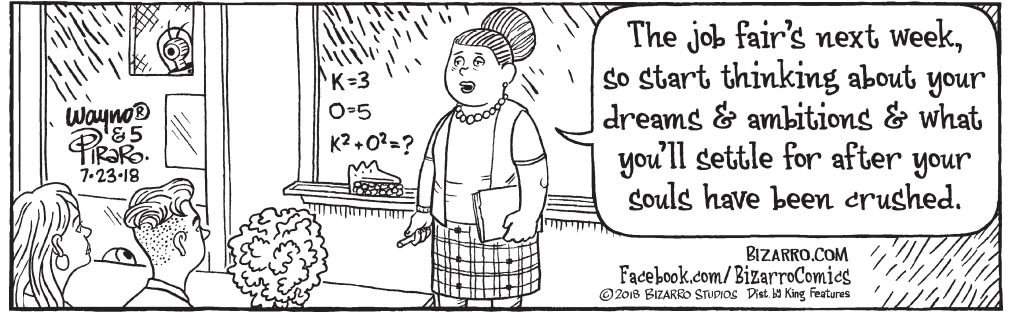
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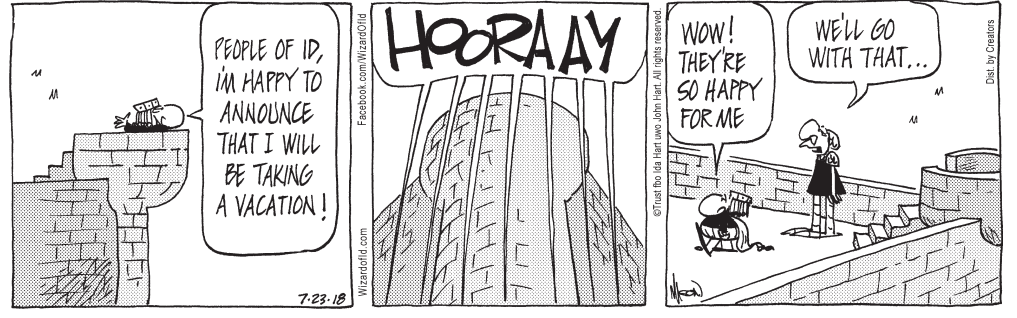
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ROSE IS ROSE

