She's feeling snubbed

DEAR ANNIE

ANNIE LANE
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My husband is friends with a couple from college with whom we have exchanged Christmas cards and graduation announcements over the past 25-plus years. They have three sons, all of whom we sent a card and money to when they graduated from high school. However, when our daughter graduated in May, they sent nothing — not even a card. — *Slighted*

Dear Slighted: Just because you sent their children graduation gifts doesn't mean they were obligated to do the same for yours. A gift given with strings attached is really just a trap. Also, there are plenty of benign explanations for their not sending a gift. Maybe they're not so well-off as you think (we never know what goes on behind closed doors), or maybe they just forgot. Regardless, I urge you to try to find the grace within yourself to let this go. Retaliation is for war, not friendship. Send them that Christmas card, and put this behind you. I have a feeling you'd feel better for it in the long run.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Senior Dating Adventures." Although some of the points you made are valid and may apply to this gentleman, I feel that you missed the fact that the woman seemed to lose interest when he asked for a hug on the 34th date, which continued on the next two dates.

It is not uncommon for senior women to enjoy and even seek out the companionship of dating. However, many are not looking for a sexual relationship. This woman has been widowed twice, and she may be done with needing a man for an intimate relationship. Though many seniors still have sexual relations, many women say they would love to have someone to socialize and go out with but are really not looking for anything physical. They may enjoy the company of a certain gentleman but are not necessarily physically attracted to him or interested in having sex with him.

I agree that this gentleman had his feelings hurt, but your answer to him seemed to blame him for not being confident and fixating on the relationship. He seemed to just be trying to understand where he had gone wrong.

I live in Florida, am in my late 60s and know many women who had wonderful (and some not-so-wonderful) marriages and/or relationships with men but now are not dating because they are not looking for another intimate relationship at this point. They are happy with who they are. — *Mary Lou*

Dear Mary Lou: I'm printing your letter because you've shared valuable insight on another explanation for his date's behavior.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Gratitude is like stretching. It's preparation for the vigor ahead, easing the way for effort, warding off injury. People don't do gratitude for the same reason people don't stretch. It's so easy they forget. Don't let that be you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Many material things bring more torment than delight, as the maintenance, cartage, storage and display of these things, coupled with the fear of losing them, can be more acute than any joy of ownership.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Among other things, love has been compared to fever, dreaming and anesthesia. Certainly, that's one version — and a very pleasant, though temporary, one at that. So enjoy!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Avoiding sadness today is like standing in the ocean and avoiding wetness. Sadness (like joy, excitement, frustration, trepidation, curiosity ...) is part and parcel with the experience of the day. It will quickly wash over you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The question is not whether you're better off than you were. That thought journey has the potential to meander high and low but ultimately will lead straight into a wall. The thought journey you want to go on begins with "What now?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not afraid of responsibility, and when you commit yourself, you go all in. Somehow, making up your mind to do a thing reduces your fear. It's like each action you choose comes with a side order of courage.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll find it interesting when people you've known for a long time have a different recollection than you do about your shared history. Perhaps both versions are equally valid.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you wonder whether you should even go to the expense of buying event tickets when the best part of going out is the anticipation of it, and that's absolutely free. Put something new on the books.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The ennui is not relievable by purchase. The retail rush lasts somewhere between 15 minutes and two hours, and then the ennui settles back in. It will take a big project to send the ennui running.

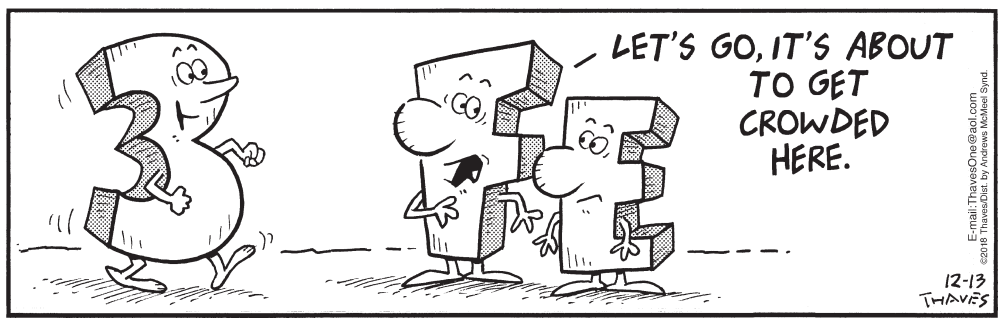
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everything looks original to the one who's never seen it before. Put you work in front of fresh eyes of all ages to get a different perspective on what you're doing. The feedback will help you hone in on a more lucrative direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're so respectful and appreciative of even the most accessible joys because you know that sometimes a lot more work goes into presenting them than most people would guess.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Modesty isn't always about what you say; it's often a move that comes before that — the avoidance of being spotlighted at all. A low profile will keep you in the good graces of humility.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 14). Your life will be lush with mutual appreciation. Your love is like Miracle-Gro. Those you nurture will thrive, and it's your pleasure to watch this happen. Highlights to come include travel done in style, a group effort to launch your project and the happy resolution to what was an ongoing conflict. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 39, 22 and 18.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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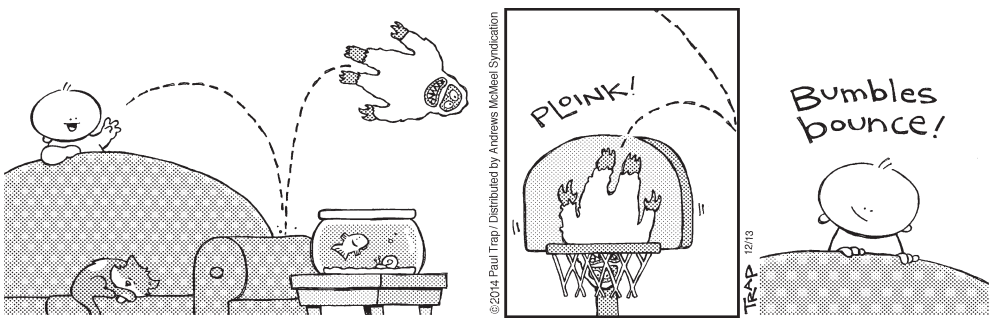

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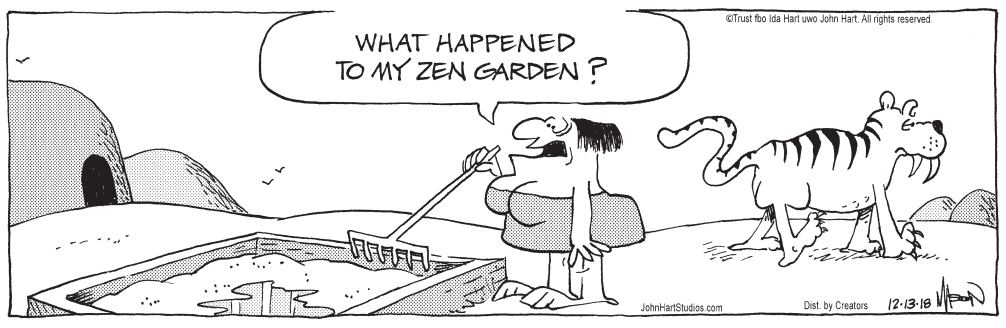

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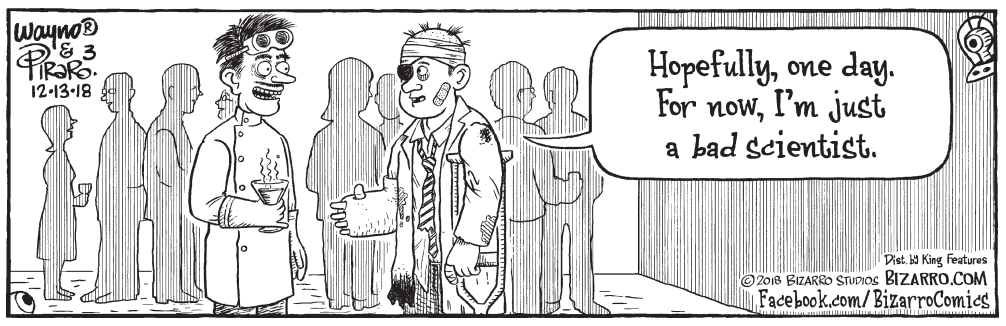

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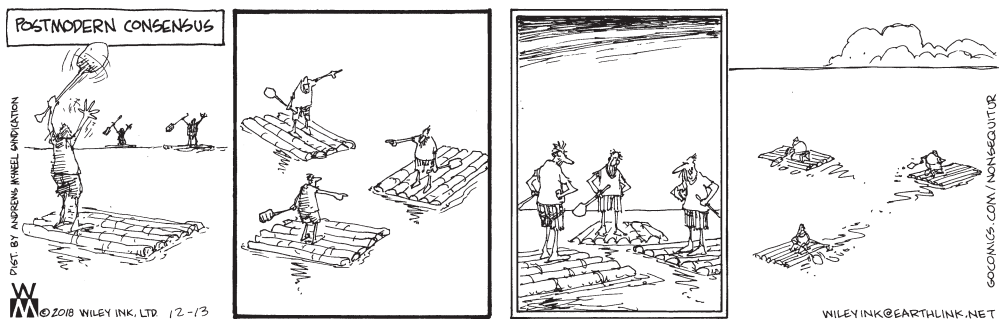

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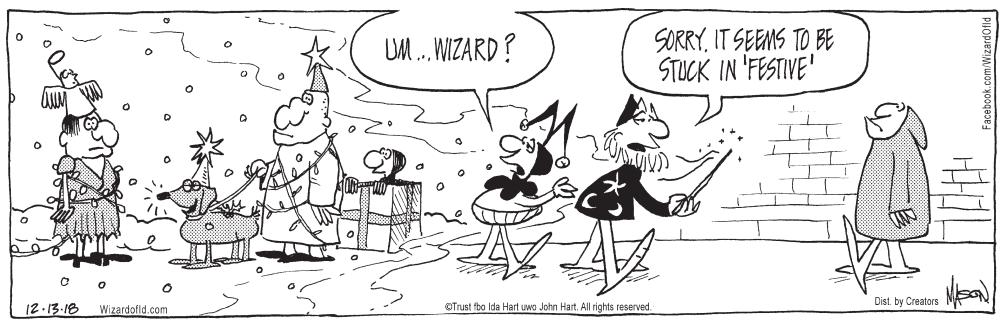

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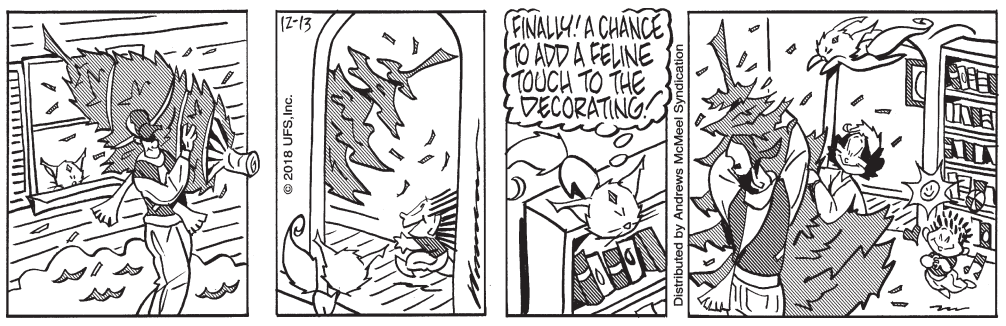
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