

Let's say 'Yes, I can'

Dear Annie: Here I am, 78 years old, heading into another New Year's resolution. I'm hoping you will let me share my sentiments with your readers.

With all the chaos, craziness and crassness currently occurring in our environment, I have decided to become a drum major for justice, fairness, equality, opportunity and responsibility. Instead of waiting for others, I have decided to make it happen for myself — and, I hope, others.

For me, no more hatred, anger, greed, selfishness, envy or fear. That's a tall order, but I can do this. Why not?

I firmly believe that love conquers hate, that light overcomes darkness. I can do it. Yes, I can! As Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently emphasized, "darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Similarly, I know that hating people because they are "others" and "different" can be overcome and eradicated if we try. I fully agree with Nelson Mandela: "No one is born hat-

ing another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

I can do all this. I can see those "thousand points of light." I can be a member of that "shining city upon a hill." To those naysayers and disbelievers, I would challenge you to look in the mirror and become all that you espoused that the most powerful force in the universe is an idea whose time has come.

I resolve to be kind, generous, forgiving and thoughtful of others. Imagine the positivity and reciprocity of this possibility. I know that I can do all this. I can "talk the talk and walk the walk" when it comes to practicing and implementing this resolution for 2019 and beyond.

Simply put, as I progress through this second decade of the 21st century and approach the eighth decade of my life, I can do this for myself — and

for you. In summary, what a fantastic and fabulous New Year's resolution — for 2019 and beyond. — *John L. Horton*

Dear John: I know this is printing a bit late in the month, but your sentiments are so positive and your positivity so contagious that I couldn't pass up sharing your letter with readers. Thanks for writing. Wishing you a very blessed rest of 2019.

Dear Annie: Recently, someone wrote to you about how someone's home was broken into during a family funeral. The burglars knew no one would be home because of the obituary that had been printed in the paper. Our family has a tradition of having someone in the home of the deceased during the funeral to prevent exactly this type of event. Family lore tells of a long-lost relative's showing up during the funeral and laying claim to some prized candlesticks, saying, "Dad wanted me to have these." — *Continually Cautious*

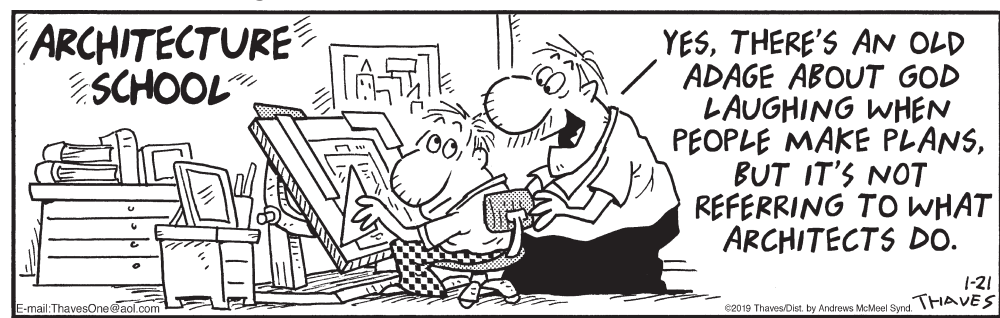
Dear Continually Cautious: I commend your cautiousness and lament the callousness of those who would try to take advantage of people vulnerable from bereavement. Thanks for writing.

DEAR ANNIE

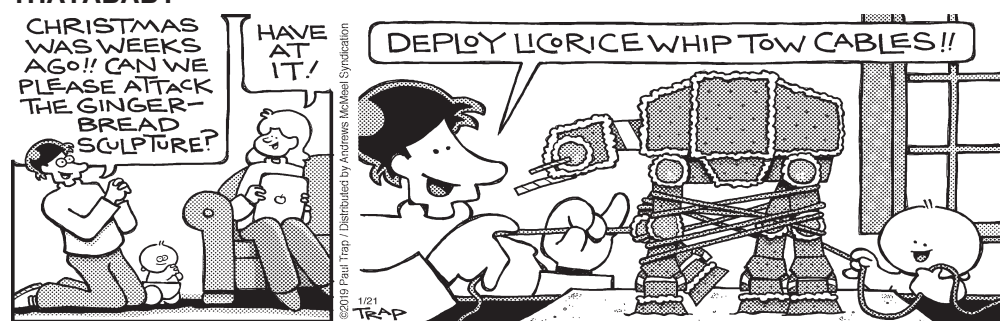


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

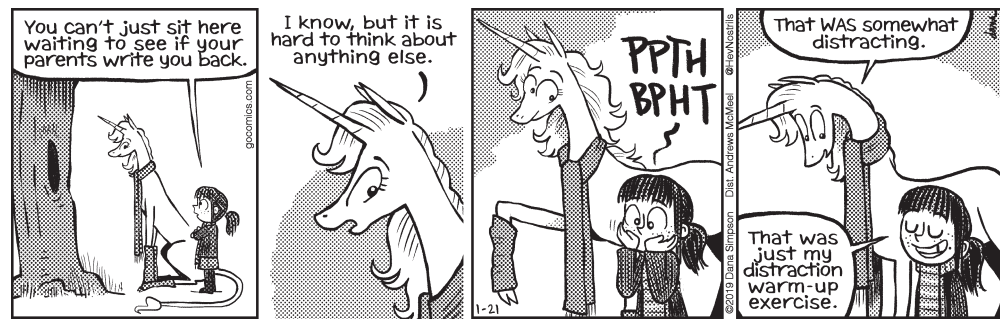
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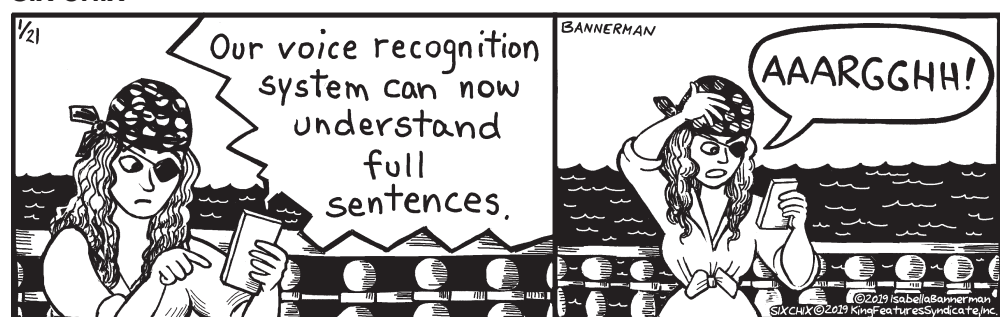
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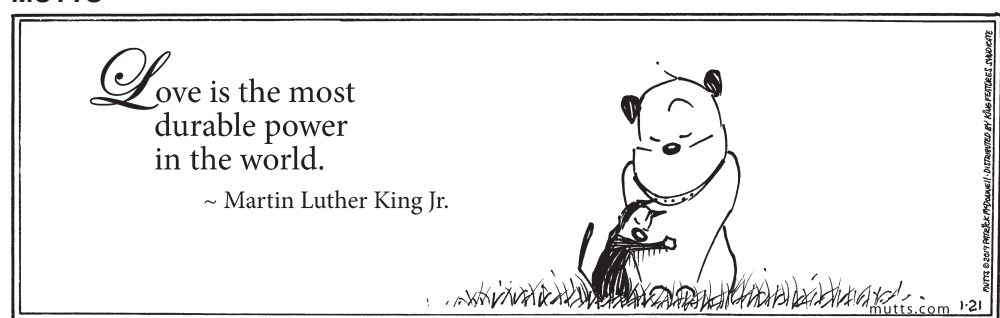
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You really don't owe anyone an explanation, but you may choose to explain anyway, instead of leaving the story to people's imaginations, which can be wild, strange and unpredictably aimed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To be content with yourself is the aim here, and one of the best signifiers of success that you could ever have. And the best part is that if you really wanted to, you could make it happen in an instant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Emotional work doesn't look like other kinds of work but it can be just as demanding as physical work, if not more so. Some people give you emotional work without realizing it's what they are doing. Educate them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't beat yourself up because you were not able to do what you told yourself to do. Be kind. Be curious about yourself. Self-knowledge takes time. The better you know yourself, the more effectively you'll be able to lead yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While technically it's not your job to stir up the people and strengthen their collective spirit, you are the best person for the task, as you have that special charisma they want to follow. And this group could really use some unity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a decision hanging in the balance and it should not be made impulsively. Hold off. More will be illuminated. When it's time, you'll be absolutely certain of your choice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A trip down memory lane is featured, and you may be surprised about how others remember it. No one's story will be completely right or wrong. There's something to be learned from this discrepancy of vision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are people who seem to be able to get you to do things you normally wouldn't. They seem outside of the rules. "Morality, like art, means drawing a line someplace." — Oscar Wilde

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Why is it so hard to believe that what matters to you counts as very important? Sure, in the big scheme, it may not affect many, or have life-and-death consequences. But it's as important as anyone else's agenda you know.

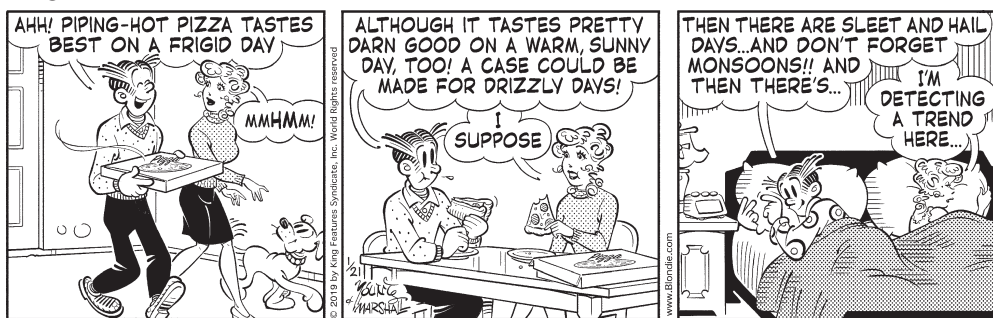
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been very accommodating, and now it's time to stop and let others make the effort for a change. If you keep this up, the pattern will settle with you in the never-ending service position.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The term "gas-lighting" refers to when one person manipulates another into questioning his or her own sanity. You're immune to this. You know that everyone sees things differently and refuse to engage in useless arguments.

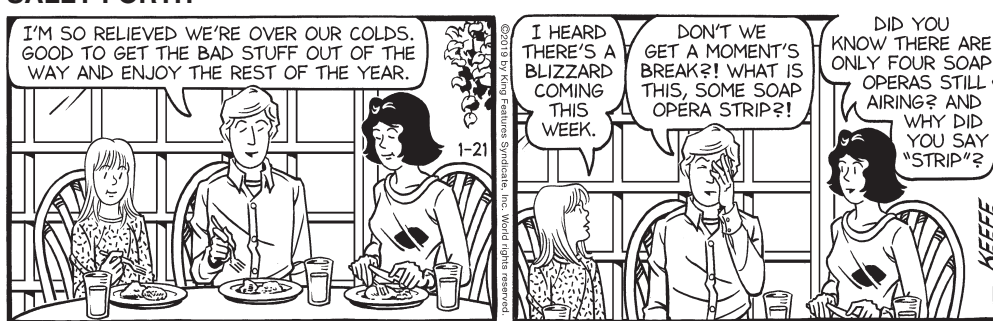
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a situation that, from the outside, seems privileged and enviable, but it's not the case. If anyone can see this, it's you. You're in the unique position to help someone who, to others, wouldn't seem to need help.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 22). Destiny is a weaver, and this year's design is rather intricate. The success secret is to pay attention to the patterns you want to repeat and to ignore the ones you don't. February brings a windfall. In March, you'll nourish the needy and the worthy. In July, you'll decide for a group and promote a higher level of existing, too. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 24, 3, 10 and 16.

BLONDIE



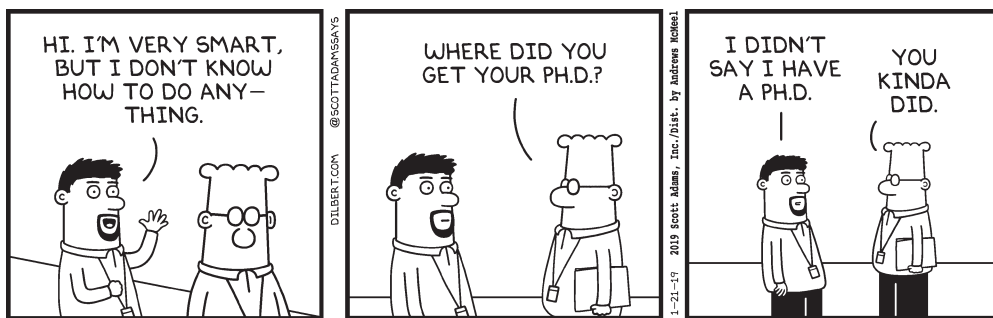
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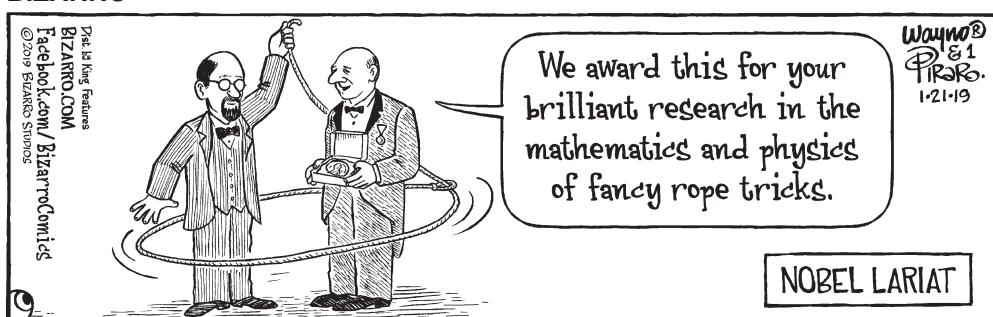
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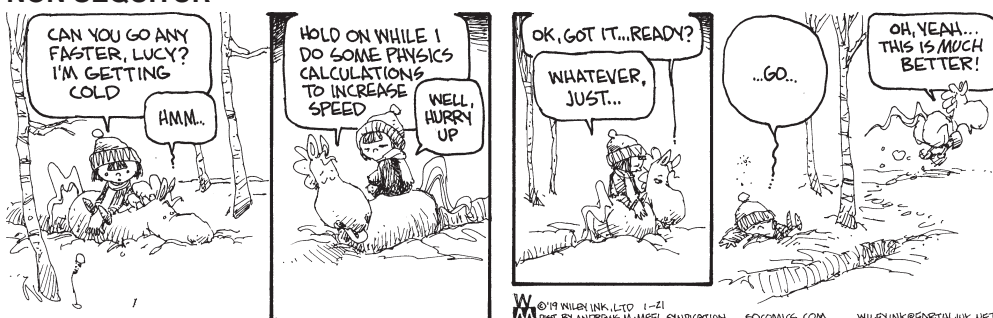
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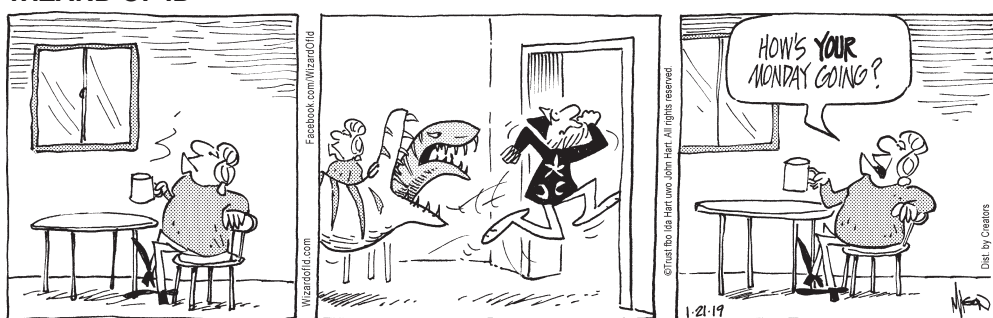
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