

# His retirement changes her

**Dear Annie:** Recently, my father-in-law retired. This has made my mother-in-law a different, not-so-kind person. She has always confided in me her worries about many different subjects, and I have always been honest but considerate of her very touchy emotions. However, since my father-in-law's retirement, she has been bitter, cranky and mean. She had always been the one to take care of the home situation and its needs, but she became homebound a few years ago for health reasons. After his retirement, my father-in-law took over many duties. In short, she seems upset, acting as if he is an impostor in her home.

## DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

She has asked him to leave the house at times but then becomes upset when he is not home. He sometimes goes to his local VFW post, where he is accepted and seems happy. But she doesn't seem happy for him.

This is not like them. They are typically free-spirited people, kind and loving, with big hearts. I feel sad about her behavior. She has even been talking about a separa-

tion. I also feel she has been pushing us and the grandkids away slowly but surely.

My biggest issue came after I recently called her out on the things she has been saying about her husband. Our conversation went well, but then she called me and yelled, saying I had called them bad grandparents, which I would never do, and hung up on me.

This doesn't seem fair. Both are great people, but her change is not good. Now I don't know what to say or do. We have spoken every day via phone for six years. This new situation has broken my heart. Where does it go from here? I feel that she lied when she said I could speak freely and then changed my words to hurt me. I said what I did out of love. — *Loving In-Law*

**Dear Loving In-Law:** You sound like a wonderful daughter-in-law who is dealing with a changing personality that you have no power to control. It is not unusual for wives to find the adjustment difficult after their husbands retire and stay home most of the time. But it sounds as if your mother-in-

law could use professional help, especially if her sudden meanness is so out of character. It could be depression or any number of serious ailments that only a professional could diagnose and help her deal with. Speak with your husband and father-in-law about seeking help for her or possibly for both of them together.

In the meanwhile, continue your daily phone conversations and put an emphasis on finding good things to say about her and her husband. Over time, she will be grateful to you for helping her to feel better. She'll know that you cared enough to have an honest conversation with her about your concern for her well-being.

**Dear Annie:** When I was recently proofing the next day's paper, I read "Husband's a Hoarder," and I want to give you some appreciation. I help facilitate an addiction recovery course. I'm married, so of course I read books and articles on improving one's marriage. I am pleased to see, in this age of misinformation, that so much of your advice is really good! In fact, I've saved all of it, and it's stacked up on every surface imaginable in our bedroom. Ha-ha-ha... Ahem. — *Editor*

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** While worrying alone does not solve problems, realizing that there's something that could go wrong is step one. Step two is figuring out what to do to about it: How to avoid it, or how to better prepare for that possible outcome.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're interested, and now there's an opportunity to dip your toe into the proverbial pool. You won't have to totally immerse yourself to satisfy your curiosity and gain some experience.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Not everyone is comfortable sharing feelings. Some people you know are very encouraging and supportive and yet not demonstrative. Still, you can feel the love and compassion whenever you're in their presence.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's your goal to be compassionate and respectful, though you may not have articulated it quite like that. There are people you admire that embody those qualities and you want to be like them. In fact, you already are.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Everyone is observing something different at any given moment. You'll share memories, compare notes and be surprised at which details stand out to other people.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** To enjoy and be friendly with people without feeling compelled to spend a lot more time with them than necessary is the definition of "acquaintanceship." Who crosses to the next level? Choose carefully.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You have a complaint. You're right about it. But it's not something that you'll be able to change today. Accept it, and log it in your mental banks for now. Solutions and

opportunities will come. Stay positive.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** If you assume the door is locked, then you won't be able to open it. Don't assume. Watch the others. Maybe the door is heavy and needs a shove, or temperamental and needs a jiggle of the handle. Watch and copy.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A live streaming camera can tell you what life is like now on the Las Vegas Strip, a city square in Madrid or the jungle of Costa Rica. Looking around helps you appreciate both the world and what's going on in your part of it.

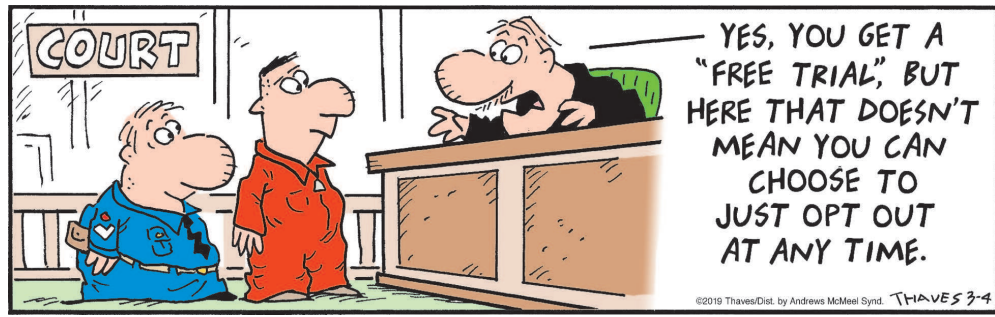
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Sometimes it feels like you're the only one around using rational thought in a culture that prefers letting the person with the biggest ego call the shots regardless of what's logical. Stay rational.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Maybe it looks like the side you're on doesn't have a chance, but this is early in the game. Besides, if you're confident enough to take action, then you've already won.

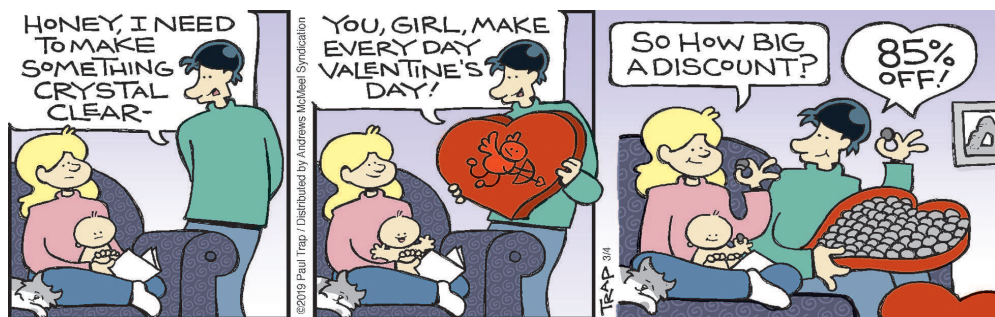
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** To get things done your way at the price you'd prefer would be wonderful, but it's not in the offering. The good news is that the compromise that is in the offering will be better in the end anyway.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 5).** You'll spend time with people who, though they are from different parts of the world, seem to be made from the same soul material as you are. Doing well on an intellectual or academic test in April helps you to leap forward in your purpose. Financial gain comes from communicating your ideas very well. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 14, 22 and 36.

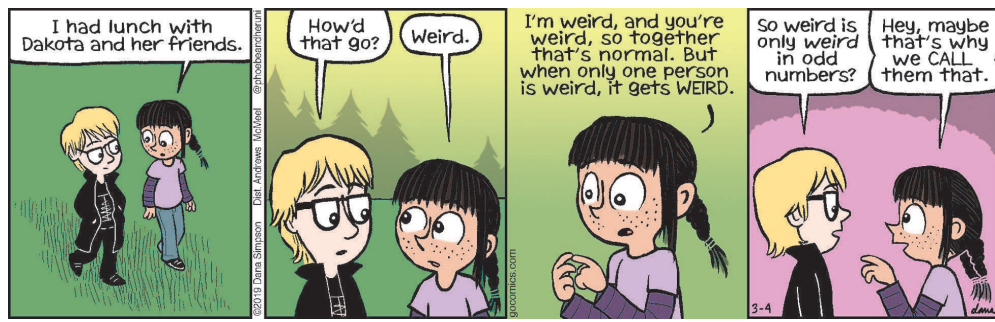
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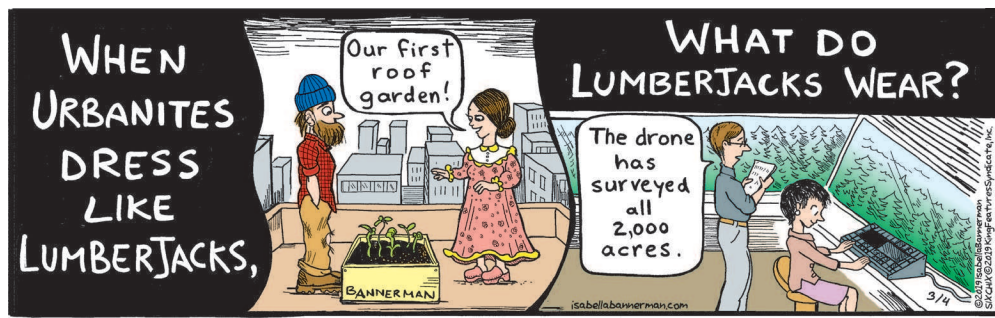
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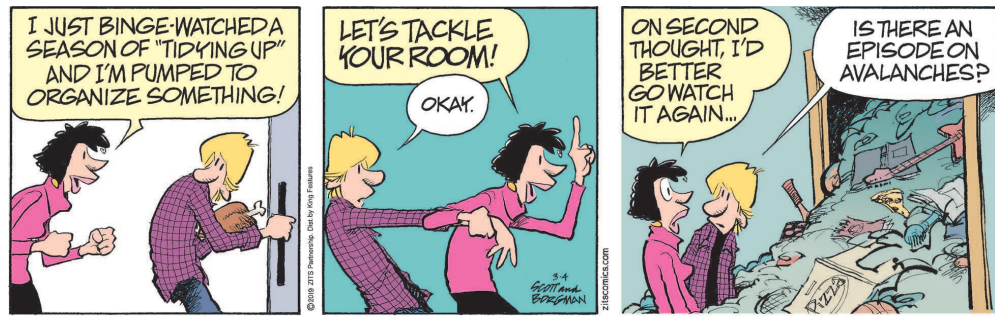
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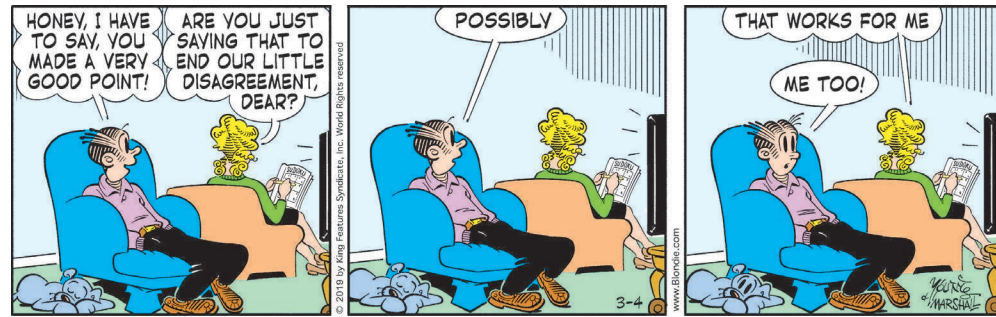
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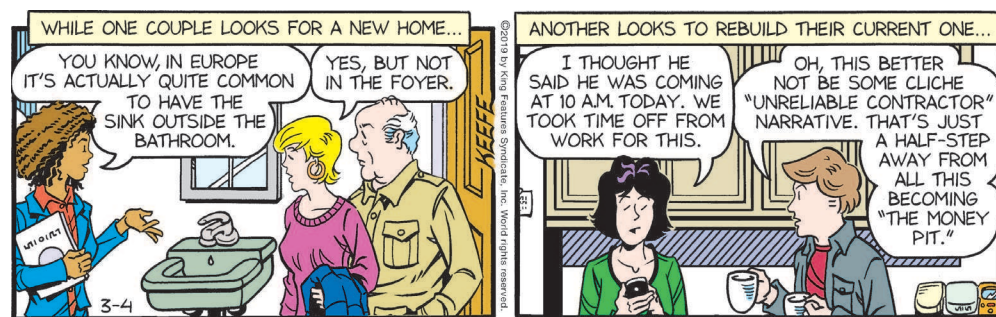
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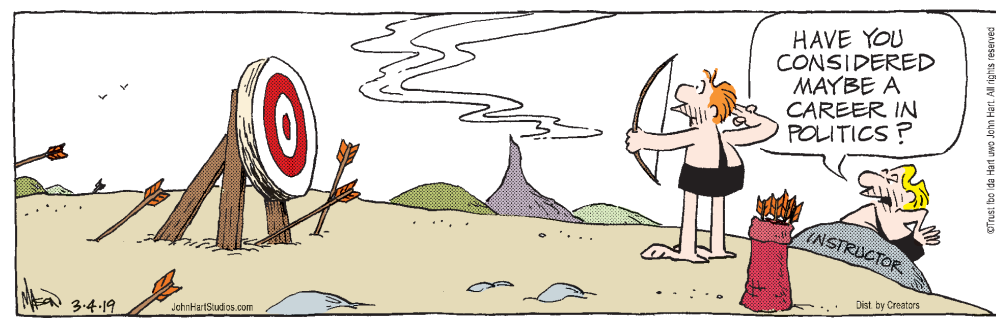
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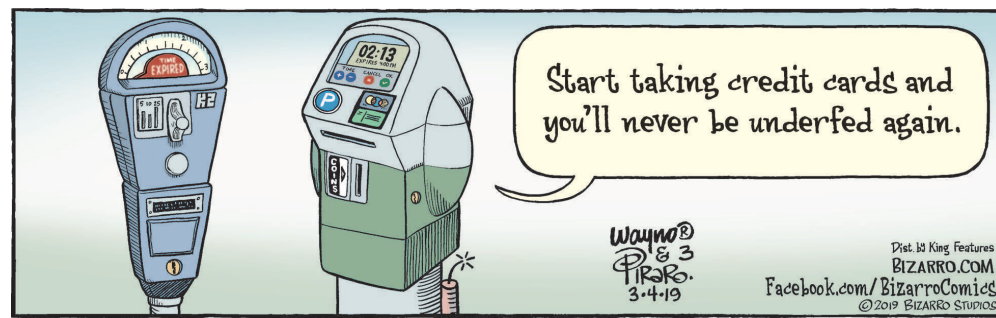
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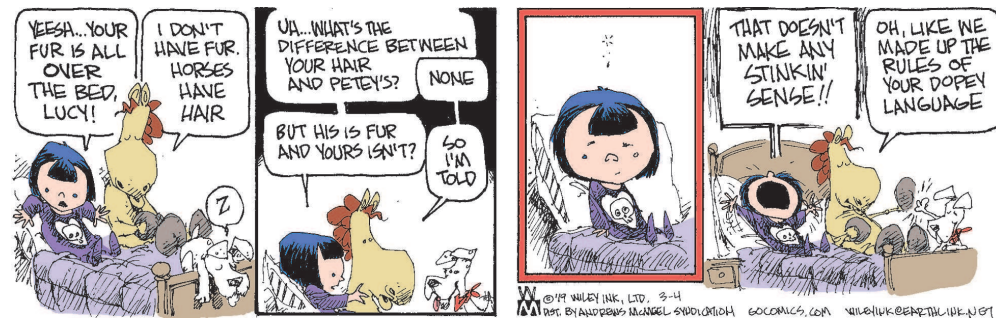
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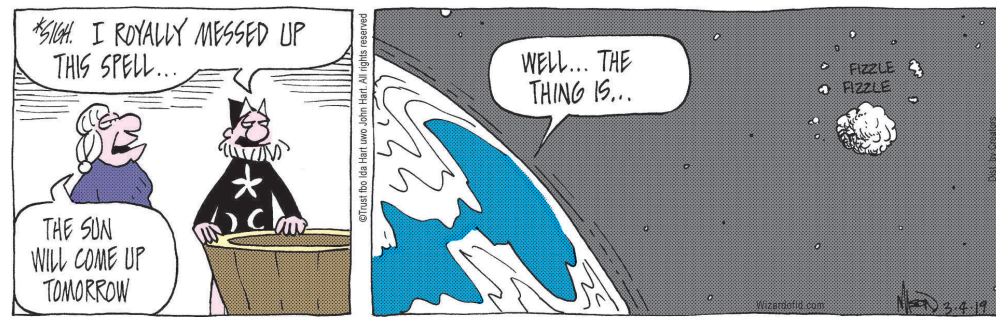
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

