

Bugged by income disparity

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 48 years. We have endured really expensive medical issues over the past several years, and our funds are stretched to the limit. We are both retired but still work about 20 hours a week. We used my retirement money to pay the many medical bills and have sold our new home to get into a less expensive home. I know that many have endured the same, and we are blessed to both be alive and well.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

My question is about a family member who is very rich and brags about her wealth to us all the time. She is a sister who has made over and above what my husband and I have ever made. I am happy for her. However, even though she is well aware of our financial status, she will allow us to pay for her dinners when she's in town and never helps or offers us a dime.

My husband and I have always been responsible with our finances and responsibilities and have never asked for anything from her. We have

even worked both full-time and part-time jobs at the same time to be able to take a vacation once a year. She has traveled around the world, has her home paid off and stays in a warm climate during the cold months of the year. She is almost 80 years old, has been blessed with good health all her life, is single and has no children. She states that she has put money in a trust for her brother but can't believe he is still alive after all his illnesses.

Annie, she knows the financial state we are in. We have had to borrow money from our daughter to not go bankrupt. We are blessed to have her, too. Her aunt has never made an attempt to be caring as an aunt should be. She is the remaining relative in my husband's family.

I have made crafts for her, sent items to her and always invited her to our home, and she accepts but is not very friendly to me. She only likes my husband because he is her brother.

I don't think she has ever liked me. I didn't come from

money, and I went to public school; she was a cheerleader at a private school. Guess I'm not in her class of people.

Could you help me to understand why and tell me what I could do about her attitude? — *Lost Without a Clue but Still Praying*

Dear Lost: Don't speculate about what she thinks of your station in life. You can't know, and it doesn't matter anyway. Anyone who would judge another person's class has none.

As for the lopsided nature of your relationship, don't hurt yourself bending over backward for someone who wouldn't lift a finger for you. You're not obligated to make your sister-in-law crafts. You're not obligated to pay for her meals. You're not even obligated to be her friend. This isn't about retaliation or spite. Quite the opposite. It's about making peace with who she is, respecting your differences and giving yourself enough space to love her. Once you've stopped trying so hard, much of the resentment you feel toward her will melt away, even if her behavior hasn't changed at all.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's always some degree of work that goes into presenting oneself in society. You can make that work easier for yourself in the days to come by taking the time to envision what you need and planning ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Stay passive and people will believe what they want to believe or what's convenient for them to believe. The other way is to actively present your belief in a very attractive light, and then stand back and see if there are any takers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The light at the end of the tunnel — it's the same as the light everywhere, but it has different significance to the tunnel people. The people in the tunnel are possibly the only ones who fully appreciate what it means.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll return to a tenant of your upbringing that you'd long since abandoned as impractical, inconvenient and untrue. Why now? You'll suddenly see a different sort of sense in it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Fixing the small thing might just teach you that bigger things are the problem. The framework itself may be flawed. It could be the institution that's broken. Even so, don't get discouraged. Tend to what you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things that enhance your perspective include annual appointments and seeing someone you haven't seen in a long while. Stretches of time inform us in ways that day-to-day familiarity cannot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's like you're in a movie and all the other characters, the action and the plot twists are there to help you grow your way into your victory sequence. Just trust that this

is going to be good. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** "Te absolvo" is the universal message to you, if you want to take it. There are reasons some won't. They like rumination. They need to feel bad, or maybe it's just a habit. But if you're ready to let go and move on, you really can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though it's wonderful to be liked, appreciated and referred, it's not as empowering as going out and seeking your own opportunities based on where you'd like to go and who you'd like to know.

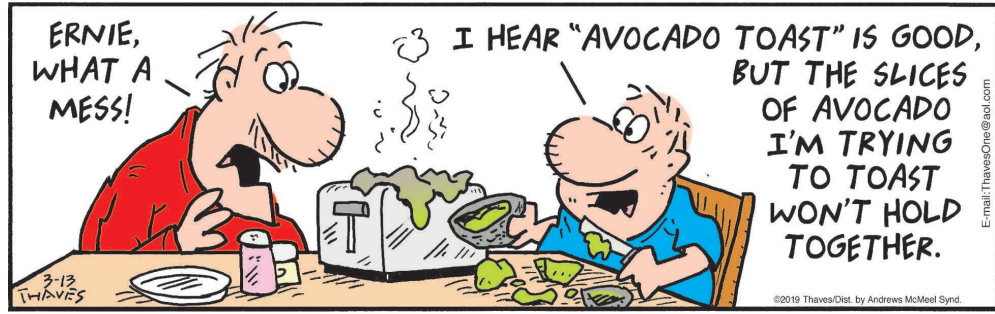
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your renewed sense of purpose will be like a hovering halo — not one that indicates your angelic status so much as one that distinguishes you as possibly being able to, in one way or another, fly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Reminder: You're much more than your role, your body, or anything you own. You're more than any story you star in or result you produce. Honor that timeless, eternal part of you.

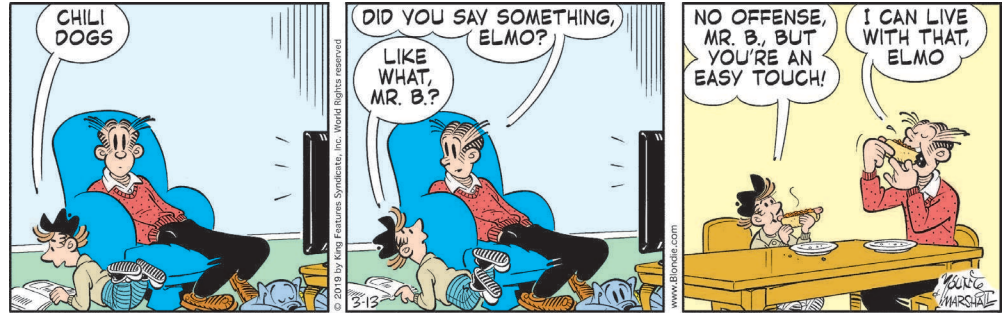
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To you, attracting unwanted attention is much worse than passing for invisible. Anyway, low-key is your ticket today. There's something you want to observe and you won't be able to if you're too conspicuous.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 14). The skills you pick up will result in big fun — and lucrative opportunity. But ultimately, it's not about what you're capable of doing. It's about what you gather along the way, which is to say discipline, friends, experience, aesthetic taste and an appetite for excitement. You'll ink a deal in June and make a discovery in September. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 40, 15, 20 and 36.

FRANK AND ERNEST



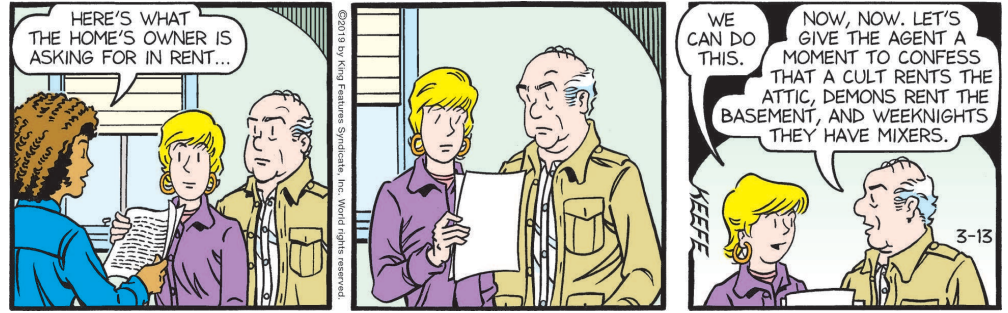
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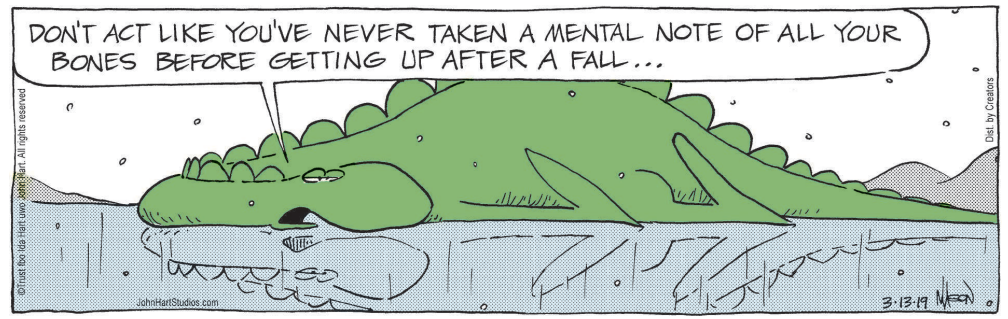
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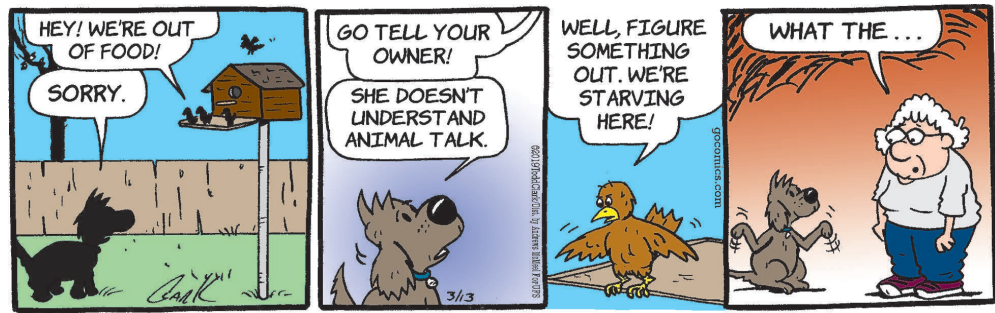
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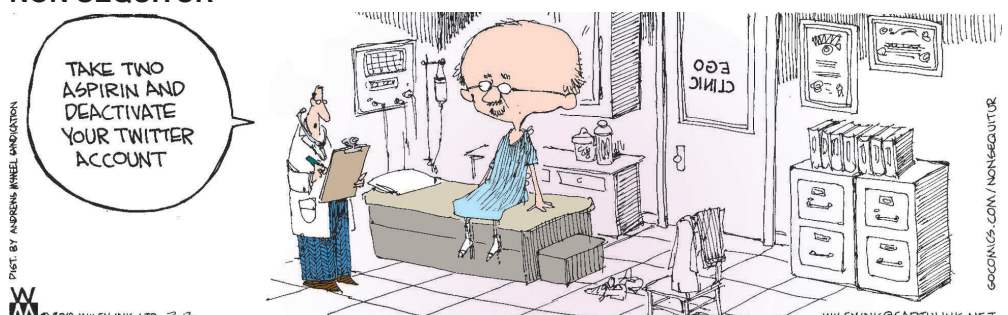
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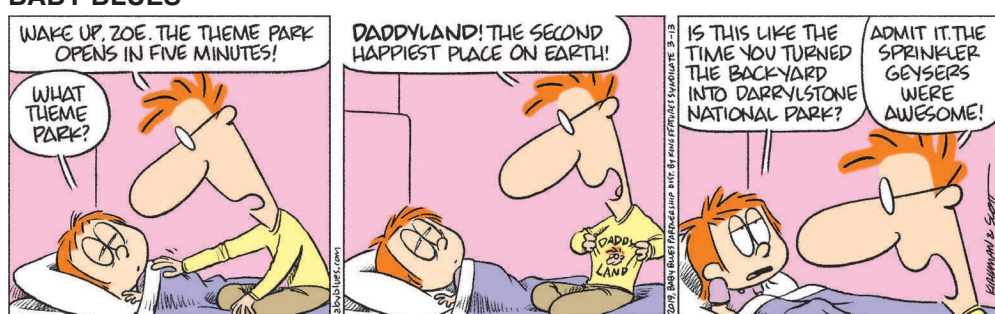
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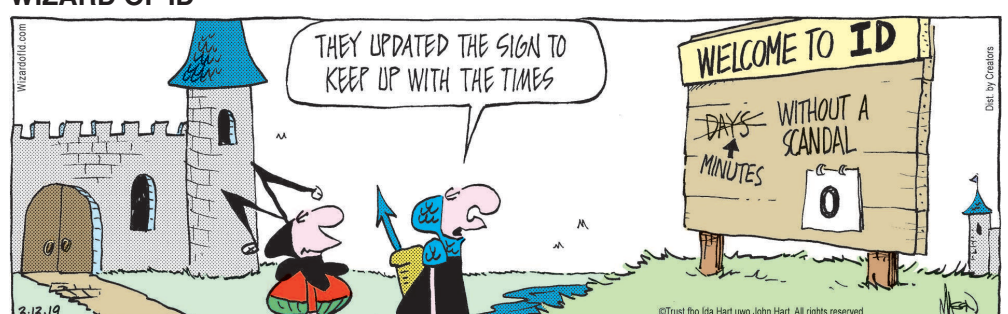
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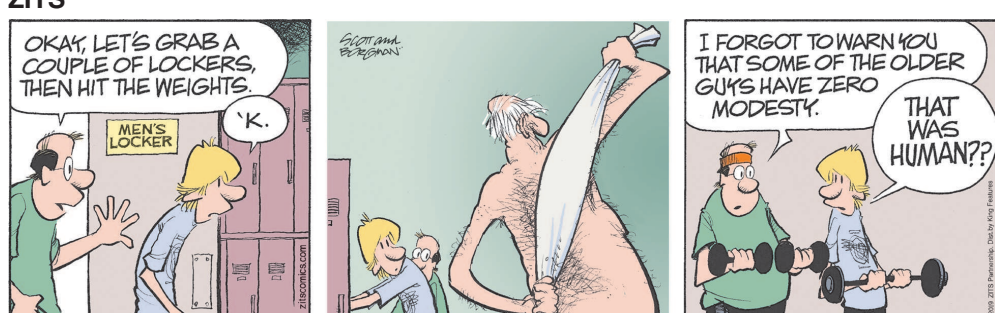
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