

Aging mother causes chaos

Dear Annie: My family is dealing with an aging mother. Since my father died, she has moved often. Every place she moves to eventually has some issue, and she starts complaining. Soon she is driving me crazy about whatever it is. Even after the problem is solved, she'll find something else to focus on.

I have tried to get her interested in senior activities or exercise programs, with no luck. I have refused to participate in the past two moves, as it is difficult at my age and doesn't resolve her issue. But my siblings keep moving her. They get angry with me and say mean things, and the family gets very divided. I'm looked at as the troublemaker because I won't participate. They don't see this as a chronic problem.

How can I be part of this family, or at least be close with my mother, and still deal with this chaos? — *Unmoved by Moving*

Dear Unmoved by Moving: When a family unit has become dysfunctional, doing

the right thing means bucking the system. Setting boundaries as you have — making clear that you're there to offer support to your mom but not to enable her compulsive relocation — is exactly what you should be doing. But it's only natural that you'd face resistance from your siblings. As much of a hassle it is to repeatedly help move your mom into new places, it's in some ways easier than confronting the real issue. Just keep reiterating this to your siblings and hope that they'll come around eventually. And in the meantime, continue to be there for your mom and encourage her to try new activities, even going with her to them the first few times.

Dear Annie: You have dealt with thank-you notes before, but not when it involves a charity. This past Christmas, I made all of the charitable donations to local organizations. The checks ranged from \$100 to \$300. I was surprised when I received only one thank-you note from an organization.

I think these are all good

organizations, and I will still give to them. However, next year, I will recognize the organization that took the time to send the thank-you with a larger donation. — *S.G.*

Dear S.G.: Try to look at it this way: The money they don't spend on postage for thank-you notes is money for working toward their goals, goals you believe in and set out to support in the first place. Try to let the knowledge that you've done a good thing be gratification enough.

Dear Annie: So often, I see articles on the problems people have because of hearing loss. A friend told me recently that the stigma of hearing aids is silly, as no one thinks a thing about eyeglasses or even wigs. Additionally, with technological advances such as Bluetooth and minute apparatuses, no one can see the new hearing aids at all.

Maybe this information will help convince those with hearing loss. — *An Aging Adult Facing Reality*

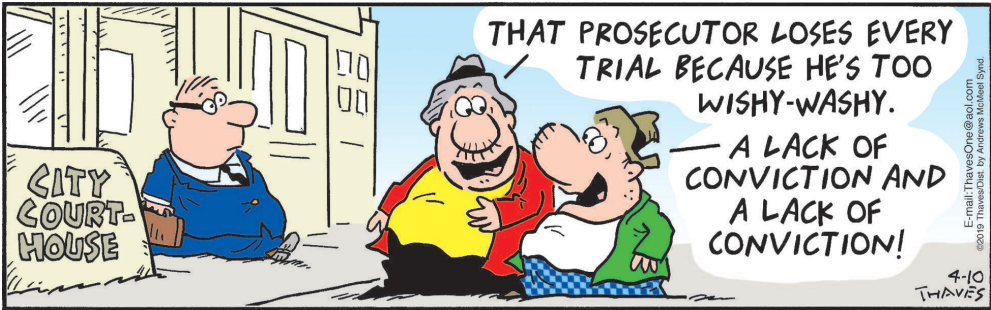
Dear Aging Adult: Thank you so much for your letter on this incredibly important and relevant subject.

DEAR ANNIE

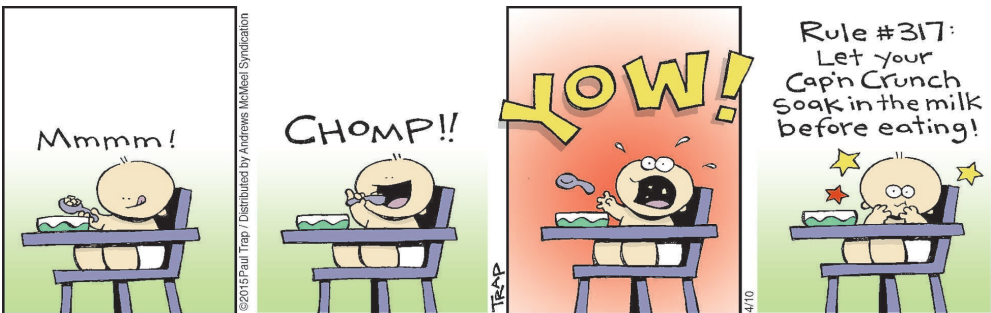


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



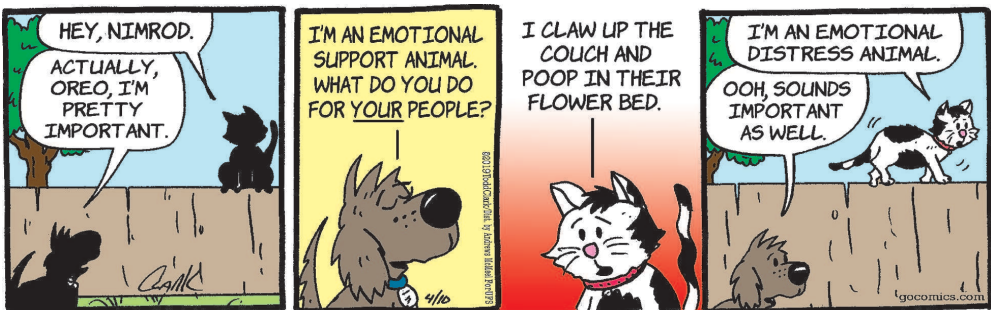
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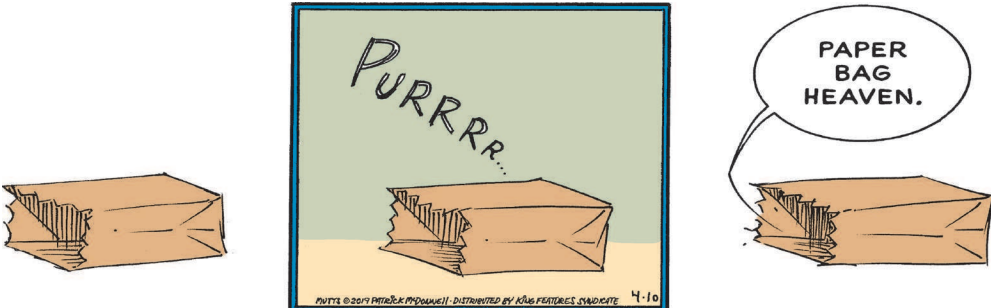
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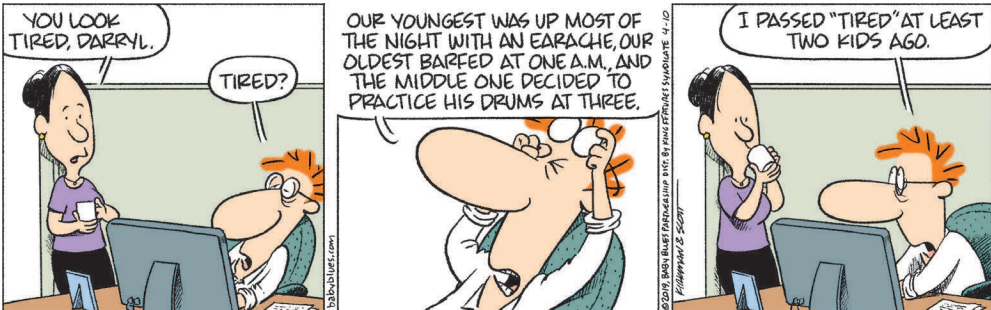
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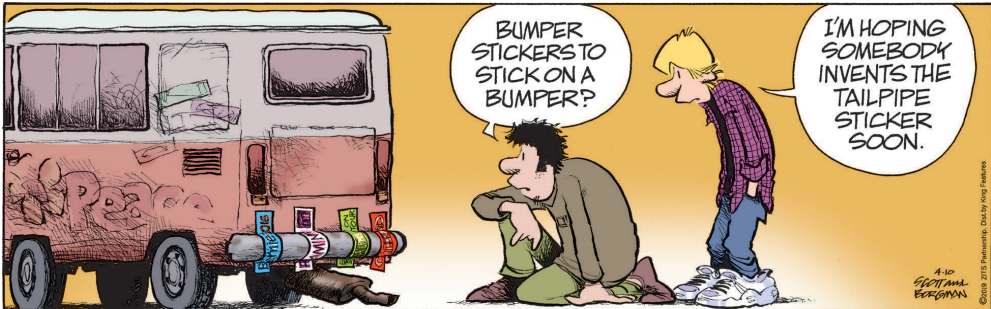
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The street traffic lights come in three colors, but the traffic lights of life are far more nuanced and open to interpretation. Right now you've a good idea about when to go; you're not as keenly aware of when to slow down or stop.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your impulses are toward personal expression and taste. This isn't ego. Rather, it has to do with your uniqueness. Follow through. "Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere," said G.K. Chesterton

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Where's the inspiration? It feels like you've seen and heard all of this before, and maybe you have. Travel is the answer and will have untold benefits. Put something on the books.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Got scars? Then you have stories. You're more fun at parties, more interesting in life. The internal scars are the most useful kind, and the emotional strength you've gained from experience will serve you well today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What would life be like if affinity were doled out in equal measure, if love were always reciprocal and attractions always mutual? Not as lively as today will be, that's for sure. The inequities of love make for a chase.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To complete the task, you need other people. Accountability will make all of the difference. Go public, because when you tell people what you want to do, you'll feel pressure to get it done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll cultivate friendly relations with all. It's as much about staying out of the gossip circles as it is about building rapport. The good vibes you generate will serve you

in both the short term and long term.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Anything that creates a union of forces is worth doing. So even if the project doesn't work out as expected or the outcome is less than you were going for, the journey that brings people together is always worthwhile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The need for groups to identify themselves and set themselves apart is primal. One way to do this is to bewilder outsiders. Words can do this. Today, those who are in will know the language.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Suit up for battle. This is not a hostile confrontation. It's a situation where showing up strong will put you and yours in a powerful position. You'll be armed with erudition — a practical though expert knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You want to hang out with people you like, but unless they are your nearest and dearest with whom you have history, you also need there to be a point to the interaction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This road to fulfilling your potential isn't a straightforward thoroughfare. It's a path that winds, climbs and dips in such a way that you can't see the destination. Have faith. It's there, and it's a beautiful place.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 11). As you keep honing a talent, it changes in interesting ways. You could fill a niche with this, but more likely you'll create your own niche. Either way, it's eventually quite lucrative. You'll be gaining very attractive layers of sophistication in 2020 as you continually put yourself in novel and challenging situations. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 18, 44 and 20.

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



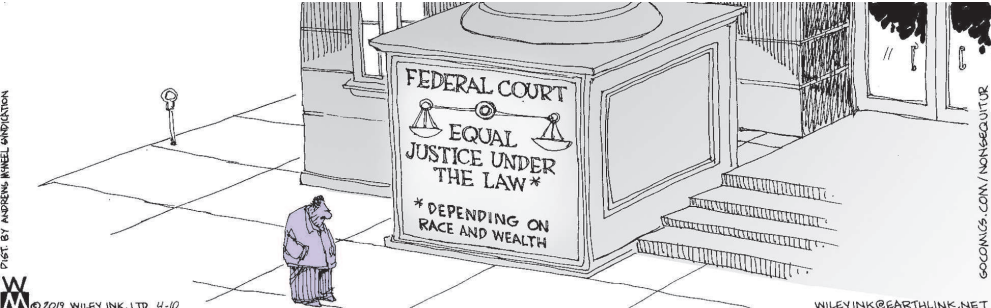
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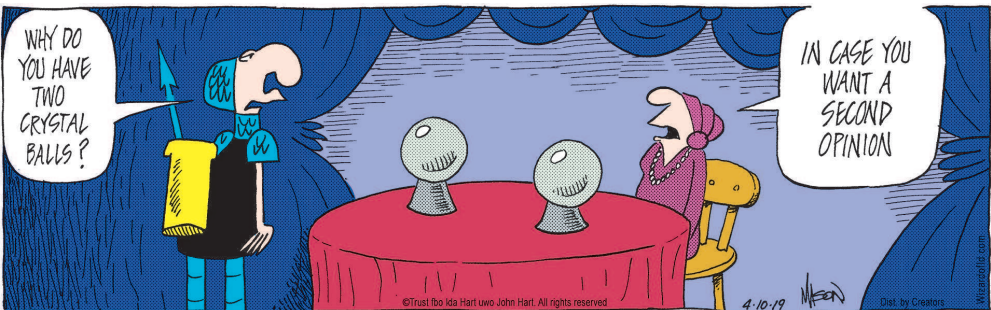
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