

Hunting for early inheritance

Dear Annie: My oldest sister has five grown children. Four live out of town, and one lives with his mother. My sister has never been able to stand up for herself very well. The out-of-town children have been trying to get her money. They have even somehow made the court send her a letter to appear for a 30-minute evaluation to see if she has dementia. My sister is fully functional and takes care of paying her bills, cleaning her home, cooking, etc. She's not crazy or dysfunctional; she's just who she is. The out-of-town children have put together a letter of character assassination against her other son and the rest of the family (myself included). I have never seen such a blatant bunch of lies and have never heard of a story worse than this when it comes to children trying to get a parents' money before they pass. Although, I did have a sister (we no longer have

a relationship) who tried to get money from my mother as her inheritance before she died. The oldest child of my sister is the ringleader. He even went so far to say in the court letter that any and all expenses would be paid by his mother's investments. I don't have any lawyer friends to ask questions to. What say you, Annie? — *Bewildered in VT*

Dear Bewildered: It sounds as though there are a lot of issues here that may look one way or the other depending on one's perspective. Meanwhile, caught in the middle is a real person — your sister. Perhaps it's best for her to loop in an objective assessment by meeting with a medical professional on her own. Given that this is now heading to court review and legal intervention, there will be various sides of the story being submitted, and retaining a lawyer to deliver

your side may be prudent. Accusations tend to go hand in hand with escalation, but sensible alternatives remain for those who are less interested in "winning" and more interested in ensuring your sister is safe and secure.

Dear Annie: I lost my elderly mother recently. She had been in nursing home for a couple years. I was forced to make care decisions I never wanted to make and to sell her home of 60 years and most of her possessions. It was gut-wrenching and the most stressful time of my life. Someone I thought to be a very close friend did and said some very hurtful things during this time. I tried to talk to her about it, but she blamed me for everything so I walked away and we haven't spoken since. — *Missing Mom*

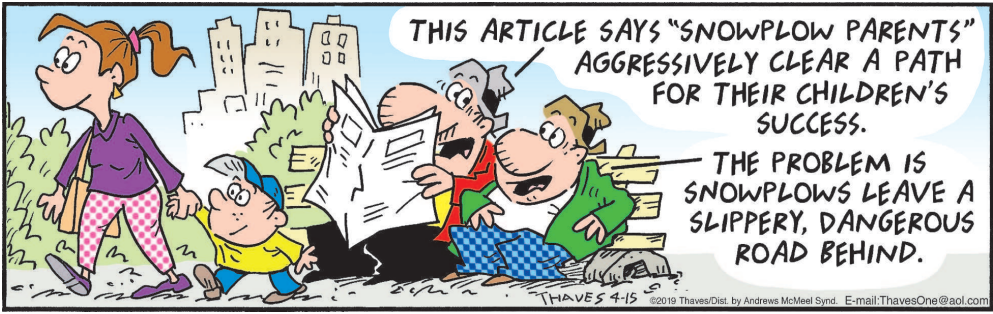
Dear Missing Mom: I am so incredibly sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. I am glad that you found out this supposed friend's true colors and cut ties.

DEAR ANNIE

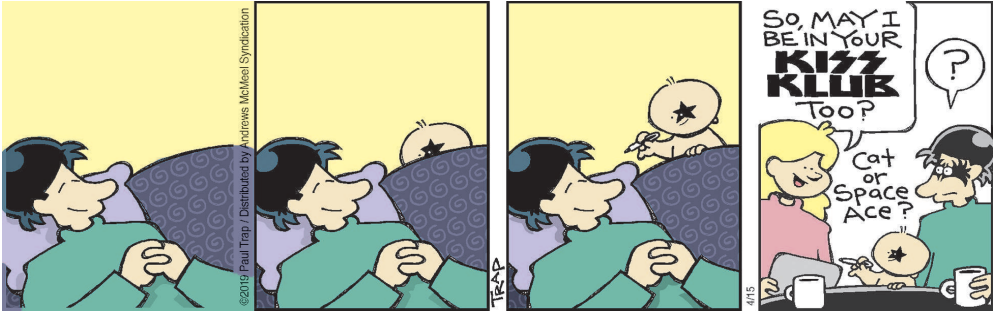


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

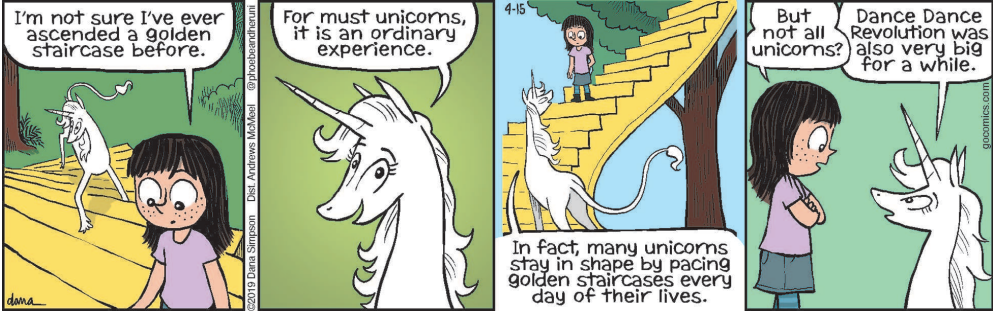
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



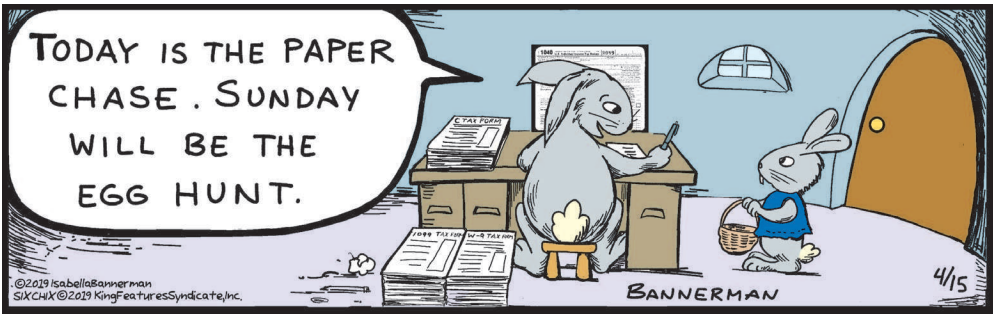
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The salesman keeps dropping the price because he knows that once you leave the showroom, chances are you won't be back. For clarity, get distance between you and the final decision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are fun to be around, and people like working with you. Try other modalities out, too, though, especially when it's your turn to be in charge. Overusing "fun" could hurt your ability to lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In order to put your best into the things that matter most to you, a small sacrifice will be made. Probably, this has to do with giving up a habit, attitude or possession. It won't hurt. In fact, it will free you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Returning to the things you did when you were less experienced will bring comfort, perspective and reassurance. You've changed and adapted to deal with all that happened. Yet, at your core you're still the same person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Should you say "no" to the things that are clearly outside of your expertise, or should you say "yes" and stretch to the challenge? What's the time commitment? To experience something new for an hour will be worth the inconvenience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You make people feel comfortable, and therefore they are more likely to say yes to you. Part of this has to do with consistency of action and attitude. The other part is your way of explaining things so people really understand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One way to test a relationship is to move furniture together, or execute another task that requires teamwork. If it goes well, it's

something to celebrate. If it's a major pain, there might be communication issues to work out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your options may seem frustratingly limited, but in reality there are choices that have nothing to do with the ones you are considering. Think broader. If it weren't for the things in front of you, what else would you choose?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's a day of working out minor differences, which you'll do like a champ. Then, a good question to ask is, "How can I support you going forward?" The answers will surprise you.

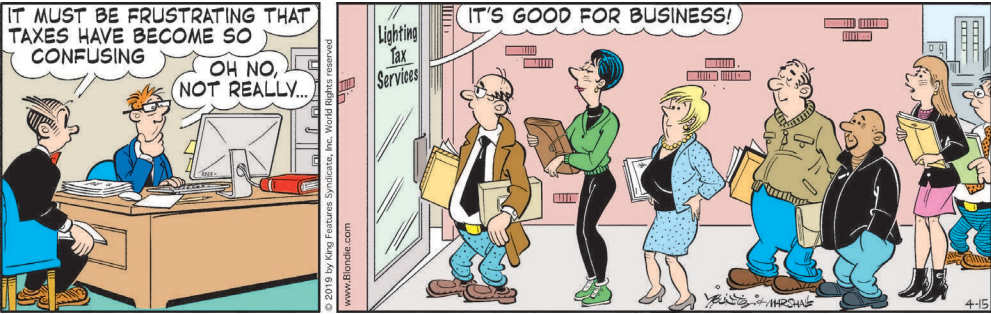
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're excellent at reading people, especially when something is bothering them. Better yet, you're not afraid to gently open up a dialogue. Because of this, you'll facilitate connection and maybe even healing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As you make your pitch, go for the gold. Not all "yes" answers are equal. Some actually mean "no" and others mean "maybe." A committed "yes" is not just an answer; it's a line of action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even though you are not responsible for a situation, you take full responsibility for your reaction to it. Note that cameras may be involved, as they so often are these days.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 16). Your talents will be sought after. There's a plethora of creative situations for you to involve yourself in, especially in the next three months. That said, it's not a time to invest money. Rather, put your energy in and do your research. September brings the lucrative opportunity; October shows the windfall. Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 49, 2 and 10.

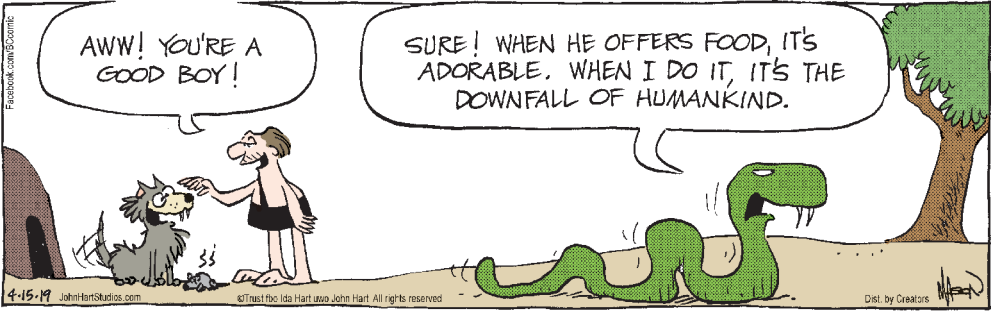
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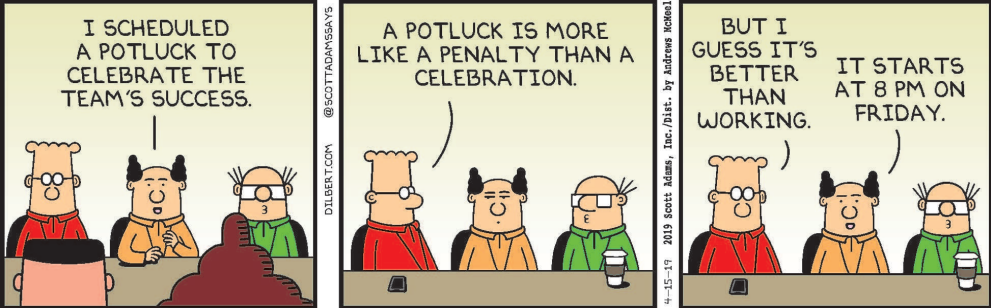
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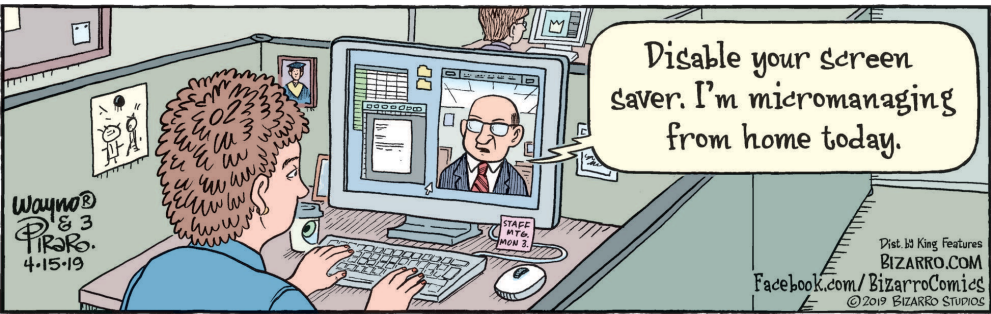
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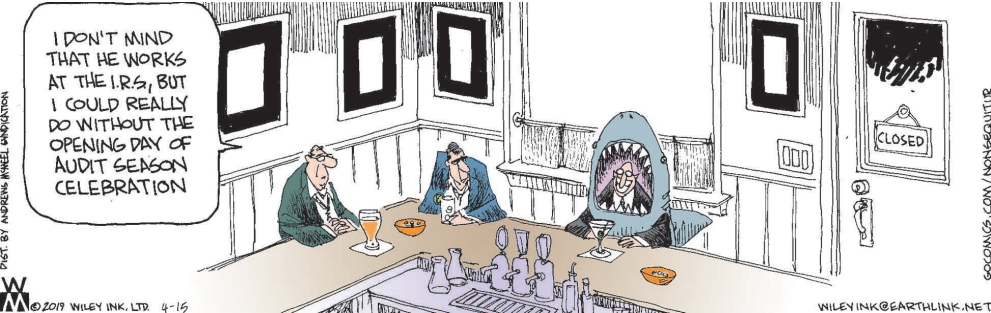
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

