

Mother’s care causes argument

Dear Annie: My three siblings and I are in a terrible situation right now over our 88-year-old mother. When she first moved into her seniors residence almost a year ago, one of the papers that we were asked to fill out was a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) form. We didn’t think it was a good time to talk to our mom about it because she was going through a lot at the time, and we didn’t want to upset her further. We couldn’t agree about what to put on the form (it was a two-two tie). Since my brother is named as her “power of attorney” in case of incapacity, even though our mom wasn’t incapacitated, we agreed to let him decide. So, it was indicated on the form to give CPR if necessary (so, no DNR order).

Fast-forward to a month ago when we decided to have the residence physician take her on as her patient. I went with her on her assessment visit. The head nurse was present, who knows my mother well. There was some mild cognitive impairment, but my mother was quite lucid and understood his questions. The DNR was discussed with my mother. She

told him that she didn’t want them to try to bring her back to life if her heart stopped. She signed the DNR form herself.

I sent an email to my siblings summarizing the visit, mentioning my mother’s decision to have a DNR on her file. I did not see what was coming next.

My brother accused me of going behind everyone’s back to change the order in her file to what I “wanted.” He said that I should have not allowed for the change to happen, that I should have said to the doctor that we needed to discuss it as a family before changing it. He was furious with the doctor for deciding that our mother was able to make the decision on her own after an hour of meeting her.

My brother went to visit my mom the next weekend (he lives out of town) and asked her if she enjoyed her life and wanted to continue living. When she said “yes,” he decided that was good enough for him, and he changed the form in her file, asking for CPR (indicating in capital letters, “My mother wants to live!!” on the form).

My brothers think that only people whose life has no value (no quality of life, no enjoyment) should have a DNR. They believe that if there is a chance of a reasonable quality of life, no matter how small, it is worth risking the negative consequences of CPR. My sister and I think that signing a DNR order prevents unnecessary suffering at the end of life — real CPR is not like on TV and would cause physical injuries — and that current quality of life has nothing to do with it.

Now my brothers think that my sister and I don’t think my mother’s life has value, which is really hurtful.

We are so far apart on this issue. It has caused a lot of anger and mistrust. I’m not sure how we can come together again as a family. — *Saddened Siblings*

Dear Siblings: As a family, and for your mother’s sake, you should come together on this issue. You said that your mother had mild cognitive impairment when she signed the new document. To ensure that all documents are in her best interest, allow your brother, as her power of attorney, to continue to be the point of contact for your mother’s DNR.

DEAR ANNIE

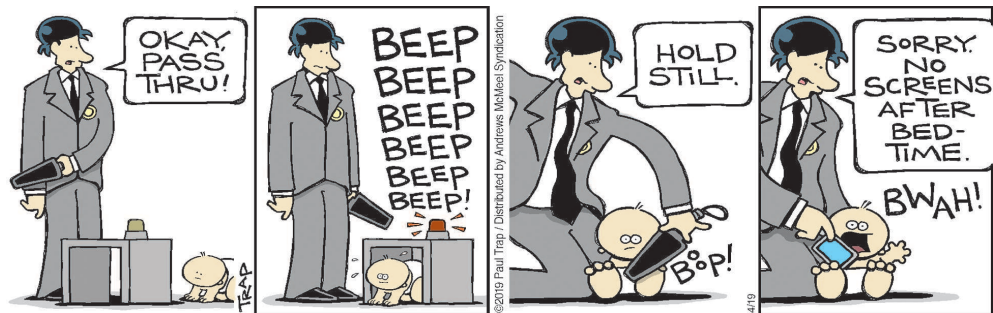


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



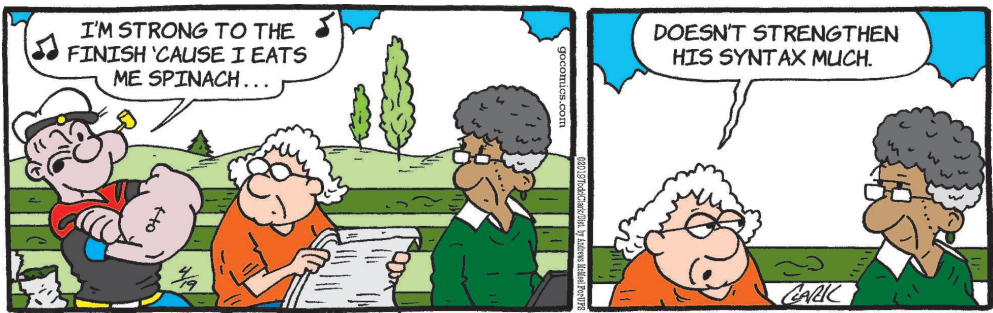
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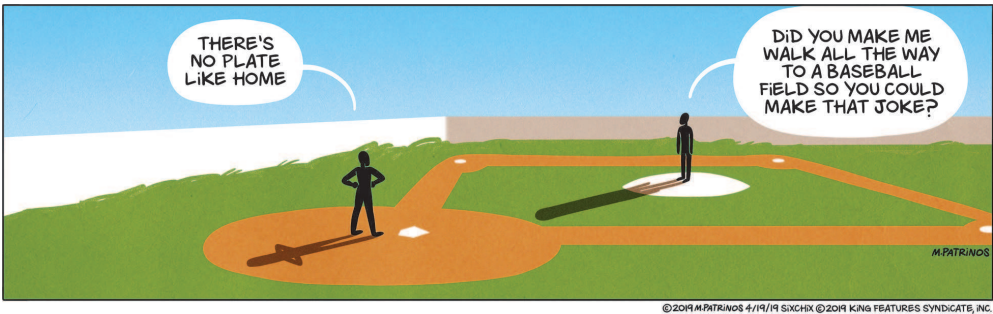
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW’S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can have the best answer in the world, but if you’re asking the wrong question, it’s useless. There’s one thing you can do to make the rest either a lot easier or unnecessary. What is it? That’s the magic question.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may not think you’re doing anything out of the ordinary; however, your kindness and generosity of spirit will make an extraordinary difference in the life of another.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You’ll find yourself at a place in the project where others before you have failed. It’s not a reason to be more careful; rather, it’s a reason to stay open to different approaches.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are many types of intelligence. You’ll find that you’re relied upon because you understand more than another person about some things, though there are other sorts of things this person can help you with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are under no obligation to take anyone to the airport, house out-of-town visitors (even family) or walk your vacationing friend’s dog. If you feel weird about turning others down, just blame it on your horoscope.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Do more things you enjoy. Knowing how busy you’ve been lately, “more things” might consist of “one thing” — a major improvement from ignoring your own need for rest and delight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). With some people you can let your guard down. They’re fun, they don’t judge, and there’s little at stake. With others you need a Secret Service-level security — discreet

and always on-the-ready.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Go to the party. You won’t regret it, especially if you go without expectation of any particular outcome. Who knows when you’re going to get another chance to make someone’s night?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It can be very frustrating to spend time doing what doesn’t come naturally, but it will be important to do it anyway. Your personal and spiritual expansion depends on it.

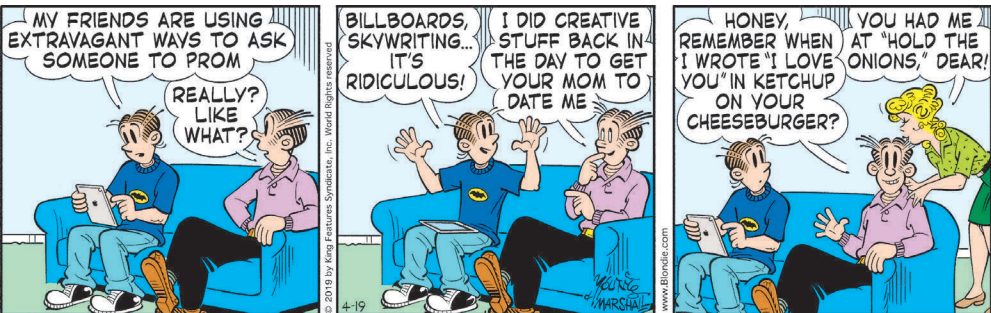
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When people ask for help, sometimes what they really want is attention, belonging or just a general feeling of support. So even if you don’t feel like you’re doing much, just being there is plenty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There’s a potential for boredom. You can keep it at bay with a challenge and it won’t be hard to find just the right sort. Your sporting mood will liven things up for the others, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To have the change you want, you’re going to have to get your rational mind, emotions and actions all lined up and marching in the same direction. Consider which part of you is out of alignment and guide it back in.

TOMORROW’S BIRTHDAY (April 20). You get clear about what you want and then work on creating systems to keep you on track. People who you once thought of as the opposition will become allies. You’ll get a windfall in August. Believe in yourself 10 times more in 2020 because the only thing that can stop you from an accomplishment is a lack of faith. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 3, 38 and 40.

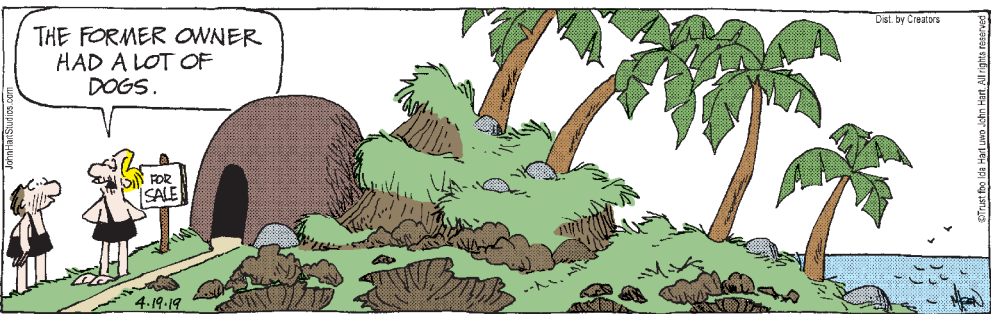
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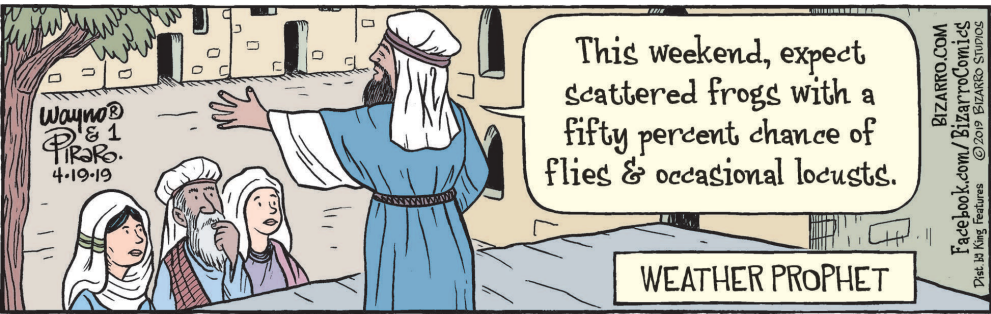
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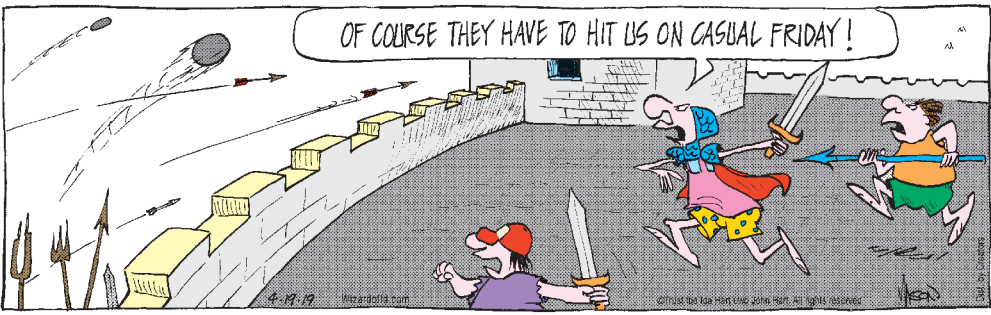
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

