

Participating in gossip at the office

Dear Annie: My co-worker, “Jane,” is the front-desk person and has a bird’s-eye view of everything. For the past several years she has noticed that it appears that my supervisor is having an affair with another co-worker. I, too, have noticed what appear to be signs of an affair. Although I do not approve (if this is the case), I am able to work without it disturbing me. Recently, it has started to affect my co-worker so much that she is now saying that this a hostile work environment.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

My question is this, should I mention something to my supervisor before my co-worker takes it to HR? She has threatened to do this, but she is the type who is normally all talk no action.

I feel uncomfortable saying something to my supervisor, but if it got as far as HR then I would feel disloyal for not having given him a warning. I don’t know how to handle this sensitive situation. — *Awkwardness at the Office*

Dear Awkwardness: First, stop chatting with Jane about the alleged affair. Speculation without action amounts to gossip, and nothing good can come of it. The

next time she tries to talk to you about it, tell her you’re uncomfortable discussing it, and change the subject.

Of course, she’s free to go to HR about the issue. And if it’s impacting her ability to do her job, then she definitely should. Do not intercede: What would the endgame be in telling your boss? It would make Jane vulnerable to preemptive attacks, and it would insulate your boss from the consequences of his own bad decisions. If he is having an inappropriate affair, that’s a bad bet he chose to wager. Let the chips fall where they may; the stakes aren’t yours.

Dear Annie: Thank you very much for the advice you give people, especially about attending various support groups. I want to suggest another group that you might recommend as a resource: Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families.

ACA has helped me tremendously.

I was abused as a child and learned dysfunctional behavior because of that.

I started doing drugs and

drinking alcohol when I was just 8 years old. My alcohol and drug use eventually led to my selling drugs and committing other criminal acts. I spent about nine years in prison, off and on from ages 26 to 50. I got clean in one of my prison terms, and when I got out I had five years of sobriety under my belt. I ended up relapsing twice because of all the childhood trauma. I brought that learned behavior from childhood into my adult actions and relationships.

I have now been in ACA for two years and out of prison for two and a half years. I will have been clean for 10 years this month.

I would love for you to look into this program and promote it if you think it would be helpful. If you would like to print my story of hope for others I would be honored. — *Story of Hope in Reading, PA*

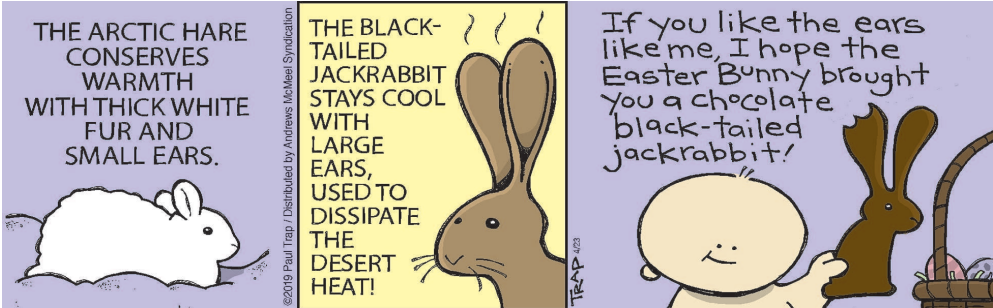
Dear Story of Hope: Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families looks like a wonderful organization and I’ll be happy to recommend it as a resource in the future. Anyone interested in learning more about this Twelve-Step program can visit <https://adultchildren.org>.

Thank you very much for writing.

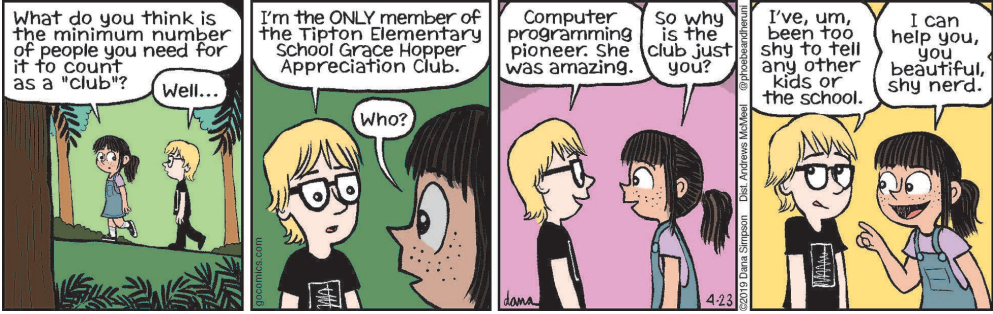
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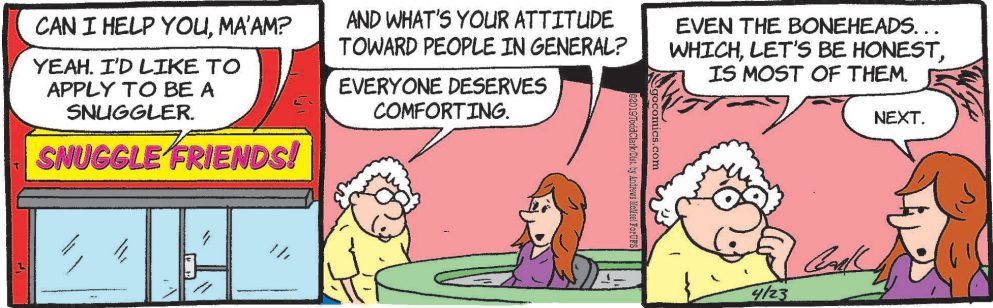
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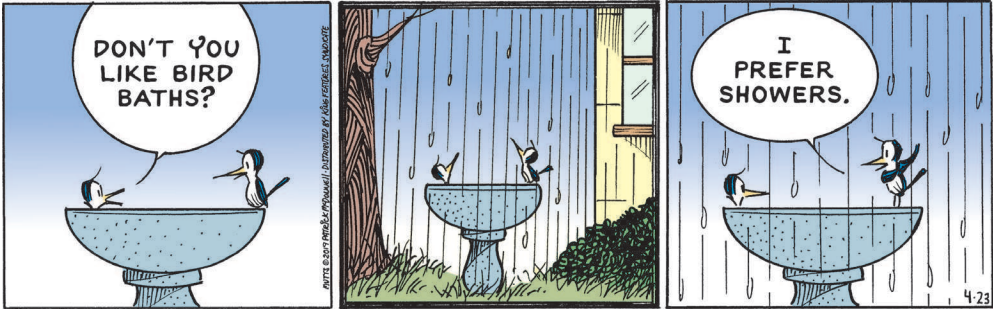
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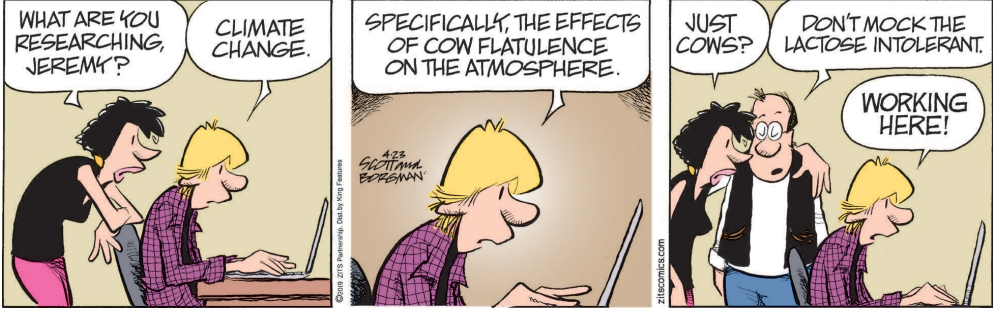
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ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A fitness routine that doesn't enmesh well into the patterns and rhythms of your lifestyle is not likely to last long. Finding a physical program that works for you will improve every area of your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't have anything you're very excited to do in the next three months, plan something. One shining event about 90 days away is just the goal you need to put all your other goals in alignment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your body will lead your emotion even more than usual and you can use this to your advantage by getting physical in ways that make you feel powerful, playful and positive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes, you want to feel interesting. But lately, you've put out so much energy that you're ready to be low-key and absorb what you can. You'll mostly feel like blending in and be interested in others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The smart plans don't always come down from the top. In fact, through a series of simple, intuitive decisions, you'll build a method of operating that is nothing short of genius. Trust yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't overthink it. What occurs naturally will be fine. The fact that you're not too worried about it will lead to a better interaction than if you overprepare, strategize and obsess. Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The people you love will shape your future. You'll go where they go so you can be there for them, rearranging your life so that you can experience things together. You're right to be picky in the early stages of love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've accidentally told the same story to the same person more than once. It's not such a bad mistake. You might even call it "branding;" people need to hear things multiple times before it sinks in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Finding a tranquil space within yourself will be much easier after you find a tranquil space in your environment. Public spaces are so unpredictable though. Maybe it's time to clear or create a space of your own.

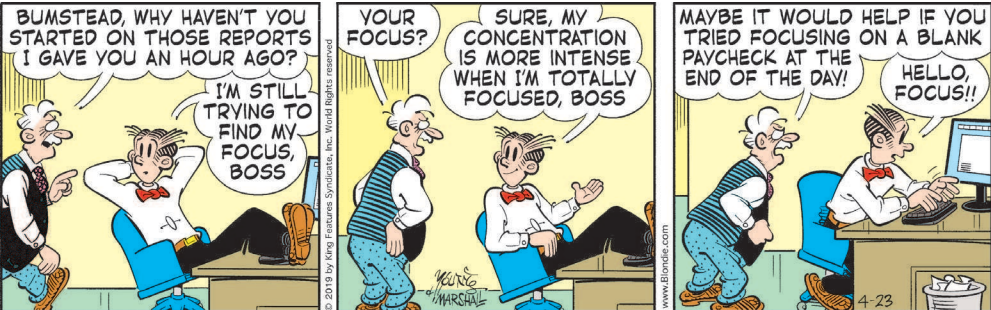
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Joke around with people who share your sense of humor and the vibe will be comfortable. It will be the opposite with those who don't default to humor so readily. They won't like the pressure of having to keep up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'd walk across hot lava to help another person, but unless that person is in a volcano it probably won't. Find out what's needed before you put yourself out doing all the wrong things.

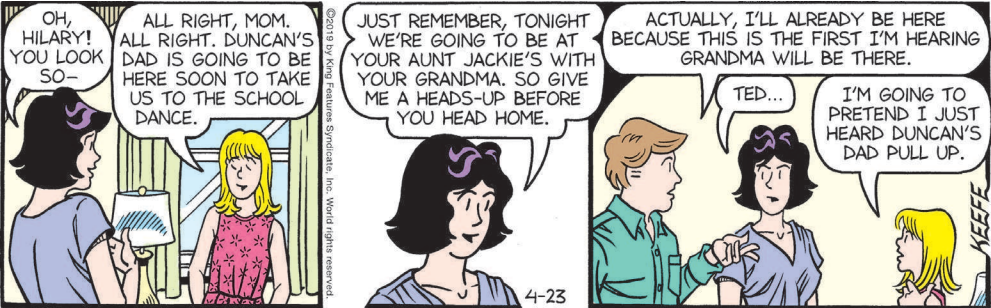
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When something about a person hits you the wrong way, it's a good thing to keep to yourself today. Still, take note and remember this reservation. Your subconscious is telling you something.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 24). A juicy business opportunity practically comes with a cosmic birthday card signed, "Love, The Universe." Next month brings worthy creative partners. Bounce around ideas until they come out smooth and improved. Summer months are a blur. Remember to get still so the butterfly of happiness has a chance to alight on your shoulder. Virgo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 22, 19 and 30.

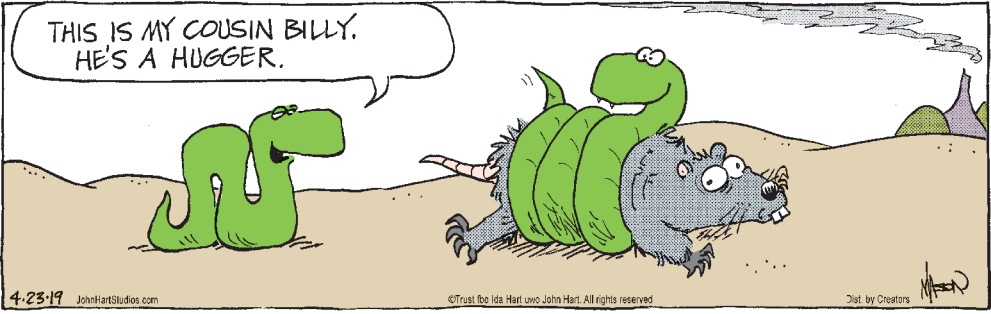
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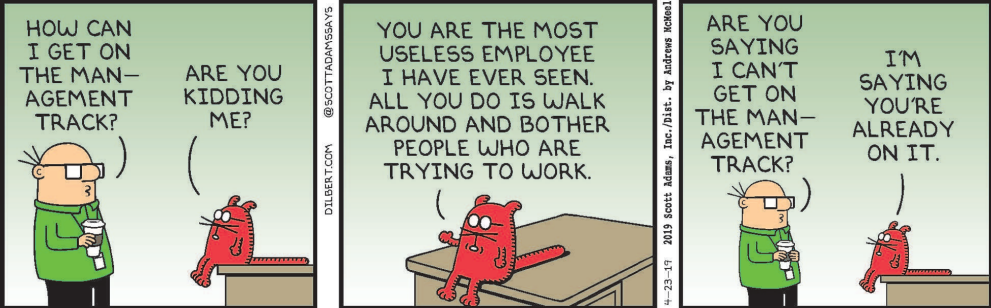
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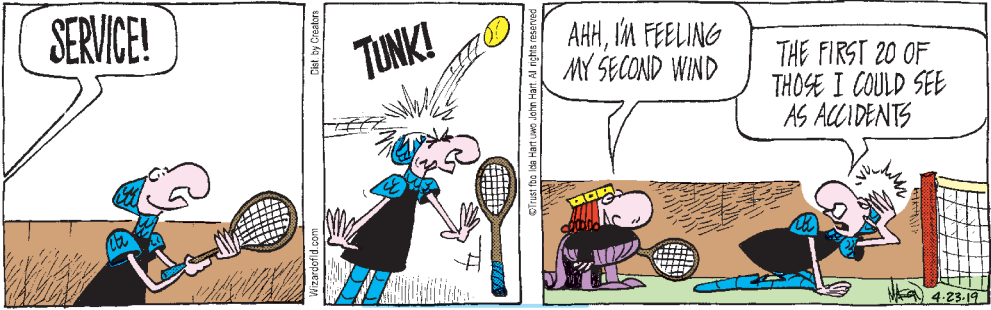
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