Long-distant friendship

DEAR ANNIE

ANNIE LANE
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I'm in a really bittersweet situation. I hit it off with a friend who happens to live quite far away. The time we've spent hanging out has been awesome, and I'm beyond thankful to have them in my life. But I'm frustrated by the distance. I'm not scared we'll drift apart, but I am anxious about how little face time we have between meetups. I've lost friends due to distance before, and while those times weren't pleasant, this one's different. This person really just gets me in a way I have trouble articulating. Any tips for not going crazy? — *Faraway Friend*

Dear Faraway Friend: Just because a person is physically far from you does not mean that they are far from your heart. Finding a person in your life who really gets to you should not give rise to anxiety but rather comfort in knowing that there is someone out there who understands you.

Distance cannot take away a bond like that, especially with the technology that we have now. You could FaceTime often with the person or use other similar technology. The friends you lost due to distance were not the right friends for you. Real friends will be with you no matter how far away you are. The reverse is also true. You can be physically right next to lots of friends and not feel that deep connection you are talking about. It is the connection that is to be treasured, not the physical presence.

With all that said, see where it goes. Perhaps the more time you get to know each other you might organically move closer to each other.

Dear Annie: I am having trouble with my sister-in-law. Every time I try to talk to her, she interrupts me. I have told my husband about this, and he basically says that there isn't anything he can do about it. In turn, I try to avoid her as much as I can. But it's hard to do that at family functions. What can I do to make her stop? — *Signed Annoyed*

Dear Annoyed: Being interrupted can be rude and very annoying. But getting angry or avoiding her all together is not the solution. Try your best to be gracious and firm with her. Let some of the interruptions go. Sometimes the interruptions might be helpful or supportive of the conversation.

If the interruptions continue, you could politely say, "Let me just finish what I'm saying so I don't forget my point" You could steamroll the conversation by continuing to keep on talking until she gets the point that you are not going to stop until you are finished.

Lastly, I would speak to her privately. Be direct, kind and honest with her. My guess is that she is unaware that she is doing so. Some people are socially anxious and much more focused on the impression they're making than on the exchange. The interruptions might be coming from a place of wanting to impress you.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know who needs help. You can see it in their eyes, their body language, word choices ... this is delicate. Proceed gently, letting people know you are open to hearing and understanding them without directly asking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A gift can feel like a burden when you don't know quite how to use it. Take a breath, thank the giver (or your lucky stars, if appropriate), and then don't worry so much about it. Let this develop naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As it turns out, what you used to think was your fault is not your fault at all. There were obstacles you couldn't understand at the time, factors in play that preceded your involvement. So shake off the guilt. It never was yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This isn't a competition. You don't have to be the best, brightest, most creative, quickest, coolest or anything else. What you really need to be is finished with this deal so you can move on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just because the tag is missing doesn't mean it's free. Similarly, just because you do not currently understand the emotional cost of an interaction, it doesn't mean there won't be one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are many people who will be very happy to see you do well. Knowing this will be a key part of your motivation. If you start to lose steam, then just imagine the smiles on their faces when you cross the finish line.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Human interaction involves a million tiny details. You'll never get all of them right. So don't harp on the little things that go terribly wrong. That's part of it. Maybe even the best part.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Find the real thing. There will be no good substitutes. The fakes could work for a few days, but they won't stand the test of time. So go on a quest, if you have to, looking for the genuine article.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's good to know people's reason for doing what they do, especially if they're doing it with you. Of course, they may not be aware of the reasons themselves, but don't let that deter you. You're very perceptive now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe you don't think what you're doing is all that special, but it's really not for you to say. How could you? You're too close to the work to see what the others see, or to know the true value you bring.

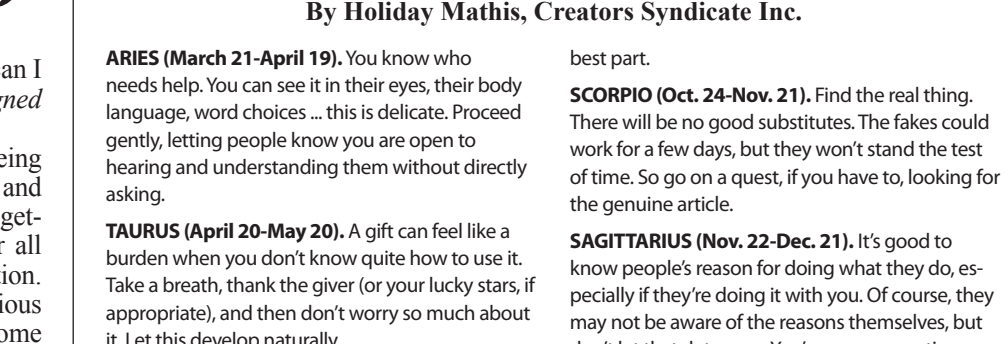
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're feeling empowered to follow your own whims, especially when they lead you to different physical locations than you normally haunt. You'll go where you please, and you'll please where you go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). "Don't wake up a sleepwalker," they say, though it's unclear what would happen if you did. And what of the sleepwalking that doesn't involve REM? The urge to gently nudge the wrongheaded may be too interesting to resist.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 25). With curiosity as your guide, life unfolds before you in strange and unexpected ways. You'll partner with people as adventurous as you are to terrific ends. You've a knack for attracting the right people to advance the thing you're working on at the moment, both personally and professionally. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 3, 30, 44 and 10.

FRANK AND ERNEST

BLONDIE



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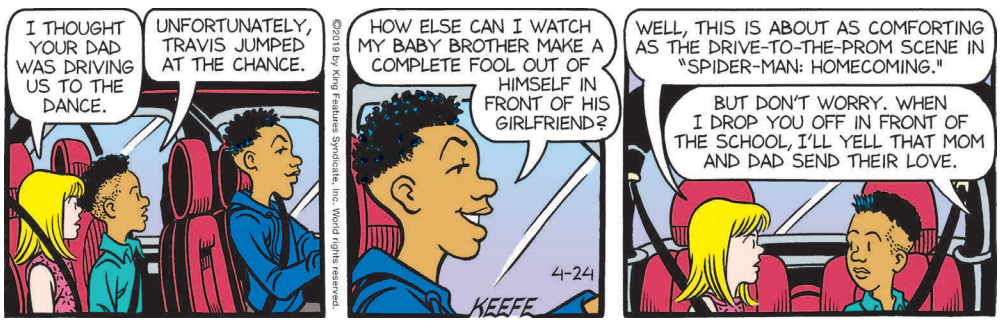

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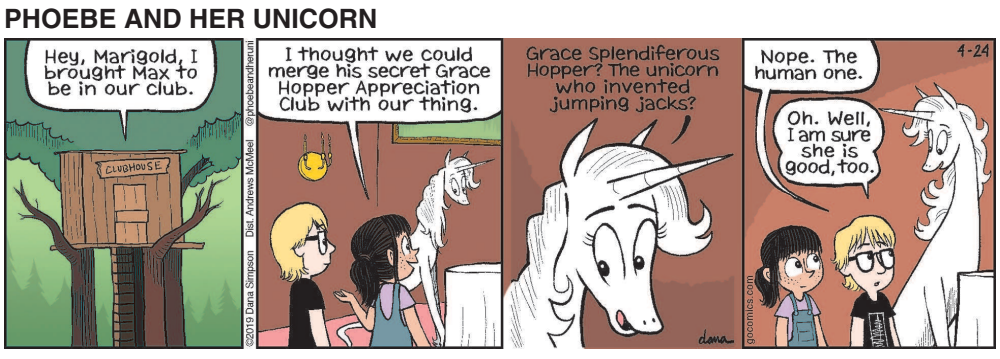

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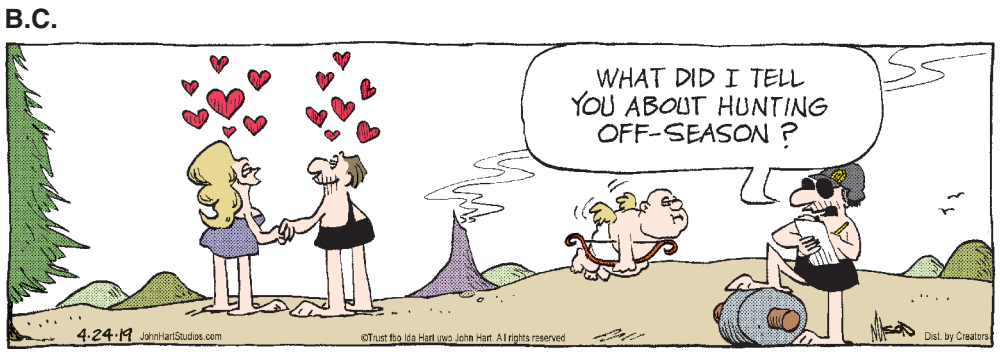

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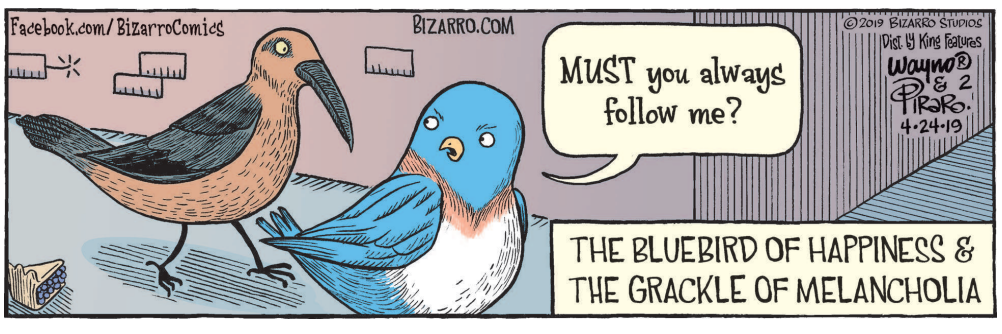

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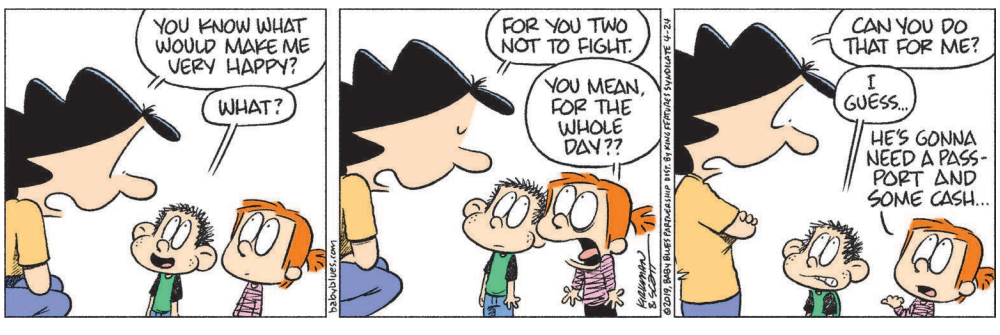

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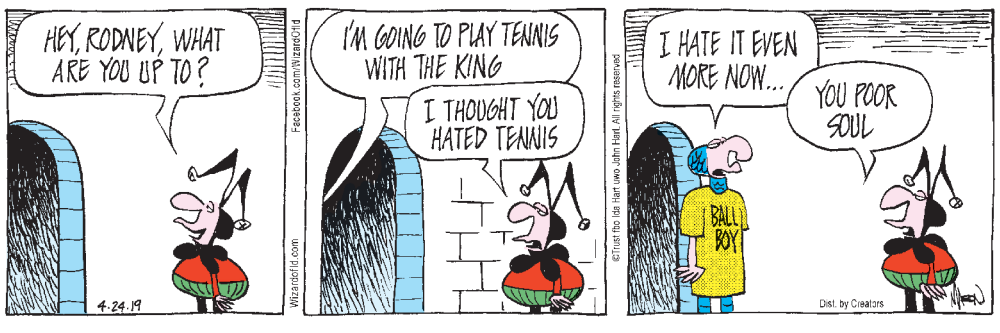

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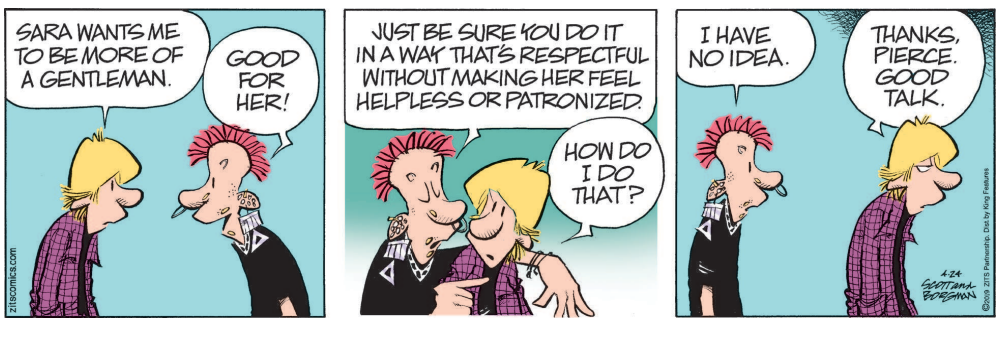

ROSE IS ROSE