

Worried about mom’s trek

Dear Annie: Every summer for the last 15 years, my mother has insisted on driving 1,500 miles to spend 10 days with me. We have had some really fun visits, but now she is 88 years old and just had heart surgery. She frequently falls despite using a walker. Additionally, she drives with my brother with special needs, who also has mobility limitations.

I am worried sick about my mother’s and brother’s health and safety because I think of so many scenarios that could happen. They spend six nights in hotels on the road and 10 more nights in a hotel once they arrive because I live in a small one-bedroom townhouse. This excursion is very costly, and because she has depleted her savings, the financial burden falls on my siblings and me.

I offered to fly out my mother so she could stay at my place, but she insists on driving. She has flown to visit friends and left my brother home alone so I know that isn’t the issue. I also frequently fly to visit them

throughout the year. Another frustration is that I have run out of things to do and places to take them during their visit because of their limited mobility. Essentially, they drive 1,500 miles just to sit in my living room and watch TV all day and go out for lunch and dinner.

This week, I finally was firm and told my mother that she will NOT be driving 1,500 miles this summer, and I will buy her a plane ticket instead. Her reply was that she is the parent and will take the trip her way. The entire family opposes her driving, even the grandchildren. Any other ideas how we can halt this cross-country drive? — *Exasperated with Stubborn Mother*

Dear Exasperated with Stubborn Mother: The first step is to try to change the way you view your mother’s challenging position. Stubbornness is a close relative of persistence — a trait needed for success in many areas of life. Judging from your mother’s persistence in seeing her family,

and the value family holds for her, I say that this is a great quality. Your strong-willed mother might not be easy to deal with, but it sounds like she has a lot of determination. Now that you have a little perspective on the beauty of stubbornness, let’s get to the safety issue. Congrats on offering to fly your mother out. That is both very generous of you and a great solution.

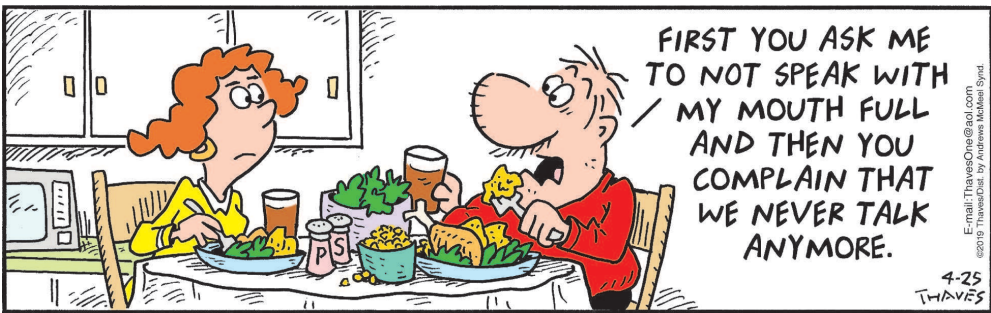
Take long, deep breaths before your conversation with her. Remember that stubborn people are hard of hearing, so to speak, so timing can be everything. Tell your mom slowly and very patiently that you hear her commitment and appreciate her wanting to visit. Let her know that you understand her opinion and value her persistence. However, you have concerns about the long drive. It comes from how much you love her and your brother and you want them to arrive at your house safely and without stress. Try not to raise your voice with her and instead tell her how much you love her. It should soften her heart and help her to hear yours and her grandchildren’s points of view.

DEAR ANNIE

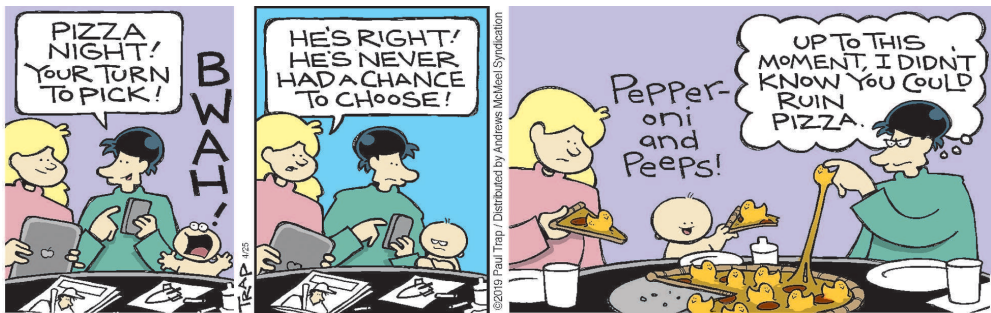


ANNIE LANE
Creators
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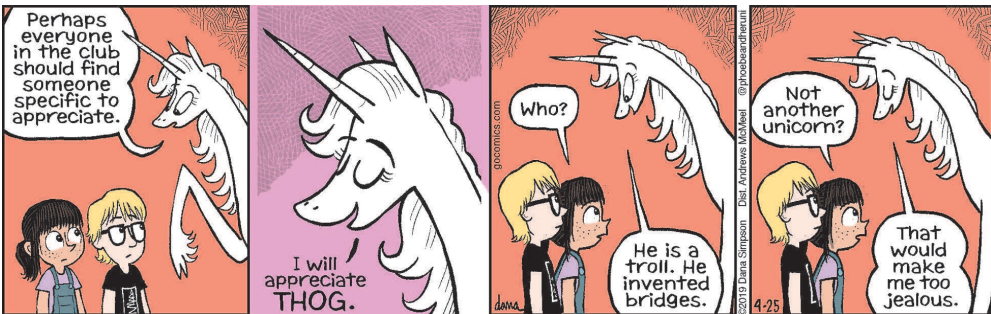
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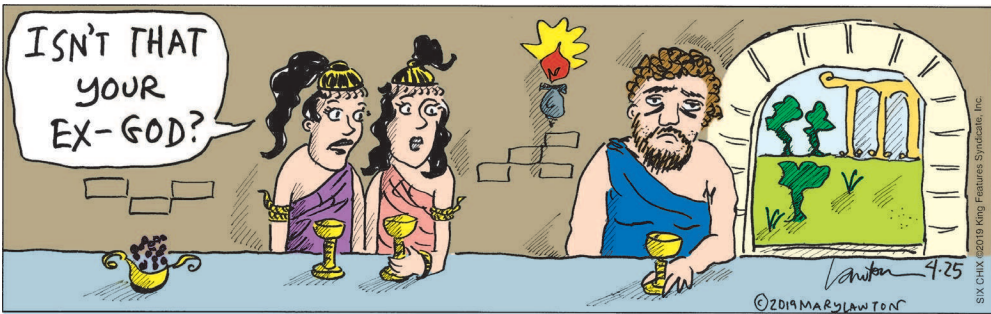
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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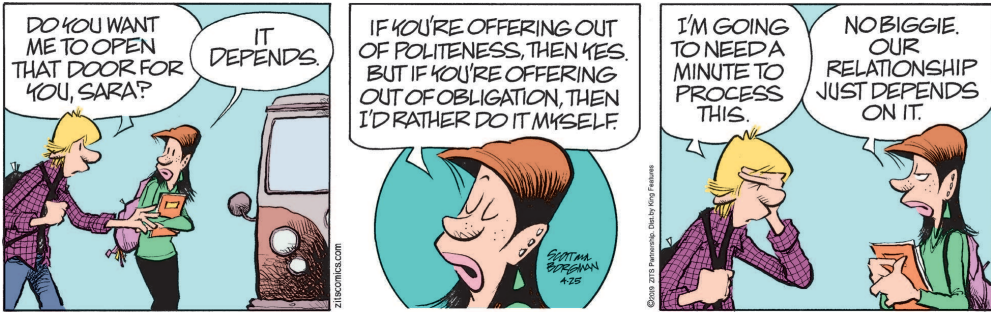
SIX CHIX



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A person invests in a dream item, cares for it, shows it off, and decades later it's at a garage sale for a few bucks. History is heartless. At least you appreciate it. And someone will appreciate and bond with you over that.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You could try to hide your feelings, but it's hard and it also won't work. Loved ones are too perceptive. The best way is to find a path to feeling more positively about the scene. Frame it differently.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your resources may seem precious and rare to you right now, but there's actually a lot more of this coming to you. So, while you wouldn't want to waste, neither should you obsess. You will be further blessed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who are down on their luck will be given pity. However, what's better to give is respect and a firm belief that there are deeper wells of strength to draw on. You'll find other ways to help as well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may feel like you're recovering from something, though you don't know from what. If part of you needs extra care, who are you to stand in the way of that? Go easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's easy to avoid drama if you you're not interested. You look the other way, don't engage, change the subject or just drive on by. Those who can't seem to ignore drama may be secretly in love with it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't have to worry about how you're going to get to the end of this project. What matters is how you're going to get to the end of the next 10 minutes of it, and then the 10 minutes after that. Keep chugging.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Directionless people can either waste your time, or help you. For them to help you, you'll have to be a strong leader who imparts, with your vision and influence, a shared goal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have more work to do than the people around you. How annoying! If you even start thinking about how unfair it is, you're sunk. You'll be better off for accomplishing these things, that's the truth. Keep going.

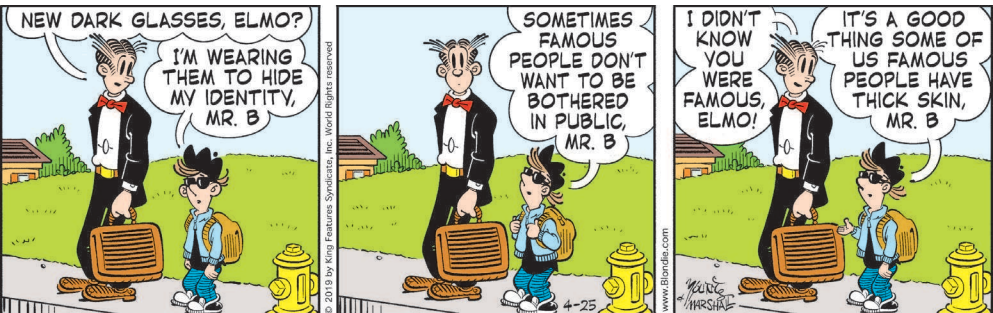
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Of course, you want to do things for the people you love and for those you find attractive and interesting. But you really grow your heart by contributing to people who don't meet those criteria.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Interesting competition gets you energized — or paralyzed. But if that happens, you can get over it quickly. Resolve not to be jealous. Realize that you bring something different. Then just do you.

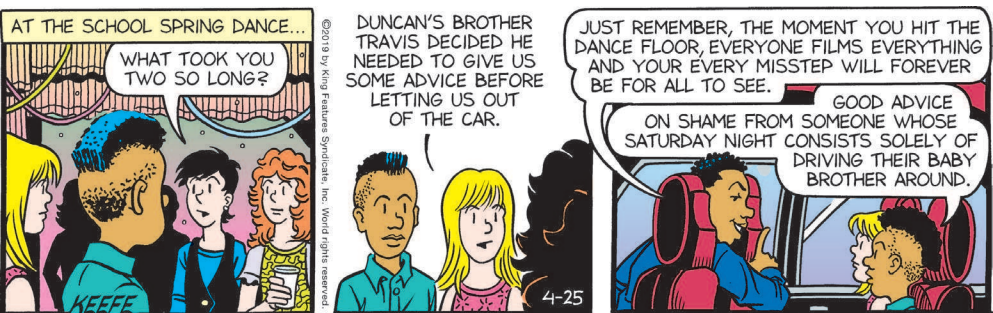
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's hard to get emotional needs met when you don't know what they are. There's nothing shameful about not knowing. Learning the language of emotion is a skill developed over time. The first step is to get curious about it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 26). You had a hard time starting out and this gave you more grit. Now you'll put that to use on a challenge that, at times, will feel like it was custom made for you. Everyone gets to see you at your best, though you hardly notice because you're so into the game. Additions to both your support system and your family tree are in store. Pisces and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 3, 32, 5 and 7.

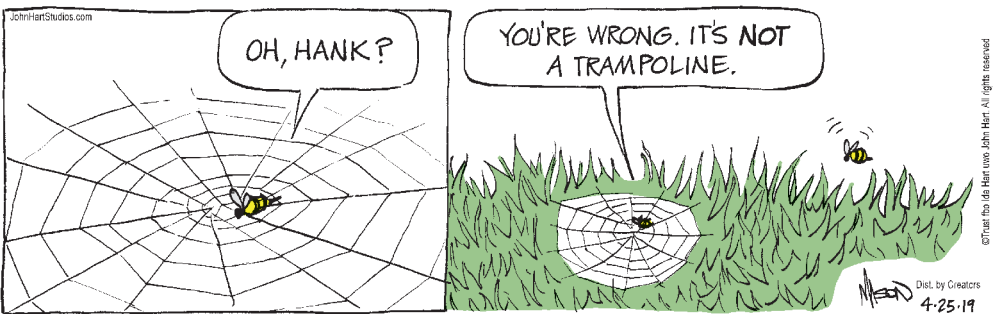
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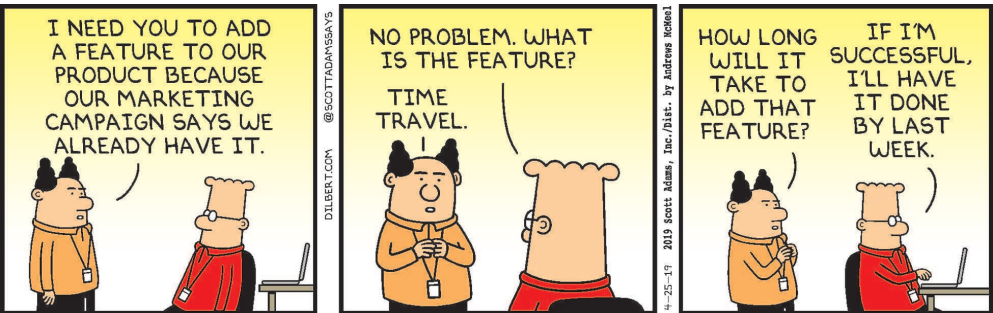
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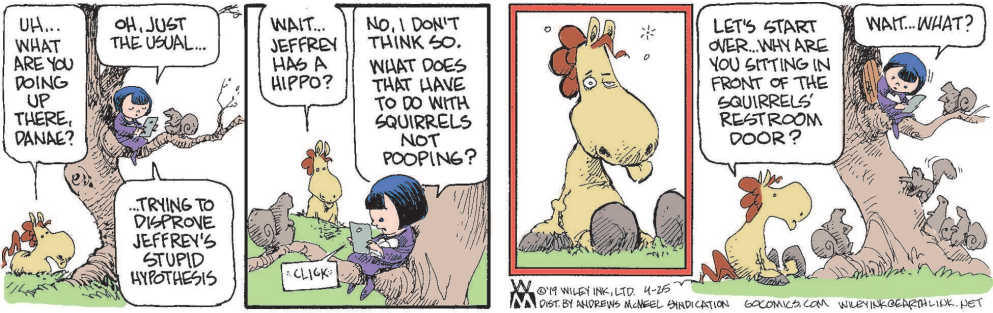
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