

Partying causes family friction Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: A year ago, I bought a house for my niece Alice, her boyfriend and their two daughters, so they could have a better life and become homeowners. The house is still in my name, and our agreement was that Alice could live there for five years so she could build up her credit and save enough for a down payment on a home of her own.

The problem is Alice's sister, "Tonya," who is fond of partying. Alice allowed Tonya to hold parties for underage kids, with alcohol, in the house. Tonya is now in college but still comes home on vacations and expects to host parties for her friends, including high school kids. I found out that Tonya gets so drunk at these parties that she has thrown up in the kitchen sink.

I am livid and hurt that Alice would allow her children to witness such irresponsible behavior. Alice's mother, my sister, also permits this. I told Alice's boyfriend that I would sell the house if Tonya has another party there. I am afraid to talk to Alice, Tonya or my sister because I'm sure to let slip what I really think of this and then it will cause major family issues.

Why can't my sister see the liabilities for everyone involved? — *Disappointed Uncle*

Dear Uncle: Your sister chooses to ignore this behavior because she doesn't want to alienate her daughters and prefers to abdicate her parental responsibilities. You have been inordinately kind to your

Annie's Mailbox

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niece, and it seems unappreciated. But do not approach this in anger. Simply inform Alice that you, as the homeowner, will be held liable for any illegal activities taking place there, including serving alcohol to underage kids. Say that, regretfully, should you discover she has allowed Tonya to hold another such party, you will be forced to sell the house, as you are unable to afford the potential legal costs. Then do it.

Dear Annie: I have two grown daughters who have not spoken to me since their mother and I divorced 12 years ago when they were teenagers. I assume they were pressured not to have anything to do with me.

Over the years, I have sent them cards, letters and gifts, but they have never acknowledged them. I always hoped that when they were grown and less influenced by their mother, we might be able to reestablish some kind of a relationship.

My oldest daughter recently became

engaged, and I sent her a gift. I received a letter in return, telling me that I am not invited to the wedding, and asking whether I want my gift back. I never expected to be invited to her wedding, and frankly, was thrilled that she even acknowledged the gift. I don't want it back.

After all these years, I have started to lose hope that things will ever improve. So my question is, should I continue to send cards or gifts to my daughters? I don't want to be a nuisance. I used to cry when I would think of them, and the sad thing is now I don't. — *Estranged Dad*

Dear Dad: You don't have to send gifts, but please continue to send cards. Your daughters need the reassurance that you still care about them. And you never know; they may someday decide to reconcile. Please leave the door open.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Florida Lady," who suggested giving all types of gift cards. I get a lot of gift cards from people on special occasions, which is nice. I also purchase and give gift cards to others.

I had no problem until this year, when I had purchased gift cards to a very popular restaurant. Without notice, the restaurant closed its doors and we were stuck with the gift cards.

I've decided that cash is a better alternative. It's the right color, right size, has no expiration date and is accepted everywhere. — *Eileen*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even people you know very well have a way of surprising you, if only because you can't quite read what they are thinking now. Maybe it's better not to know. Anyway, it's worth it to get comfortable not knowing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Falling stars can't fall forever. Eventually, they burn out. Something in your life feels like a falling star right now, and it's as exhilarating as it is frightening. Take as much pleasure in it as you can while it lasts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're so nice that it sometimes shocks you to realize that being nice isn't the default for many people. Don't let that bother you today. Keep doing what you do, because you're setting a bar.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You admire people who can let go, and you have compassion for the ones who let go a little too far. Being able to navigate the level is a talent. You can help others with this now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You make it rather easy to keep up with you, which is why so many people will. Your detailed instructions help, as do your encouragements. This is not premeditated; you naturally gravitate to telling people the benefits they will experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't like to show off, but people need to know what skills you have, or else they won't know to call on you when those skills are needed. If you think you're not quite ready, pretend that you are ready and go for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Pay attention to the bottom line. Seek the data. Someone is doing a dance of distraction in front of you — a sure sign that you need to look deeper into what's really going on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stop thinking you have to do better to have a valid contribution. You've done your homework, and you know what you're talking about. Your best is good enough. The more you believe it the more other people will.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The question is: Do your activities mesh with your goals and values? Lately, not so much, but all of that can change. Don't worry; you can still have the same friends. Just temper the relationships with more personal time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You wouldn't have thought that the inner workings of your lifestyle would be of so much interest to others, but they are. The real question becomes: How much about your life do you want to share?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You cannot underestimate the power of acknowledgment, especially the way you do it. You have a gift for making people feel important, probably because you really know that they are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are happy doing many things alone, but there are certain solitary activities that trigger a profound feeling of loneliness in you. You have people to talk to. Reach out to them.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 22). This birthday is a freedom call — liberation! Your dreams are not only for you; the whole world is better for them. A nod and an encouraging word from someone you admire (maybe even idolize) will keep you excited about what you're about to accomplish. The education you get in March will be useful and lucrative. Aquarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 1, 12, 9 and 50.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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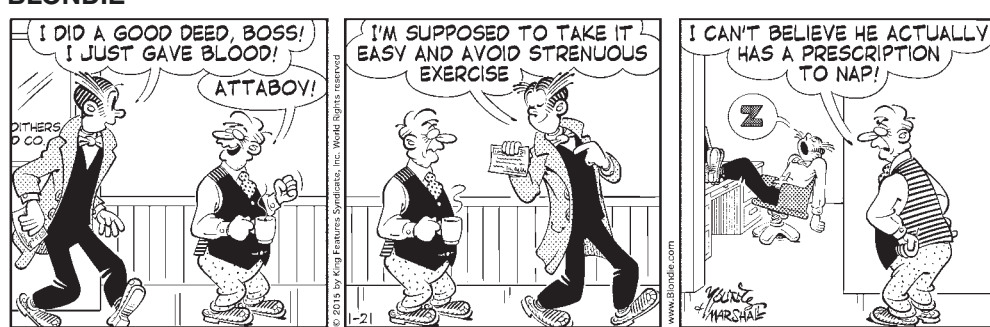
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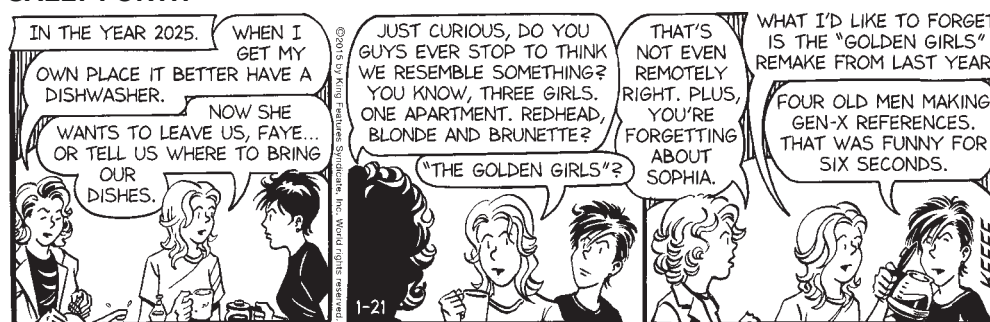
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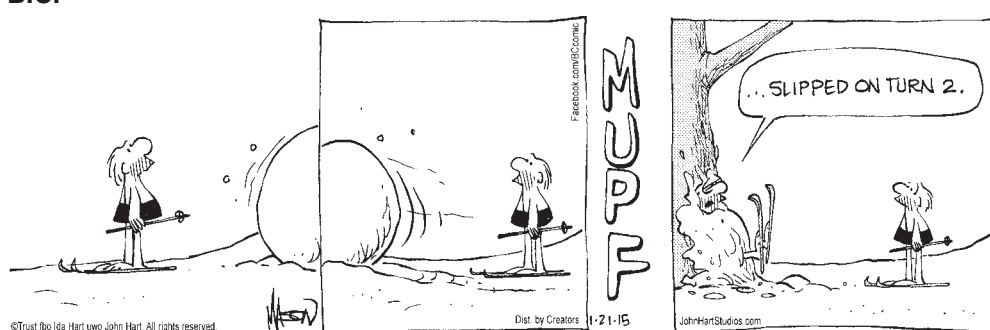
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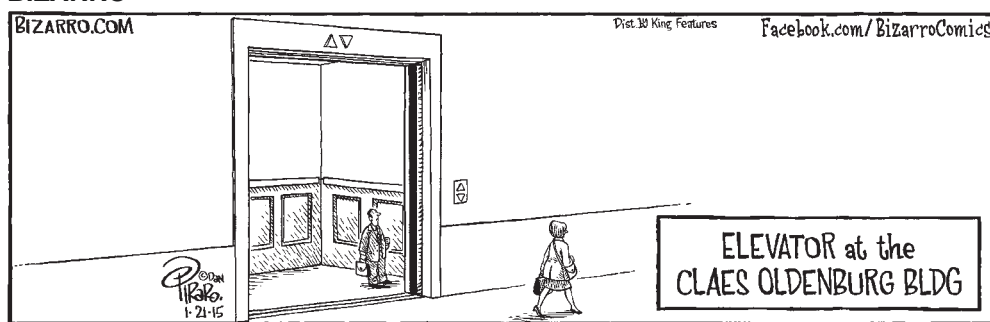
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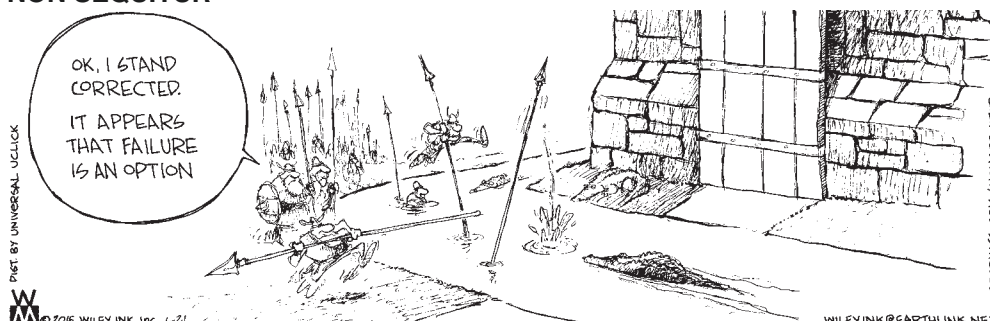
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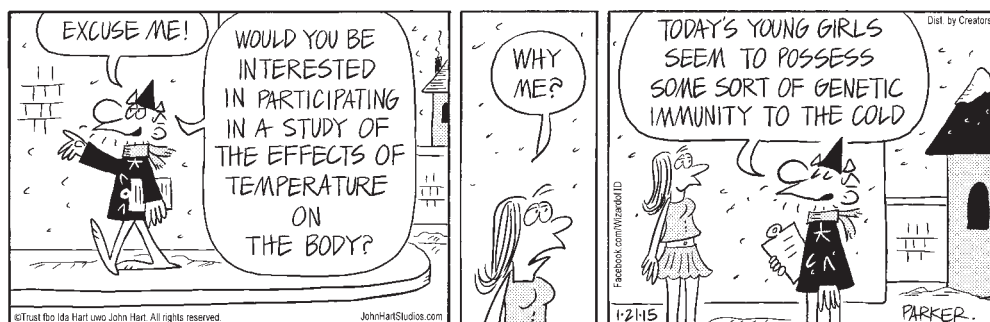
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