

Wife resents being in second place Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Jerry" for 10 years. We each have adult daughters from previous relationships.

Jerry has a peculiar relationship with his daughter, "Serena." She was taken from him by her mother at a very early age, and he did not see her again until she was 13. At age 15, she got into a fight with her mother and came to live with Jerry. He and his roommate allowed the girl to drink liquor and use their car. At some point, she was found in Jerry's bed having sex with a strange man. She also ran up \$1,000 in telephone charges calling her boyfriend back home.

When Serena went back to Mom, I moved in with Jerry. But Serena would call at all hours of the night. When she had another fight with Mom, Jerry invited her back without asking me. I put a lock on the phone, and Serena became angry and returned to Mom. After that, her relationship with Jerry was on-and-off for 10 years.

Jerry now visits Serena and her young son twice a year for six weeks at a time, which drives me nuts. I find her to be manipulative and toxic and don't care to deal with her. Last month, Jerry insisted I talk to her when she phoned at

Annie's Mailbox

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3 a.m., and all she did was scream at me for 30 minutes. Jerry backed her up.

I told Jerry that Serena needs to apologize. I am upset by the way Jerry behaves toward her. When she is ill, he waits on her hand and foot, but when I was in a motorcycle crash, he expected me to get up and cook dinner. Jerry screams at me, yet he is all sweetness when speaking to Serena. He does nothing around the house other than take out the garbage, while I work full time, and all he does is criticize me. He wants me to embrace Serena the way he does, but I cannot do it. I'm depressed and miserable. What should I do? — *Second Place*

Dear Second: Jerry has put Serena first, which means he will always take her side in any argument with you, and she knows it. Don't expect any apologies. The question is what

to do about your marriage, which sounds unhappy and stressful. Get some counseling, with or without Jerry, and figure out whether you are better off with or without him.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Cringing in Exercise Class," who complained about a woman who chewed gum during classes. I'm surprised the instructor allows it. It is a safety hazard. The woman could inhale the gum and get it stuck in her windpipe.

I bet the insurance company that covers the exercise facility would put an end to anyone chewing gum posthaste. — *Better Practice Your Heimlich Maneuver*

Dear Better: You make an excellent point that we had not considered. With the amount of exertion and breathing one does during exercise, the gum could easily end up where it shouldn't. Thanks for weighing in.

Dear Readers: We are carrying on Ann Landers' tradition that April 2 be set aside as Reconciliation Day, a time to make the first move toward mending broken relationships. It also would be the day on which we agree to accept the olive branch extended by a former friend or estranged family member and do our best to start over.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone is fallible. Because you've placed your mentors, idols and leaders in high esteem, they have farther to fall when they fall from grace. Can you reverse them without the pedestal?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Stop sacrificing to your own detriment, and make your needs a higher priority (even if those needs happen to be for seemingly frivolous things like glamour, thrills and general fun).

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). High culture may not be on your agenda. If you find yourself in the same old haunts instead of traveling, seeing elaborately designed shows or visiting the museum, at least look up. The sky is a masterpiece.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know what stresses you out. Anticipate potential anxiety-triggering situations, and make a plan as to how you'll either avoid them or, if they are unavoidable, deal with them as quickly as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Opening your mind is a lot harder than opening your mouth, but like anything, if you do it enough, it gets easy. It already has for you, which is why today you'll delight in fewer words and more influences.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Meeting the right person at the wrong time is a condition that, in some, inspires longing, fantasizing, poetry... In others it inspires planning. How could you appropriately plan and play together during these times?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In your mind, elegance and functionality go together. You have no interest in pretty things that don't do anything useful. Guided by these convictions, you'll improve your environment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once again, you'll be drawn to the mysterious and clandestine. When the situation is new to you, and you are new to it, you can be whoever you want to be. You might enjoy cultivating an alter ego.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are your own team captain. You won't be blindly led or bossed around. You will defer to the judgment of your teachers as a sign of respect when you know that the respect goes both ways.

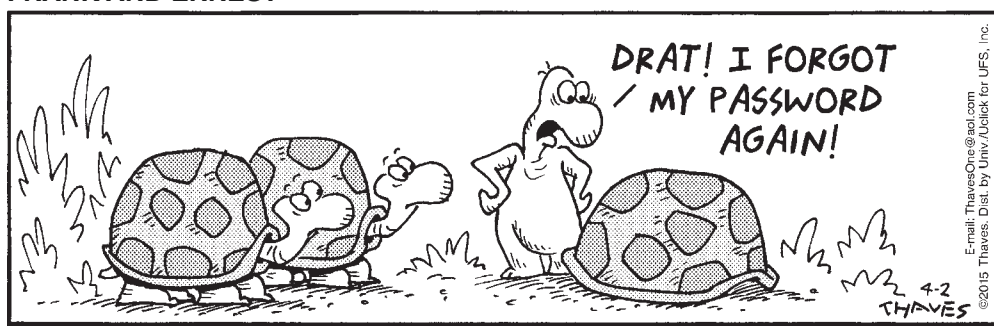
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know that odd feeling you've had about a certain someone? Now you'll finally get the evidence to confirm your suspicions. This is validation for the ol' instincts!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Relationships thrive with the right amount of together time. You don't want your absence to mean more than your presence, and that's why you show up when it counts and take a break when it counts, too.

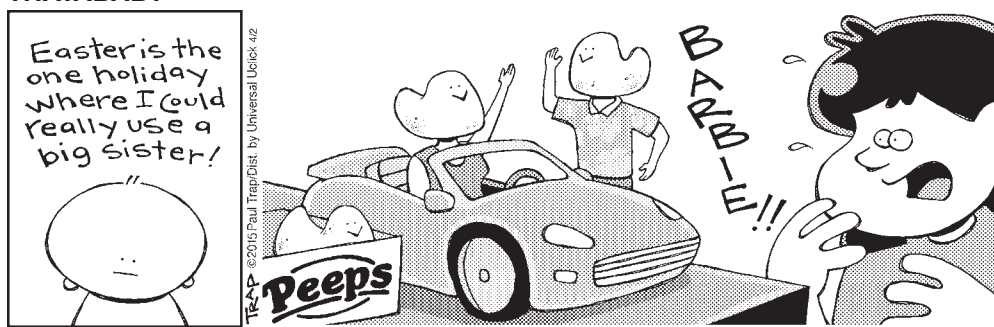
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The difficult road might lead to a beautiful and private destination, or it might lead to more difficulty. The road signs will point you down a well-worn path to a beautiful though very public place.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 3). Relationships are heavenly through the next seven weeks, and then there will be work to do in adjusting to changes that come rapid-fire at the end of May. With a can-do spirit, you'll make the improbable happen for your family in June. You'll get inspired to arrange yourself and your world to new standards of beauty in July. Leo and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 1, 23, 39 and 50.

FRANK AND ERNEST



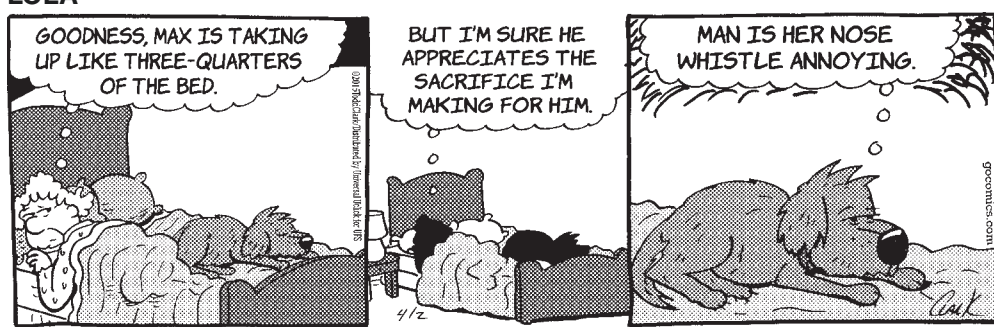
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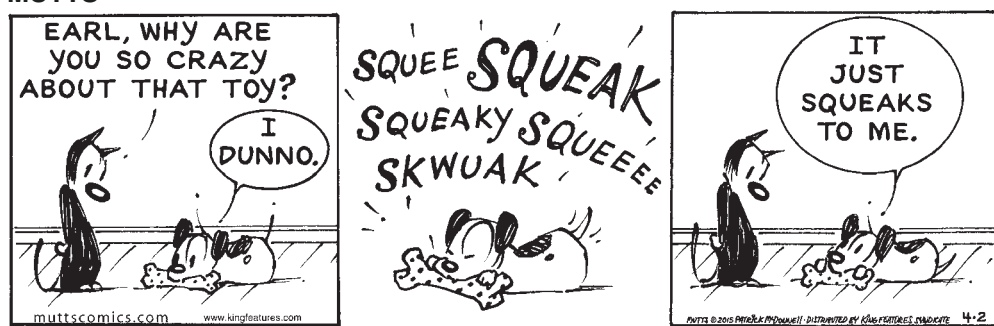
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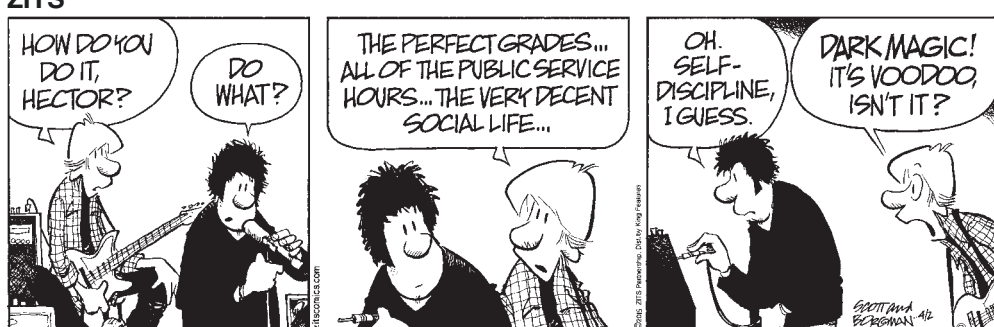
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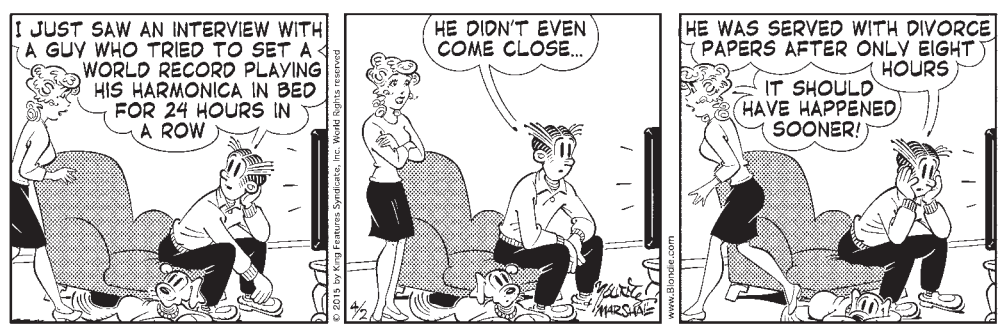
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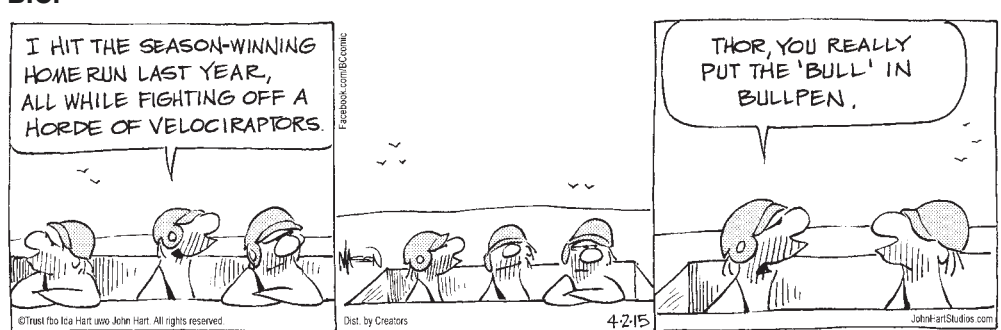
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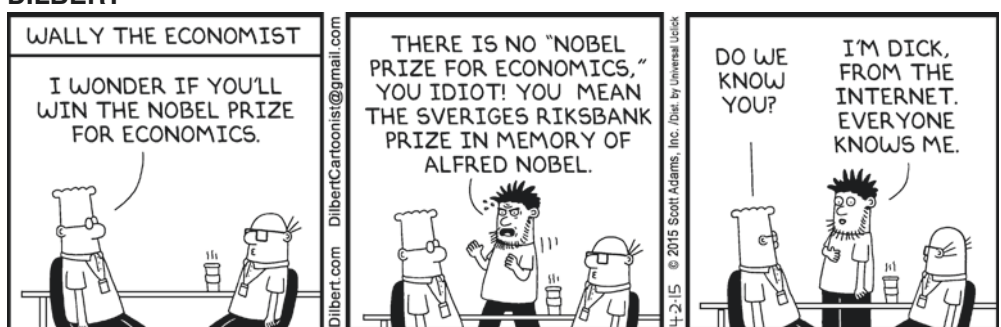
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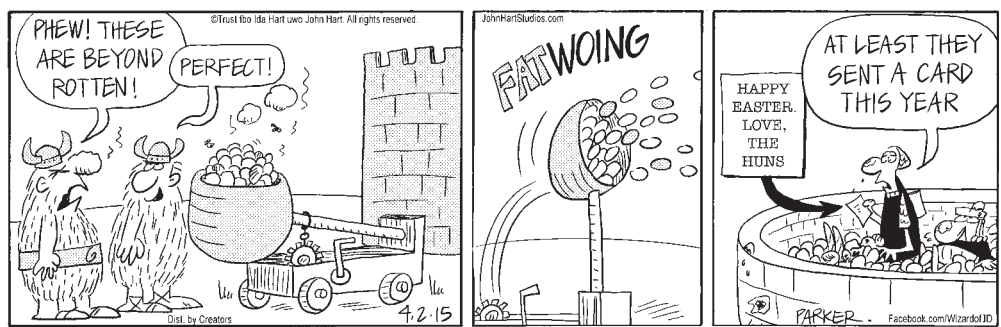
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