

Scared of being hurt again Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I've been good friends with "Barney" for 10 years. During that time, we've had an on-and-off romantic relationship. For years, I assumed it was a timing issue, but I finally realized that, as much as he might care about me, I was just being used to fill up time between women. I felt so betrayed that we didn't speak for a year.

A few months ago, Barney called, wanting to get together and talk. He told me he had done a lot of soul searching and came to the realization that he had messed up a great thing with me. He wanted to prove he had changed.

My mother recently became ill and lapsed into a coma. Barney has been at my side, helping and supporting my sister and me. He brought flowers to Mom's room, bought us coffee and sandwiches, and has done anything else we needed. He has volunteered many times to sit with my mother so we could go home, shower and put in some time at our jobs.

Barney truly has stepped up, but I am still scared it won't last. I fear this will end up being yet another game he's playing. As much as I love him and every-

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



thing he is doing for my family, I don't know that I can risk putting my heart out there again. Should I give him another chance? Or should I tell him we are better off just being friends? — *Hopelessly in Love*

Dear Hopelessly: It's understandable that you would be skittish, but loving someone always involves the risk of being hurt. What you need is time to determine whether Barney is in it for the long haul. He seems to be trying to prove himself, and this should not be dismissed out of hand. We think he deserves a second chance. Tell Barney you want to take it slowly this time to be certain you can trust the relationship. If he is the real deal, he will understand and willingly give you as much time as you need.

Dear Annie: At our Mother's

Day mass last month, a fellow usher told me it is inappropriate to wish a man a happy Mother's Day. But when he would say to a woman, "Happy Mother's Day," she would often respond, "Same to you!"

Is it really inappropriate to wish a male a happy Mother's Day? Likewise, is it inappropriate to wish a female a happy Father's Day? — *Lafayette, Ind.*

Dear Lafayette: We think people are too eager to be offended. A lot of parents are raising children without the help of a spouse. They are both mother and father to these kids and undoubtedly appreciate the acknowledgment on those special days. They also have mothers and fathers, and wishing a man a happy Mother's Day could easily indicate good wishes to his mother (or wife or other female relative). And vice versa when it comes to Father's Day.

People can take these greetings any way they choose, but we think they should make every effort to take them in the spirit in which they are intended — as good wishes. There is no reason to fuss over the etiquette, which says only to reply, "Thank you."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People fail all the time without becoming failures. Separate the person from the deed. The same goes for success. Don't confuse the success of a project with the success of a person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Many people resist change — change couldn't care less. It unfolds, marches on, carries out — it happens. Those putting up resistance often don't make a lick of difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The one who continually puts his needs before yours will not magically stop doing this because it bothers you. The behavior will continue until a boundary is set.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you find that you're taking it all a little too seriously, just stop and start again. You can begin anew at any time of any day. Today brings an unlimited number of "do-overs."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're all too aware of what everyone around you wants, and you'll find it very difficult not to try to satisfy those wants. Address your own needs instead. That's when the miracles will start happening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The spoils never go to the mediocre performers. That's why you want to be outstanding. It's what drives you to achieve at a higher level than is commonly expected.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You try not to have expectations of others that they're not likely to meet. Extend that kindness to yourself. Unreasonable expectations are unkind. If you can do just a little bit better than the last time, that's enough for now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are

self-sufficient to a degree, but you still need people, and your life will be better for reaching out and asking for help. This afternoon brings an earth sign with something meaningful to contribute to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone in your midst has a way of dominating the energy of the room. Give your attention sparingly to reset the balance. Other people's problems do not automatically have to become yours.

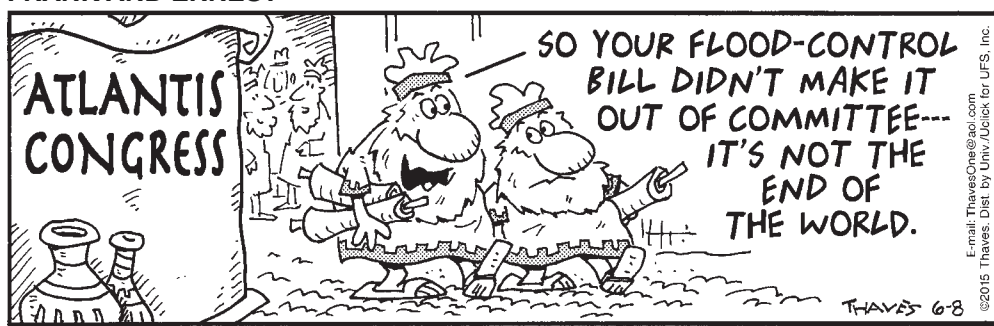
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's no reason to let a conflict drag on, as it should be easy to resolve now. Chance is on your side. The best solution could very well be a flip of the coin.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You put people's feelings first. This way of prioritizing suddenly makes things simple. Tonight, speak with precision because you'll be taken at your word and interpreted quite literally.

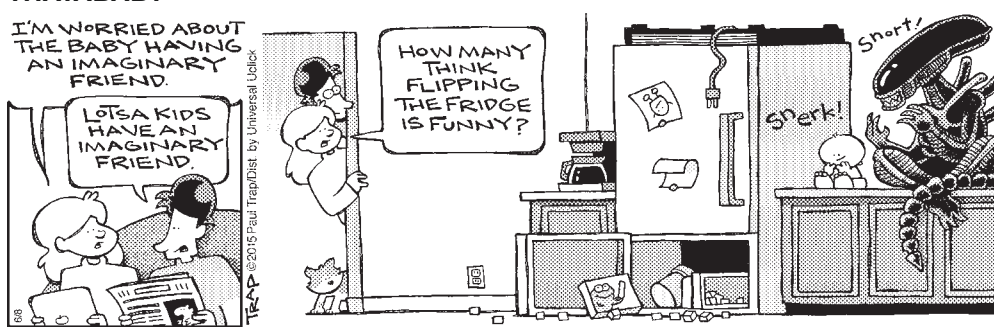
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A Japanese proverb says that the silent man is the best to listen to. This is why so many ears turn toward you today. You're not in the mood to chat or volunteer opinions, but wisdom radiates from you anyway.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 9). You will fulfill an important role in your community and be honored for it. Just don't lose sight of fun — it's a noble purpose that, in the end, will contribute to your legacy. Someone wants to invest in you in July. Loved ones credit you for their accomplishments in 2016. You'll take a whimsical idea to the mainstream. Scorpio and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 2, 13, 39 and 44.

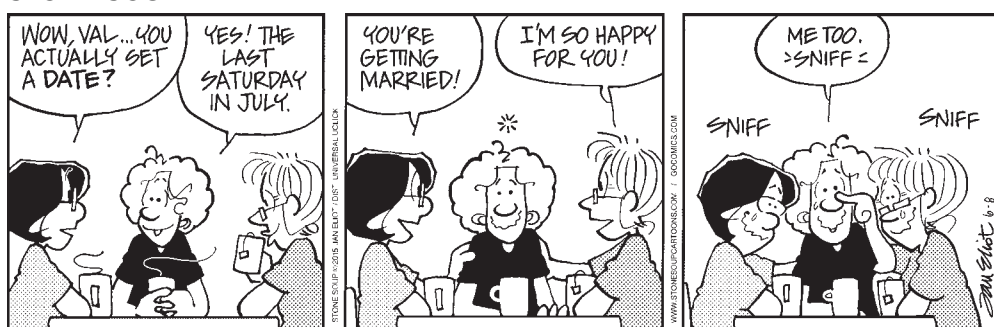
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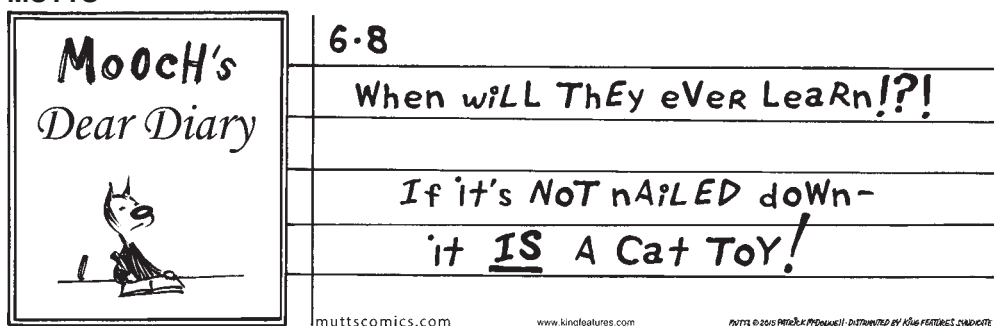
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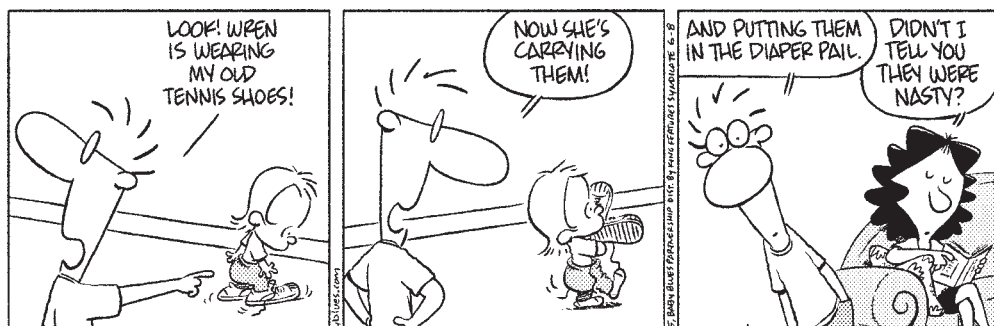
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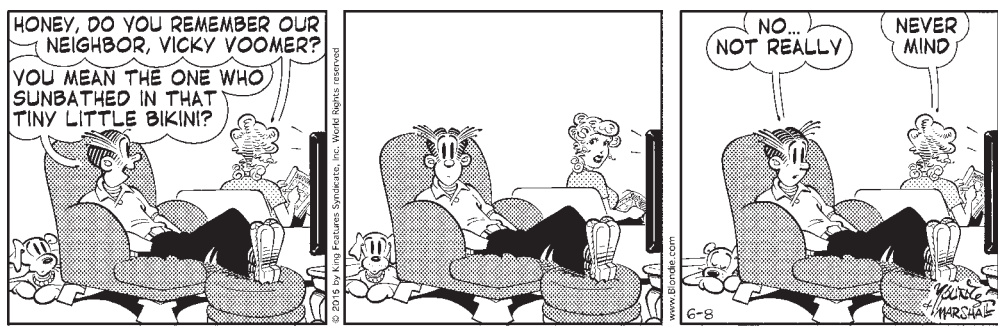
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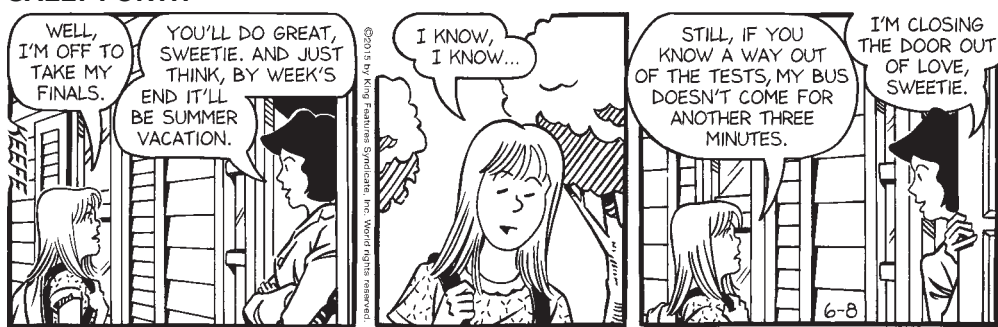
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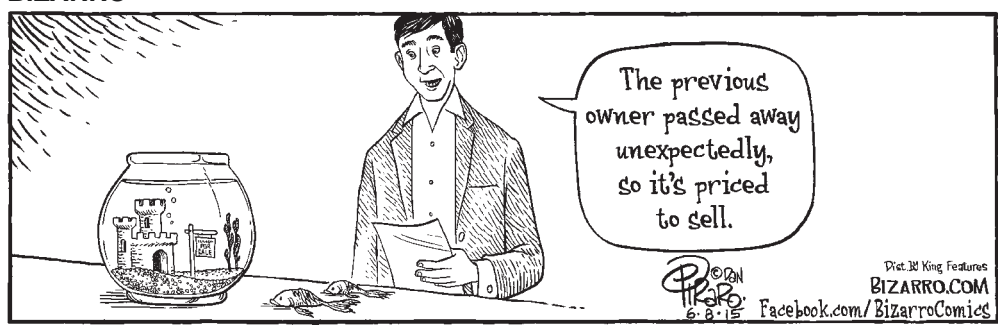
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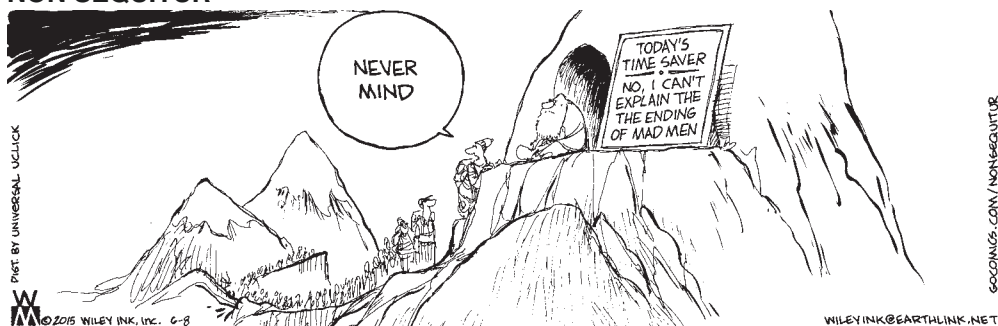
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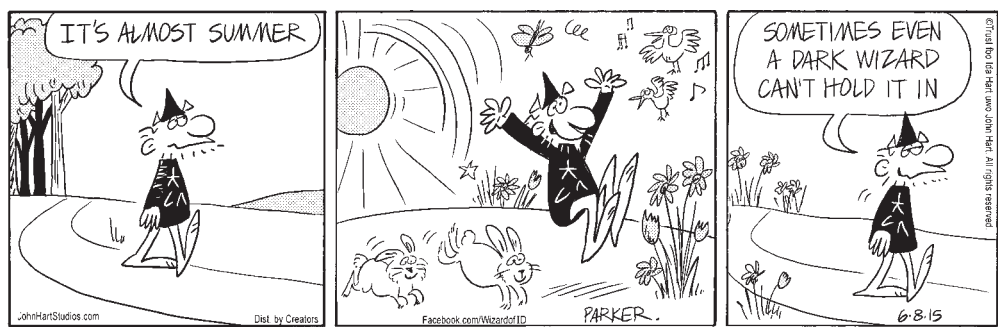
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