

One-year anniversary party too much? Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Is it unorthodox to have a one-year anniversary party? A friend of mine was married last summer. By November, she had created a save-the-date on Facebook for a one-year anniversary party. "Leona" invited everyone who had been on the wedding list, whether they attended or not. So far, only a handful have responded. Leona has since sent out printed invitations with RSVP cards. The party has been described as a casual, potluck barbecue.

To me, the whole affair is a bit unseemly. I understand wanting to have a party, but the context of it being an anniversary party to commemorate a couple that has yet to get out of the honeymoon phase seems self-centered. There is little excitement about the event, and after a few conversations with friends, I get the sense that other people feel the same way.

I'm not sure how to respond, and am a bit worried about how Leona will feel if few people show up to her gala. — *Confused in California*

Dear Confused: Having an anniversary party, no matter which anniversary, is perfectly fine as long as guests are not expected to pay for it and bring expensive presents. Leona's mistake was

Annie's Mailbox

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giving the impression that it is a second wedding celebration, but we don't believe that was her intent. It sounds as though she had a great time at her own wedding and thinks her anniversary is a good excuse to recreate the fun. While we agree that the guest list is larger than propriety endorses, please look at this as a party for friends, and base your reaction solely on that. It will help.

Dear Annie: Last year, our 21-year-old son took a break from college and lived at home. I am amazed by the number of people who thought this was unacceptable and said they would never allow a child to take a year off of college.

Here's my perspective: High school graduation is like taking your 18-year-old to a large transportation hub where they have to pick a train that will take them

to their next destination. Say that your young adult picks an express train. About halfway through the journey, he realizes he is on the wrong train, but there are no stops. He imagines that his choices are to stay on the train or jump off while it's going full speed. You assure him that there is an emergency brake, but everyone says the brake can't be used, or if he does, he will have to wait a long time for a train headed in a different direction, and he'll be left behind.

We encouraged our son to pull the emergency brake and a year later, we find we have a happy, healthy young adult headed on the right train. I know that had our son stayed on that express train, he'd have ended up dead on the side of the track. We are happy that we provided him with a safety net. Now he has a bright future. — *Mom*

Dear Mom: No child should be left without emotional backup, and you were smart not to listen to the critics. We support the idea of a gap year before students start college where they may be living away from home for the first time. Kids can use the year to work, travel or volunteer, but it allows them to mature and be more responsible for themselves.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is a shared space between you and the people in your life. What is it filled with? You'll feel more inclined to tune in and understand where you overlap and why. It's the first step to resolving an issue.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have the support for your endeavor that other people around you have. Instead of resenting this, accept it and know that you're stronger and completely capable, or you wouldn't have taken on the challenge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some people are too embarrassed about their mistakes to really examine them. You realize the value in reflection and evaluation. You're determined not to make the same mistake twice.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Absorb your social media with a grain of salt. Everyone is putting forward an image they want the world to see. Trying to keep up with others robs you of the peace that might come with being satisfied with what you have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It takes maturity to keep your long-term picture in mind. The action that gets immediate results often robs you of the bigger result you could have down the line.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll get that scenery change you probably didn't even know you needed. This new scene will be invigorating, if not for its beauty, then for its capacity to keep you alert and reactive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The thing you want will require upkeep, time and energy. The big question is: Is it worth it? Remind yourself that happiness does not depend on what you have, especially when what you have actually has you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Tell the people on your team how they can best help you. Some don't know the difference between pressure and support. You have a talent for tenderly teaching others how to treat you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Not all negative self-judgments are bad. When you're pretty certain you could do better, you'll mentally prod yourself to the level you know you can achieve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships have seasons. When the emotional weather starts to change, don't panic — this is part of the natural process. Adjust instead. How can you outfit yourself to accommodate the change?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Seek a friend who is like a business manager, or a business manager who is like a friend — someone who can give you a better idea of what you need to do to move to the next level and still have a little fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't have to make people happy today. Make yourself happy. Also, you'll get the kind of invitation you would usually accept automatically. Think it over first.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 23). Because of your confidence and position, people will expect you to know what you're doing. Whether or not you do, your talent for diving in, learning on the fly and pulling off great feats will make this an exciting year. Your influence will grow as your skills do. July features a journey. September heals a relationship. Virgo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 30, 36, 28 and 49.

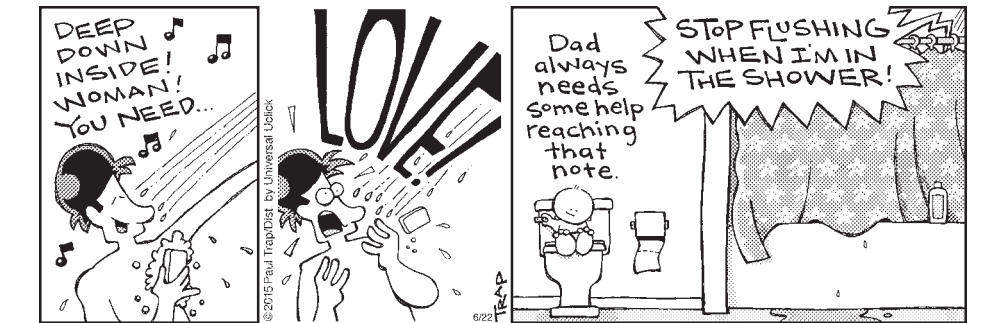
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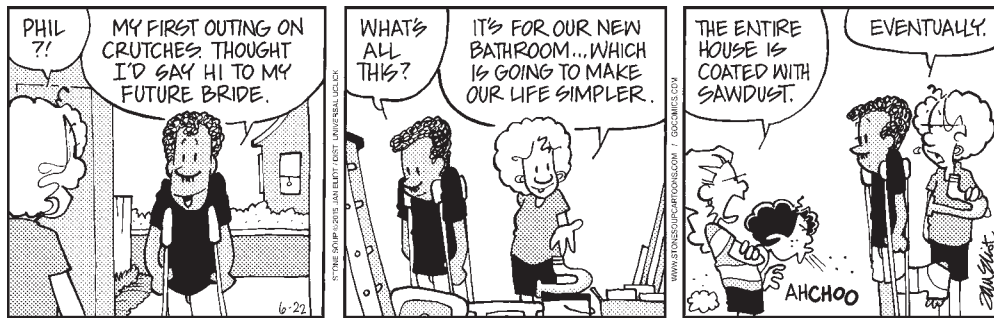
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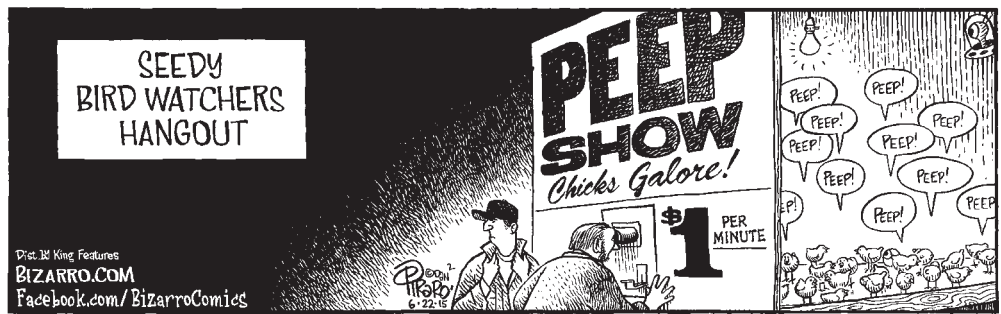
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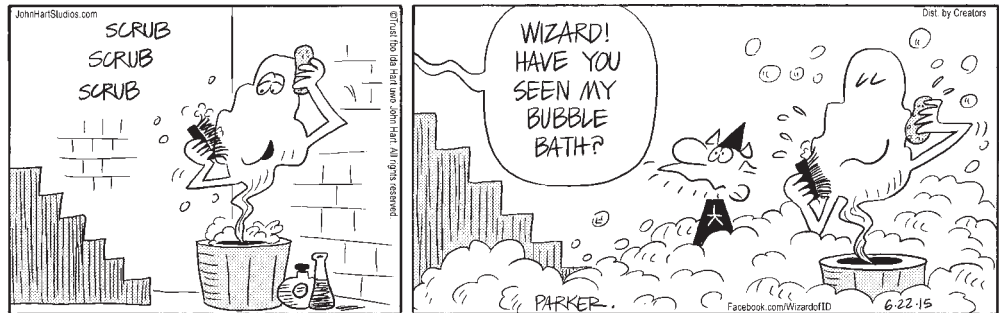
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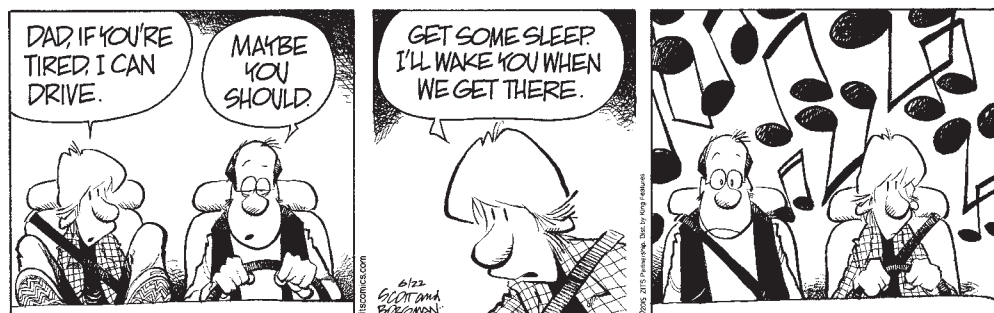
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