

An uncomfortable fit

Dear Annie: I am 30 and my wife is 27, and we are completely in love. My wife is a very spiritual woman and wanted to wait until we were married to have sex. I respected her choice and we were engaged for almost two years. No problem.

Then comes the wedding. BIG problem. We simply do not fit physically. I am more endowed than my very petite wife can handle. Our wedding night was a nightmare. Since then, we have tried to have sex many times. The results are always the same — she is physically hurt and I feel terrible.

What can we do? We have talked to doctors and they have suggested lubricants, etc., but nothing works. — *Too Much of a Good Thing*

Dear Too Much: We know this makes sexual intimacy difficult and your wife's anticipation of pain may now be a contributing factor to the problem. Have you tried different positions where she has more control over what's going on? Also, please look into assistance through the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists at aasect.org.

Dear Annie: Your answer to "Torn Son" was good, but not complete. He said he tries to help his father, who lost his job, but dad spends

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Marcy Sugar



money on alcohol and drugs. By suggesting that "son" pay dad's rent and utilities directly, he is still indirectly giving dad money. Any money supplied for dad's care allows him to spend his own on drugs and alcohol.

Instead, when dad gets food stamps, take him shopping for food. If he receives cash assistance, make sure he pays his rent and utilities the same day. Go with him to the doctor and ask about rehab. Do not pay for anything until all of his money is used up. Then he won't have any money to buy drugs.

We learned this lesson the hard way. My nephew would frequently claim he had no cash on him, so we'd buy his deodorant and shaving cream. When he said his food card was empty, we'd buy his groceries. Little did we know, he had the money, but he wanted us to buy these ne-

cessities so he could use his own to pay for alcohol.

He drank himself to death the day after he got his monthly cash allowance. He was 29. — *Missing My Nephew*

Dear Missing: How heartbreaking for your family. Since dad was unemployed, we were not certain there was any money other than what the son was giving him. But you are right that addicts will buy drugs and alcohol before they will pay their rent, and any cash they receive will go directly into their addiction. It can be difficult to say "no" when someone tells you they have no money for groceries or toothpaste, but you have pointed out the perils of assuming they are telling the truth.

Dear Annie: I felt compelled when I read the letter from "Feeling Annoyed," who asked how to tell her friend that her gum chewing was annoying.

Many years ago, I carpoled with four other people. One day, one of the riders snapped at me, "Sally, would you PLEASE stop smacking your gum — it's hurting my headache!" I never smacked my gum again. Sometimes the direct approach is the most effective. — *Smackin' Sally No More*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You occasionally make mistakes, and that just proves that you're learning. The best people miss the point from time to time, and saying something less than witty is a phenomenon that happens to even the funniest people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are not your body. You're a spirit inhabiting a body. Don't take opinions (yours or other people's) personally. The body and mind improvements you make will help keep your spirits high.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a high-stakes game, but you're favored for the win. If, by some fluke, you don't get the win, that's only because not winning is actually winning. The best gifts sometimes come in weird packaging.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Aim high, live your fantasies, let down your defenses, give in to optimism and resist printed words telling you what to do, including these. Advice is only as good as it is applicable to the current situation, which only you understand fully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Miraculous. Someone understands you, intuits your desires and fulfills them without you ever having to ask a thing. Praise and deep gratefulness are in order.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though your talent in and of itself may not be uncommon, what is uncommon is your choice to work on it over all else. Stick with it. You're close to greatness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The cosmic signals seldom follow proper etiquette. They don't greet you by name. They barely make themselves known at all. But however subtle a sign may be, when you see it, you'll know it's for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's a day for making choices that lead to a well-rounded experience. Avoid overemphasizing one particular relationship. Tend to several people and interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can see when someone needs help even before that person realizes the need. Your kind consideration may go unrecognized at first, but good karma will catch up to you before your head hits the pillow tonight.

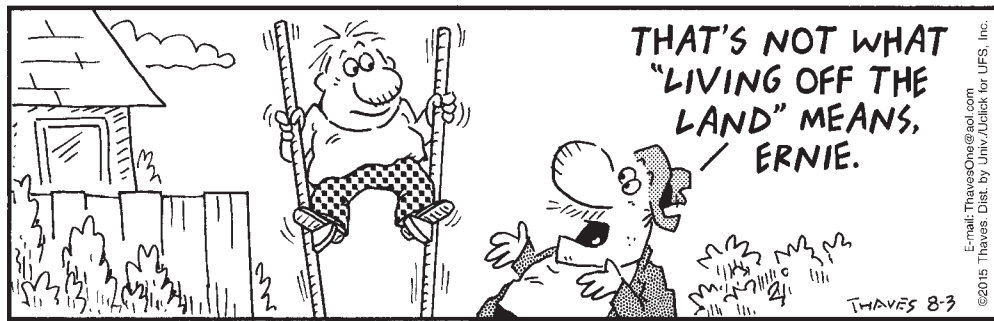
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People need what you have to offer; they just don't know it yet. That's why it's up to you to communicate clearly and effectively. Persuasion isn't necessary. All that's needed is honesty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How do you know the difference between a passing fancy and a passion that will be a permanent fixture in your life? Time will tell. If you don't have time, consider that passing fancies usually come with a fever.

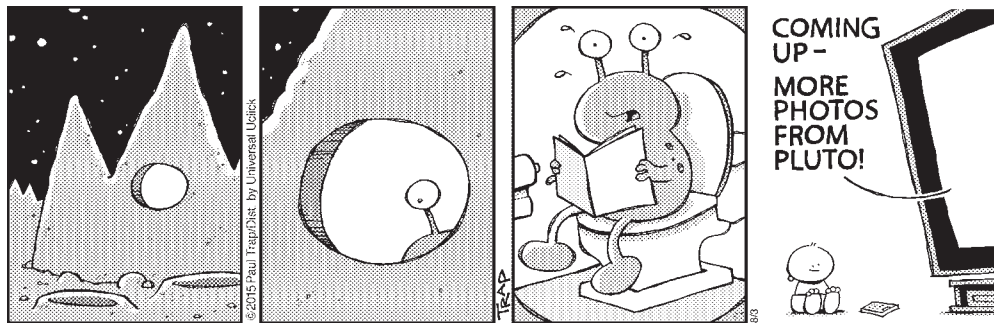
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The reason you see more than other people do is because, on some level, you are willing to know more. Once you know, you can't un-know. That's why awareness takes courage.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 4). This is your year for making good on past promises and cashing in on what was promised to you. Organized, expertly executed actions get your attention and love in the six weeks to come. You'll earn an award in September for a game well played. October brings a formidable adversary. Libra and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 28, 41, 16 and 39.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



STONE SOUP



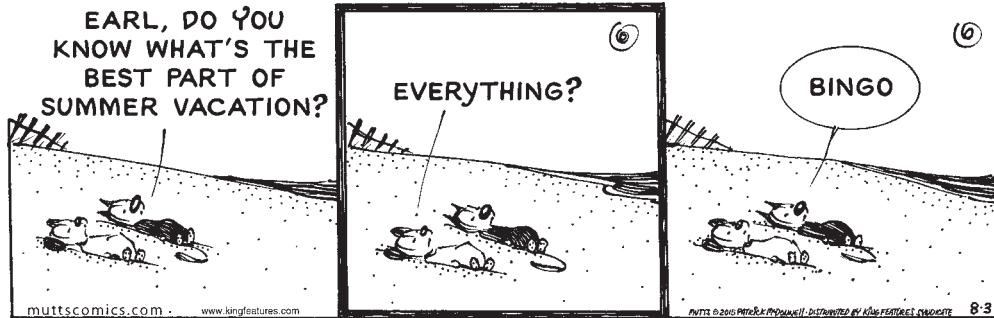
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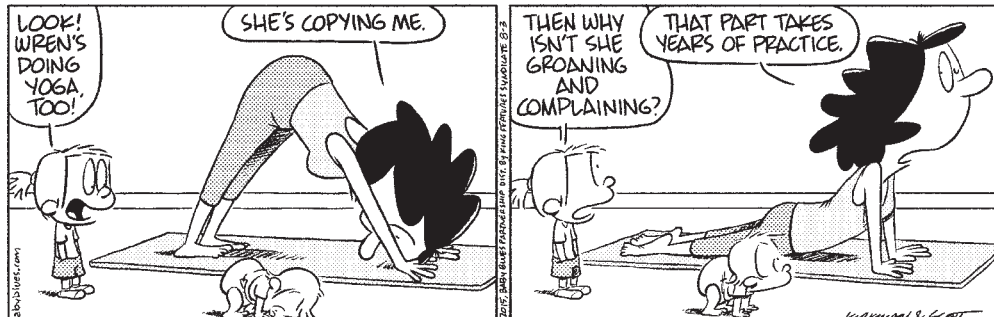
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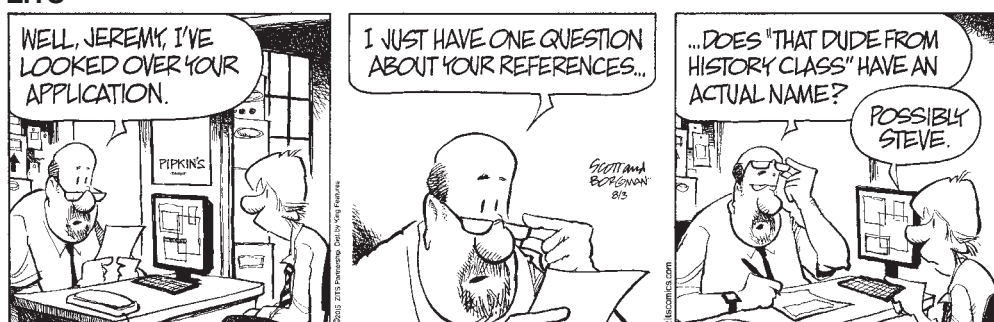
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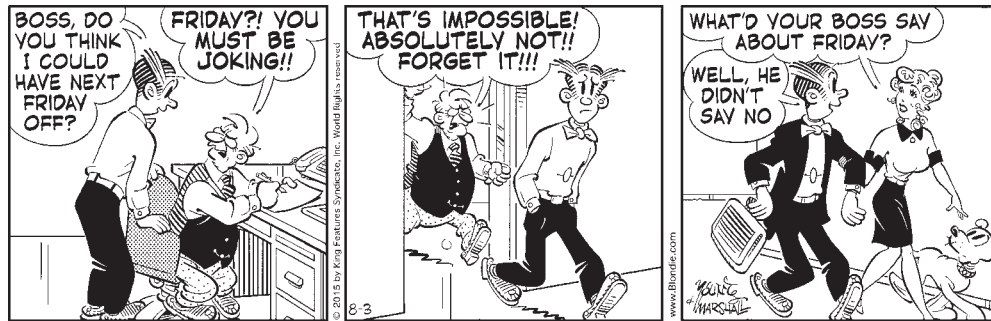
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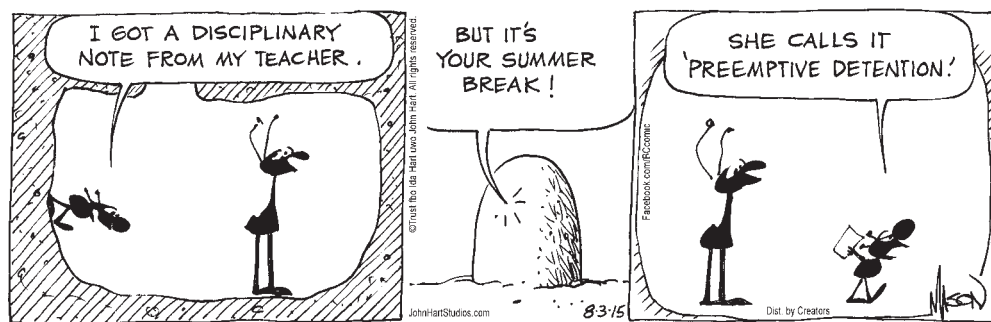
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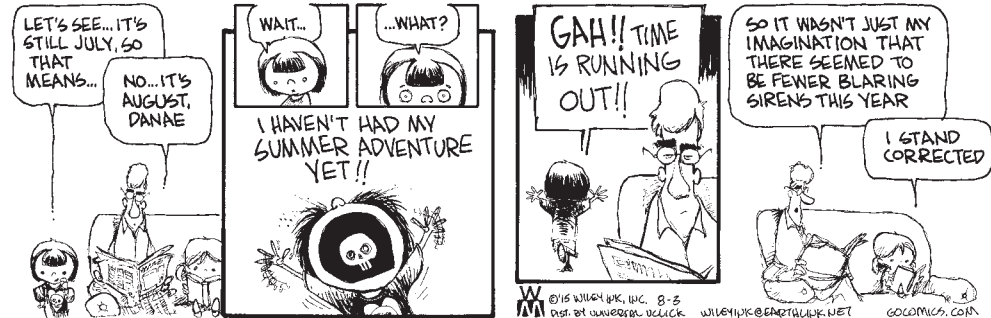
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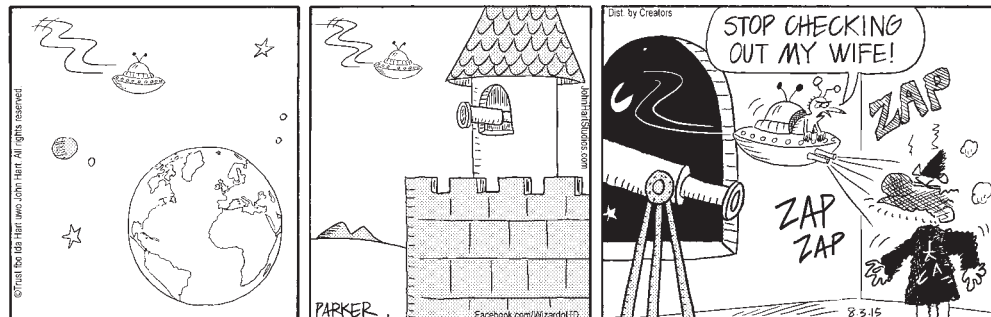
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ROSE IS ROSE

