

Move may be a good thing

Dear Annie: I was divorced many years ago and raised my daughter primarily on my own because my ex-husband was an alcoholic. When I left him, I was financially responsible for my daughter. I always told her that as long as she did well in school, she could have a great deal of freedom, yet it was a crime if I asked her to pick up milk on her way home. When she went off to college, I paid her tuition and all expenses for the first three years.

She now has a good job, is a hard worker and is kind to her boyfriend and friends. But to me, she loses her patience, gets snotty and rarely takes time to see me. We live two hours apart, and she is always too busy when I'm in her area. She never invites me to stay with her. When she comes here, she spends her time visiting other people. I'm just her hotel. For Mother's Day, I got the free gift that came from a purchase she made for herself.

I have tried to talk to her about these things and she says it's the "same old sob story" and doesn't have time to listen. Now her job is relocating her to Flor-

Annie's Mailbox

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ida, and I'm having a hard time wanting to help her move. She's asked if it's OK with me that she goes, but I told her it doesn't really affect me. There's always a telephone if she wants to talk, and that's the only communication we have had for a while. She blocked me on Facebook several years ago. She has maligned me to family and friends and convinced them that I was a bad parent.

Could the distance be a positive thing for us? I feel as though I've lost my daughter. I did everything for her to succeed in life, and she treats me like I'm nothing. Am I an embarrassment to her or just not a good enough mom? — *Hurting*

Dear Hurting: Neither. Your daughter doesn't understand why she should treat you differ-

ently. Other than good grades, you expected little from her and that's what you got. This move could be a good thing, since it will force you to focus on things other than your daughter, and she will stop assuming that you will always be desperate for her attention. But you need to develop a fulfilling life totally independent of her.

Dear Annie: A few months ago, I mentioned to a friend that my record player broke. He offered to send me his player.

The thing is, it's been a while and he hasn't sent anything yet. Is it polite to remind him or should I let the matter drop? — *Unsure in New York*

Dear Unsure: Packing up and mailing a package can be complicated for some people. Chances are, he completely forgot. Phone your friend and say, "A while back, you were very kind to offer to send me your record player, although you certainly are not obligated. I'm ready to purchase a new one now and just want to be sure that yours isn't in the mail." He will then let you know whether he plans to send it or not.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your cosmic gift of the day will be an uncanny ability to identify people's strongest ideas while pinpointing their weakest notions without calling so much attention to the matter that it causes embarrassment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Lies are often told with the aim of bringing people closer, but when they are uncovered, they do the opposite. And if not uncovered, lies eat away at the inside of relationships. It will be harder, but the truth will be worth it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The No. 1 rule of crowd control, known by magicians and politicians alike, is: Control their focus. The crowd you'll be dealing with may be fairly small today, but the rule will apply to your situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whether a person does the wrong thing, fails to do the right thing or does the right thing wrong, the result is the same: not good for anyone. Prevent mistakes with your vigilance, especially in regard to those you manage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The process is complicated, and the stakes are high — a recipe for feelings of exhilaration, fright or any number of emotions in between. The main thing is to take it slow and keep a positive mindset.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are people in your immediate circle who know and love you but who nonetheless can't possibly understand your depth, intelligence, humor and other choices.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know that things can't bring you happiness, but when they don't work for what you want to do or who you want to be, they can sure cause you distress. It's a day for repairs, upkeep and upgrades.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are times when you have to slog through something miserable because it's the right thing to do, there's no alternative or for some other reason. Not now. If it's making you miserable, quitting could be a winning move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Powdered creamer won't dissolve in lukewarm coffee. Some people are like that, too — they won't mix and blend into their environment unless it's heated. You'll make it exciting for someone.

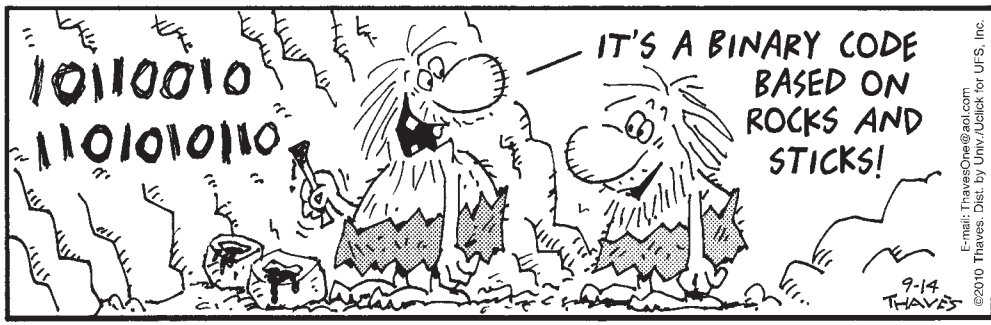
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are certain unavoidable pressures that have to do with your basic survival, identity and relationships. Your attitude: Bring it on. You're strong, able and ready for the challenges.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Small problems that occur independently in different parts of your life will ultimately interact with one another in stressful ways — unless you fix them early. Handle the small stuff ASAP, even if it seems unimportant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's time for part two of that interesting connection you made last week. This is where the plot thickens: You learn a little more about each other and realize something intriguing that you have in common.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 15). This is your year for changing a few of your personal rules to live by to accommodate a new, freer mindset. What you used to demand of yourself no longer applies. Loved ones thrive around you — a testament to your love. New friends come into the picture in 2016, and an interesting job offer may be too good to miss. Libra and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 22, 8, 19 and 45.

FRANK AND ERNEST



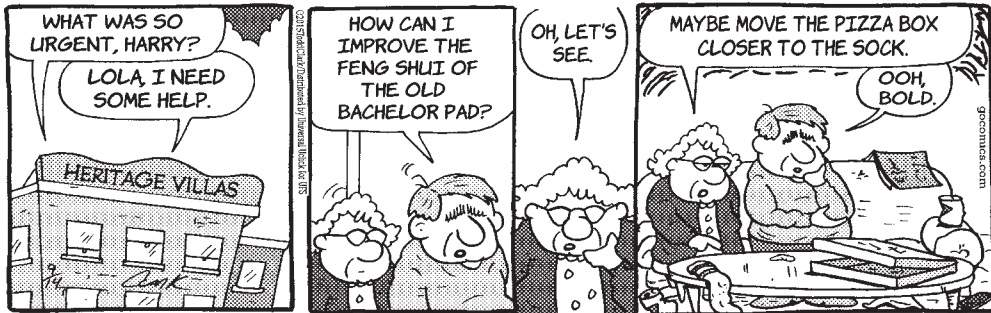
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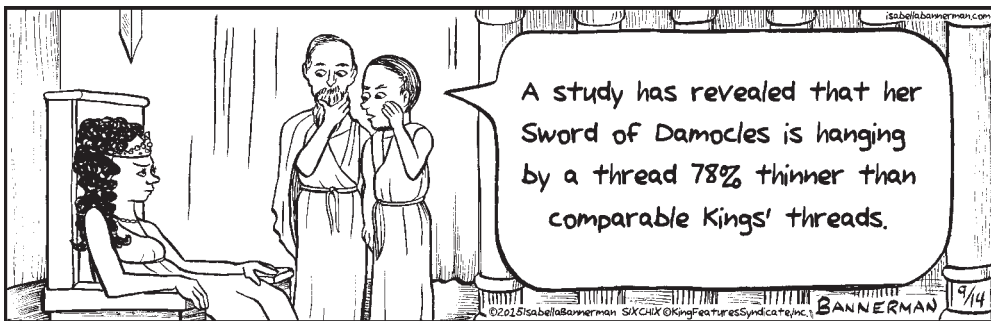
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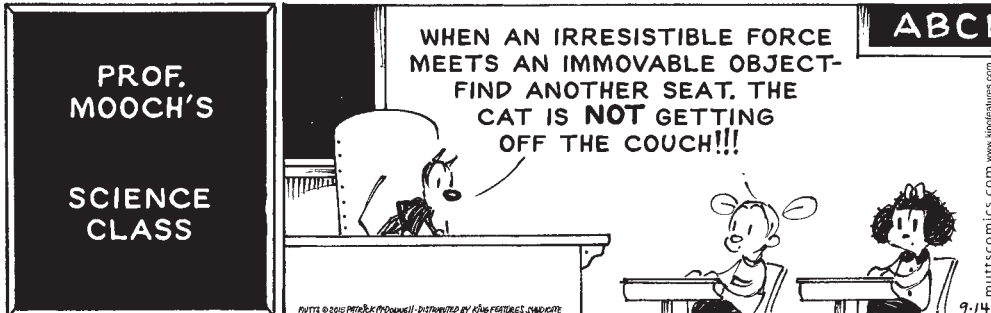
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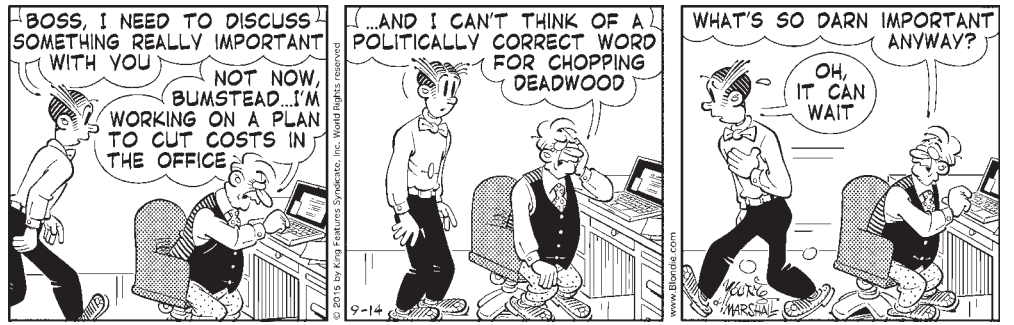
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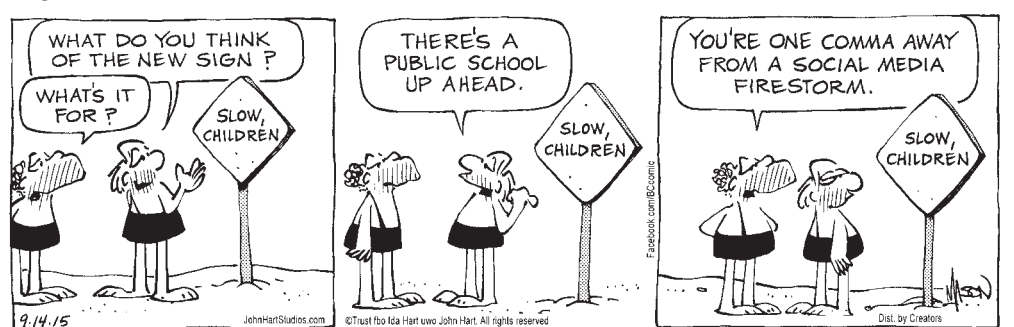
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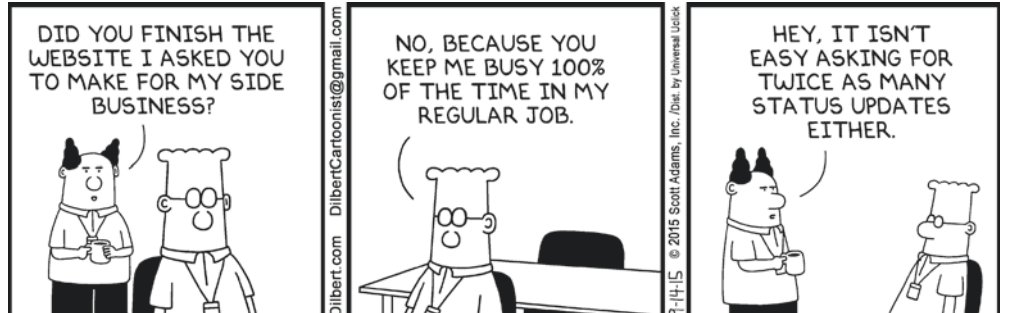
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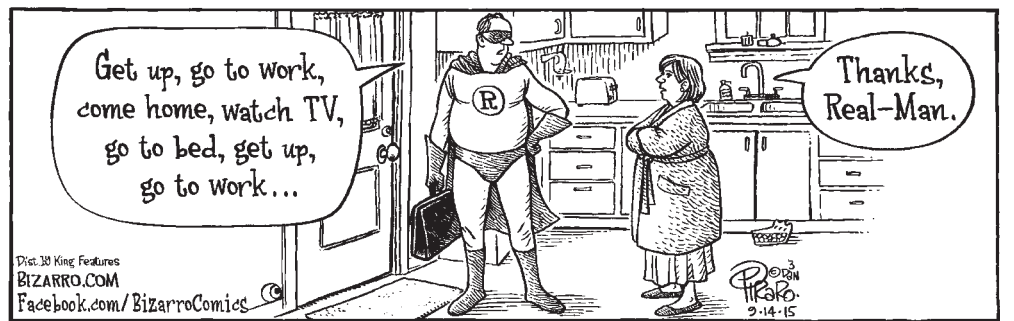
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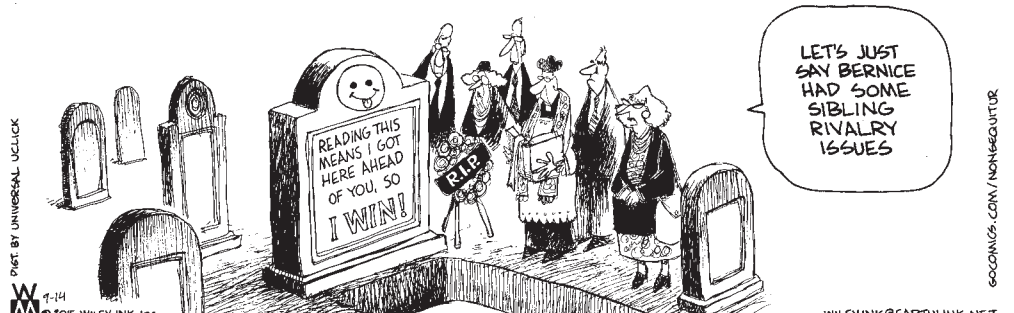
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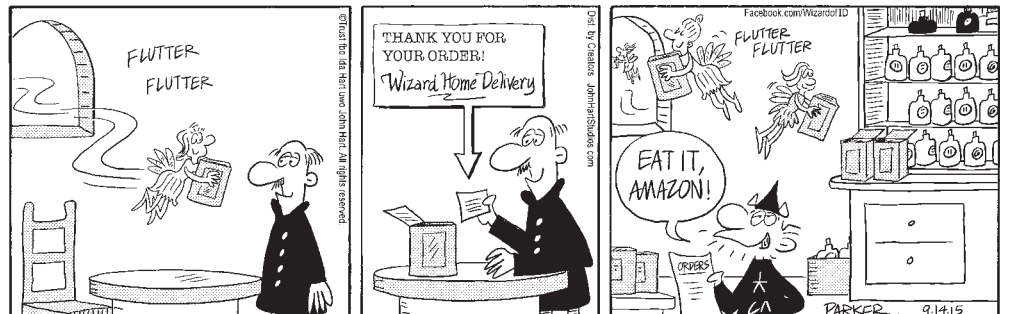
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