

No golf balls in the kitchen

Dear Annie: Please help settle a dispute between my wife and me. I have been an avid golf player for the past 20 years. After every Sunday game, I come home and wash the golf balls in the kitchen sink. We live in a very modest house, and other than the bathroom, the kitchen has the only other sink.

I refuse to wash my golf balls in the bathroom because I use the same sink to brush my teeth. For what feels like forever now, my wife has argued that the kitchen is no place to wash things from the outside world. While I understand that it may not be the most ideal place, it is really the only option I have.

My wife has now reached the point where she doesn't even want me to play golf on Sunday anymore. I really love golfing and would hate to see it come to this. How should I approach this with my wife? — *Between a Golf Ball and a Hard Place*

Dear Between: Your golf balls don't belong in the kitchen sink. You may object to washing them where you brush your teeth, but it's hardly an improvement to wash them where you prepare your food.

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



If you want to continue golfing without annoying your wife, we recommend a compromise. Many golf courses have ball-cleaning machines. If so, use them. If not, when you get home, soak them in a bucket of hot water. (A golfer we know first throws in a tablet of denture cleaner to really get the grit out.) It's a small inconvenience to you, and it will make your wife happy.

Dear Annie: I've been traveling a lot, but now I'm home for a couple of months. Right before I left for my last trip, I met "Alec" and we clicked immediately. The problem is, we come from very different cultures and are looking for different things from a relationship. Alec also is dealing with various personal issues that I don't

want to take on.

Since I've been home, I've seen Alec twice. I know I'm leading him on, but selfishly I don't want to stop seeing him. We always have such an amazing time together. I've never had this sort of relationship.

Should I just go with it and enjoy a new and exciting experience, or should I put an end to our budding relationship before one of us gets hurt? — *On the Fence*

Dear Fence: As long as you are honest, you are not leading him on. Make sure Alec knows that you don't anticipate the relationship lasting for the long haul. That way, if he still wants to continue seeing you, it's up to him. You cannot avoid someone getting hurt in spite of your upfront warnings.

But keep in mind that some of the most unexpected relationships can turn into long-term, loving commitments. If the things that are "amazing" with Alec include good conversations, shared values, a similar sense of humor, warmth and affection, they could make up for cultural differences and other issues. Only time will tell.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You used to listen to your adviser and act on all you learned. This same person will come to you for advice. Try not to act so surprised. Good teachers are students. Good students are teachers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you're adept at sensing the needs and feelings of others, somehow it's difficult for you to connect with your own and requirements, let alone get them met. Pisces can help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't miss the magic that's happening now by focusing too far into the future. Of course every day is unique and special in its own way, but today features one of the more memorable moments you've had in a while.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are distances between even the closest of friends that will never be bridged, but you still keep trying because you never know when you'll be able to close another gap.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Pets have much to teach their owners about patience, loyalty and playfulness. Whether or not you have pets, you'll be inspired by the animal kingdom — and you'll feel in better touch with your inner animal as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your cosmic gift of the day is enhanced powers of visualization. See yourself completing the tasks you know will contribute to your success. While you're at it, you may as well see yourself having an easy time of it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your soul lights up when exposed to beauty. Art, nature, the best of humanity — if it resonates with the stuff of life, you feel more alive just observing it. If you can actively participate in it, all the

better!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Everyone fits in somewhere. You suspect it's harder for you now because of your uncommon talents and unusual interests — you might be right. Luckily you have the Internet to help you look for your tribe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As long as you don't allow yourself to be distracted by people who are typically negatively focused, you'll naturally gravitate to fine roads and fair weather.

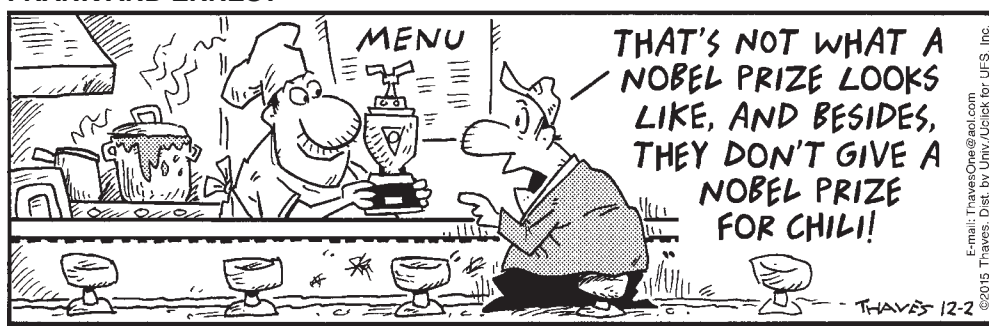
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's an art to understanding and sensing the right quantity for things. You possess keen judgment and will know how much to use and when to stop. This will help in everything from cooking to work to love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In every endeavor there is a point of diminishing returns. You may have already passed it but you keep going. Either you enjoy the process too much to stop, or you're still not convinced the yield has been tapped.

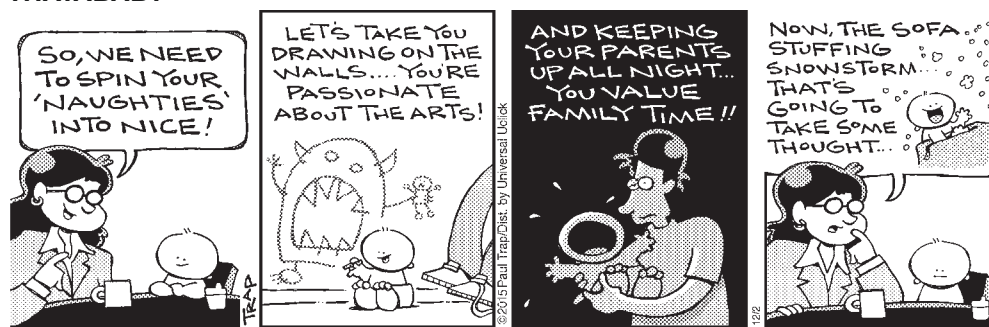
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It will be easier than you think to tame the chaos. There are but one or two elements that are out of balance and once you eliminate or offset them the rest will be cake.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3). Broadcast your desire. Talk about what you want. When you take things public you'll come to a better understanding. You'll see how some of what you thought would make you happy won't work, and you'll also home in on what is going to work while attracting the right people to make it work. This is your year to speak up. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 40, 8, 15 and 29.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



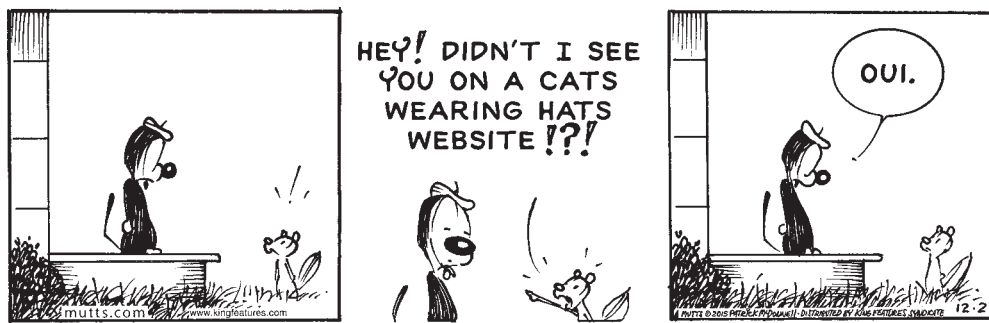
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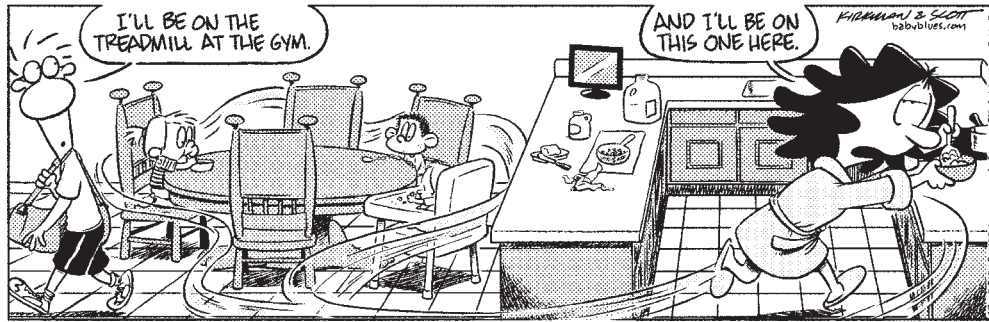
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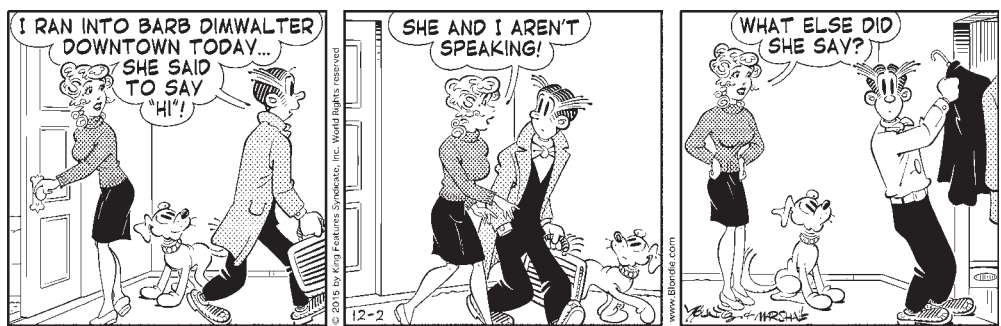
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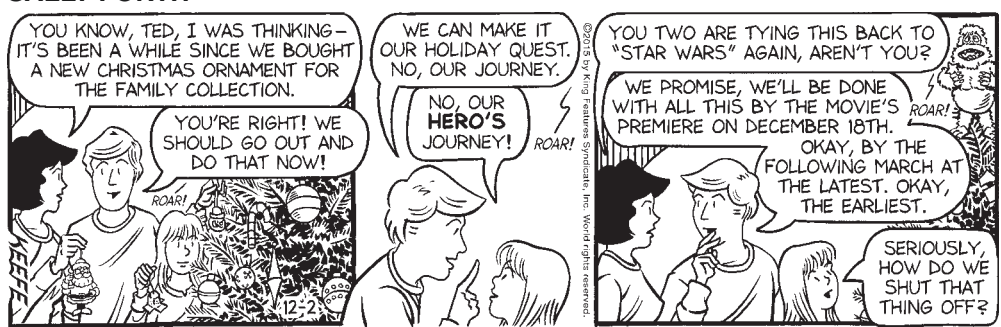
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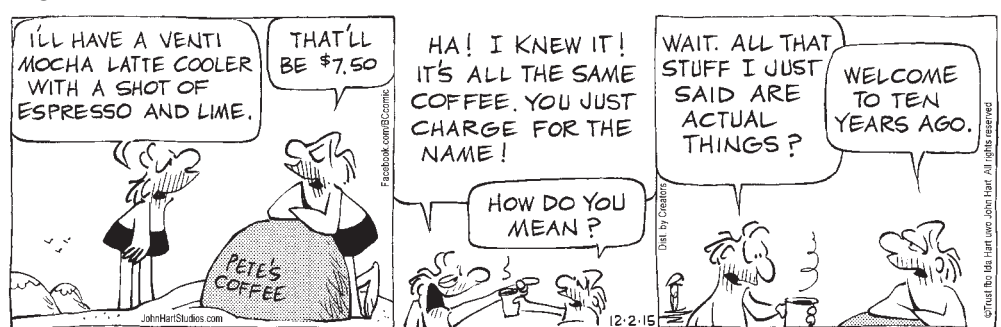
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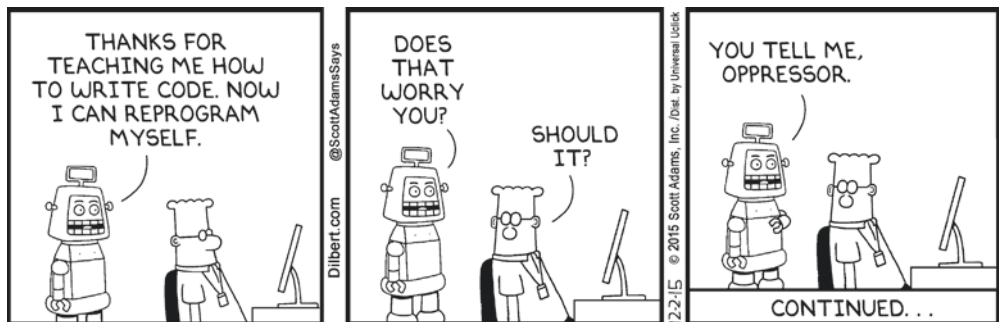
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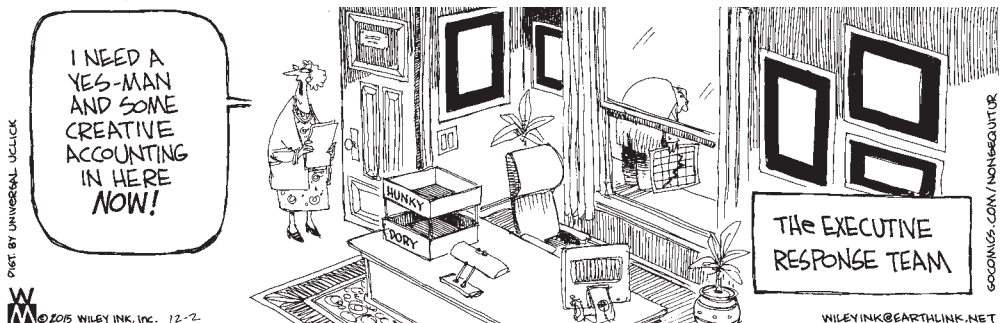
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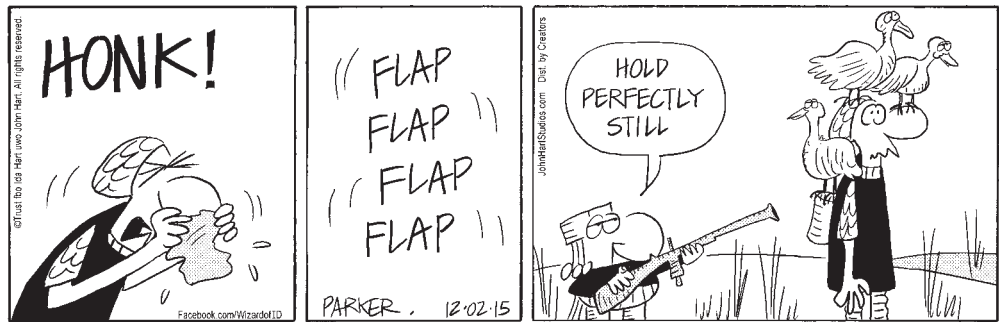
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ROSE IS ROSE

