

Pillows missing after visits

Dear Annie: What should one do if family and friends come from out of state to visit, and when they leave, you see that some of your items are missing? I'm not talking about money and jewelry. I'm talking about good feather pillows and objects of art that are treasured.

When I asked the suspected perpetrators about the items, they all denied taking them. So I give up. Is there any way to get them back, or to prevent such things from being taken the next time? — *A Mom and Grandmother*

Dear Mom: Feather pillows? Perhaps you need to check the size of their luggage. Let's start by giving them the benefit of the doubt. Is it possible that you moved these items elsewhere and forgot? It happens more often than we care to admit. And if it happens every single time you have any overnight guest, you may want to speak to your doctor. The problem may be coming from your end.

Friends who steal should not be invited back to stay overnight. Instead, recommend a nearby hotel and offer to meet them for dinner. You can do the same with relatives if you choose. We know

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



that children and grandchildren often fall into a different category. Those who are already under suspicion should know that you plan to check their rooms for missing items before they leave because things get misplaced and you'd hate to accuse them of anything. Those who contemplate stealing will hopefully be warned and not repeat their misdeeds. You also should lock up any items of particular value. But if someone continues to steal, consider that it could be a mental health issue and suggest they get professional help.

Dear Annie: I'm writing about the letter from "Concerned Aunt," whose nephew has herpes. I want to tell him it's not his fault.

I am 42 and developed herpes in my late 20s. I was also unaware of my partner's status until infect-

ed. Initially, I was disturbed, saddened and upset. But I learned of others in the same situation who encouraged me and shared their stories of coping. I can report that there is hope. I date and have successful relationships. In each case, I share my status before any intimate contact and inform them of the safety measures we must engage in. Each one has been OK with it. I have few breakouts, and I adhere to safety measures.

I still get saddened at times, but I keep the faith. I also use my status to share discreetly with young people, family and close friends about safe sex concerns including "dental dams," of which I was never told and find most people are unaware. Surprisingly, I could donate blood a year after infection, which somehow comforted me.

Herpes is a very manageable situation, and you are not alone. You can have a full life, and you will find people to care about and love you. I find that being honest and upfront is extremely important. — *Nicole from NYC*

Dear Nicole: Thank you for your supportive letter. We hope the nephew will see this and be reassured.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It won't be enough for you to know a person's name. You'll want to also know that person's story. And if a person can't deliver you said "story," you'll respect that person all the more — a clean slate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The Internet tells you to spoil the one you adore with hugs and kisses — not bad advice, though much depends on timing. You're playing a sophisticated game. One answer does not fit all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The Bible suggests that we are dust and will return to it. Joni Mitchell echoed the sentiments when she sang, "We are star dust. We are golden." You'll feel the profundity of those words today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a person who depends on you. This is real and important. Be all you can be to that person today. This is one of many days in a chapter of time, and yet it is the only day we can do something about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you don't even know how you got into it, but boy, you are in it now. Are you ever. For a lot of the day you'll wonder how to get out of it. The expression that rules after that: Good riddance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). I takes a long time to be a master. That's why the masters are exonerated. You'll praise one today without knowing how your praise will land. Truly, it will mean more than the master lets on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When someone makes an effort, you encourage. Words help; actions speak louder. You've a good idea about the action you should take, so

go for it: You are always on the ready to make things better for you and yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You attract good friends; there's no question about that. Do they measure up to the standards that others set for you? Maybe not. Are those people in a position to set your standards? Maybe not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's fine if you don't make sense. In fact, stop. Then realize: No one makes sense all of the time. Your nonsense will have a certain genius to it today.

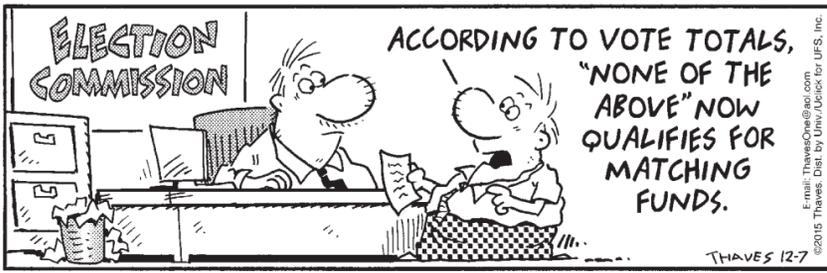
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Playing the game — that's where the fun is for you. The score only matters in as much as it's a marker for who gets to play and who doesn't.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Art is not science. As much as one tries to measure it and weigh it and make sense of it, it can never work on a logical scale. And neither can a certain relationship you have that is prettifying up the walls of your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll use all of the tools available to you to connect with like minds. This will accentuate your tendencies. By finding kindred spirits, you'll feed the person you are.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8). The happiness you feel now will carry forward, so focus on it and feel more of it! New family additions come in February. March is for educating yourself, and April is for finding people who can publicize what you do. June will bring a beautiful environment and July will help you pay for all of that. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 14, 3, 39 and 13.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



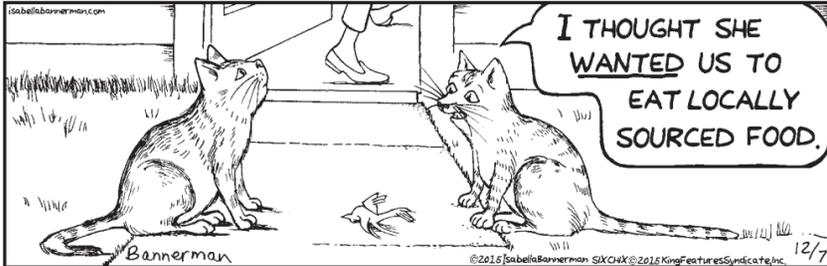
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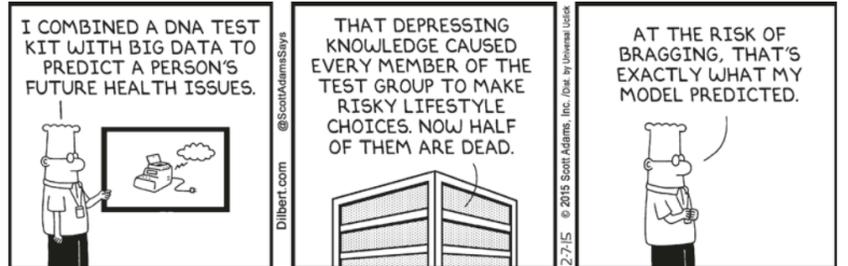
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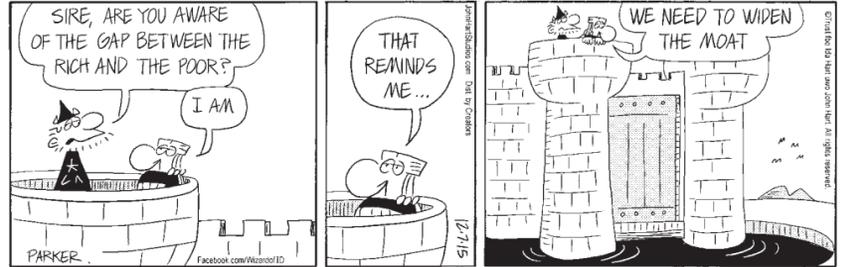
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ROSE IS ROSE

